

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
20 SEPTEMBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Wendi Ogle Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University Councillor Ayres	
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A VISION FOR READING IN PETERBOROUGH 2017 - 2021 - UPDATE REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Director, People and Communities Wendi Ogle Welbourn	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note and comment upon the content of this report; 2. Offer their support to relevant officers in pursuing actions to promote continued improvement in the quality and enjoyment of reading of children, young people and their families in Peterborough; 3. Continue to do all that they can to promote the enjoyment and benefits of reading well through their role as Elected Members. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requested an update report on the current position and progress of the Vision for Reading, which was originally reported to them in September and November 2017 under the title "Peterborough Reading Strategy 2017 – 2020".

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee Members with an update on progress made since November 2017 in developing and implementing the Vision for Reading.

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 into the Corporate Priority - Improve Educational Attainment and Skills.

2.4 This report links to the Children in Care Pledge promises:

- support you to have a good education
- make sure you are treated at school like any other pupil
- support you to learn and achieve your full potential
- help you to get skills so you can care for yourselves when you are older.

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 Committee Members have received reports on the “Peterborough Reading Strategy” in September and November 2017. Much good progress has been made since that time, and there has been further development.

4.2 It was felt by the Steering Group at the time that the title “Reading Strategy” was misleading, in that the document did not set out a strategy for improvements to levels of enjoyment and outcomes in reading, but did set the vision for the local authority. Hence, the title was amended to “A Vision for Reading in Peterborough”. The time span for the activity has also been extended from 2020 to 2021, in order that outcomes in 2020 can be taken into account as a measure of the impact of the Vision and its component activities.

4.3 It was felt by the Group at the time that the strategy for improvements to be made should be owned and implemented by schools and other organisations, reflecting their individual characteristics, strengths and contexts, and that it was not the place of the local authority to dictate strategy. This view received wide support, and the leadership of the local authority in terms of expressing a vision and stating aims was welcomed.

4.4 Two groups have been developed since November 2017. The intention is for one group to oversee operational development and implementation (The Implementation Planning Group), and the other group to be a monitoring and evaluation group (The Strategic Monitoring Group), akin to a governing board.

4.5 There is widespread representation on both groups involving schools, pre-schools, Public Health, Vivacity and the National Literacy Trust as well as Officers and Senior Officers of the local authority. The Lead Cabinet Member is invited to such meetings as a member of the Strategic Monitoring Group, which is chaired by the Assistant Director (Education).

4.6 A number of very positive actions have taken place since the Committee were last updated:

The Vision for Reading document has been updated and finalised – please see Appendix 1 “A Vision for Reading in Peterborough”

4.7 Schools and businesses are signing the Reading Pledge and returning it. We currently have 41 Reading Pledges signed and returned, including 6 from local businesses and 35 from schools.

4.8 There are increasing numbers of Reading Buddies being trained and deployed in schools. There are now 50 trained Reading Buddies and they are deployed in 19 schools. 8 teachers are now trained as Reading Buddy trainers.

4.9 50 Headteachers have attended a presentation on the Vision for Reading.

4.10 Reading Buddy training materials have been redesigned and rebranded.

4.11 The Year of Reading September 2019 – August 2020 activities are being scoped, designed and prepared for launch:

- May 2019: Launch event
- July 2019: English Challenge Final
- August 2019: Book Trail and Book Bench initiative starts
- Sept. 2019: Story Time month; Read Aloud
- Oct 2019 Reading Conference (initial ideas include - Lost for Words: books from other cultures, Authors Aloud, Poetry, Non-Fiction, Puppetry, CLPE, NLT)
- Nov 2019: Poetry Month
- Dec Writing Competition; Puppet Workshops
- Jan 2020: Children’s Theatre
- Feb 2020: Sporting theme
- March 2020: World Book Day; Biggest Rhyme/Reading Time

- April 2020: Pop Up – Illustrators, comics, graphic novels
- June 2020: BookStart; Reading at Bedtime
- July 2020: Transition event KS2/3; Picnic in the Park (PVI)
- Sept 2020: Celebration of the Year of reading

