

Divisions Affected - All

CABINET

19 September 2023

**Time for Change:
Improving Educational Opportunity
for All Oxfordshire's Children and Young People.
*A report by the Oxfordshire Education Commission***

Report by the Interim Corporate Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
 - (a) **NOTE the report of the Oxfordshire Education Commission.**

Executive Summary

2. In Autumn 2022, the Council established an independently-chaired Oxfordshire Education Commission to consider how the Council, collectively with all state-funded schools, other education settings, and partners including children and families, could plan to sustain improving outcomes for all Oxfordshire children.
3. This was initially as a response the education white paper *Opportunity for All: Strong Schools with Great Teachers* which was expected to lead to the Schools Bill. Government announced that the Schools Bill would not progress in December 2022 but the Council agreed to continue with the Commission.
4. The Commission reports in paragraph 2.2.1 that "overall, pupils in Oxfordshire tend to achieve good academic outcomes compared to national averages" but notes that the data shows "there are certain demographic groups who achieve poorer outcomes, as well as locality difference."
5. The Commission sets out 17 proposals for the Council along with schools and other partners to consider.
6. The Council is very grateful to Gail Tolley, the Chair, and the nine members of the Commission for their commitment and diligence. Their work involved wide consultation and engagement as well as detailed analysis.
7. As the Chair notes in her foreword, the Commission has been assured that action will be forthcoming on behalf of all children and young people in Oxfordshire schools. Officers will consider the Commission's report and its proposals in full and will submit a proposed response and action plan to Cabinet for its approval.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

8. The establishment of the Commission and its proposals relate explicitly to the following priorities: tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire; prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.

Financial Implications

9. Consideration of the Commission's proposals will include assessment of the financial implications involved.

Legal Implications

10. Consideration of the Commission's proposals will include assessment of any legal implications involved.

Staff Implications

11. Consideration of the Commission's proposals will include assessment of any staffing implications involved.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

12. Consideration of the Commission's proposals will include assessment of any equality and inclusion implications involved.

Anne Coyle
Interim Corporate Director for Children's Services
September 2023

Annex: *Time for Change: Improving Educational Opportunity for All
Oxfordshire's Children and Young People. A report by the Oxfordshire
Education Commission*