

Meeting: Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Commissioning Team)

Date: 4 March 2019

Wards Affected: All Torbay

Report Title: Torbay's Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? 30 April 30 2019

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy for **supporting disadvantaged children's learning** is a key element of the framework to deliver our vision for the children and young people in Torbay. Our ambition is to ensure that through greater collaboration, we can ensure children and young people are given the best start in life and can grow and prosper within safe families and communities that give them the best start for the future.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 This strategy sets out the context for our approaches to meet the needs of vulnerable learners and significantly close achievement gaps. We aim to ensure there is a high quality range of support, and opportunities, to enable vulnerable learners to become confident individuals, effective communicators, successful and responsive citizens, to remain healthy and to achieve the educational and life outcomes which they deserve.
- 2.2 The strategy also aims to ensure that the full range of services and partners work together more coherently with Early Years and Childcare providers, schools, other educational settings, Public Health, CAMHS and the CCG to maximise the impact of available resources in further raising the attainment and improving the progress of the most vulnerable learners.
- 2.3 As there is much to do, our planned actions are ambitious and challenging. We are determined to pursue them relentlessly and we believe we have the ways to achieve them. As part of our on-going discussions and partnership with headteachers, governors and other stakeholders (Local Area Partners) there is a

good level of shared ambition to achieve improvements in the period leading up to 2020.

PRIORITY ONE – Participation

- Local area partners will actively promote and communicate the local need to elected members, local education providers and external bodies.
- There will be dedicated space on the Torbay Healthy Learning Website for schools.
- The LA will facilitate a steering group and Wellbeing Outcomes Network that will champion the vulnerable pupil and include Local Area partners

PRIORITY TWO – Ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met

- The LA have developed a comprehensive Special Education Needs and Disability Strategy, this will be implemented with pace and rigour.
- Local area partners will undertake a needs assessment of alternative provision and ensure the generation of sufficient alternative placements.
- The LA will gather intelligence on the number of children receiving part time packages, fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions. We will both challenge and support schools to ensure that pupils are re-integrated and their school place retained.
- Local area partners will develop our local policies and protocols to ensure children are safeguarded in education.
- The Virtual school will enhance the outcomes of Children Looked After and hold ourselves and schools to account for the money received through pupil premium plus.

PRIORITY THREE – Parental Influence and Involvement

- Local area partners will create specific guidance and advice for parents to enable them to raise concerns and have their questions answered.
- Local area partners will develop an Advocacy Service that will include parents, carers and families
- Local area partners will develop our approach to co-production of key strategies and decision making.

PRIORITY FOUR – Performance and monitoring

- The LA will implement a performance and monitoring system that is shared with schools and used by school leaders at the Local Education Board.
- Local area partners will develop system leadership and collaborative capacity, engaging with regional partners, local leaders and accountable bodies to share local priorities and gaps.

The priority areas are underpinned by a comprehensive action plan that has been developed with our Local Area partners.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 That the Elected Mayor be recommended:

- (i) that the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning: Vision and Priorities 2018 to 2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.
- (ii) that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Executive Member for Children's and key stakeholders, be authorised to make any final changes to the Strategy; and
- (iii) that the Cabinet receive regular updates on performance against the Torbay Strategy for Supporting Disadvantaged Children's Learning.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay's Strategy for supporting disadvantaged pupils learning: Vision and Priorities 2018-2020

Appendix 2: Action Plan

Background Documents

None

Section 1: Background Information

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| 1. | <p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>For most pupils school is a rich and rewarding experience, but it is an uncomfortable fact that at every level in the Education system, pupils from poor backgrounds achieve less well than their counterparts.</p> |
| 2. | <p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>In Torbay pupils who meet the disadvantaged criteria do less well than their counterparts at every level.</p> |
| 3. | <p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>Much has been done within schools to address this problem and some schools have closed the gap. However too often this is not sustained over a number of years.</p> <p>Up until now schools have dealt with this issue alone. It is evident that the role of Local Authorities is paramount. We are charged with meeting the needs of young children though the Child care Act 2006. This places a duty on Councils to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities and ensure that there is sufficient, high quality provision.</p> |
| 4. | <p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan?</p> <p>Ambitions: Prosperous and Healthy Torbay</p> <p>Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use reducing resources to best effect- pool resources with key partners• Reduce demand through prevention and innovation- identify children destined for disadvantaged and use early interventions to attempt to slow the decline into disadvantage.• Integrated and joined up approach between, Early Years Settings, Schools, Public Health, Family Support Services, Speech and Language Therapists <p>Targeted actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting all children and giving them the best start in life |
| 5. | <p>How does this proposal contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> |

