

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD

27 March 2018

Commenced: 3.30 pm

Terminated: 5.05pm

Present:

Councillor L Travis (Chair)	
Councillor Peet	
Councillor R Welsh	
Paul Jacques	ASCL
Sandra Stewart	Borough Solicitor
James Thomas	Director of Children's Services
Bob Berry	Assistant Director, Learning
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access
Helen Mellor	Head of Pupil Support Service

Apologies for **Councillors J Fitzpatrick, M Smith and Jon Murray**

Absence:

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Board.

26. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Education Attainment Improvement Board held on 16 January 2018 were approved as a correct record.

27. GREAT ACADEMIES EDUCATION TRUST (GAET) –UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Alison Crompton, CBE, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Academies Trust, attended before Members and gave information on progress in respect of each of the Tameside schools within the Trust as follows:

Great Academy, Ashton;
Copley Academy; and
Silver Springs Primary Academy.

Ms Crompton gave details of attendance levels, Ofsted visits, governance and attainment for each school and commented on a number of recent positive changes in schools, which had resulted in improved student outcomes.

Discussion ensued with regard to schools' attainment and the changes outlined. Members were pleased to note the continuing progress and positive outcomes reported.

28. WORK OF TAMESIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Assistant Director of Learning submitted a report outlining the role of the Virtual School in Tameside including the priorities for the summer term 2018.

The Head of Tameside Virtual School, Amanda Aylward, then attended before Members and gave information in respect of:

- Data/statistics for Looked After Children in the Borough;
- Personal Education Plans;
- Pupil Premium Plus funding;
- Tracking of attendance;
- Monitoring of key groups;
- Exclusions;
- Pupils with SEND; and
- Collaborative working.

Priorities for summer term 2018 were identified as follows:

- To ensure the number of completed Personal Education Plans increased to meet a target of 85% working towards 100% by Christmas 2018 through direct work with schools and social care colleagues;
- Focused tracking of Year 6 and Year 11 pupils to ensure appropriate targeted support for pupils sitting SATs and GCSE examinations was identified and provided; and
- Improve attendance rates for looked after pupils through commissioning of attendance monitoring data package and recruitment of Education Welfare Officer.

Members thanked Ms Aylward for the presentation and were pleased to note the multi-agency approach and collaborative work undertaken, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

29. PERFORMANCE OF SEND PUPILS IN 2016/17 AND SEND UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director, Learning, which provided a comprehensive view of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils in the Borough in 2016/17 and an update on the Borough's work with SEND.

A summary of the performance data presented explained that the progress being made by SEN pupils in Tameside at the end of KS4 was below that of all pupils nationally. In addition, disadvantaged pupils who were SEN were not making good progress. There was, however, evidence that pupils with significant needs were achieving more than their peers nationally.

At the end of KS2, when benchmarked against all pupils nationally, the progress scores of SEN pupils were below national average. When comparing the progress scores of SEN support pupils in the Borough to SEN support pupils nationally, they were in line in writing and maths, and in reading, SEN support pupils made slightly more progress than SEN support pupils nationally. SEN EHC/S pupils also made more progress than the national average for pupils with an EHC/S in each subject. There were, however, gaps between the progress of disadvantaged pupils with SEN and non-disadvantaged pupils with SEN.

At the end of KS1 and at EYFS, not enough SEN pupils in Tameside achieved the expected standard and the Borough did not compare favourably to other local authorities in these areas.

In respect of the Borough's work with SEND, it was explained that the SEND team had been working on the final transfers of Education Statements to Education Health Care Plans. The national deadline was 31 March 2018 and there was confidence that this would be met. There were currently 15 in draft form to be finalised.

In Tameside, there were now 987 children and young people with an EHCP. Since September 2014 there had been 670 new requests of which 348 had become EHCP's.

The SEND team, following 31 March 2018 would be able to invest more time in settings and further enhance links and improve relationships further with SENDCO's. Although developing good communication had been a focus the numbers of conversions and requests had created some limitations on the accessibility of Case Workers at times.

A partnership agreement with Salford Education Psychology had been agreed and this would enable us to re-establish a Tameside team and would further enhance relationships with settings, develop early identification and preventative interventions. Educational Psychology had significant statutory functions within the SEND process.

SEND Networks had continued and had been very well attended. Inclusion networks had also continued which enabled further cross cutting and sharing across partner agencies. The team recognised that there was scope to improve links with Social Care colleagues. Plans were in place to work together with colleagues from Health and Social Care to develop practice in writing plans together and developing awareness and training with teams and partners.

Specialist provision was under review and the report and recommendations was awaited. Relationships had been strengthened with the Special Schools Partnership and they attended panels. Main stream representation at panel was an area to be looked at.

Work with the Pupil Referral service continued. Permanent Exclusions were a concern in Tameside as they were nationally. Alternative provision was being reviewed and networking opportunities were being developed further Post 16.

Details of the most recent statistics in terms of SENDIASS, referrals to Pupil Support Services and EHCP's were appended to the report.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) **That further updates be provided to future meeting of the Education Attainment Improvement Board.**

30. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items received for consideration at this meeting.

31. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS - RETIREMENT OF THE CHAIR AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

The Chair announced that this was the last meeting of the Education Attainment Improvement Board for Bob Berry, Assistant Director of Learning, who was leaving the authority at the end of the month.

Members thanked Bob for all his hard work and wished him well for his future endeavours.

The Chair further announced that this was her final meeting of the Board as she was retiring from her role as Councillor in May 2018.

Members thanked the Chair for her dedicated service as a Councillor and her commitment to improving education across the Borough and also wished her well in her retirement.

CHAIR