

Children's Services

222 Upper Street N1 1XR

Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Service

Meeting of: Children's Service Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 November 22

Ward(s):

Subject: Putting Children First - An Education Plan for Islington 2023-2030

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. There is a strong political and corporate commitment to driving educational excellence in Islington. This commitment is set out within, 'Putting Children First' an Education Plan for Islington from 2020-2030. This is an ambitious plan that aims to make our Islington schools and settings the first choice for parents and carers within the borough by ensuring that all children achieve, whatever their starting point and whatever school they attend. This plan is closely aligned to the School Organisation Plan and the refreshed SEND Strategy. By 'Putting Children First' the Education Plan will remove the barriers to education by working closely with the relevant services across the Council so that all children and young people do their very best.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and note the enclosed Education Plan which was considered by the Executive on 13 October 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1 This is an ambitious plan that will drive a new relationship with schools and settings within the context of a changing legislative framework set out within the government White Paper, 'Opportunity for All: strong schools with great teachers for your child' published by the DFE in March 2022.

- 3.2 The Education Plan recognises this changing context but is committed to, 'Putting Children First' and so is centred on driving educational excellence through inclusive and sustainable schools and in this way aims to provide a strategic framework across a number of linked plans including, 'The School Organisation Plan' and the refreshed Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy.
- 3.3 The Education Plan is presented alongside the School Organisation Plan and The SEND Strategy to demonstrate that educational excellence is dependent upon inclusive schools where all children are supported to thrive in schools that are financially sustainable.
- 3.4 The vision for the plan is that by 2030 every child, whatever their background, has the same opportunity and ambition to reach their educational potential in a good Islington school. Children and young people will be equipped and empowered so that every child and young person who attends our education settings with the learning and skills for life and the future world of work.
- 3.5 Linked plans within The Education Plan are set out as nine pillars. In addition, some immediate priorities are identified for issues that have not improved sufficiently over time that reflect the political manifesto including reducing exclusions; improving attendance; increasing the number of young people progressing into employment and training, improving outcomes for Black Caribbean boys, children, and young people with SEND and for Children Looked After as well as increasing the uptake of childcare for targeted two-year-olds.

4. Implications

- 4.1 The implications are detailed in the enclosed report.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Education Plan will drive educational excellence for all children and young people whatever their starting point, resulting in improved outcomes across Primary and Secondary schools and ensuring the most vulnerable children and young people are supported as well as their peers.

Members are invited to note the priorities within the Education Plan and support its implementation

Appendices:

- Executive Report – Education plan and cover report

Background papers:

- None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of....

Date: **Date the report received final approval**

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