

Report to Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee – April 2014

Learning New Ways: Academies and the Local Authority in Buckinghamshire

Recommendations	Responsible Officer	Action by date	Update
<p>1. That the local authority clearly defines its new, but still strongly strategic, role in relation to education and that it develops an implementation plan for communicating and delivering this role</p>	<p>Sue Imbriano Chris Munday</p>	<p>Paper on strategic role – April '13 Education Principles document – March '13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Principles document drafted; consultation completed with headteachers and Governing Bodies; principles reflected in creation of the BLT constitution; Cabinet Member decision taken agreeing the principles • Action Plan completed, with services identifying their role to delivery of Principles. • Principles have been embedded in Delivery Successful Performance objectives • Since the establishment of the Trust a further document on roles and responsibilities is being developed for schools.
<p>2. As future working relationships between schools and the local authority are in part dependent on the commercial robustness of the proposed Bucks Learning Trust, that the Cabinet member for Education and Skills provides Overview and Scrutiny with an update on the early operation of the Trust in Spring/Summer 2014, including information on commercial operation, mitigation of identified risks, supporting</p>		<p>Reports provided to Overview and Scrutiny – June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust is progressing positively and no issues have been identified in relation to the commercial operation of the organisation • The Council has not had a request for use of the Working Capital loan • Risks are continuing to be managed both within the Trust and the Council and regular contract monitoring is being undertaken. • The lead member is considering the appointment of further Local Authority trustees

<p>collaborative working with primary schools, and Councillor membership of the Trust.</p>			
<p>3. That options are explored for supporting and inducting on appointment new heads and governors into the Bucks family of schools, school clusters and the Bucks Learning Trust. In addition, the possibility of an annual meeting of Bucks heads, governors and councillors should be considered for sharing matters of common interest and importance in education.</p>	<p>Sarah Holding</p>	<p>Build on existing practice, involving BASL</p>	<p>The Buckinghamshire Academy is led by school leaders for school leaders. It aims to further improve the quality of leadership, teaching and learning in the county through professional development, collaboration and mutual support.</p> <p>The aim of the Academy is to raise the quality of leadership in the county through a collaborative leadership learning community that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages and supports collaborative leadership learning; • Provides a professional development programme that is innovative, research-based and builds on shared experience; • Celebrates success. <p>Within Buckinghamshire, we provide a range of support for new heads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support of your School Improvement Adviser • On 4th October 2013 BASL provided a day-long Induction Conference. • During 2013 – 2014 BASL is providing a network group for the new heads, led by two Board members, who meet once each half term. <p>This recommendation is being further developed as part of the development of the Buckinghamshire Strategy for School Improvement. The Strategy is still in draft form, and will go out to schools for further consultation. Implementation date for Strategy – September 2014.</p>

<p>4. That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills provides Overview and Scrutiny with interim updates on the progress of the incoming Fair Access Boards at timely points over 2013 to understand progress and to promote to councillors the work of the Boards in supporting vulnerable children.</p>		<p>Reports available for Overview and Scrutiny</p>	<p>Annual report for the academic year, 2012-13, available. Fair Access Boards continue to work well and are developing in terms of their strategic, as well as operational, role – eg. Being used to inform the commissioning of part-time alternative provision.</p>
<p>5. That, building on the formation of the Bucks Learning Trust, work is done to facilitate the sharing of best practice on school-to-school support, for example around continuing to drive up standards. This could include options for peer reviews, establishing linkages between governing bodies, and schools working in improvement clusters. The County Council should consider how its scrutiny function could support such work.</p>	<p>Chris Munday</p>	<p>Updates to Overview and Scrutiny</p>	<p>New posts (Primary Liaison officers, Secondary Liaison Officer) are also being piloted; part of the remit of these roles is to support the development of school-to-school support and sharing good practice.</p> <p>We have established a number of projects including ASPIRE in Aylesbury which encourages schools to work together.</p> <p>Some high performing schools are supporting schools in special measures.</p> <p>There has been extensive use of National and Local Leaders in Education to support the programme of Narrowing the Gap.</p>
<p>6. Recommendation not agreed</p>			
<p>7. That a link to <i>Parent View</i> is included on BCC 'Academies schools information for parents' webpage alongside existing links to the DfE guidance on academies</p>	<p>Sarah Holding</p>		<p>The Council has amended the website. This action has not been completed. This will be addressed in the new term.</p>
<p>8. That, as part of the Member Induction programme following the 2013 CC elections, guidance is provided on why it is important for councillors to get to</p>	<p>Sarah Holding</p>	<p>Induction programme developed</p>	<p>The Director of Children and Young People's service held a session on education with new members as part of the induction programme.</p>

<p>know their local schools and that options for a 'protocol' around school and councillor working relationships are explored. Guidance should outline the new role for councillors in the changed educational sector, advise councillors on how to get the know Heads and schools, working with parents, helping to give schools a strong local voice.</p>			
---	--	--	--