

# **EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**15 January 2019**

**Commenced: 3.30 pm**

**Terminated: 5.00 pm**

**Present:** **Councillors: Feeley, Boyle, Peet, M Smith and Patrick Paul Jacques and Elizabeth Turner**

<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Richard Hancock</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
	<b>Tim Bowman</b>	<b>Assistant Director, Learning</b>
	<b>Catherine Moseley</b>	<b>Head of Access and Inclusion</b>
	<b>Helen Mellor</b>	<b>Head of Pupil Support Service</b>
	<b>Tony Shepherd</b>	<b>Head of Improvement and Partnerships</b>
	<b>Jean Quinn</b>	<b>Head of Adult and Community Education</b>

**Apologies for Absence:** **Councillors Ryan and Buglass**

## **18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **19 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Education Attainment Improvement Board held on 23 October 2018 were approved as a correct record.

## **20 PUPIL PLACE PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT**

The Assistant Director, Learning, submitted a report outlining the process for school place planning in Tameside and the current issues, particularly with secondary schools, for September 2021 onwards.

It was explained that all local authorities had a statutory duty to ensure that there were sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. These may be school places available at provision maintained by the local authority, academies, or other non-maintained schools.

Planning for fluctuations in demand for school places was an important function which need to be carried out at a local level and would differ depending on the phase of learning, for example, pupils would travel further to secondary schools than primary schools. The compact geography of Tameside and the mix of types of school, e.g. single sex, meant that place planning happened at a level higher than wards or towns.

It was further explained that school place planning was a complex process that accounted for a range of factors including the number of births in the borough, in year movement and cohort survival rates, as well as parental preference and planned housing development. With rapid shifts in economic conditions for families and changing patterns of migration, planning for basic need for school places required a proactive approach to best respond to both short and medium-term demand for places. By taking this approach, the Council had managed to ensure sufficient places

to meet increasing demand over the last 15 years which had seen a 27% rise in birth rates in the borough and a 24% increase in pupils coming into primary schools.

This report set out how the forecasting of demand was matched to need and where there was a need for additional places to be created, how this was achieved.

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The report also looked at the factors affecting demand which were birth rates, in year movements within and without the borough, travel, to learn pattern of pupils into schools in other local authorities, and equally pupils travelling to schools in Tameside from other boroughs, housing developments and availability of social housing and parental preference. Many of these were subject to quite short-term uncertainty and were difficult to plan for on a long-term basis. An analysis of this data gave a cohort survival rate which was used to give an estimate of demand. Currently, with a falling birth rate, the need for additional places was in the secondary sector for four years from September 2021 to September 2024.

Factors affecting supply, which were the availability of capital funding, land and premises were also examined. Expansion of existing schools was affected by the capacity of premises, the size of sites as well as wider considerations of their location. Establishing any new schools required a longer lead in time through the competition framework. Equally, additional places could be introduced into the system through expansion proposals by governing bodies or admission authorities that increased admission numbers into a school and the establishment of Free Schools that received approval by central government.

Members were informed that all secondary schools were aware of the issues relating to the need for additional places and the relative number of places that were still needed for these four years. It was not anticipated that September 24 would pose a great deal of problems as many schools had offered to take small number of additional pupils as a flexible intake into Year 7 as happened 1 September 2017 where several schools took up to 6 extra pupils to meet the predicted shortfall in places. September 2021 – 2023 posed greater issues as additional classes would be needed to accommodate predicted demand. These numbers however would be accommodated on a temporary basis and would not necessitate permanent increases in published admission numbers as this would generate significant levels of surplus capacity in future years. Officers would continue to work with all secondary schools to identify where additional capacity could be found to meet the forecast demand.

Discussion ensued with regard to the content of the report and the planning of school places for the future, in particular the impact of the GM Spatial Framework and the importance of working closely with colleagues in the planning department in order to monitor monies allocated to education through Section 106/Developer contributions.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That the monitoring of monies allocated to education via Section 106/Developer Contributions be included on the Forward Plan for the Education Attainment Improvement Board for 2019/2020 municipal year.**

## **21 LEVEL 3 POST 16 PERFORMANCE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Employment and Skills setting out an overview of Level 3 post 16 performance in Tameside.

It was reported that, overall, the picture of Level 3 performance (equivalent to A-Level) was improving in Tameside with high quality institutions and an increasing number of residents participating in learning.

In terms of future provision and next steps, it was reported that the development of the Vision Tameside campus would provide further high quality skills, facilities and provision for the Borough. This included the development of an Advanced Skills Centre alongside Clarendon College, Advanced Technologies Centre and also new Skills Construction Centre in 2020.

The Tameside Learner provider Network was relaunched in 2016 and had grown into a strong strategic and operational network of providers to support the development of new and quality provision. The network now provided an opportunity to lead a multi-agency approach to the local skills agenda identifying gaps and supporting shared solutions to provision.

The core strengths in Tameside's Level 3 provision, were outlined in the report and it was explained that these could be further strengthened through the pursuit of the following activity as part of a wider strategy for a vibrant economy to be developed in early 2019:

- Raise educational performance pre Level 3 and through the life course;
- Improve the quality and availability of Careers Education Information Advice and guidance (CEIAG);
- Realise the potential of the Vision Tameside Campus;
- Develop a stronger Level 4 (degree equivalent) offer in Tameside building on Vision Tameside;
- Ensure the development of the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (with a likely focus on industrial digitisation) supported and enhanced Tameside's existing skills offer;
- Ensure the Devolution of Adult Education Budget to Greater Manchester supported residents to gain basic skills essential for progression into employment or higher level learning; and
- Continue to develop a Strategy for a Vibrant Economy including a clear and ambitious action plan for Skills.

Whilst acknowledging the improving picture of Level 3 performance in Tameside, Members made reference to the creative curriculum and the barriers to developing this and the need to broaden the curriculum to encourage diversity.

## **RESOLVED**

- That the content of the report be noted; and**
- That Level 3 Curriculum be the subject of future reports to the Education Attainment Improvement Board and added to the Forward Plan for the 2019/2020 municipal year.**

## **22 ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Head of Employment and Skills submitted a report providing details of the draft Tameside Adult Community Education (ACE) Self Assessment Report (SAR). The SAR was due to be submitted before January 2019 in final form to the Education Skills Funding Agency and covered the academic year 2017/18. The SAR provided a comprehensive assessment of performance and areas for development. The Adult Community Education Service had shown significant improvement in 2018 by obtaining a 'Good' inspection rating from Ofsted and an improvement in qualification results.

The Chair congratulated all concerned in respect of the continuing improvement of the Service as reflected in the 'Good' Ofsted inspection rating and thanked everyone for all their hard work in achieving this.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report be noted.**

## **23 FORWARD PLAN**

The Assistant Director, Learning, submitted a Forward Plan, providing an update to the proposal discussed and agreed at the June 2018 meeting of the Board, for a structured approach to the work of the EAIB, which addressed the strategic priorities for education and lifelong learning in Tameside.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the updated Forward Plan, as detailed in the report, be approved, with the opportunity to make further amendments through the course of the year; and**
- (ii) That the monitoring of monies awarded through Section 106 agreements/Developer Contributions and Level 3 Post 16 Curriculum, be added to the Forward Plan for the Education Attainment Improvement Board for 2019/2020.**

## **24 URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**