

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Diane Roscoe	Education	October 2022

### **Education Excellence**

The EE strategy has now been approved. We are meeting next month with headteacher representatives and LA officers to develop the implementation plan which will sit under the strategy and link to EE, School Improvement Groups (SIGs) and school development plans.

### **Schools**

We have had several inspections this half term but as yet have not had the full reports. All inspections have gone well and there have been no surprises in what we anticipate the outcomes to be.

### **Academisation**

We have received praise from DfE, CEOs of Trusts and headteachers about the work we are doing to support our maintained schools, particularly primary schools. We have met with several CEOs on an individual basis to understand their vision for their trust as well as any plans for working with schools in Sefton. This has been very beneficial both for the LA and for the CEOs.

### **Exams and Tests**

Please see separate paper. A full analysis will be provided for the next meeting.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is improving across all phases and in many cases is now at pre pandemic levels. All schools now have a point of contact to discuss any attendance issues. We are one of ten authorities that have an attendance adviser to support us from DfE. This is really positive and will be helpful as we implement the new legislation.

We are supporting schools with early help (EH) when there are issues with attendance. The draft code of conduct for penalty notices is out for consultation. If a child is persistently absent the lead professional is contacted (social worker/EH worker) to ensure attendance is highlighted in the multi-agency plan.

We are recruiting officers within the attendance team to fulfil the statutory duties which came into force on the 1st September 2022.

### **SEND**

Sadly, Heather Loveridge has left due to family reasons. Chris Kiernan has now joined EE to provide support for SEND. Chris Lee is coordinating our preparation for both the SEND inspection and the Delivering Better Value. We have started on the self evaluation and considering the plan to support both areas.

## **APPENDIX B**

We are currently recruiting both interim and permanent SEND case officers and hope to have a full compliment of staff within the next month. We are recruiting a case officer with post 16 experience as well as a post that will link SEND (CWD) with the social work aspects. This will provide a more coherent provision for children and their families.