

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children's Services and Safeguarding)
6 July 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Diane Roscoe	Education	June 2021

As part of their induction both Cllr Roscoe and Cllr Doyle have accompanied the Interim Head of Education on school visits. Informal discussions have taken place with both regarding different aspects of Education Excellence.

All schools opened for all pupils after the Easter break. Numbers of positive reported cases were low on return, however over the last few weeks the numbers are rising. We are seeing some schools having several year groups impacted on and bubbles closed. This is not as a result of infections spread in school but rather out in the community e.g. one family all tested positive and this impacted on three year groups.

It was agreed across all the schools that as a result of the government delaying the lifting of the restrictions then transition days from year 6 to year 7 would be undertaken in different ways. Primary schools are looking at creative ways for the transition in to reception. Many schools have also decided to cancel sports days, concerts, trips out based on their risk assessment and the rising numbers testing positive in Sefton.

Testing for pupils in secondary schools is now undertaken at home as is the testing for staff in both primary and secondary schools. We have just been informed that a further supply of PPE is available for schools.

The Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSE and A levels were submitted by the secondary schools on 18th June. No formal testing has taken place in primary schools. Schools have worked in their School Improvement Groups (SIGs) to determine what information will be transferred to the secondary school. Secondary schools will be undertaking some testing in the autumn term.

The Virtual School is working closely with Social Care to ensure there are high expectations and aspirations for post 16 LAC. We continue to undertake a first day response for vulnerable children where the school expresses concern. The number of electively home educated pupils (EHE) has fallen from 197 in January 2021 to 188 in June 2021.

The recent SEND review meeting was positive and we are awaiting the letter from the DfE, which hopefully will remove the statement of action. High Needs Funding (HNF) continues to be a concern. A meeting with DfE was held and they had no concerns and commented that we were doing the right things. The banding for main stream schools has been consulted on and will be in place for September. The Resource Base/Special

School funding is taking longer as it is more complicated, work is ongoing with finance, SEND and the schools.

The Education Excellence Strategy and Structure are both in draft form and when in place will enable the department to further develop the statutory roles and address the next steps with the staff required to do so.