

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	5 July 2022 28 July 2022 15 September 2022
Subject:	Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group - Final Report		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present formally the final report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That, once data is available, the Head of Education Excellence be requested to submit a monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), on primary school performance, to include school attendance and any available information on SATs results, and other performance indicators, in order to draw comparisons with 2019 performance and also with regional and national performance.
- (2) That the Council be requested to agree in writing to all Headteachers of schools throughout the Borough, to thank teaching staff for their on-going input throughout the pandemic and to raise the following matters:
 - (a) to remind schools of the continued support available from the Council.
 - (b) to remind schools of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff, such as:
 - the graduate teaching apprenticeship scheme
 - School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
 - Teach First
 - Degree course in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and
 - a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

- (c) to remind schools of the availability of mental health support, including the Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit that can be accessed via the following link:

[Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/mental-health-emotional-wellbeing)

- (d) to encourage schools to try to re-engage with families as a source of support in schools **where possible and where practical**, particularly given covid concerns.
- (3) That the Mayor of Sefton be requested to consider hosting an event for representatives of all schools throughout the Borough, to thank them for their on-going input throughout the pandemic.
 - (4) That the Council be requested to agree to writing to the Department for Education in the strongest terms, to request additional resources for Sefton schools, particularly in view of forthcoming literacy and numeracy expectations on primary schools by 2030.
 - (5) That the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

- 1. The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding); the Cabinet; and the Council.
- 2. Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Council’s Constitution states that
 - “7. All Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports should be reported to Cabinet and full Council for final approval.”

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) established the Working Group to review the impact of covid 19 on the primary curriculum and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The proposed Mayoral event referred to within the recommendations will have some limited associated costs. These can be contained within the Mayoral hospitality budget.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital cost implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Council’s Constitution states that “7. All Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports should be reported to Cabinet and full Council for final approval.”	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The recommendations seek to support schools and teaching staff within schools. They also seek to provide recognition and support towards the duties associated with teaching and for the emotional wellbeing of teaching staff. This in turn, will contribute towards greater support and better learning outcomes for pupils within schools.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above.
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above.
Place – leadership and influencer: As above.
Drivers of change and reform: As above.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable.
Greater income for social investment:

Not applicable.

Cleaner Greener: Not applicable.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Development Manager, Health and Wellbeing, was consulted during the course of the Working Group review.

The Head of Education and Service Manager, School Improvement, have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6851/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5051/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Consultations and discussions took place with the following during the course of the Working Group review:

- Headteacher, St. Nicholas' Primary School
- Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School
- Deputy Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School
- Chair of Sefton Association of Primary Headteachers
- Children and Families Development Officer, Sefton CVS

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

The Final Report of the Mental Health Issues Working Group

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 7 September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) established a working group on the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum. (Minute No. 22 (4) refers). The following Members of the Committee were appointed to the Working Group:
- Councillor Spencer (Lead Member)
 - Former Councillor Yvonne Sayers
 - Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member
 - Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative
- 1.2 The Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and objectives for the review:
- To consider the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum, to include the consideration of the impact of lockdown and remote learning.
- 1.3 The Final Report of the Working Group is attached for consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding); the Cabinet; and the Council are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and to approve the recommendations contained therein.