

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE		
Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Diane Roscoe	Education	December 2022

Education Excellence

At the EE strategy Task and Finish Group meeting it was agreed to hold a launch day for the strategy and the implementation plan on 24th March 2023 at the PDC, Formby. All headteachers will be invited.

Schools

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

In the recent autumn budget, a further £4 billion for schools, including £1 billion for SEND. As yet no details have been published as to how this will impact on Sefton schools. Sefton headteachers are commenting on their current budgets and the impact of pay rises as well as the rises in utilities.

A group of Southport primary schools have started on the pilot self sustaining schools programme delivered by Meols Cop Research School. This is building on the successful secondary programme which is now in its second year.

Several of our school won awards or were runners up in the Educate Awards recently. Litherland High School won The Communication Award, Maghull High School won in the Outstanding Commitment to STEM category and St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School won the Outstanding Commitment to Sport in Primary School category. With Maricourt High School, Great Crosby Catholic Primary School and Netherton Moss Primary School runners up in their categories. Stephanie Wardale from Hillside High School was runner up in the teacher of the Year category.

A further accolade was received by Redgate Primary School who won the National Pearson's Teaching Award for Early Years team of the year. The school was featured on the One Show receiving their award.

Academisation

Three schools are moving through the due diligence phase and one school expects to join the academy trust in January 2023, the other two are proposing April 2023. All meetings have now been held with CEOs and a short overview of each trust is being developed. A session was held for governors to explain the process.

SEND

The SEND Inspection Framework will start in the spring term. We expect to be one of the first to be inspected and so preparation has started. Recently workshops were held to consider the framework self assessment and the evidence is being collated.

The meetings were well received by all those who attended. Chris Lee is leading on this and working closely with health and social care colleagues to consider the self assessment and look at the strengths and areas for improvement.

Recruitment to the interim and permanent case officer posts has been positive and appointments have been made. This will ensure moving forward we have good quality staff who can work with families and undertake writing high quality EHCP. We have gone out to advertisement for the permanent post of SEND Service Manager.

Chris Kiernan is undertaking a project looking at how we can best utilise buildings for SEND pupils as well as a longer term view of sufficiency.

Finance

At the recent autumn budget an increase in spending for education was announced. Whilst this appeared to be a large sum when considered it probably works out at about 2% per school. This does not cover all the additional costs schools are experiencing including unfunded salary increases and utilities. Final figures per school will come later in the year when we will have a clearer understanding on the impact on schools and SEND.