

Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny be held on 8th March 2016

Subject:

BD

The Bradford Education and School Improvement Commissioning Board (BEICB)

Summary statement:

The Bradford Education and School Improvement Commissioning Board (BEICB) was established in September 2015 to provide a forum to ensure effective collaboration and joint accountability between the Local Authority, formal School Partnerships, the School Forum and Teaching School Alliances within a self-improving school led system. The board reflects the changing roles of schools and local authorities, providing a vehicle for the commissioning and accountability of effective support. It plays a key role in ensuring that the following principles are achieved:

- Bradford is a school-led system
- All schools need to be good or better
- All schools need to belong to a formal partnership

The aims of the BEICB are:

- to ensure resources are effectively deployed and have an impact on the raising of standards in all key stages across the district
 - to identify, discuss and address issues of common concern to ensure value for money and efficiency
 - To implement the Bradford commissioning framework in order that schools and settings can access targeted intervention
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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Bradford Education and School Improvement Commissioning Board (BEICB) was established in September 2015 to provide a forum to ensure effective collaboration and joint accountability between the Local Authority, formal School Partnerships, the School Forum and Teaching School Alliances within a self-improving school led system. The board reflects the changing roles of schools and local authorities, providing a vehicle for the commissioning and accountability of effective support. It plays a key role in ensuring that the following principles are achieved:
- Bradford is a school-led system
 - All schools need to be good or better
 - All schools need to belong to a formal partnership
- 1.2 This proposal directly addresses the priority outcome focus 'Good Schools and a Great Start For All Our Children':
- Ensuring that children are school ready
 - Educational attainment and achievement is accelerated
 - Ensuring young people are life and work ready
- 1.3 The aims of the BEICB are:
- to ensure resources are effectively deployed and have an impact on the raising of standards in all key stages across the district
 - to identify, discuss and address issues of common concern to ensure value for money and efficiency
 - To implement the Bradford commissioning framework in order that schools and settings can access targeted intervention

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The BEICB has held 3 meetings since September 2015. It has been agreed that:
- The priorities for improvement will be driven by the School Improvement Ofsted action plan; New Deal priorities and other measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from agreed sources
 - Additional priorities and projects will be welcomed by BEICB but must be tied to the same outcomes as above.
 - Where commissions exceed £10,000, three bids will be required so as to ensure a transparent process.
 - The success criteria for each proposal will be scrutinised by the BEICB and where necessary challenged.

- The BEICB will monitor the progress of each project based on the identified milestones from the proposals and project managers will be held to account for the progress.

3. **REPORT ISSUES**

- 3.1 Part of the available funding for commissioning will be ringfenced as it has been delegated for a specific purpose and needs to be allocated according to the purpose the funding was delegated for example £220,000 allocated from the Council budget for the development of leadership and management.
- 3.2 Other aspects of the available funding will be 'open' to be used for the purpose of school improvement more broadly. For example the £1.246 million Joint Investment Fund.
- 3.3 Any monies commissioned will follow a clear process to show impact, milestones, success criteria and performance measures. If a project is not having the desired outcome the Commissioning Board will have the authorisation to cease the funding.
- 3.4 The impact of the commissioned work will be reported into the Education Improvement Strategic Board and the Schools Forum.
- 3.5 The projects where funds have been allocated include:
- leadership developments - for projects such as Newly Qualified Teachers induction funding;
 - 'Centres of Good Practice for New Arrivals' – 6 schools have been designated as Centres of Good Practice to provide a programme of support across the district – each school has received an initial allocation of £20,000 to commence this work;
 - Transition projects from Key Stage 2 to 3
 - Improving boys' writing at KS1 and 2
- 3.6 The impact of the projects where funding has been allocated is being carefully monitored and reported at the BEICB meetings.

4. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 To consider the implications of the National Funding Formula when the consultation commences in March 2016 as this is likely to have a significant impact on any funding which may be available in the future.

5. **FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 5.1 None at this stage

6. **LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 None.

7. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

7.1 None.

8. OPTIONS

7.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive this report and consider the development of the BEICB.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 None