

**ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE**

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 17 September 2015

From: Jo Pallett, Head of Virtual School for Cambridgeshire, Children, Families and Adult Services

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the delivery of the Accelerating Achievement Strategy 2014-16.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Accelerating Achievement strategy - *Accelerating the achievement of vulnerable groups of children and young people within Cambridgeshire 2014-16* sets out our ambition to improve the educational achievement of vulnerable groups of children and young people. These include (but are not limited to) children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), children who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), or are Looked After (LAC). A link to the Accelerating Achievement strategy is provided below at section 8.1. The Vulnerable Children and Families JSNA 2015 analysis supports the continued work of the strategy. A link to the JSNA is provided below at section 8.2.

2.2 The Accelerating Achievement strategy is closely aligned to Cambridgeshire's School Improvement Strategy, with the ambition that by 2016, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 attainment gaps will have improved by three percentage points above the rate of improvement by non-FSM pupils year on year.

2.3 To achieve this aim, the strategy describes two sets of objectives. One set focuses on how the Council will work across Directorates, and with schools, settings, professionals and families to improve the achievement of children in vulnerable groups in general. The other set focuses on specific vulnerable groups, identifying the actions the Council will take in order to improve the achievement of children in those groups.

2.4 In June 2015 the Accelerating Achievement 2014-16 Annual Report was published to provide a progress report on the delivery of the Accelerating Achievement Strategy plus an analysis of the 2014 assessment and examination results. A link to the Annual Report is provided below at section 8.3.

**3.0 PROGRESS IN DELIVERING THE ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

3.1 The Accelerating Achievement Annual Report is in two parts. The first part is an analysis of the most recent set of assessment results, to test against the overall ambition and the specific targets as described above. The second part is a description of the actions that have been undertaken as part of the delivery of our strategy, and an assessment of their output.

### **3.2 Performance overall (based upon 2014 assessment data)**

- 3.2.1 At Key Stage 2 we are seeing absolute performance improve in nearly all of our target groups. A larger proportion of children eligible for free school meals, with special educational needs, speaking a Central or Eastern European language at home or from Gypsy / Roma ethnic backgrounds, achieved the required benchmark at the end of Key Stage 2. But we are still falling slightly short of our overall aim of 3ppts more than non-disadvantaged children. Unfortunately, the performance of Looked after Children in Cambridgeshire schools deteriorated in 2014, and the gap between LAC attending school in Cambridgeshire and the national level of achievement by LAC generally widened.
- 3.2.2 At Key Stage 4 we do not know how we compared to last year. However, the general trend has been that the gap is reducing in FSM and SEN statement, but not in SEN non-statement.
- 3.2.3 At the Early Years Foundation Stage all targets have already been achieved. This is a real strength. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are not achieved, and not on target broadly speaking. Key Stage 4 targets have not been achieved but are on target to achieve by the end of the strategy.

### **3.3 Action plan**

3.3.1 Key actions undertaken in 2014-15 to support the delivery of the strategy include:

- The re-organisation of early help services to focus on families, and on educational achievement within the family plan.
- Bringing together specialist SEND services so that children with SEND get the right support from the Council.
- Focusing on Pupil Premium and the performance of disadvantaged pupils in summer term monitoring visits with schools.
- An analysis of the characteristics of children who did not achieve the benchmark in 2013 at KS2, which found that the combination of FSM and SEND was particularly challenging.
- Publishing guidance documents including pathways for SEND (the pathway on autism received national recognition from a charity), information about good practice in Pupil Premium, and good practice in interventions for children with SEND.
- Ensuring the largest possible proportion of children in vulnerable groups are registered to receive all of the education welfare and free childcare they are entitled to.
- Piloting a new Family Common Assessment Framework process, which supports better planning around the parental role in supporting educational achievement, in 3 areas and due to roll out countywide in autumn 2015.
- Set out clear expectations of parental engagement in the learning of children with SEND as part of the Local Offer.
- Organised conferences for school staff on the best use of Pupil Premium.
- Continued to campaign under the 'Count Me In' banner for registration for FSM and Pupil Premium, with a 38% increase in applications in January 2015.
- Linked together information about Funded 2s places with information about children in early years to ensure maximum take up of EY Pupil Premium.

- Improved the 'Risk of Non-Participation Indicator' to include more variables, so as to target pupils leaving school who are most likely to not be in education, employment or training post-16.
- Engaged with the Learning and Skills Board to improve the support offered to help vulnerable post-16 into good education, employment or training opportunities.

#### **4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

4.1 The Accelerating Achievement Strategy sets out how Cambridgeshire County Council will marshal its resources to support and challenge schools, settings and professionals working with families to accelerate the achievement of those vulnerable to underachievement. The strategy aligns with the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy in terms of Priority 1: Ensure a positive start to life for children, young people and their families, Priority 4: Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health and Priority 6: Work together effectively.

#### **5.0 OFSTED**

5.1 During the 2015 summer term a thematic inspection by Ofsted on the impact of the Accelerating Achievement strategy was expected. The inspection did not take place. However, Ofsted will be evaluating the impact of the strategy as part of their school inspection visits over the course of the coming school year.

#### **6.0 NEXT STEPS**

6.1 The Accelerating Achievement Steering Group has agreed the following actions to progress delivery of the strategy:

- A review of the Accelerating Achievement action plan will be undertaken during October 2015 following publication of the 2015 key stage results.
- The Steering Group will set absolute targets by September 2015 for EYFSP, KS1, KS2 and KS4 targets based on the ambition of ensuring that by 2016 all children in Cambridgeshire have similar chances of success compared to their peers in similar areas.

#### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION/DECISION REQUIRED**

7.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to:

- a.) Consider the Accelerating Achievement Annual Report.
- b.) Consider activities across the Health and Wellbeing Partnership that support this work and provide comment on the future delivery of the strategy.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
8.1 Accelerating the achievement of vulnerable groups of children and young people within Cambridgeshire 2014-15	<a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3322/accelerating_achievement_strategy">http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3322/accelerating_achievement_strategy</a>
8.2 Vulnerable Children and Families JSNA 2015	<a href="http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/current-jsna-reports/vulnerable-children-and-families-2015">http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/current-jsna-reports/vulnerable-children-and-families-2015</a>
8.3 Accelerating the achievement of vulnerable groups of children and young people within Cambridgeshire 2014-15 Annual Report June 2015	<a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3810/accelerating_achievement_annual_report_june_2015">http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3810/accelerating_achievement_annual_report_june_2015</a>