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AT A MEETING of the Education Advisory Panel of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held virtually via MS Teams on Wednesday, 25 November, 2020

Chairman:

* Councillor Roz Chadd

* Councillor Zilliah Brooks
* Councillor Jackie Branson
Councillor Fran Carpenter
* Councillor Gavin James
* Councillor Kirsty North
* Councillor Jackie Porter
* Councillor Patricia Stallard

* Councillor Michael Westbrook

* Councillor Ray Bolton

*Present

Co-opted members

Dawn Casson, Joanna West, Justin Innes, Reverend Jeff Williams, Georgina Mulhall and Ian Potter.

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Fran Carpenter and Councillor Ray Bolton attended the meeting as the Conservative substitute member.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

65. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

66. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations on this occasion.

67. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave thanks to all headteachers and school staff who had worked tirelessly to keep pupils safe during the pandemic and provided an essence of normality for them. Pupils had shown amazing resilience during this time and had adapted well to the changes that had been made in schools. Appreciation was also given for officers, both Childrens Services and Public Health for the support they had provided to schools.

68. UPDATE ON COVID-19

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services on the impact of Covid-19 on Education.

During the presentation, Members were updated on the attendance statistics for Hampshire's secondary and primary schools during the pandemic, which was higher than the national average.. The Director also spoke about the extensive support provided to schools by the County Council and Public Health during this period and how positive cases were managed and reported.

A number of detailed questions were answered and points highlighted around:

- IT equipment being provided to schools for pupils to access remote learning
- Learning from current online experience and case studies of pupils working from home
- Staff shortages during the pandemic and the vaccine take up
- Increase in elective home education take up

The Headteacher of Ringwood Primary School also gave a presentation on how the school had responded during this time. This included:

- Covid measures put in place to open in September such as zoning, cleaning and providing the appropriate teaching equipment.
- Remote and blended learning particularly for disadvantaged pupils
- Trial of lateral flow testing for pupils

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

69. POST 16 EDUCATION

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services on Post 16 Education.

The Director outlined details of the Government's Kickstart Scheme to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds claiming Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

It was noted that the County Council had committed to providing 30 (min) direct Kickstart placements across the organisation, starting between November 2020

and December 2021 and were near to submitting their first cohorts to the Department for Education.

The Director advised that the Scheme was being promoted through roadshows running alongside the County Council's Apprenticeship programme and through its Careers Service

Members were also updated on the newly developed Hampshire Skills Recovery Plan which contained a number of actions, including:

- Apprenticeships – levy programme continues with incentives for employers (up to £2k)
- Apprenticeships – committed £2m to the levy transfer fund, supported by the new Apprenticeship Hubs
- Young People - SEND Employability Hubs launched, expansion of Supported Internships and Traineeships
- Young People – Hampshire-led multi-LA proposal to the Youth Futures Trust (outcome Spring 2021)
- Adult Skills - £1.3m programme Inc. focused on employability and digital skills
- Employment - incl. DWP Work-based Academy (Care) and Construction Skills Fund projects

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

Chairman,

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