

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Progress report on school standards
Committee:	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 March 2019
Cabinet Member:	Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member of Children and Young People) Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
CMT Member:	Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services)
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Ref:	JAH/DB
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The following report has been prepared at the request of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide members with an update on school standards. The report includes a report on the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Plymouth Challenge, the Plymouth Oracy Project, validated school performance data and attainment across the city.

Corporate Plan

'A Caring Plymouth – 'Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes'.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

A small number of employees are involved in the development and co-ordination of school improvement activity across the system. This commitment is likely to increase as the Challenge embeds across the city and the action plan is finalised.

There are no financial implications arising from this advisory report.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

None for the purpose of this briefing report.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? This is not necessary as the report is a briefing on performance and activity.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

For the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the report for consideration.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

This is an advisory report only.

Published work / information:

None for the purpose of this report.

Background papers:

None for the purpose of this report.

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

Introduction

1. Update on Standards in Schools

This is a detailed overview of the performance of the city's children and pupils. It is based upon validated data and constitutes an update on a paper presented to Scrutiny in November 2018. The paper sets out results for the city as a whole, presented using both percentage and absolute figures. The paper also provides an update on the Ofsted judgements of our schools and the Department for Education's classification of schools in terms of performance.

In our primary school results are mixed. Many key performance indicators point to standards improving when compared to previous years. However, other indicators show a decline and many of our results are below national averages.

In secondary schools key results remain below national averages and show little signs of improvement. Across all key stages disadvantaged pupils perform less well than non-disadvantaged pupils (**see Appendix 1**).

2. Role of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC)

This paper sets out the key role and responsibilities of a Regional Schools Commissioner. There are six key responsibilities focused on tackling underperformance in schools and promoting the development of academies and free schools as a means of securing improvement in schools. The paper also explains the decision making process of the Regional Schools Commissioner and describes how the Commissioner is working with Plymouth schools (**see Appendix 2**).

3. Plymouth Oracy Project

This is a school improvement initiative designed to improve the speech and language skills of pupils in the city. It is co-ordinated by the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance (PTSA). It involves a large number of primary schools across the city and involves a professional development programme for teachers; school to school support to develop oracy teaching and learning opportunities; providing a resources pack and establishing an Oracy network to encourage teachers to share ideas (**see Appendix 3**).

4. Plymouth Challenge Update

This provides a summary of the progress made by schools involved in the Plymouth Challenge. It concentrates on two of the three main work streams of the Challenge namely, improving school leadership and raising standards in schools. It builds upon the update on the Challenge provided in January, 2019 (**see Appendix 4**).