

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	Councillor David Simmonds
<b>Cabinet Portfolios</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council Education & Children's Services
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Dan Kennedy, Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	None

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	This report presents to Cabinet the action being taken to work with schools in Hillingdon to develop effective and targeted school-to-school support arrangements to raise educational standards. The development of a school improvement plan will establish clear priorities for improvement and define the role of the Local Authority to challenge schools to raise standards where this is required.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	<b>Putting our Residents First: <i>Our People</i></b>  Hillingdon Council is committed to putting residents first. This includes ensuring that every child in Hillingdon deserves to have access to a 'good' or better school in the Borough.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct financial implications relating to this report. An analysis of funding for school improvement will be included within the report presented to Cabinet in July 2015.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Children, Young People and Learning
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All wards.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**That Cabinet endorse the steps being taken to develop a school improvement plan for schools in Hillingdon, for presentation to Cabinet in July 2015.**

## **INFORMATION**

### **School Improvement – Duty Placed on Local Government**

1. The general duty for local government to promote high standards of education is set out within the Education Act 1996. The Local Authority has a role in promoting high standards and championing excellence, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training and promoting fulfilment of learning potential. For maintained schools the local authority has powers to issue warning notices to schools which are a cause for concern. If a local authority becomes aware of concerns about an academy school, the Department for Education expects the local authority to notify the Regional Schools Commissioner. The general expectation is that children should be attending a school which is graded at least 'good' or a school which is improving rapidly.

### **The Local Picture - Summary**

2. At the present time (March 2015) there are 14 primary schools and 5 secondary schools in Hillingdon (including special schools) which are judged to be 'requires improvement' by Ofsted.
3. For community schools, the Local Authority is undertaking school improvement reviews to identify areas of strength and the need for further improvement to continue to raise standards. These assessments have been positively received by schools and are helping senior leaders to target their efforts to improve. In addition, a number of schools in the Borough are also working closely together to share expertise in 'cluster groups'; individual schools are providing support to other schools on a case by case basis; and teaching schools in the Borough are securing additional funding for schools judged as 'requires improvement'.
4. There is, however, a need to build on existing arrangements for school improvement across the Borough to establish a resilient and stronger collaborative approach to school improvement which ultimately is led by schools, for schools. This direction of travel is consistent with national policy which seeks to establish a self-determining, self-governing education community in each local authority area.

### **Developing a School Improvement Plan**

5. To provide a platform for this approach to school improvement, officers of the Council are working closely with school leaders to develop a new school improvement plan for Hillingdon. It is envisaged that the plan will include:
  - A clear vision for school improvement in Hillingdon.
  - Priorities for action.
  - Defined roles and responsibilities - for schools and the Local Authority.
  - A school improvement framework / protocol - setting out the action the Local Authority will be duty-bound to take if the performance of a school becomes a cause for concern.
  - The intelligence that will be used and kept up-to-date to monitor and track the progress of individual schools.
  - The resources schools have for school improvement in the Borough and how they will be used to target schools in need of support.

- The future working arrangements to co-ordinate and target school improvement action, track progress against the agreed priorities and establish a collaborative school-to-school model of improvement.
6. Work is underway to develop the plan with schools, for presentation to Cabinet by the end of July 2015.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The development of the school improvement plan will consider what resources are available from both the Council's base budget and the Dedicated Schools Grant to support schools in being or becoming at least 'good'. A full analysis will be included within the report to be presented to Cabinet by the end of July 2015.

### **COMMENTS OF POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE(S)**

8. None at this stage. The Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee may welcome the opportunity to regularly review the performance of schools in Hillingdon through the development of the proposed school improvement plan.

### **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS AND COMMUNITIES**

9. High standards of education across Hillingdon schools will enhance the opportunities available to our residents throughout their lives and enable our residents to make a bigger contribution to the economy and society.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

10. The development of a school improvement plan will be undertaken in partnership with schools in Hillingdon.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Corporate Finance**

11. Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and the recommendation contained therein to develop a school improvement plan in the Borough, and concurs with the financial implications above, noting that an analysis of funding will be included within the report presented to Cabinet in July 2015. There are no direct financial implications for consideration within this report.

#### **Legal**

12. Under the Education Act 1996 (sections 13, 13A and 14) the Council has statutory obligations to: ensure that efficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of the local population; ensure that its education functions are discharged with a view to promoting high standards; ensure fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential; and secure that sufficient schools, for providing primary and secondary education, are available for its area.

13. The report sets out steps being taken to develop a School Improvement Plan for schools in Hillingdon.
14. Under the Council's Constitution, Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendation proposed at the outset of this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15. Nil.