

Report to:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

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

Meeting

8 December 2022

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update the committee on progress against recommendations of the Schools' Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Scrutiny Review Panel.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the implementations of the review's recommendations be noted and that any areas for further scrutiny be identified.

2.2 The Committee is asked to determine whether any/all of the recommendations can be signed off as complete.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The report focused upon the pandemic period which has now ended as schools are open fully.

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 To continue to monitor.

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 recommendations from the review are -

- That further consideration be given by Council officers to the implementation of measures to monitor and address the potential impact on mental health to both pupils and school staff as a result of the pandemic.
- That the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee should continue to monitor academic performance and the impact of the pandemic on affected cohorts.
- Council officers should continue to review practices in preparation for a second wave.
- A best practice summary guide should be produced and distributed to schools by the Head of School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion which outlines the key success criteria as identified during the initial closure and reopening.
- A letter of thanks should be extended from the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee to Headteachers and schools for their commitment and efforts in the continued safeguarding of pupils’ learning and wellbeing in exceptional circumstances.

6.2 These actions have all been completed and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

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 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 Schools Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Scrutiny Review Final Report