

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT 2014

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend that Cabinet notes the improved education outcomes within North Lincolnshire and the priorities for further improvement.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council has a statutory duty to ensure area wide standards and educational excellence. The Council's ambition for further improving school age education is set out in the North Lincolnshire Education Strategy for Schools entitled 'All our Children'. This document builds on the vision of the Council and People Directorate, setting out three aims for the education sector of:

- Raising Achievement
- Championing Inclusion
- Supporting Regeneration

The realisation of these aims is in the context of the drive towards a self-improving schools system. North Lincolnshire Council has confidently taken its place in providing leadership, resources and expertise for increasing the pace of improvement in outcomes for school age children and young people.

- 2.2 Critically, the local authority has strengthened partnership working with schools, groups of schools, Headteacher consortia, the North Lincolnshire Association of Governing Bodies and the Schools Forum. New providers have been engaged and structural solutions have been found to increase the immediate performance of schools and to secure their long term resilience. The local authority has facilitated a wide range of effective school-to-school working which allows the best educational practices to be brought into North Lincolnshire and transferred between schools.
- 2.3 External evaluation of the local authority's arrangements for supporting school improvement has informed the pace of developments. A Peer Challenge was invited in December 2013 from the regional group of the Association of Directors of Children's Services. This review recognised within North Lincolnshire: strong political ambition, vision, support and challenge; the strength of partnership working between the local authority and schools; the support of schools for strong local authority leadership; the cultural shift within the local area – where underperformance is not tolerated; evidence of the impact being made by North Lincolnshire Council on the quality of education. There was overwhelming support for the local approach to supporting school improvement, which has been further strengthened by the learning from the Peer Challenge.

- 2.4. The establishment of the Education Standards Board has provided a means for the local authority to make sense of an increasingly diverse educational landscape; bringing together stakeholders including Ofsted, the Department for Education, Dioceses and, governor and Headteacher representatives. This approach has helped raise expectations on schools, generate mutual accountability, challenge underperformance, target support and when required, formally intervene to address entrenched underperformance.
- 2.5 The Council has prioritised education and has made additional investment in school improvement through the transformation of services and new resource for commissioning additional support to schools in 2014/15 and 2015/16. In 2014/15, the Council has invested in:
- school governance
 - developing Peer Challenge between school leaders
 - improving outcomes for primary age children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - embedding targeted interventions for literacy and numeracy
 - developing Excellence in the Early Years – school project
 - achieving more outstanding schools by working with Ofsted
- 2.6 The Annual Education Report provides a synopsis of education standards in North Lincolnshire. The report also draws out the key areas for action, with the purpose of provoking debate about local education priorities.
- 2.7 Performance highlights for 2014 include:
- top quartile nationally for good level of development age 5
 - top quartile nationally for phonics
 - Key Stage 1 now in line with national – great improvements in writing
 - Key Stage 2 progress measures catching up with national
 - Key Stage 4 progress in line with national – great improvements in English
 - outcomes at 5A*-C including English and mathematics above the all-England-average for the first time
 - attainment of children eligible for Free School Meals improving fastest across Early Years and Primary age ranges
- 2.8 Compared to 1 September 2012 when the new, more challenging Ofsted inspection framework was introduced, **3,799 more** North Lincolnshire children and young people attended schools that have been judged by Ofsted to be good or better on 31 December 2014. **592 more** children and young people attend outstanding schools during this time.
- 2.9 The latest regional report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills highlights includes a case study of effective practice within North Lincolnshire for improving the quality of Early Years provision. The Council's wider approach to improving Early Years outcomes includes up-skilling the workforce, developing leadership and management of settings, targeting settings and schools that are not yet good, supporting new childminders, promoting free early education for disadvantaged two year olds, providing free books each month to over 8,000 children under five years through the Imagination Library, maintaining local Children's Centres, and leading the integration of approaches with Health services. The combined impact of this investment can be evidenced in the 12 percentage point increase in 2014 in five year olds achieving a *good level of development*, placing North Lincolnshire 5 percentage points above the national average.

2.10 Priorities moving forward are:

- further narrowing attainment gaps for children eligible for free school meals, children with special educational needs and children in care
- further improving standards of communication and literacy at all ages, especially writing
- further improving attainment by the end of primary age
- further increasing the proportion of outstanding schools and settings
- further improving the quality of leadership and governance in schools and settings

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To note that the North Lincolnshire Annual Education Report for 2014 has been approved, shared with schools and made available on the Council website.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The Annual Education Report for 2014 demonstrates: the ongoing commitment of the Council to drive up standards of education within North Lincolnshire; the progress that has been made over time; and, the priorities for further improvement. Furthermore, the publication of the report demonstrates openness and the willingness to confront outcomes that are not yet strong enough to meet the Council's ambition for school age education set out in the Education Strategy for Schools '*All our Children*'. Cabinet noting the priorities of the Annual Education Report for 2014 reconfirms the commitment of the Council to improving education outcomes and wellbeing for the children and young people of North Lincolnshire.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 The priorities identified within the report inform the deployment of existing resources.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 N/A

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To recommend that Cabinet notes the improved education outcomes within North Lincolnshire and the priorities for further improvement.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

The report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2013/14: North East, Yorkshire and Humber regional report and the North Lincolnshire Annual Education Report 2014.