

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>28 November 2014</b>
Subject:	<b>School Improvement – Proposal for a Working Group</b>

**Summary:**

This report sets out a proposal to establish a working group to contribute to the work being undertaken by officers on the future school improvement offer.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

1. Approve the establishment of a working group to contribute to the work being undertaken by officers on the future school improvement offer.
2. Agree the membership for the working group.

**1. Background**

At the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2014, the Committee considered an exempt report on Governance Arrangements for the School Improvement Service. The report set out proposals for a new school led school improvement initiative in Lincolnshire which is being developed between headteachers, CfBT and Lincolnshire County Council. This initiative will be embedded alongside a new Local Authority school improvement offer, ready to be implemented in 2017.

It has been previously proposed to carry out a scrutiny review by a Task and Finish Group into school improvement. However, given that there is work currently ongoing on a new school led approach and the future Local Authority offer, there is a risk that a scrutiny review would be duplicating the work currently being undertaken by officers. One of the criteria that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considers when approving scrutiny reviews is that a review will not duplicate other significant review activity.

In addition, there are concerns that conducting a time limited scrutiny review now would be too early in the process, given that a review would be completed in mid-2015 but the current contract does not end until January 2017.

It is now proposed that member involvement through a working group, rather than a task and finish group, would be preferable. This would allow members to work with officers to understand and feedback on the current practice for school improvement and what the future practice would be. A working group is not time limited and can start immediately, which would allow members to become involved in the process while the new school led approach is still being developed and to work with officers on the new Local Authority school improvement offer as it is developed.

### **Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the School Improvement Working Group are:

1. To examine with officers what support the current School Improvement Service offers to schools and academies and how effective it is.
2. To examine with officers the role of teaching schools in Lincolnshire in improving educational standards.
3. To make recommendations on improvements to the existing School Improvement offer for schools and academies.

### **2. Conclusion**

As there is work already ongoing by officers into a new school led school improvement approach and the new Local Authority offer, there is a risk that a formal scrutiny review would be duplicating this work. So that members have an input into the work that officers are undertaking on school improvement, it is proposed that the Committee establishes a working group to work collaboratively with officers, with a suggestion that this would comprise of 3 members of the Committee.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

No policy proofing is required for this report.

### **4. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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