

**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>25 November 2016</b>
Subject:	<b>Schools that work for everyone – Government consultation</b>

**Summary:**

This report is a summary of the key proposals in the consultation document '**Schools that work for everyone**' (published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016) and includes an amended proposed response to the consultation for the Committee to approve for submission. The consultation closes on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to approve the response document attached at Appendix A for submission to the consultation.

## **1. Background**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee reviewed and commented upon the proposed responses at its 21 October 2016 meeting. During this meeting, it was agreed that some of the content should be removed, amended and strengthened regarding:

- Progress in non-selective is as good as selective
- Measurement of good – on what basis. Ensuring greater clarity on the definition of good schools
- Transport implications for Lincolnshire
- Removal of the final paragraph for question 19
- Strengthen sentiment of valuing the contribution of our non-selective schools and other schools learning from them
- Highlight lack of evidence base to the green paper
- Highlight concerns re assumption independent schools are better. Reiterate this is also a vice versa situation.
- Use the recognition in the paper regarding poor performance of disadvantaged pupils in Grammar School areas.

This has now been completed.

The consultation response is a structured online response form that has set questions to be commented upon. These responses will be copied into the online form once agreed as being final.

The original report considered at the Committee's meeting on 21 October 2016 set out the proposals under the banner of 'Schools that work for everyone'.

As part of these proposals there were five distinct strands.

### **Families who are just about managing**

This consultation states that the government wants to develop a way to identify "families who are just about managing" and measure their attainment and progress in the school system.

### **Independent schools**

That Independent Schools should sponsor or set up new free schools to support the number of good or better school places as well as offer a proportion of fully funded bursaries at a higher rate than they do now. It is proposed that if Independent Schools do not do this they might lose their charitable status.

### **Universities**

Universities wishing to charge the higher rate fees will be expected to do one of the following two things; establish a new school in the state system (capital and revenue costs met by government), or, sponsor an academy. The proposed sanction would be that the university could not charge tuition fees at the higher level (above £6,000).

### **Selective schools**

The proposed reforms will allow:

- The expansion of existing selective schools
- Establishment of new selective schools
- Permitting non-selective schools to become selective

The **proposed sanctions** that the government will consider entail:

- Removing access to any additional funding streams (for new pupils or programmes)
- Remove the right to select by academic ability (temporarily or permanently)
- Restrict access to future growth (by barring expansion)

### **Faith schools**

The paper states that new faith Free Schools could be opened if;

- There is proof that parents of other faiths would be happy to send their children there (demonstrated via local consultation and signatures)
- They establish twinning arrangements with other schools not of their faith
- They consider setting up mixed-faith Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), including becoming a sponsor for under-performing non-faith schools
- They consider placing an independent member/director who is of a different faith (or no faith) on the governing body of new faith Free Schools.

The proposed sanction if these conditions were not met would mean that the school would lose the right to admit on the basis of faith and become a non-faith school.

## 2. Conclusion

The DfE consultation period ends on the 12 December 2016. The proposed response from the Council is attached at Appendix A and the Committee is invited to approve the response for submission to the consultation.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Schools That Work For Everyone: Revised Consultation Response

## 5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
'Schools that work for everyone'	<a href="https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/schools-that-work-for-everyone/supporting_documents/SCHOOLS%20THAT%20WORK%20FOR%20EVERYONE%20%20FINAL.pdf">https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/schools-that-work-for-everyone/supporting_documents/SCHOOLS%20THAT%20WORK%20FOR%20EVERYONE%20%20FINAL.pdf</a>
Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 21 October 2016	<a href="http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=124&amp;MIId=4572&amp;Ver=4">http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=124&amp;MIId=4572&amp;Ver=4</a>

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