

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
9 NOVEMBER 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn (Director People and Communities)	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University)	
Contact Officer(s):	Terry Reynolds: Service Director; Education Gary Perkins: Assistant Director; Education	Tel. 863612

PETERBOROUGH READING STRATEGY 2017-2020

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Service Director: Education	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report. 2. Schedules further reports to update on progress. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 A previous report on the draft Reading Strategy was brought to the Scrutiny Committee in September. Members were generally supportive and made comments and suggestions for improvements. These were taken to the working group drafting the strategy for consideration and the updated final draft is attached.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The report is presented to update the Committee on the joint development of the Reading Strategy by Vivacity, the National Literacy Trust and Peterborough City Council.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council :

Education, including

- a) University and Higher Education;
- b) Youth Service;
- c) Careers; and
- d) Special Needs and Inclusion.

2.3 This report links to the Corporate Priority· Improve educational attainment and skills

2.4 This report links into the Children in care Pledge: support Children in Care to have a good education.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 Members raised the following points at the September Scrutiny Committee discussion:

- In the section "Why is the improvement of reading important for every child in Peterborough" were the last four bullet points outcome measures/KPIs rather than reasons for importance?
- Was there enough reference to the importance of parents? (there were differing views on whether parents should be emphasised more);
- A number of councillors were of the view that other forms of literacy - visual, electronic - were not sufficiently represented;
- Were vulnerable pupils and/or those disengaged with reading represented enough?

4.2 The working group considered these points and made changes to the text:

- In the section on "the importance of reading", the bullet points were reworded and one was removed;
- To include more references to vulnerable pupils - targets and milestones can be set for vulnerable pupils when validated groups data is made available for Peterborough LA and then incorporated within the outcomes section.

4.3 No changes were made to:

- References to parents. The group felt there was sufficient emphasis - it is envisaged that a separate document will be produced for parents as part of the Vision plan
- Emphasising other forms of literacy. The group relied on the key role that literacy of written texts plays for success in the educational system, as well as it being the foundation for the development of other forms of literacy (such as for electronic texts) - references to reading are not limited to books but include the whole range of reading texts

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Vision for Reading is currently being shared with Primary and Early Years Foundation Stage Literacy Leaders. The Reading Strategy will be used to engage with partner organisations in the city.

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The strategy will be used to engage a wide range of organisations in the private and public sector to contribute to:

- Improved achievement in reading
- Improve community cohesion
- Increase the number of children using local libraries and reading for pleasure
- Improve educational and employment opportunities for children and young people

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To increase Councillor support for city council engagement with improving reading.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 To maintain current discrete improvement initiatives: rejected in favour of more cohesive and wider ranging approach to add value.

8.2 Changes to the strategy as discussed above.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 The proposal will have no cost for the Council.

Vivacity has contributed a small amount in development costs.

New initiatives will be within individuals' existing responsibilities and work programmes. Engagement by partner organisations will entail devoting efforts to the promotion of reading, but this will bring wider benefits

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no legal implications

Equalities Implications

9.3 Improved reading outcomes improves life chances for disadvantaged groups.

Rural Implications

9.4 There are no specific rural implications.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Final Draft Reading Strategy and Final Draft Reading Pledge

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