

Southwark Schools Scrutiny in a day

- 1 Date – 9th March 2017
- 2 Noon – 5.00pm
- 3 Venue – ARK, Globe Academy, Harper Road, London, SE1 6AG

Schools in Southwark

Change has been such a major feature of schools policy over the past few years and judging by the proposals and judging by the proposals in the recent ‘Schools that Work for Everyone’ consultation that trend is set to continue.

It is in this context that the scrutiny in a day will shine the scrutiny spotlight on the issues that matter most to our local residents: School Governance, ensuring we secure great outcomes for all our young people post 16 , and that we have enough resources for our local schools.

The event is being organised by Southwark Council’s Education and Children’s services scrutiny committee, which is comprised of local councillors and education representatives, including headteachers, local diocese representatives and parent governors. Our role is to both scrutinise the council executive and contribute to policy development, in the council and beyond.

The event will include presentations by local headteachers, council cabinet leads, local employers, Higher Education providers, the voluntary sector, apprentices and parent governors. It is open to parents, teachers, community leaders and anybody with a stake in education in Southwark.

The Scrutiny in a Day will result in a published report, with recommendations, that will be sent to the council cabinet, local schools and attendees. Please make sure we have your email address.

There will be lots of opportunity throughout the day to hear from participants. Your comments will enable the committee to understand the issues and develop recommendations, so please speak up during the sessions and make use of the post it notes to leave your thoughts.

Lunch: 12:00 – 1pm

A cold lunch of sandwich and fruit will be served.

12:30 Cllr Jasmine Ali, chair of the Education and Children’s Services scrutiny committee, will open the day.

Over lunch **Matt Jones, Principal at Ark Globe Academy**, will introduce an excerpt from the BBC Two documentary ‘Will Britain Ever Have A Black Prime Minister?’. The documentary examines the differences in life chances between black and white children in 21st century Britain, focusing on how education can promote social mobility for communities and children that are historically less advantaged. This discussion will help inform the second session: How do we secure great outcomes for all our children & young people post 16?

Session One : 1pm

What are the governance arrangements for Southwark schools and what role do parents play?

The fast changing landscape of education has meant considerable uncertainty amongst local residents about what the future for schools – and the pupils, staff, parents and governors within them – will hold. There are now a number of different schools structures: maintained, academy & free school, and recent proposals to change the role of parent governors. This complexity can be confusing. This scrutiny session will concentrate on bringing clarity to the governance arrangements for Southwark schools and examine the role of the school governing boards, parents and local authority governors in making sure that the schools work in the interests of all its pupils, in order to amplify best practice and make it easier for parents to get involved.

- Presentation on the governance structure of different school models: maintained, academy and free. Southwark Council Legal services, and the Education Department - with briefing paper (Tom Crisp , Southwark Legal with input from John Finch, Governor Services)
- How to become a school governor : opportunities, training , roles and responsibilities. Southwark Council education department - with briefing paper (John Finch, Head of Governor Services)
- Update on governance: the governments evolving position on governance and the role of parents . John Fowler, LGiU
- Local good practice : Surrey Square parent governors : Simona Tottoli and Frances Edegbe,
- Q & A Session with Panel

BREAK

Session Two 14:30 – 16:20

How do we secure great outcomes for all our young people post 16?

Most of our young people do well at exams with 75.5% of pupils in secondary schools achieving 5 good GCSE at A*C,) and above the national average against the new measures of attainment 8, progress 8 but what more can we do to ensure there is a good post 16 offer, for a 100 % of young people? How can we be sure that all our children are reaching their potential? How can the local community, voluntary services, colleges and business help support pupils in school as well as getting the post 16 offer right? The session will look at the progress the council has made in delivering our promise to provide education, training or jobs for all school leavers, and to increase the quantity and quality of apprenticeships.

Young people, educators, the council and business leaders have all identified the importance of really good work experience, excellent training, and high quality apprenticeships . We will explore how this can be achieved by working together.

The expert panel will set the tone by highlighting the issues and give examples of good practice, leaving plenty of time for participants to address the question and put forward their experience and ideas to help Southwark secure great outcomes for all our young people.

Panel presentation and discussion with:

- Cllr Mills, Cabinet Member for Children and Schools
- Cllr Johnson Situ, Cabinet Member for Business, Employment and Culture
- Matt Jones Principal, Ark Globe Academy and Chair of SASH
- Southwark Business Forum, Eleanor Wright , Community Executive, British Land
- Denrick Elliott , team leader, GROW, St Giles Trust.
- Apprentice, Suley Muhidin, Southwark Council Apprentice of the year 2015 / Communities Projects Officer (Projects and Young People)
- Michael Simmons , Director of Corporate Affairs, London South Bank University

Session Three 16:20 – 17:00

Funding

London schools are expected to be hit particularly hard by both changes to direct school funding and the predicted demise of local authority grants to provide school services.

We know that Southwark schools are very successful with 75.5% of pupils in secondary schools achieving 5 good GCSE at A*C, (outgoing measures) and above the national average against the new measures of attainment 8, progress 8 and English Baccalaureate. But can we maintain this if resources go down?

This session will examine reductions in funding for schools. Changes to National Funding Formula (NFF) could mean significant cuts to the funding for Southwark schools. The Education Services Grant (ESG), used to support Local Authority statutory functions in relation to schools, was reduced in 16/17 and will cease from 2017. There may be a partial replacement but there will still likely be a big impact.

This session will look at the impact of these proposed cuts to schools and how good quality schools services can be provided.

- Nina Dohel, Director of Education and Russel Dyer , Departmental Finance Manager - presentation (please find the power point attached in your pack)
- Q & A Session with Panel
- Chair : Closing remarks