

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 31 October 2017	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Response to Southwark Schools Scrutiny in a Day	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

On 9 March 2017 Southwark Council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held a Schools Scrutiny in a Day at the ARK Globe Academy. The aim of the day was to take scrutiny out of the Town Hall and into a local school along with teachers; head teachers; parents; lead members for children's services and jobs and skills; local businesses; representatives from the voluntary sector and young people, including the Southwark Apprentice of the Year. It set out 11 recommendations around three key themes of governance, ensuring we secure great outcomes for all our young people post 16, and schools funding.

On school funding in particular, announcements on the National Funding Formula made by the Secretary of State for Education (since the scrutiny report was written) mean that the future funding settlement for Southwark schools is not as bad as the draft proposals that were being discussed in March 2017. We should pay tribute to the amazing work Southwark Headteachers, schools and parents undertook as part of the national 'Fair Funding for All Schools' campaign to raise the potential funding impacts on Southwark schools. However Southwark schools still face a real terms budget reduction of £16.9million between 2015 and 2020, putting at risk the huge improvements and achievements that have been made across our schools

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the response to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee report, Southwark schools scrutiny in a day, be approved.
2. That Cabinet asks the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee to consider scrutinising the number and reasons for exclusions during and after Year 12 in Southwark and the governance around these decisions. This follows the unlawful use of exclusions by St Olave's Grammar School in Kent for non-behavioural reasons.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. This report responds to the recommendations made by the Education & Children's Scrutiny Sub-Committee in the report that was completed in April 2017. The report sets out the context for this scrutiny exercise and evidence it found.
4. Change has been a major feature of school policy. In December 2016 the DfE launched a consultation relating to fair funding for schools. At the time of the

scrutiny in a day the consultation period was nearing its closing date of the 22 March 2017. This would represent a major change to funding for schools and have a significant impact on all schools nationally with Southwark schools being one of the hardest hit.

5. In March 2016 the area review of skills for central London commenced. The first meeting of the central London group took place on 17 March, which the Leader of the Council chaired. This meeting focused on setting the scene of further education (FE) provision in central London and the broader vision for skills as posed by GLA/London Councils across 16-19 and 19+ provision in central London.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Each of the Scrutiny Sub-Committees' themes and recommendations are set out below followed by the lead cabinet member's response:

6.1 Recommendations

Promote transparency on school governance by working with every Southwark school to ensure that it publicises the governance structure; provides the names of members of the local governing body and academy trustees; provides the link to the Declaration of Interests and promotes the election of parent governors widely.

Promote the school governors training to all schools and governors.

Review school governors training on Exclusions to ensure that all governors know what good practice looks like.

6.2 Response:

It is already a legal requirement for all state schools to make public its governance arrangements. Ofsted inspections will look at the schools website to check that the school publishes information about your school's governors, including details of each governor's business interests, financial interests, governance roles in other schools and the structure and responsibilities of the governing body and committees. The schools standards 0-19 team, head of governor services and governor training programme manager check and promote compliance locally.

We have a good relationship with our schools and close to 70% buy into governor services this includes all phases across maintained and academy schools.

Southwark have a dedicated Governor Training Manager working with and through the Southwark Governors Association to provide a comprehensive and bespoke programme of training. This includes an induction for new governors; how governors must meet requirements of any new legislation and training to support governors with exclusions.

In September 2018 there was media coverage of the exclusion of students after AS-level (Year 12) for failing to achieve three B grades. By law, students should not be excluded from sixth-form for non-behavioural reasons. Cabinet would welcome the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Subcommittee

scrutinising the number and reasons for exclusions during and after Year 12 in Southwark and the governance around these decisions.

6.3 Recommendations

Develop a ‘supporting people’ quality standard for local businesses that provide work experience, mentoring and employment support, to demonstrate appreciation and promote involvement; link this to demonstrating social value in the procurement process.

Work on better coordination and communication with schools on the post 16 training, employment and apprenticeship programme, making sure that schools are aware of the support available for children in need/ NEETS, and the pathways available for young people not pursuing university post 16.

