

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Joseph Kelly	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Safeguarding	September 2017

Academisation

The following schools have had academy orders made by the Secretary of State : Holy Trinity CE Primary School; Litherland Moss Primary School; St Andrew's CE Primary School; St Teresa's Catholic Infant School; and St Thomas' CE Primary School; Savio Salesian College and Shoreside Primary School. Once an academy order is made the local authority have a statutory duty to facilitate the process and a report will be going to Cabinet seeking approval to enter into the relevant legal agreements needed as part of the academisation process.

South Sefton College

The merger of South Sefton College with Hugh Baird which had been approved by Cabinet was predicated on a minimum number of students enrolling in September 2017. Unfortunately this number of students did not enrol in the College and the merger has not taken place. Hugh Baird are reviewing their business plan to factor in the implications of a reduced number of students and will discuss this with the Council over the coming weeks.

SEND Inspection

The Council's statement of action which was required following the SEND inspection has been approved by Ofsted and will be monitored quarterly by DfE and NHS England.

National Funding Formula

Just prior to the parliamentary break for summer the Secretary of state announced that no schools would lose out as part of the implementation of the national funding formula for schools. The announcement did not come with any detail but this should be good news for Sefton schools which were due to lose around £3m as part of the ordinal proposal. Details of the financial settlements will be provided in the Autumn.

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 outcomes

Early information has been released by dFE on the early years and KS1/2 outcomes for 2017. This shows that Sefton schools' generally strong performance in these areas has continued this year. EYFS profile shows performance is in line with national averages and above regional and LCR averages. Yr1 phonics had lagged behind for a number of years but is now in line with national and regional figures and above the LCR figure. At KS2 the test scores for the proportion of children achieving the expected standard is above the national regional and LCR averages. KS4 data is not available yet.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2017/18

The final update of the strategy and action plan was shared, to meet the duty set out below.

The duty to provide or procure placements for Looked after Children (LAC) is explicit in the Children Act 1989. This has since been strengthened by the introduction of the Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (implementation April 2011). There is a duty of 'sufficiency' that requires Local Authorities and Children's Trust partners to ensure that, through provision or commissioning, a range of placements sufficient to meet the needs of all LAC are available locally or that there is a plan in place to move towards that position.