

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

OXFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

Report by the Chair of the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board

THE CURRENT FOCUS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

1. Oxfordshire's Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB) brings partners together to promote the development of sustainable school to school support across the county.
2. The Board holds a small budget. Commissions are based on priorities identified by the Board in the context of Oxfordshire's [Education Strategy 2015 - 18](#) and 'Equity and Excellence', supporting the aspiration that all Oxfordshire schools should be good or outstanding.
3. In order to meet this aspiration, a number of priorities have been identified and agreed by the Board:
 - Close the performance gap between vulnerable learners and their peers
 - Improve achievement of those with SEND
 - Improve attendance
 - Support effective recruitment and retention
 - Encourage higher quality alternative provision
 - Reduce fixed term and permanent exclusions
 - Support development of leaders and managers in schools and settings
4. After one year of working together, members of the Board have established effective ways of working, there is good commitment to attending meetings and a level of honest and challenging discussion.

1. THE PARTNERSHIP'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

5. Key achievements include:
 - establishing this Board, engaging schools and partners so that the work includes all key partners in the current educational landscape in Oxfordshire;
 - the appointment, through open recruitment process, of an independent chair for the year ahead;

- a recruitment and retention research project by Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University to be disseminated through a conference event in the autumn 2016;
- the establishment of the Operational Group with supporting terms reference and a protocol for ways of working. This group manages the school improvement function;
- development of the KEEP website to disseminate effective practice for school to schools support.

THE AIMS OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN THE YEAR AHEAD

6. Much of the first year has been spent managing the practicalities of terms of reference, membership and various protocols, but these are now established and working well. Success from the various commissions will be monitored and once impact can be measured more regularly.
7. The viability and longevity of the Board will depend on the financial model that can be ensured for the future.
8. Through the year ahead the Board will be focusing on holding partners on the Operational Group to account, and on commissioning further work to address key priorities.

THE KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE PARTNERSHIP AND HOW THESE WILL BE ADDRESSED GOING FORWARD

9. Current challenges include:
 - reviewing the remit and scope in the light of the Government's White Paper ['Educational Excellence Everywhere'](#) and subsequent policy changes;
 - in line with national policy, shifting the operational school improvement function from the local authority to partners, quality assuring this effectively, while retaining accountability to Ofsted;
 - improving strategic interrogation of pupil data, supported by the new data sharing protocol, and acting upon findings;
 - identifying impact of the work of the Board and disseminating to the education community;
 - clarifying the future viability of Board as a commissioning body, as budget is time-limited, and establishing the Board's role as a broker of partnership resource
10. These challenges will be addressed through engagement of partners in strategic decision-making (SSPB), in engaging all schools in addressing the priority areas, and in providing school improvement services to maintained schools causing concern, through the Operational Group.

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REBECCA MATTHEWS

Independent Chair of the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board

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September 2016