

People and Health Overview Committee

24th March 2022

Dorset Education Board

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Committee acknowledges and supports the creation of a new Education Board for Dorset and provides a view on this new policy proposal.

Reason for Recommendation:

The establishment of an Education Board for Dorset would retain the strength of partnership working through the pandemic and mobilise our partnership to deliver the opportunities and tackle the challenges of the education system in Dorset.

1. Executive Summary

The Board will include key educational leaders in Dorset who have the passion and expertise across the education ecosystem. It will use local, regional and national evidence and research to inform its foci. The Board will set a clear direction and a positive culture to support partners to deliver ambitious educational outcomes for all children and young people into adulthood.

It will be essential to engage children and young people in the work of the Board to ensure that the strategies are co-produced and they feel ownership

of the decisions that affect them. The committees will review and engage with existing School Councils and Advocacy structures in place across Dorset so that the Board can be informed by the views and experiences of children and young people in the development of each committee.

The culture of the Board will be to create an open and innovative dialogue, where the strength of the partnership offers novel solutions to systemic challenges built on the strong links within the communities where educational settings remain at the heart.

The Board will oversee delivery of the three core building blocks which will enable the education system in Dorset to thrive. These include:

1. To ensure every child is receiving education in an Ofsted 'Good' or 'Outstanding' school and setting.
2. To close the disadvantaged attainment and achievement gap to zero by providing inclusive support for our disadvantaged and vulnerable children so they can achieve alongside their peers in their local school or setting.
3. To ensure that all our children and young people thrive in their education with the skills they need ready for adulthood.

A detailed Business Plan setting out the full proposal is available in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. Financial Implications

A budget has been set aside for the recruitment and appointment of an Independent Chair and the remuneration needed for the Chair each year. The appointment of an independent Chair will bring independent leadership bringing together the various partners within the Board to promote close collaboration.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

It is anticipated that the improved Education outcomes realised by the creation of the Board will support the well-being and Health outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.

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4. Climate implications

None

5. Other Implications

The Dorset Education Board will review the progress against Dorset's SEND Strategy.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

8. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Dorset Education Board Business Plan [Dorset Education Board Business Plan](#)
- Appendix 2 - Dorset SEND Strategy [Dorset Council SEND Strategy 2021-2024](#)

9. Background Papers

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.