

Report to Scrutiny Panel on Questions Raised Education Service

Question 1

Steps being taken to close the attainment gap in Southampton.

- a) Schools in all phases are aware of the need to address the attainment gap resulting from the prolonged lockdown, and have consequently initiated a number of strategies to ameliorate the issue. These include summer schools targeting specific students, planned catch up sessions later in the academic year using funding allocated by the government and focussed in school interventions.
- b) The LA has been working with schools to provide a co-ordinated response to this issue. Actions include the ordering and distribution of over a million pounds worth of IT equipment, most of which went to vulnerable children, regular training sessions for primary schools, and guidance from the LA on the 'recovery curriculum' for schools. As well as these LA officers contact all schools every two weeks to monitor progress and planning, along with providing practical and moral support to Headteachers. In the new academic year the SIO team (School Improvement) will be working with schools to provide support and challenge and monitor the implementation of government guidance.
- c) The LA and secondary schools are still waiting for clarity from exam boards on what the likely format for GCSE and A level exams will be. This will help inform decisions on whether the breadth of the curriculum will be narrowed or maintained.

Question 2

The monitoring of progression of GCSE students.

Transition this year has been more closely monitored. All school advisers have been in contact with year 11s to ensure they still intend to reach college etc in September.

Schools have identified Risk of NEET for us (250) this identifies vulnerable groups, and they have all had contact:

- Email offer of STEP support
- E-mailed Princes Trust transition course flyer

Schools have been referring some of the high risk of NEET (HRON - 204 total) direct to STEP and we have encouraged them to refer all HRON – which I'm monitoring. An actual referral enables STEP to contact direct by phone. Over half have now been referred, we are having to stagger.

Those working with STEP are referred accordingly to the post 16 partnership, the key players with new transition programmes are Saints, Enham and Princes trust. But the wider partners continue to offer their usual personal development programmes virtually – so lots of choice.

All medium & low risk have been referred to Youth Options who are making direct contact to support through transition.

Compass have signed up to No Limits for support for their year 11 cohort (paid for by the transition support fund) & we have monitored the 60 on the Sun transition project and they have had a virtual resilience film & activity shared (you tube film). Our adviser is also supporting the webchat support run by SUN (Southern Universities Network).

We also have the successful Flying start webpage for supporting transition to college <https://www.sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-southampton/> and Solent Apprenticeship Hub have offered webinars to support applications for apprenticeship opportunities.

Updates are on <http://access-southampton.co.uk/> and tweeted out.

Vulnerable groups:

All opportunities shared with Virtual school, pathways, YOS and EWO teams.

Training to use the resilience tool on flying start has been made available to all.

We have done all we can to reach out to all of Year 11, of course there will be those who will elude us and pop up again in the Autumn, hopefully at that point there will be the agreed funded youth hub from DWP which we have put in a bid for.

The 'Intended Destination' data for Year 11 is as follows;

Cohort on CCIS = 2205

- Education = 2028
- Apprentice/Employment with training = 99
- Employment without training/other destination = 10
- Undecided = 12
- Unknown = 56