

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10TH MAY 2021

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

A.1 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS - EDUCATION

(Report prepared by Rebecca Morton and Anastasia Simpson)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on community projects relating to education.

INVITEES

Philippa Holliday, Assistant Director of Education, Essex County Council and Stephen Chynoweth, Head of Education and Early Years North Essex. Both ECC officers will be presenting to the Committee and will be available to answer questions.

BACKGROUND

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025 puts Community Leadership at the heart of everything we do and within this context a number of projects are being undertaken to support the education agenda across the District.

Education

The work undertaken to support the education agenda also supports the Essex Children and Young People's Strategic Plan 2016, which includes ensuring that children are emotionally healthy, have positive futures and have access to good quality education, training and work opportunities.

DETAILED INFORMATION

The following sets out details of specific projects which are being undertaken, in partnership, to support the education agenda within the District.

Education

The ongoing work to support the Education agenda also supports both the Tendring Children & Young People's Strategy 2016 and Delivery Plan. Tendring Children & Young People Strategy 2017 – 2020 (*update in progress*) identifies our priorities for the children and young people of Tendring as follows:-

- Start Well
To support schools in improving and maintaining attainment levels, promoting school readiness, a positive experience and opportunities through school, to allow each child to achieve their full potential;
- Stay Safe
Children and young people feeling safe in their community;
- Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing
Enjoying good mental health and wellbeing;

- Positive Futures

Working together with partners to enable families to lift themselves out of poverty, enhance aspirations and provide opportunities for life long wellbeing.

A key priority has been to ensure that partnership working continues to be effective and that the Council continues 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.

Rollout of Wellbeing Hub model, Gt Bentley Primary School. Funding: £245,000 – bid to Health Alliance Investment Fund.

Alongside officers of the Council, the Executive Head Teacher at Gt Bentley Primary School set up a pilot Wellbeing Hub in April 2017, operating as an after school facility. Children with mild to moderate mental health issues were organised in groups and supported around the themes of play, art, construction, and science, gaining a “*rucksack of skills*” to take them forward into secondary school and beyond. In addition to this, the Hub also offered information sessions for parents and carers covering topics such as sleep, nutrition and behaviour management.

Evaluation was completed in October 2017, and outcomes showed very positive early signs of improvements in the children.

The concept was presented to the Strategic Transformation Partnership Leaders Event in April 2018. The Council was successful in a bid to the Health Alliance Investment Fund to support the rollout of the Wellbeing Hub model in 21 primary schools across Tendring & Colchester.

Despite some delay due to the pandemic, the project is making progress with the rollout, which is due to commence from April 2021, and online training for all identified staff due to be involved with their school hub has been launched in March 2021.

Evaluation partners for the project rollout have been identified and baseline data on the whole school wellbeing in all 21 schools will be collected prior to commencement of the Hub (April 2021). Evaluation will take place over a two year period and include feedback from all parties.

Tendring Education Strategic Board (TESB).

The TESB was established in January 2020. Membership of the Board includes Head Teachers from each secondary school, a representation of primary school Head Teachers, Essex County Council, Tendring, Colchester Institute, IntoUniversity and other local education providers. Recognising the need to work collaboratively to achieve the following aims:-

- Raise educational outcomes for the children and young people of Tendring;
- Positively impact on the wider community of Tendring through improvement of education;
- Influence other programmes to specifically support Children and Young Persons (CYP) and their families;
- Connect with other organisations to target funding and initiatives towards Tendring

e.g. lottery funding, commissioned contracts;

- Identify and deliver collective solutions which increase the consistency of best practice and offer for CYP in Tendring.

In order to meet the above, the Board have targeted their focus on 3 key areas. The priorities which have been agreed by the TESB for 2020/21 academic year are:-

- Recruitment of high-quality staff;
- Retention of high-quality staff;
- Improved pupil attendance and engagement of children, young people and their families.

There is also a sub-group working on the development of the Post-16 local offer, who report into the TESB, as well as a regional/national barriers sub-group looking at solutions to any potential barriers within the locality.

Essex County Council Officers will be presenting an update on the Boards' progress at the committee meeting.

Teach First.

Teach First is a national organisation that operates both as a training provider and recruitment agency. The authority has been working with schools and Teach First to encourage them to place teachers and work more closely with schools in the Tendring area.

