

To: City Executive Board
Date: 29 January 2015
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Educational Attainment

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee on the City Council's investments in Educational Attainment at Key Stage 1.

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Craig Simmons, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Executive lead member: Councillor Pat Kennedy, Executive Member for Educational Attainment and Youth Ambition.

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan 2014-2018

Recommendation That the City Executive Board agree that any future City Council educational programmes are co-designed with schools and are cohesively focused on achieving long term improvements in educational attainment and reductions in inequalities.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from Dr Jonathan Solity and Helen Wall of KRM Psychological and Educational Research Consultants. KRM provided one strand of the City Council's Educational Attainment programme. The Committee would like to thank Jonathan and Helen, as well as Councillor Pat Kennedy and Tim Sadler, for their helpful contributions to this important discussion.

Summary of the discussion

2. The Committee noted KRM's presentation and report, which provided their evaluation of the impact of the KRM programme in Oxford schools. The Committee welcomed the higher levels of progress achieved by KRM schools compared to the comparison groups, and noted that this had been

achieved within a relatively short period of time, proving that it is possible to improve attainment in schools.

3. The Committee questioned the level of statistical analysis provided by KRM, teacher buy-in to their programme, its impact on inequalities, and the consistency and cohesiveness of the City Council's wider programme of investments in educational attainment.
4. The Committee suggested that any future educational programmes should be designed with schools from the earliest stage, and noted the importance of programme fidelity and the need for consistency across different strands.
5. The Committee also noted that measuring the impacts of specific programmes is complicated because educational attainment is influenced by a number of different factors.

Recommendation – That any future City Council educational programmes are co-designed with schools and are cohesively focused on achieving long term improvements in educational attainment and reductions in inequalities

Further consideration

6. The Committee will offer Anna Wright, Educational Advisor, an opportunity to respond to the KRM report.

Director and Board Member Comments

I welcome the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and the acknowledgement that the City Council's Programme has raised achievement in schools.

I agree with the proposals that any future education attainment programme is planned jointly with schools. This is what we did in setting up the programme being scrutinised and its evaluation. An evaluation of the Leadership for Learning Programme is currently taking place with individual visits to every school in the programme. As part of this school leaders are being asked what support they feel would most help them to continue to raise attainment in future.

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List of background papers: None