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| | <p>This proposal has a section devoted to Looked after Children and their outcomes so the Council has another mechanism to monitor achievement and progress of these children.</p> |
| 6. | <p>How does this proposal tackle deprivation?</p> <p>By linking with Public Health we can pool resources and ideas to ensure that we are fulfilling our ambition. The launch of the Torbay Healthy Learning website has helped to communicate with schools. The vision is that this will also be a place to share good practice.</p> |
| 7. | <p>How does this proposal tackle inequalities?</p> <p>Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners has been a priority for a number of national bodies and government departments, for a number of years. Sutton Trust research and the Social Mobility Commission reveals the current state of low social mobility in the UK and the disproportionate representation of the most affluent, often those educated in independent and selective schools, in top universities and professions. The economic cost of this inequity to the country's economy and social cohesion, and impact on the life choices of young people, is considerable unless change occurs.</p> <p>This Strategy sets out our approaches to meet the needs of vulnerable learners, improve educational and other outcomes and significantly close achievement gaps</p> |
| 8. | <p>How does the proposal impact on people with learning disabilities?</p> <p>This strategy identifies children with SEN as being a part of the disadvantaged group. This strategy links closely to the SEND strategy to strengthen and support it.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>All schools will be affected by this strategy and the TSCB Education sub group and the Local Education Board have been consulted. Between both of these boards we have representation from all Key Stakeholders.</p> |
| 10. | <p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>Consultation has already been completed. Once the strategy has been adopted by the Council, the strategy will be launched with schools and the action plan will be completed.</p> |

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

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| 11. | What are the financial and legal implications? N/A |
| 12. | What are the risks? If we do not ensure that vulnerable children and families have their needs met early, they may experience the level of challenge and difficulty in their lives that require statutory interventions. They should have the same opportunities as all other children and families to flourish, to stay safe and well and succeed in the education system |
| 13. | Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012 N/A |
| 14. | What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal? 'The Pupil Premium – next steps' Sutton Trust, July 2015 Unknown Children – destined for disadvantage? – Ofsted 2016 Education Endowment Fund – 2016 until present |
| 15. | What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out? The data that we have analysed supports our initial thoughts that disadvantaged pupils are out performing at all phases |
| 16. | Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions Some amendments were made <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The title was changed from vulnerable to disadvantaged• Communication was changed to Participation• SEN was clarified to mean in a mainstream school• The targets were changed to be SMART |

Equality Impacts

| 17. | Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups | | | |
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| | | Positive Impact | Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions | Neutral Impact |
| | Older or younger people | The strategy will have a positive impact on young people through a focus on working differently | | |
| | People with caring Responsibilities | | | X |
| | People with a disability | The strategy will have a positive impact on children and young people with a disability as an identified group. | | |
| | Women or men | | | X |
| | People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i> | The Strategy is being implemented to further ensure that the disadvantage gap is closing and actions are targeted towards providing support. | | |
| | Religion or belief (including lack of belief) | | | X |
| | People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual | | | X |
| | People who are transgendered | | | X |
| | People who are in a marriage or civil partnership | | | X |

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| | Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave | | |
| | Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation) | The strategy will seek to improve outcomes for pupils in this group. | |
| | Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay) | The strategy will be delivered in partnership with Public Health and provide a platform for many projects. For example as part of the work a holiday hunger scheme has started to develop with a community interest company. | |
| 16 | Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above) | <i>None</i> | |
| 17 | Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above) | <i>None</i> | |