

23 July 2020

Dear Nigel,

Task and Finish Group: Education and Skills Annual Report 2019

On 8 July 2020 a meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group (TFG) was held. The TFG scrutinised the content of the Education and Skills Annual Report for 2019, with consideration of the following areas; the performance against the 2019 priorities, including Ofsted outcomes; the progress made against the School Effectiveness Strategy; the data and trajectory for school attainment, progress and exclusions and the priorities that had been set for 2020 and whether these reflect the right areas of focus. The TFG was also asked to identify any areas for potential future scrutiny.

As a result of the meeting, the TFG has made the following recommendations for your consideration and response:

1. Recognises the attainment gap for disadvantaged children as a key priority area and the importance of understanding the reasons for this and how the gap can be reduced, with a specific focus on Early Years. The TFG recommends that updates on this work, and the progress of Priority 6, are provided to the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Business Planning Group to identify any areas for future scrutiny.
2. Recognises that the response to Covid-19 and providing support to get children back into education safely is a key priority for 2020.
3. Requests that there is detail included in the report on the corporate targets around the progress and attainment of Children Looked After.
4. Requests that further detail around the exclusion rates for children with SEND in West Sussex and what is being done to address these is included in the Annual Report given that this was a priority for 2019.

5. Suggests that the corporate targets are included in the Annual Report against each measure to help provide clarity on the progress made in 2019.
6. Suggests that further detail on the Adult Community Learning Curriculum is presented to a future CYPSSC Business Planning Group for consideration for future scrutiny.
7. Requests sight of the feedback received from Headteachers on the content and priorities within the report, where possible, prior to the CYPSSC meeting on 24 September 2020.

The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee will receive an update on the recommendations of the TFG at its next meeting on 24 September 2020 and therefore a response would be welcomed by Friday 11 September so that it can be considered at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Cllr David Barling, on behalf of the Members of the Education and Skills Annual Report Task and Finish Group:

Cllr Andrew Baldwin
Cllr Anne Jones
Cllr Karen Sudan
Cllr Stephen Hillier
Cllr Brenda Burgess
Cllr Kirsty Lord

CC Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills
Danny Pell, Head of Post-16 and Compliance