

**Report to:**

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:**

Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years.

**Meeting**

30 June 2022

### **LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To consider an update on progress in relation to the town-wide literacy strategy.

#### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 That the Committee consider the update and identify any areas for additional scrutiny.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 To ensure Members of the Committee has an overview of the implementation of the Literacy Strategy.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

#### **4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

#### **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Blackpool literacy strategy was officially launched at The Winter Gardens in October 2021.

6.2 There is a literacy strategy steering group chaired by Dr Elaine Allen, Executive Headteacher of St John Vianney Primary School in Blackpool. Members include academics, local leaders, councillors, business representatives and school leaders amongst others. A plan to accompany the strategy has been developed by this steering group in partnership with Right to Succeed, a charity, who has been commissioned using funding from the Department for

Education. A number of literacy activities have been undertaken across this year, including a successful visit by Blackpool Boys and Girls Club to Waterstones in Blackpool and to Central Library. A competition, open to all schools, to promote the Blackpool 30 reading challenge has now closed and prizes will be presented to winners in June. As previously noted by members, GL assessments have shown that the level of reading ability, across a number of year groups in Blackpool schools, has not been adversely affected by the pandemic. Primary assessment and GCSE assessments will highlight whether progress has been made when they are published in the new school year.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 A consultation took place in 2020-21 in relation to the literacy strategy and significant input was given by stakeholders.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.