Last year, Teach First placed 5 teachers in Tendring (*an increase of 2 trainees in 2019*). Despite Tendring not being defined as an Opportunity Area (*as set by the Department of Education*), Teach First remain committed to working in Tendring, the provision of high quality trainees and achieving the right match between trainee and school. Teach First are an active member of the Tendring Education Strategic Board.

Website: <https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/>

IntoUniversity. Funding: £1.2 million – joint investment between IntoUniversity and Anglia Ruskin University.

IntoUniversity and Anglia Ruskin University formed a partnership to launch a new learning centre in Clacton in 2017. The joint investment for the new centre will ensure that the project is sustainable for at least 5 years.

IntoUniversity is an education charity that provides learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. There are currently 31 centres across England. IntoUniversity offers an “innovative, long-term programme” to young people (age seven to eighteen) from disadvantaged backgrounds to fulfil their potential.

The Clacton learning centre has three full time members of staff and two part time and has a particular focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, IntoUniversity have continued the delivery of their core programmes online, raising young people's chances of progressing to University or further education.

834 students worked with the Centre (*this academic year*).

1,735 students have worked with the Clacton centre since it opened three years ago as follows:-

- 336 Primary;
- 498 Secondary;
- 94 students seen for academic support;
- 50 students seen on the Buddy Programme;
- 301 students seen on the Primary Focus Programme;
- 456 students seen on the Secondary Focus Programme.

For further information: <https://intouniversity.org/>

Marathon Kids. Funding: £4,300 – via grant from the Sofranie Foundation.

For further information: <http://sofronie.org/>

The Executive Projects Officer and Public Health Improvement Officer worked jointly with the charity Kids Run Free to bring Marathon Kids to primary schools within the district. Kids Run Free had been successful in securing funding to launch and support 12 primary schools in the district over two years, with a view to getting children more active, improve their health & wellbeing, to challenge and inspire.

“Marathon Kids challenges children to run or walk up to four marathons over an academic year by running laps of a course on either the school field or playground. The programme focuses on personal achievement rather than competition and is fully inclusive regardless of fitness or ability. Using the Marathon Kids 5 Pillars schools can set goals, track performance and reward effort.”

To date the following schools have signed up for the programme:-

- St George's C of E Primary;
- Hazelmere Primary;
- Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery;
- St Osyth C of E Primary School;
- Highfields Primary School;

- Brightlingsea Primary School;
- St Clare's RC Primary;
- Bradfield Primary School;
- Hamford Primary Academy.

Three further schools are currently in discussion regarding sign up for the programme.

At the time of writing, evaluation within participating Tendring schools shows an **89.5%** participation rate amongst students and that the average distance run in total per child is 24.3km, with one child having completed a total of 4 marathons.

Positive feedback has been received from schools who are taking part.

For further information: <https://www.marathonkids.co.uk/>

Tendring Health & Care Academy.

Following a pilot in Colchester in the summer of 2020, the Tendring Health & Care Academy was created as part of the NHS North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group's (NEECG's) Tendring Workforce Regeneration Programme.

A series of targeted activities are offered to 14-18 year olds in collaboration with local schools. In addition, the existing close partnership working across North East Essex is being harnessed to develop an enhanced offer for adults aged 16+ living in Tendring, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Working with a number of local partners including the Suffolk and North Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) and the North East Essex Health & Wellbeing Alliance, the Academy is seeking to introduce Tendring residents to the wide range of training and employment options available within the health and care sector by:-

- Increasing awareness around opportunities;
- Actively encouraging recruitment;
- Promoting equality and inclusion;
- Enhancing the use of apprenticeships;
- Providing support on the different entry routes into health and care roles.

The Academy's initial 'You Can' programme, was launched in early 2021. The course comprises of 6 virtual sessions delivered over three weeks by Adult Community Learning (ACL) and is being offered free of charge. It is aimed at young people and adults living in the Tendring area only and is scheduled to run a further four times until July 2021.

The University of Essex will be assisting the Academy in evaluating the programme from a qualitative perspective, as well as looking at the wider social value this intervention will

generate for Tending in the longer term.

Conclusion

This report provides an overview of the education projects, which have been identified in accordance with the role of the Council, as a Community Leader. The Council is not the lead provider for education. However through influence, bringing stakeholders and partners together to share and improve practices there are a number of areas where the Council can offer support to education providers and ultimately the pupils, learners, and residents across the District.

The projects identified above will continue to form the subject of regular updates to the Portfolio Holder and Education will continue to be subject to external overview and scrutiny through the work of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee to determine whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward to the Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

None