

## **Position Statement for Corporate Performance Panel 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

### **Improving Educational Attainment in West Norfolk – Annual Update 2022**

The Council's Improving Educational Attainment programme has an overarching aim of ensuring that all young people in West Norfolk receive a good quality education through excellent teaching and learning, and go on to achieve the best level of qualification they can.

The programme has provided support and funding to local schools for a range of interventions and projects to tackle specific issues/priorities, and in recent years has had a particular focus on:

- Actions to improve attainment in Maths and English
- Initiatives to support transition, particularly from Y6 to Y7
- Raising the aspirations of higher achieving students
- Support to help schools respond to mental health issues

Traditionally members of CPP have received an update on the above programme each February and this has been accompanied by a presentation from Norfolk County Council providing statistical data and insight into the performance of students and schools in west Norfolk.

Unfortunately, this area of work has been significantly impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. At the start of the pandemic schools were shut and since they have re-opened their priorities have understandably changed – needing to focus on delivering education safely and on interventions to enable students to catch up on missed learning and strive to meet expected standards. As a result, work on our attainment programme has largely ceased. In terms of data, the lack of GCSE examinations has removed the key data used to inform the development of our programme and provide an insight into the performance of our local students. For these reasons there is no information to present in an annual update to CPP this year.

Looking forward, one of our priorities for the 2021 year had been to review how the improving attainment programme could focus more closely on skills. As part of this we had already identified the need to work with partners to improve both educational attainment and the skills of local people, increasing our focus on skills and key transition periods, including from secondary school into work. Therefore the need to ensure our work compliments the priorities of the Youth and Retraining Pledge project, which was reported at the last meeting of CPP, has emerged and will form the basis of the development of workstreams for the improving attainment programme, hopefully from the start of the 22/23 academic year.

Becky Box  
Assistant Director Central Services

The challenge for the programme going forward is to make sure the interventions we support are linked to the national curriculum, support any changes in Ofsted's approach and clearly targeted to provide maximum impact/benefit to the students involved.