

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	27 September 2022 6 October 2022
Subject:	Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027		
Report of:	Assistant Director Children's Services (Education)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	Y	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This is a dual committee report which seeks to present to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) and Cabinet the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027. It will set out how it has been developed, and the proposed next steps in terms of programme development.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) receive the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027 for noting.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure that the priorities of the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027 and wider Education initiatives are aligned to the delivery of Sefton's 2030 vision, the Sefton Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Sefton Children and Young Peoples Plan, and that they are clearly articulated to parents, carers, young people, residents, early years providers, schools, colleges, providers of SEND education, as well as Health providers and other partners across Sefton and its neighbouring boroughs, in addition to the Department for Education.

To ensure that all children and young people receive an education in Sefton which enables them to reach their individual potential, have a clear pathway to further education, employment and engage positively with others in their community.

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

Not Applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct cost implications due to the delivery of the Strategic Documentation, where costs are to be incurred for specific programmes of work the appropriate decision-making process will be followed to obtain approval for any associated spend.

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue implications associated with this Strategic Documentation Report. All programmes of work highlighted will either be fully funded through existing resources or will be reported to Members for additional funding and approval before commencement. It should be noted that the strategy covers areas of activity that are funded by the dedicated schools grant and some that are funded by the council’s general fund. When individual proposals and reports come forward this distinction will be made in order to support informed consultation and decision making. This will be particularly important re the High Needs Funding Block that is under considerable financial pressure at the current time and which is the subject of quarterly reporting to both cabinet and council and which could have a significant long term impact on both funding sources.

(B) Capital Costs - None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
No direct implications due to the delivery of the Strategic Documentation, where these are to be incurred for specific programmes of work the appropriate decision-making process will be followed to obtain approval for any associated resources required.	
Legal Implications:	
There are no legal implications	
Equality Implications:	
Equality Implications will be considered in detail as the programme for the delivery of the Strategy is developed	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

It is envisaged that the strategy will have a positive impact (or at the very least neutral impact) on the current climate emergency by engaging / informing and educating children and young people (and their families) about the effects of climate change and ways to reduce its impact, through curriculum and extra curriculum content.

As well as teaching and training the next generation of researchers, scientists, conservationists, planners, and educators etc who will all help longer term come up with new and innovative ways to reduce emissions, do things differently and help protect the planet.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

The strategy has a section dedicated and focused on supporting the most disadvantaged to ensure that their life chances are not impacted on, as well as focusing on Children & Young People Not in education, training, or activity unknown in Sefton.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

This strategy aims to further develop a partnership approach to service delivery in conjunction with our communities, ensuring alignment to key principles of inclusion as well as recognising the role of voluntary organisations.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The strategy sets out a strategic direction and clear priorities for educational services over the next five years

Place – leadership and influencer:

The strategy supports the wider 2030 vision for Sefton

Drivers of change and reform:

This strategy supports the delivery of the Council's ambitious change programme and 2030 vision.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

The strategy is designed to support the wider Growth priorities of the Council by ensuring all children receive an education which enables them to reach their potential, have a clear pathway to further education, employment and engage positively with others in their community.

Greater income for social investment:

The potential for added Social Value will be included within the underpinning work programmes where appropriate

Cleaner Greener

Many of the core themes within the strategy, such as having High Quality Curriculums, will contribute to a wider community understanding of the effects of and ways to reduce carbon emissions within Sefton.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6955/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5155/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Consultation has taken place with

- Children & Young People
- The Parent & Carer Forum
- Parents, Carers, family members and the wider community / partners
- Early Years providers, Schools, Colleges, and other settings
- Head Teachers / Sefton Association of Primary & Secondary Headteachers

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Draft Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The local authority has a clear statutory duty to promote Education Excellence and the highest standards for all Sefton children; irrespective of what establishment they attend. These duties are outlined in recently Published key documents by the Department for Education.

Schools White Paper, 28 March 2022 - The White Paper covers teaching and leadership in schools, preventing and tackling under-performance, curriculum

reform, governance & standards, and fair funding for schools, which is the subject of a separate consultation. Every school to become an academy.

SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) green paper: responding to the consultation The green paper has been published alongside a white paper: Opportunities for All: Strong Schools with Great Teachers for Your Child. It sets out the government's vision for new attainment targets in literacy and numeracy, an academy-led education system and a drive to increase attendance).

A combination of the statutory duty and the newly published documents combined with the need to refresh the current strategy, has resulted in the consultation and creation of this draft strategy.

- 1.2 The Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-27 is intended to be an overarching plan which articulates the council's ambitions of helping every young person in Sefton to unlock the door to more choices and opportunities. It is based on key priorities identified within the 2030 Vision for Sefton, Sefton's Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, Sefton's Children & Young People Plan 2020-2025 and Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

This high-level strategic document is split into four key priorities

- Excellent teachers supported by excellent staff
- Raise achievement and ensure young people have the life skills to prepare for adulthood
- All Children and young people achieve their full potential people
- School Systems to Support Children and their Families

- 1.3 Each of the priorities has a series of key actions within them which collectively seek to help deliver a vision of Excellence in Sefton - All children and young people receive an education in Sefton which enables them to reach their individual potential, have a clear pathway to further education, employment and engage positively with others in their community.

- 1.4 These actions are contained with a plan from page 13 onwards of the document, which sets out how the Local Authority and its partners will deliver over the coming years. (The plan purposely has blank space available to allow individual schools and the Sefton Schools Improvement Groups to use it as a live document, as well as naming the lead teams from the Local Authority for the areas of work).

2 Strategy Development

- 2.1 Significant engagement activity has been undertaken to ensure alignment of the key priorities within the strategy to core priorities within the outlined publications from the Department of Education and 2030 vision for Sefton along with other key Sefton documents.
- 2.2 Consultation took place over a five-month period to ensure that the views of a wide range of individuals, educational establishments and their senior staff and partners was gathered via an online survey, virtual discussion, face to face meetings and workshops. The culmination of which is the document presented.
- 2.3 Over the next five years the delivery of the Strategy will be reflected in the development of key programmes of work. The progress and impact of the strategy

will be driven through the current Education Governance structure, as well as other boards or subgroups as required, which will be accountable for the delivery of the priorities outlined in the Strategy. This progress will be reported regularly and where required by exception.

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 Following strategy approval the document will be published and shared widely with schools, colleges, providers, parents, carers, young people and partners.
- 3.2 Each service with Education Excellence will focus on the key priorities in their service plans which will include measurable outcomes to evidence impact and improvement.
- 3.3 The work streams will be monitored and reported regularly to ensure that the children and young people in Sefton are indeed receiving the highest standards possible.
- 3.4 The Strategy is therefore presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) and Cabinet for approval, with immediate adoption following the mandated call-in period