

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5 FEBRUARY 2020

IN YEAR FAIR ACCESS POLICY – 6 MONTH UPDATE

Report by Deborah Bell Head of Service Learner Engagement

RECOMMENDATION

The Education Scrutiny Committee is invited to note this report

Executive Summary

1. The existing Oxfordshire In Year Fair Access Policy and Protocol (IYFAP) was reviewed and revised by a task and finish group comprising Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) officers and representative school leaders. The revised policy was adopted from summer term 2019. Following its use for two full academic terms, a consultation exercise was undertaken. One response was received. A task and finish group is being convened to meet on 29th January 2020 to discuss the consultation findings and required adaptations to the IYFAP. The outcome of this can be reported verbally on 5th February.

Introduction

2. The data that accompanies this report must be exempted from public publication as the individual numbers against individual schools could identify individual children. This could breach their right to anonymity and breach their rights to data privacy.
3. As required by the School Admissions Code, OCC has an agreed IYFAP which was reviewed and relaunched in April 2019. The implementation of this over two full terms is being considered. The protocol is delivered through four regional panels across Oxfordshire. These meet every half term at hosting schools. The panels are chaired by an Education Inclusion Manager from Learner Engagement Services for consistency of practice across all four regions. Senior school leaders make up the majority of each Panel membership with the Service Manager for School Admissions present along with Alternative Provision representation. Social Care, Health and Police representative are invited with operational Learner Engagement officers.
4. Regional IYFAP panels are also used as opportunities for strategic discussions between school leaders in the same localities to share opportunities and challenges pertaining to exclusions and wider inclusion issues. OCC is invited to participate in some, but not all of these discussions.

5. Regional IYFAP panels are used for school leaders to apply for advice from peers on challenging pupils and to seek additional funding (from the High Needs Block) to commission alternative provision to prevent exclusion.
6. A summary of IYFAP review consultation feedback is one response from a senior OCC officer who stated that primary In Year Fair Access needs to be incorporated into the protocol with Primary School Leaders consulted.
7. Any anticipated adaptations to the revised IYFAP required.
 - (a) More timely placement on roll following IYFAP decision
 - (b) Children to be processed in their region, not referred to a neighbouring region
 - (c) Schools to receive the attached data on a termly basis for transparency purposes
8. This report has considered the following requirements and is not assessed as directly impacting on:
 - Corporate Policies and Priorities
 - Financial and staffing implications
 - Legal duties
 - Equalities and inclusion implications
 - Sustainability and environmental implications
 - Risk management

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Background Documents: Nil

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