

**Report to:**

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

**Relevant Officer:**

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

**Meeting**

8 December 2022

## **LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE**

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

1.1 To receive a report on progress made since the launch of the literacy strategy.

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

2.1 To support the continued focus upon literacy in Blackpool schools and the wider Blackpool community.

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

3.1 Literacy is key to educational outcomes and employment / life opportunities for the residents of Blackpool.

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 general aim of the strategy is for every person in Blackpool to have the speaking, reading and writing skills to enable wider learning and employment opportunities as well as access to social and cultural activities.

The recent Government white paper sets targets for 90% of pupils at the end of KS2 to reach the expected standard for reading and writing (and Maths) and 70% of secondary pupils achieving English GCSE grade 5 or higher.

To do this we must improve literacy provision across all educational settings from Early Years through to Adult learning and ensure promotion of digital skills and literacy. This will be through -

- Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum development
- Libraries
- Early Years
- Adult Education

The strategy has twenty-four overarching Recommendations.

We have established a strategic group containing expertise from all stakeholders across Blackpool and two eminent university professors. By March 22 we had established the vision, goal and aim for the strategy. Since the launch -

- Groups (including several KS3 project leads) worked on developing activity plans and establishing baseline data sources for all 6 priority areas in the strategy.
- Members completed a data survey, establishing the literacy data we already collate/have access to across Blackpool.
- We discussed the challenges and barriers to this project.
- We identified next steps and actions ahead of September 2022.
- National charity Right to Succeed have collated the information gathered and added this into a single, comprehensive implementation plan, which has been agreed by members.
- We have started to compile baselines for all priorities/objectives.
- Audit tools were sent out to Early Years, Primary and Secondary settings.
- We have continue compiling baselines for all priorities/objectives.
- Priorities will now to be allocated to group members and establish some working groups (First one, SLCN in Early Years).

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## 7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 7(a) – Literacy for Life - Literacy Strategy

**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 Internal and external consultation was held whilst writing the literacy strategy and this has been ongoing as described above.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Literacy Strategy