

FENLAND AND EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE OPPORTUNITY AREA UPDATE

To: **Children and Young People Committee**

Meeting Date: **9th July 2019**

From: **Executive Director: People and Communities**

Electoral division(s): **All Divisions in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire**

Forward Plan ref: **n/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To update the Committee on the Opportunity Area programme.**

Recommendation: **The Committee are asked to note the report.**

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) designated Fenland and East Cambridgeshire as an Opportunity Area (OA), one of twelve across the country. The OA programme aims to address barriers to social mobility in each area and support children and young people to access high quality education and achieve their full potential. In Fenland and East Cambridgeshire a Partnership Board of local stakeholders has oversight of the programme and has shaped the key projects for the Opportunity Area. The Partnership Board are:

- Tricia Pritchard (Independent Chair)
- Jonathan Lewis (CCC Service Director – Education)
- Mark Woods (Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust)
- Andrew Read (Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust)
- Gill Thomas (Westwood Primary School)
- Jackie McPherson (Meadowgate Academy)
- Sherry Coutu (Founders4schools)
- Penny Walkinshaw (Deputy Lieutenant Cambridgeshire)
- David Pomfret (College of West Anglia)
- Will Morlidge (Careers & Enterprise Company)
- Sue Baldwin (DfE Regional Schools Commissioner)
- Geoff Hayward (Cambridge University)

1.2 In addition to the Partnership Board a wide range of local and national stakeholders have been engaged and consulted as the programme has developed to design a delivery plan to meet the individual needs of the area. The delivery plan was published in January 2018 and set out the four priority areas identified by the stakeholders and partnership board:

1.3 **Priority 1:** Accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children and young people in the acquisition and development of communication, language and reading.

1.4 **Priority 2:** Strengthen the effectiveness of support for children and young people with mental health concerns and those with Special Educational Needs.

1.5 **Priority 3:** Raise aspiration and increase access for young people to a wide range of career choices and post-16 routes.

1.6 **Priority 4:** Recruit, develop and retain the best leaders and teachers in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

1.7 Delivery of the OA programme in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire is led by the Department for Education (DfE) Head of Delivery and DfE Area Lead alongside a local delivery team comprising a Programme Manager, Programme Coordinator, Early Years lead and Inclusion Lead. The projects for Fenland and East Cambridgeshire are funded through a share of £72m of programme funding from the DfE. Cambs County Council are a key strategic partner in the programme and are the route for funding and host the local delivery team. We continue to work closely with all County Council teams to identify ways to join-up and ensure all of our activity is complementary and supportive.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the Fenland and East Cambs OA including a summary of the programme and an update on each priority area. In addition to the projects set out under each priority below providers in the OA have benefited from prioritisation within the following programmes:

2.2 Essential Life Skills – Funding of over £520,000 to Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver extra-curricular activities to develop essential life skills for children and young people.

- Careers & Enterprise Company – have engaged with schools and employers to build stronger relationships and to provide schools with a share of a £2m investment fund.
- Teach First – Since 2016 Teach First have brought 25 new teacher placements to Fenland and East Cambs.
- National Professional Qualifications – Teachers and senior leaders across all schools have been offered fully funded NPQs.

In addition support has been provided through the Strategic School Improvement Fund and Teaching Leadership and Innovation Fund which has resulted in funded projects such as intensive maths hub support and subject specific programmes.

2.3

Priority 1: Accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children and young people in the acquisition and development of communication, language and reading.

Our targets for Priority 1 are as follows:

- By 2021, both the percentage of free school meals eligible children achieving at least the expected standard in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Reading Goal and the percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieving at least the expected standard in the EYFS Speaking Goal will exceed the national average.
- By 2021, the attainment of all pupils in reading at key stage 2 will be in the top half of all local authority districts in England.
- By 2021, the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and all pupils at key stage 2 will be half of what it was in September 2017.

Projects

We are investing over £1.9m in projects to support attainment in early years and schools, with a particular focus on communication, language and reading. These include:

- over £650,000 to more than 60 schools for research led projects in our evidence based fund.
- up to £1m to support 21 schools with targeted support for schools improvement.
- Up to £125,000 to clusters of early years settings to implement research led projects to improve communication, language and literacy.

