

Divisions Affected - All

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14 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 Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to
 - (a) **CONSIDER** the report of the Oxfordshire Education Commission;
 - (b) **ASK** any questions;
 - (c) **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet.

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 to 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 report will be published alongside the agenda for the meeting of Cabinet on 19 September 2023 and Cabinet has been recommended to note the report.
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. The Commission sets out 17 proposals for the Council along with schools and other partners to consider.
8. 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.
9. The Cabinet Member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services as well as officers would be grateful for the input of the Committee in considering how best to respond to the Commission's proposals and into the implementation of the action plan in response.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. 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

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

Comments checked by:

Lorna Baxter,
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Legal Implications

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

Comments checked by:

Anita Bradley,
Director of Law and Governance, anita.bradley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Staff Implications

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

Equality & Inclusion Implications

14. 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*