

Narrowing the Gap Scrutiny Review Final Report - Cover Report

Introduction

1. This cover report presents the final report from the Narrowing the Gap Scrutiny Review and asks Cabinet to approve the recommendations arising from the review.

Background to Review

2. In July 2014, the Committee received a feasibility report on a proposed scrutiny topic on 'Narrowing the Gap' in York. The Assistant Director of Education & Skills informed Members that by the age of 19, the gap in attainment between disadvantaged young people (as defined by them being in receipt of Free School Meals at age 15) and their peers in York were amongst the widest anywhere in the country. She felt a review would help to own this as a collective issue to help improve national performance indicators and narrow the gaps in attainment.
4. The Committee agreed to proceed with the review and set up a task group made up of the following members to carry out the review on their behalf:
 - Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick
 - Cllr Sian Wiseman
 - Cllr Jenny Brooks
 - Andrew Pennington (Co-opted Member)

Review Recommendations

5. In February 2015, the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Task Group's review findings as presented in the final report at Appendix 1 and endorsed their draft recommendations listed below:

- i) A virtual network for schools to be set up, to share best practice and feedback on the impact of the strategies used, encourage and assist in school to school support, and cluster working.
- ii) A holistic approach to using pupil premium money should be encouraged, including school readiness projects in pre-school settings
- iii) To continue to develop multi-agency working to assist with the narrowing the gap agenda.
- iv) Schools to continue to build strong partnership working between home and school.
- v) Continued encouragement and support to be given to parents of all FSM KS1 pupils, to ensure schools receive full entitlement to pupil premium funding.
- vi) For the Local Authority to work with schools to publicise the importance of eligible families registering for pupil premium in KS1.
- vii) That the recommendations above be used to form the basis of a citywide strategy.

Council Plan 2011-15

- 6. The review of this scrutiny topic supports the Council's priority to protect vulnerable people.

Options

- 7. Having considered the final report at Appendix 1 and its associated annexes, Cabinet may choose to amend and/or approve, or reject the recommendations arising from the review as set out in paragraph 5 above.

Implications & Risk Management

- 8. The implications and risks associated with the recommendations above are detailed in paragraphs 52-54 of the review final report at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

- 9. Having considered the final report and its annexes, the Cabinet is recommended to approve the recommendations shown in paragraph 5 above.

Reason: To conclude the Scrutiny Review in line with CYC Scrutiny procedures and protocols.

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Report Approved



Date

25 February 2015

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Appendix 1 – A-boards Scrutiny Review Final Report