To date we have also coordinated several other projects to support priority 1 and achieve our targets. We have worked with schools and early years settings to support them with an audit to identify key areas to support. As a response to those audits we have offered training for Teaching Assistants and early years practitioners in phonics, communication, ICT and supporting children with English as an Additional Language (EAL). We have provided funding to engage more children in existing reading schemes

across Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. The opportunity area is also working closely with the Cambridgeshire Maths Hub to provide additional support to schools in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

2.4

Priority 2: Strengthen the effectiveness of support for children and young people with mental health concerns and those with Special Educational Needs.

Our targets for Priority 2 are as follows:

- By 2021, we will reduce the waiting time for child and adolescent mental health services support to twelve weeks, with clear referral routes for schools and colleges.
- By 2021, we will establish at least four support centres in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire for parents with children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, which will provide access to educational resources and tailored support for their child.

We are investing over £1m to delivery projects under priority 2 including:

- £340,000 in delivering our inclusion offer, designed to provide additional capacity and support in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire led by a local team including an experienced Inclusion Lead and 2 Outreach Support workers. Those schools signing up to the Inclusion Offer are also eligible for fully funded STEPs behaviour training and accreditation for their Special Educational Needs Coordinator.
- Over £190,000 in funding for schools on mental health support and guidance.

Working in partnership with the NHS and the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) we have funded two additional posts to create a local Emotional Health and Wellbeing team. We have worked closely with the YMCA as our provider for additional Mental Health training and continue to work with them and colleagues in County Council and the NHS to provide further support for schools on Mental Health. To provide additional support for parents we are also working with SENDIASS to put in place local SEND support centres and we are continuing to work on extending this further.

2.5

Priority 3: Raise aspiration and increase access for young people to a wide range of career choices and post-16 routes.

Our targets for Priority 3 are as follows:

- By 2021, all secondary schools in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire will have achieved at least six of the eight Gatsby Benchmarks.
- By 2021, 60% of young people in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire will go on to an apprenticeship or UK higher education institution.
- By 2021, 90% of disadvantaged young people will be in a sustained positive destination for at least the first two terms after finishing key stage 5.

We are investing over £1.1m to implement projects that raise aspiration and provide support for young people in their career choices. This includes:

- Over £300,000 to provide support for Post-16 providers in Fenland to improve the quality of their A Level offer and outcomes for young people.
- Over £300,000 to provide dedicated mentoring, coaching and work experience to disadvantaged pupils and those at risk of not going into Education, Employment or Training after key stage 4.

2.6 To support Further Education (FE) in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire we have provided training for FE middle leadership and classroom teachers. We have provided Funding to Ely College, to support them to broaden their offer as they build pupil numbers, as the only Post-16 provider located in East Cambs. To raise aspiration and improve guidance on career options all of the secondary and special schools in the OA have been offered funded Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance training as well as the Quality and Careers Award.

Priority 4: Recruit, develop and retain the best leaders and teachers in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

Our targets for Priority 4 are as follows:

- By 2021, the full time teacher vacancy rates in primary and secondary schools will have reduced and will be below national average.
- We will increase the percentage of all pupils attending a primary school rated outstanding or good for leadership and management to at least 86% from 76% in August 2017.
- We will increase the percentage of all pupils attending a secondary school rated outstanding or good for leadership and management to at least 95% from 85% in August 2017.

We are spending over £930,000 to implement projects that will ensure we recruit and retain the best teachers for Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. This includes:

- Over £150,000 for Foundation Teacher Training in partnership with Teach in Cambridgeshire
- Over £130,000 for a dedicated marketing campaign to promote the OA as a great place to live and work.
- Up to £250,000 in recruitment grants of up to £10,000 per teacher for schools to attract new candidates.

In addition we have funded recruitment events a feasibility study on Initial Teacher Training in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. To support newly and recently qualified teachers we have invested in an early career development programme to provide continuous professional development and networking opportunities to build a community of teachers who wish to remain teaching in the area. This highly successful project has just been extended into its second year. We continue to promote the offers and support from within the DfE including the recently announced incentive payment of £2,000 for maths and physics teachers in the OA.

Legacy

The Opportunity Area programme is due to conclude in August 2020 and we are focused on ensuring that the projects listed above have a lasting legacy and that positive impact is sustained. The Secretary of State for Education and the DfE are now considering if there is a case for extension of the programme. We have begun to develop our ideas about an extension in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire and the DfE team are keen to engage local stakeholders including the Children and Young People committee in that process.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

N/A

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Delivery Plan	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696826/Social_Mobility_Delivery_Plan_Fenland_East_Cambridgeshire_v11_FINAL_WEB.PDF.pdf
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