- 4.12 A Reading Conference is being planned for October 2019, attracting a nationally-acclaimed keynote speaker and coinciding with the early phase of the Year of Reading
- 4.13 The World Book Day 2018 press release and publicity in local media highlighted and promoted our Vision for Reading and Reading Buddies
- 4.14 Pride magazine has included an article about our Vision for Reading
- 4.15 Numerous local authorities from across the country have made contact with us and showed interest in how we have developed our Vision for Reading
- 4.16 Meetings have been held with and presentations given to the Community Cohesion Team and 70 Health Visitors
- 4.17 A Pop Up literacy festival has been researched and promoted – at least 10 schools have expressed an interest in being a part of this
- 4.18 A Vision for Reading and Reading Buddy poster has been developed and is intended to be included on the Chamber of Commerce website
- 4.19 10 schools have taken part in a Big Book Quiz. 44 pupils and 70 teachers and parents attended
- 4.20 “Reading in Unusual Places” has been promoted throughout the summer, and Committee Members will no doubt have seen the article on August 23rd on Insite entitled “Peterborough families invited to share the places they love to read”
- 4.21 Plans to develop a Book Trail throughout Peterborough for schools and children/families to follow are at an advanced stage, and interest in Book Benches (discussed with Committee previously) is growing
- 4.22 All primary schools have received a copy of “Lost Words” donated by the Francis and Maisie Prior Charitable Trust, designed to promote an appreciation of and fascination with words
- 4.23 Events have been held across Peterborough as part of the National Literacy trust’s Young Readers Programme, which helps children to discover and develop a love of reading by giving them the chance to choose new books to keep at a series of three fun events. In Peterborough, the events are funded by British Land and WH Smith. Please also see literacytrust.org.uk/peterborough
- 4.24 Children’s author Guy Bass has attended 3 local schools to present prizes and promote a love of reading
- 4.25 In terms of achieving improved outcomes, Committee members will be aware that we have set specific targets for achievement by the end of a 3 year period, with summer 2018 providing the baseline for all outcomes, with final assessments in summer 2021:
- 4.26
- Attainment in reading at Year R, Year 2, Year 6 and Y11 GCSE English Grade 4 and above should be at least 75%;
 - Progress made between Y2 and Y6 should be better than the national average;
 - Our School Readiness survey shows an improvement in the proportion of children ready to start school to above 70% in Listening, Sharing and Effective Communication;
 - Library membership and active usage increases by 2,500 children per year;
 - Opportunities to read in a variety of places is increased by a further 100 places;
 - Surveys show greater than 60% of respondents state that they enjoy reading;
 - At least 100 Reading Buddies are trained and volunteering in Peterborough schools;
 - At least 90% of schools and 40 partner organisations are signed up to the Reading Pledge;
 - The Peterborough Year of Reading is celebrated across the city and has a high media profile.
- 4.27 Once 2018 outcomes for these measures have been finalised and evaluated they will be reported upon in the next update report.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Vision for Reading has been shared with Committee Members, schools, local business leaders, Vivacity and the National Literacy Trust. Feedback responses have been taken into account during the development phase.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The Vision is used to engage a wide range of organisations in both the private and public sectors, including the voluntary sector, to contribute to:
- Improved achievement in reading
 - Improved enjoyment of reading
 - Improved community cohesion
 - Improving education and employment opportunities for children and young people
 - Improving the numbers of citizens using local libraries

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To help to further raise the profile of Reading in Peterborough, and the Vision that we have developed
To help to provide support and encouragement to Officers and partner organisations to persevere with the Vision and the work which is currently ongoing.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The final version of the Vision incorporated alternative options which had previously been offered.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

Legal Implications

- 9.2 None

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 None

Rural Implications

- 9.4 None

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 “A Vision for Reading in Peterborough”
Information from Officer monthly reports
Information from the Implementation Planning and Strategic Monitoring Group meetings
Feedback from headteacher meetings
Feedback from Vivacity and the National Literacy Trust.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – “A Vision for Reading in Peterborough” - Final