

# **REPORT BY SSSAB FOR PRESENTATION AT THE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Date of SSSAB meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

## **Update from the Service Director – Children, Young People and Families**

Frank McSheffrey gave an update on Children's Services and Children's Social Care. He responded to questions as follows:

- In response to a request for clarity about what can be expected from Early Help at certain levels FMcS stated that a new strategic overview is being worked on and schools would be updated within the next few months.
- A formal documented process when engaging with Family Support Workers was needed. FMcS explained that he had previously addressed this with the service and would follow it up.
- FMcS agreed to join SSSAB to give an update as often as possible.

## **Troubled Families**

Collaborative leads were asked to remind colleagues of the Troubled Families agenda, to keep putting families forward and to also look at successes so that payments by results can be generated.

## **Step Into Teaching**

A representative from Step Into Teaching gave an overview of this graduate programme which works with schools and supports students in the West Midlands. Colleagues were asked to share the information with their collaboratives.

## **Monitoring Statement – Update**

The latest monitoring statement was circulated and SSSAB clarified anticipated costs before the end of March 2021. It was likely that schools would be asked to contribute to Partnership Funds in 2021-2022.

## **Feedback from Groups**

Feedback was shared from the following groups:

- Ed SEND
- Heads' Partnership/Conference
- Schools Forum
- Corporate Health & Safety Board
- NAHT

## **LA Update**

Tim Browne and Claire McNeill gave updates and made the following points:

- The Joint Additional Needs and Disability Board has been set up in place of a number of different boards.
- The Headteacher Reference Group has been re-established to provide support and challenge for the high needs strategy key strands.
- All SEND processes are being rewritten.
- The volume of new EHCPs coming through is challenging so there is a need to look at additional resources to address the backlog. Discussions are ongoing about funding.
- Reshaping Education: Work is starting in areas including vulnerable children, support for schools, data etc.
- The Summerfield consultation has finished and progress has been paused until there is a coherent AP strategy.
- Work is being carried out with Solihull Academy to develop an interim assessment centre to for up to 20 students.
- Work has started on the Early Years Strategy. There will be a consultation and the plan is to have a strategy for Solihull at least in draft by the end of the Summer Term.
- Feedback about how the LA has supported and responded to schools during the pandemic will be presented to the Scrutiny Board in March.
- CMc asked for feedback about whether a school representative at Schools Cell is sufficient.
- Virtual CPD sessions will continue until groups can be brought together again.
- Two Early Years champions have been recruited to support remote learning.

**Safer Recruitment**

SSSAB provided feedback about how schools would prefer Safer Recruitment training to be run whilst it cannot be classroom based.

**Health & Safety services for academies**

- A new traded services offer would be available for all academy schools from September.
- The provider of first aid training would be changing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and will be opened up to academies.
- Site manager training is difficult to undertake at this time so a briefing session is being developed online.

**Commonwealth Games**

The Commonwealth Games are due to take place in Birmingham in 18 months' time and schools were encouraged to get involved initially by completing a survey. SSSAB would receive a further update later in the year.

**HR Update**

Andrea Ashley gave an update from HR.

It was agreed to set up a working group to develop a well-being strategy for schools.