Work with schools, the business community and colleges to ensure that young people have a broad range of work experience taster opportunities that dovetail with the school work experience programmes, to enable young people to choose their career path and develop work social skills.

Bring together school leaders with the council to: a) contribute to the development of the emerging post 16 offer (especially higher and degree level apprenticeships) with LSBU and b) explore potentially commissioning better pathway support post 16, including careers advice and guidance.

Promote the benefits of the apprenticeship levy to business and look at how this can fit in with the supply chain. Integrate specific training with employment support providers on the needs of Care Leavers, and other young people in need.

6.4 Response:

Southwark has been considering its response to the Government’s recent Area Based Review of Skills (ABR). At its meeting in March 2017, cabinet resolved to develop a local skills strategy that supports the delivery of a high quality FE and skills offer in the borough. The work on this has already started with a workshop in July 2017 bringing together a wide range of stakeholders including business, FE, school leaders with the council to contribute to the development of the emerging post 16 offer with LSBU and other partners. This emerging skills strategy will at least in part focus on the recommendations made in this section of the report including exploring better pathway support post 16, careers advice and guidance and exploring quality marks that are already in existence and the viability and or need for a local kite mark. The skills strategy will also consider the needs of our most vulnerable learners including care leavers and our young people with SEND.

Southwark takes seriously its duty to the NEET population and our performance in reducing the NEET population remains very strong. In the year June 2016 to June 2017 Southwark demonstrated the 4th strongest improvement in London and outperformed London and national averages.

6.5 Recommendations

Make technical information available to enable parents to fill out the School Funding consultation form.

Brief local schools that the council is promoting Federations for mutual support, where suitable.

Raise the potential impact of school funding cuts with the broader local community, and particularly the potential adverse direct and indirect impacts on local businesses.

6.6 Response

We have worked with headteachers, schools, the schools forum, the school governors, parent/teacher associations and London Councils to respond to the consultation and have submitted a separate local authority response. We have supported schools, who in turn have worked tremendously hard with parents and their local communities to provide opportunities for them to respond to the consultation. We have shared our response information with neighbouring boroughs who may also wish to encourage a response from parents. Technical information and modelling has been provided through a range of agencies including the Southwark finance team, London Councils and teaching unions.

In Southwark we have a range of governance models in place for school leadership. In light of recruitment and financial challenges we continue to talk to schools collectively through various groupings about the benefits of federation and partnership working as one of the models of governance of schools.

There has been a strong and well coordinated approach at informing schools, parents and public by schools themselves, the Standards 0-19 team, the Lead Member, local MPs and local councillors to raise the potential impact of school funding cuts with the broader local community. The awareness of the potential adverse direct and indirect impacts on local businesses has been and is being more typically addressed through the development of a Southwark skills strategy.

Policy implications

7. The report notes the increased provision for groups of care leavers previously not entitled to such through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This is anticipated to be implemented in April 2018. All policies relating to care leavers will be reviewed once the statutory guidance is available in January 2018.

Community impact statement

8. The recommendations contained within this report will help provide an improved offer to school governors in relation to exclusions and post 16.

Resource implications

9. The report notes the Children and Social Work Act 2017 has extended personal adviser support until the age of 25 years for those not in education, employment or training.

Legal implications

10. There are no legal implications within this report.

Consultation

11. The consultation on fairer funding for schools was widely shared with schools, families and local authority officer and councillors
12. A workshop was held with key stakeholders, including schools, FE and HE organisations, employers and training providers in July 2017, on the development of the Skills Strategy. The purpose of the workshop was to engage stakeholders at the outset of the process of development of the skills strategy and inform the draft for further consultation.
13. A range of external and internal stakeholders will be further consulted on during the process of developing the Skills Strategy. Formal consultation will place between September and October 2017 and key groups including learners, employers, FE and HE institutions, training providers and other key partner organisations will be engaged.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Schools Scrutiny in a day report	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Julie Timbrell 020 7525 0514
Link (please copy and paste into browser): http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=67599&ISATT=1#search=%22scrutiny%20in%20a%20day%22		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	
Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children & Families	
Report Author	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children & Families	
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Dated	20 October 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Procurement	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
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