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<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	<b>Director for children's wellbeing</b>
<b>DECISION DATE:</b>	<b>8 October 2015</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership: Strategy and framework to improve outcomes for learners in Herefordshire for 2015/16</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Assistant director education and commissioning</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision.

## **Wards Affected**

Countywide

## **Purpose**

To approve the updated strategy and framework to improve outcomes for learners in Herefordshire for 2015/16.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT:**

- (a) **Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership: Strategy and framework to improve outcomes for learners is approved for 2015/16**

## **Alternative options**

- 1 The alternative option is to continue with the existing approach which does not take into account Schools Causing Concern guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) January 2015. This could result in the council taking inappropriate action and also reflect poorly in any inspection of our approach to school improvement.

## Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To ensure that Herefordshire's interpretation of legislation and guidance in relation to school improvement is up to date.

## Key considerations

- 3 The strategy and framework has been in place, following cabinet member approval, from September 2013 and has established the council's approach to school improvement. It plays a significant part in achieving the education priorities for the council, particularly those contained in Herefordshire's Education Strategy that includes improving leadership and management, achievement and progress, and increasing the number of good or outstanding settings. The framework has been used as a basis for support and intervention with the support of school leaders through the Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership, which oversees the implementation of the framework. Over the period, Herefordshire has seen positive outcomes in terms of a range of attainment measures at each key stage, and in the number and percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding schools. More work needs to be done however to achieve Herefordshire's goal of achieving top quartile performance for 2016/17 and the update framework will contribute to this.
- 4 The DfE issued statutory guidance for local councils in relation to schools causing concern in January 2015. Officers have reviewed the guidance, altered practice and updated the framework attached. The updated framework has been communicated to all schools as a working document.

## Community impact

- 5 The development of the strategy and framework paid particular attention to the performance data at an individual pupil level; for cohorts of pupils, for example those eligible for free school meals; at a school level; local council level and trends over time. This forms the basis of the work of the strategy and framework and enables targeted work with groups of pupils and schools, improving the outcomes at a community level.

## Equality and human rights

- 6 The development and implementation has and will pay due regard to our public sector equality duty to:
  - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under this Act;
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."
  - the focus on particular vulnerable groups will explicitly address this duty.

## **Financial implications**

- 7      There are no financial implications attached to this report.

## **Legal implications**

- 8      The statutory guidance referred to within the body of the report has been given by the Department for Education, on behalf of the Secretary of State, and relates to maintained schools causing concern.
- 9      Section 72 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a statutory duty on all local councils in England, in exercising their functions in respect of schools causing concern as set out in Part 4 of the 2006 Act, to have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State. The council must therefore have regard to this guidance.

## **Risk management**

- 10     There are risks to the council in terms of compliance and reputation if the framework is not approved. Compliance with the framework will enable officers and schools to act in accordance with statutory guidance and legislation.

## **Consultees**

- 11     Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership and Herefordshire schools.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership: Strategy and framework to improve outcomes for learners in Herefordshire for 2015/16

## **Background papers**

- None identified.