

**County Hall  
New Road  
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OX1 1ND**

Chris Hilliard  
Consultant Deputy Director  
Children's Services -  
Education

9 January 2020

Dear colleagues,

Lucy Butler, the statutory Director for Children, Education and Families (CEF), commissioned this draft strategic review to consider how best Oxfordshire County Council can contribute to further improve education outcomes for young people in Oxfordshire. It reflects on what the offer is and what it could be in the future. It defines the Council's legal duties including those relating to intervention. Opportunities to further develop collaborative models are explored. We all continue to strive for continuous improvement. We are deeply grateful for all you do.

Education provision in Oxfordshire is strong both in terms of achievement and attainment from early years through all the Key Stages. The government is creating a self-improving school system led by networks of schools, soft and hard federations and multi academy trusts. This is transforming the relationships between schools and local authorities (LAs). In different parts of the country we are seeing a continued or changing role for LAs in school improvement and certainly more school-led partnerships leading school improvement. There remains an issue for each LA as to how its role evolves with the focus on three key areas of responsibility:

- as a convener of partnerships;
- as a champion of children, families and communities;
- as a maker and shaper of effective commissioning.

The review commissioned by Lucy Butler entitled 'Improving education outcomes' is attached. Please share it with your colleagues and other stakeholders. It considers aspects of school improvement, models what the offer is and could be. It reflects the County Council's legal duties including those relating to intervention. The report explores opportunities to further enhance and develop collaborative models of working.

Consultation with stakeholders is essential if Oxfordshire is to develop an effective local school improvement system fit for purpose, led by schools and multi-academy trusts yet with the active engagement of key strategic partners including Oxfordshire County Council. The document 'Improving education outcomes' will be widely circulated and an on-line consultation will be opened for responses to be submitted. There will be opportunities for discussion at meetings attended by LA officers and additional meetings can be arranged if required.

The deadline for response to the consultation document is Friday 28th February 2020, with a final document to be published in the summer term of 2020. We welcome your views, suggestions and comments as to what you feel the priorities for educational provision in Oxfordshire should be. The priorities from your organisations could be reflected in your own

planning processes. Where the Council can assist or influence within the development of priorities, they can be incorporated in the Oxfordshire County Council Education Strategic Plan 2020/23.

Please contact Jayne Howarth on [Jayne.howarth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.howarth@oxfordshire.gov.uk); if you have questions or Lynda Burns on [Lynda.burns@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.burns@oxfordshire.gov.uk); and they will respond accordingly. To access the online consultation please click [here](#) and they will respond accordingly. To access the online consultation, please click [here](#)

Yours sincerely



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