

Local Members Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Friday 26 July 2019

Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire

Recommendations

I recommend that:

- a. The Select Committee scrutinise the content of the final Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire
- b. The Select Committee scrutinise the 2018 Staffordshire educational attainment used as a part of the baseline of performance measures to evaluate the impact of the partnership framework.

Report of Cllr Philip White, Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. OFSTED have judged that 84% of schools in Staffordshire are good or outstanding. Yet overall outcomes for Staffordshire's young people remain below average, particularly at Key Stage 4 and 5.
2. There are very many examples of good practice, however, there is too much variation between schools. Appendix 1 is technical but it shows too many bottom quartile performance measures (in red) for Staffordshire. When we look at our statistical neighbours, we want outcomes to be near the top not the bottom.
3. Improving Education and Skills "so that more people gain the training and qualifications they need to succeed" is one of the county council's strategic priorities.
4. However, the county council's statutory role has diminished as the autonomy and accountability of individual schools and trusts and the Regional Schools Commissioner have increased.
5. There is now a complex mix of relationships and accountabilities which means that no single institution or organisation can impose or affect significant, system-wide change on its own. The county council champions better outcomes for children and young people but does not have the authority, responsibility, control or resources to determine those outcomes.

6. The partnership framework was coproduced with a reference group reflecting the range of education providers in Staffordshire. It proposes a shared leadership approach, that is evidence based, outcomes-focussed and underpinned by peer support and challenge.
7. As part of consultation between the beginning of November 2018 and the end of December 2018, the partnership framework was shared with education and skills providers, partners and stakeholders across Staffordshire
8. To inform the consultation process the draft partnership framework was shared with the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on 14 December 2018 and responses were incorporated into the final partnership framework.
9. The partnership framework was published in April 2019 and the inaugural meeting of the Education and Skills Strategic Group took place on 20 June 2019 and came together to provide strategic leadership for education and skills in Staffordshire. The purpose of the strategic group is to:
 - a. shape our future direction,
 - b. have a clear view of our identity as a place
 - c. drive aspiration – clearest feedback from recent consultation
 - d. with a shared vision, principles and aspirations

Report

Background

10. The county council has determined its Strategic Plan for the next four years which has identified education and skills as one of its five strategic priorities.
11. The role of local authorities is reducing as the education landscape continues to change. In Staffordshire, for example, 55% of Staffordshire's 400 schools are now academies and accountable direct to the West Midlands Regional Schools Commissioner.
12. So, as the roles and responsibilities of the county council and education providers and partners change, we need to create a different way of engaging and working with system leaders.
13. Our aspiration is to be near the top of the table of our statistical neighbours not the bottom. We want a partnership that champions high aspiration and ambition for every learner, collective accountability for achieving better outcomes, peer challenge and peer support, greater visibility of institutional performance and more parental engagement.
14. The Select Committee provided comment and feedback in response to consultation to further shape the way forward. These responses were incorporated into the final partnership framework.
15. In April 2019 the Education and Skills Strategy: A partnership framework for Staffordshire was published and the Education and Skills Strategic Group was

established. The group met on 20 June 2019 and were presented with a summary of the 2018 Education Annual Report. This is being used as a baseline of performance measures to evaluate the impact of the partnership framework.

16. In 2018 outcomes in the early part of the primary phase remained strong, with results above the statistical neighbour and national averages at Early Years and in Key Stage 1.
17. In Staffordshire attainment at Key Stage 2 was less positive in 2018 compared to 2017. Staffordshire results were above national in every measure in 2017, but in 2018, reading and writing results remained above national but the gap has narrowed, and maths results fell below the national average.
18. The 2018 Staffordshire outcomes in the secondary phase remained less consistent than in the primary phase. Attainment 8 results remain marginally above the national all schools figure, however the Progress 8 Score, the proportion of pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and maths, the proportion being entered for English Baccalaureate subjects and attainment in the English Baccalaureate are all below national and similar local authority averages.
19. At Key Stage 5, Staffordshire results for state-funded schools (not including FE colleges) in A level and Academic APS per entry measures are less positive with results below national averages, however Tech Level and General APS per entry measures provide a more positive picture with results above national averages.
20. The partnership framework will steer our combined efforts and resources to improve the outcomes for all children and young people. Through working together, we know that we can make a real difference to the life chances of children and young people and to Staffordshire's future economy, providing we collectively aspire to help all children and young people to succeed in their education and ensure that no one is left behind.

Link to Strategic Plan

Staffordshire County Council Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire
Appendix 2 - Education and Skills Strategy - 2018 Performance Overview
Appendix 3 - Education Annual Report 2018

Contact Details

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