

CABINET

20 MARCH 2020

REFERENCE REPORT FROM COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 3 FEBRUARY 2020

A.1 EDUCATION, ECONOMY AND SKILLS

(Report prepared by Katie Sullivan)

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 February 2020 (Minute 93 refers) the Council's Work Based Learning Manager (Debianne Messenger) had provided that Committee with a presentation on Apprenticeships which had included information on "What is an Apprenticeship", Education and Skills Funding Agency, Ofsted Monitoring Visit and current successes.

At that meeting, following Members' questions, the Work Based Learning Manager was thanked for her presentation and the Committee congratulated the team for their successful apprenticeship provision.

Claire Kershaw (Director of Education), Stephen Chynoweth (Head of Education and Early Years) and Kevin Wilby (School Organisation Officer) all from Essex County Council had also attended the meeting and provided the Committee with a presentation which had included an analysis of the performance of schools in the District of Tendring against other Districts in Essex and England Averages. This also included statistics on Early Years (Good Level of Development at 5 years old), End of Primary School (KS2 RWM outcomes for 11 year olds) and End of Secondary School (KS4 English and Maths 16 years old). The Committee looked at the statistics for Tendring against the rest of Essex and England. The Director of Education explained the reasons behind those figures.

There was also information provided regarding the South Tendring Primary Partnership, the Harwich Education Partnership, the Mid Tendring Education Partnership, the Colne Cluster (East Tendring) and the Stour Education Partnership, where schools were grouped into areas and worked in partnership with each other in order to lead their own improvements. Further information was submitted regarding school organisation in respect of school places and about the way that the County Council was dealing with expanding schools where needed. It was also noted that the current 6th Form at Clacton County High School would be moving to the Tendring Education Centre (former Bishops Park School) in Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea from September. This would then create room at Clacton County High School for expansion.

Members asked questions regarding extra school places being needed in areas of the District where house building was prolific, especially in the Kirby and Walton-on-the-Naze areas and were assured that the Education Team had undertaken a study whereby they could gauge what provision would be needed going forward and that they were already planning for expansion in various schools across the District.

Following questions and discussion, Clare Kershaw, Stephen Chynoweth and Kevin Wilby were thanked for their presentation and their time.

The Council's Executive Projects Manager (Rebecca Morton) had then provided an update report to the Committee on the Education and Skills agenda within the District. Members were aware that the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 placed Community Leadership at the heart of everything and within that context a number of projects were being undertaken by the Council to support children and young people and their families in the District. Whilst Essex County Council had the statutory responsibility for Education, the report aimed to summarise key work supported by the Council which included work undertaken/supported by officers in the People, Performance & Projects, Health, Community Safety and Regeneration teams.

Education

The priority had been to ensure that partnership working continued to be effective and that the Council continued to provide support, encouragement and commitment to working collaboratively with schools to improve school attainment levels and raise aspirations and opportunities for children and young people across the District.

The work being undertaken to support the Education agenda also supported both the Essex and Tendring Children & Young People's Strategy 2016 and Tendring's Delivery Plan 2019/2020. Tendring's priorities were:

1. **Start Well** – to continue to support schools in improving and maintaining attainment levels, and a positive experience and opportunities through school to allow each child to achieve their full potential
2. **Stay Safe** – children and young people feeling safe in their community
3. **Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing** – enjoying good mental health and wellbeing
4. **Positive Futures** - working together with partners to enable families to lift themselves out of poverty, enhance aspirations and provide opportunities for life long wellbeing.

The Executive Projects Manager also provided the Committee with an update on the following items:

1. Education – Start Well, Raising Aspirations and Positive Futures
2. North East Essex Teacher Training
3. Teach First
4. IntoUniversity
5. School Places
6. Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
7. Start Well/Stay Well – Mental Health & Wellbeing

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET

Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that:

Members consider becoming School Governors as it provides both support for schools and also an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of schools and education.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATION

Response

The response of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder to the recommendation of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee is as follows:-

"I thank the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their recommendation.

I fully endorse the idea of Members considering School Governorship in support of local schools and to that end, I provide below, the link to Essex County Council's School Governors web page for any member that may be interested in pursuing this."

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-governors>

Recommendation to Cabinet

That Cabinet notes the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation and endorses the Portfolio Holder's response thereto.