

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO:¹

Children, Education, Skills & Early Help

CABINET DATE:²

5.4.22

KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE
THE LAST REPORT:³

Overview Committee

I am grateful to Cllr Parkes and members of the People & Health Overview Committee, for consideration of the following matters at their March meeting:

- Safeguarding Families Together
- Education Leadership Board
- Children's Commissioning Strategy
- Strengthen Services for Children who are disabled.

School Visits

West Moors Middle

Delighted to be invited to once again visit this school, which has undergone a huge improvement journey and can celebrate their success with recognition by Ofsted, with a recent Good rating.

Hazelbury Bryan Primary

At the suggestion of Cllr Batstone, Cllr Parry accompany Simon Hoare MP, on his visit to this rural school, in the North Dorset constituency.

Dorset Virtual School

The Virtual School under the leadership of Lisa Linscott (Principal teacher), & team of dedicated officers continues to perform well and at our most recent Governor Board Meeting welcomed 2 new Governors: Cllr Carole Jones & Michelle Whiting.

Dorset Together – Ukraine

I am delighted that Cllr Kerby, who has agreed to be the political lead for Children's Services in attendance at the Dorset Together meetings supporting the Ukrainian families programme and this fits within his role as Lead member for Safeguarding.

¹ Enter the portfolio area

² Insert the date of the Cabinet meeting to which this summary update is to be reported

³ Provide brief details of the meetings attended, key activities or project milestones completed since the last report

**DELEGATED DECISIONS
MADE:⁴**

Corporate Director - Member Appointment

Cabinet will be aware of the excellent work that Sarah-Jane Smedmor has been involved in at Dorset Council, as a Corporate Director. I am sure Cabinet would like to join me in thanking Sarah-Jane for her work with us and best well in her new appointment as the Executive Director for Children Services, at Central Bedfordshire Council.

A number of stakeholders were engaged in the interviewing rounds to select a successor to Sarah-Jane, with Cllr Parry (Chairing), Cllr Jane Somper & Cllr Stella Jones, sitting on the Members Panel. The recommendation was to appoint Paul Dempsey and we look forward to welcoming Paul, to Dorset Council.

Independent Chair - Director Appointment

Cllr Parry & Cllr Quayle, were invited to join a panel chaired by Theresa Leavy, tasked with interviewing candidates for the position of Independent Chair for the Dorset Education Board. Following a successful round of Interviews, I am delighted to report that former Education Minister, Stephen Twigg, has been appointed to this new role.

**ANTICIPATED
ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES
FOR NEXT PERIOD:⁵**

Ofsted Inspection of Coombe House School.

⁴ Enter details of any delegated decisions made since the last meeting

⁵ Provide details of key activities, project milestones or significant meetings anticipated in the next period