

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>10 JUNE 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>SCHOOL STRATEGIC GROUP- UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: IMPROVEMENT &amp; INCLUSION</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

For information.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT:**

**the progress of the Schools Strategic Group is noted**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The Schools Strategic Group was an initiative of the then Interim Director of Children's Services (May 2010 – February 2011) and Assistant Director: Improvement & Inclusion.
- The purpose of the group was to: To provide a forum for debate and discussion, enable all schools and settings to maintain close and effective working links, to provide a clear process for communication, maximise the positive impact of all schools and services in their delivery of excellence for all children and young people and to stimulate forward thinking.
- The group have met on two occasions and both meetings have been well attended.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 There are no alternative options.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 There are no recommendations- report for information only.

### **Introduction and Background**

- 3 Membership of the group includes:

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director: Improvement & Inclusion on (01432) 260804

Interim Director for People's Services
Assistant Director: Planning, Performance and Development
Assistant Director: Community Operations
Assistant Director: Improvement and Inclusion
Assistant Director: Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children
Kington Primary School
St Paul's C E Primary School
St Martins Primary School
Lord Scudamore School
Peterchurch Primary School
Staunton on Wye Endowed Primary School
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School
Weobley High School
Kingstone High School
St Mary's High School
Weobley High School
Barrs Court School
Hereford College of Technology
Director of Education, Hereford Diocese
Archdiocese of Cardiff Commission for Schools and Colleges
Chair of Herefordshire Association of Governors
Governor

- 4 The group have held two meetings on 10 March 2011 and 5 May 2011. Topics addressed in these meetings were the purpose of the group and desired outcomes, the rising to the challenge programme and the new structural model for schools- sharing the approach taken by the CE Diocese.
- 5 Purpose of the Schools Strategic Planning Group, as agreed and signed off at the second meeting:
- The development of an agreed local framework for the new models of school organisation to improve quality and outcomes for children and young people
  - To contribute to the debate about the strategic investment plan for the Dedicated Schools Grant
  - Understanding and shaping health and social care support with the new commissioning, new providers and localities arrangement.
  - Understanding and communicating the role of the Local Authority.
- 6 On 5 May the Group considered the Rising to the Challenge programme. And the following were identified as areas for action:
- **Customer Focus** – Develop a (part of the) customer organisation that is focused on the needs of corporate ‘customers’ – including schools – we need to work together both as partners in service delivery and as providers of services such as HR, procurement, etc
  - **Communities First** – Schools to develop their role as ‘hubs’ to promote locality based partnerships and improve local communities
    - Empowering special schools to act as hubs for all disability related services and developing a trans-disciplinary workforce with common career development
    - Schools as signposters to other service providers with guidance clarifying need
  - **Streamlining the Business / Better Services** – Improving the way we commission – schools and colleges learning from each other, working with Herefordshire Public Services, and sharing framework (and other) arrangements:
    - Driving discounts through collaboration
    - Driving down the cost of insurance
    - Hot school meals
    - Transport
- Better Services** – Developing a collaborative approach to dealing with surplus places
- 7 Phillip Snell, Director of Education, Hereford Diocese also attended the 5 May meeting and presented on the Diocesan approach and considerations regarding academy status.

## Key Considerations

- 8 Report for information only.

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Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director: Improvement & Inclusion on (01432) 260804

## **Community Impact**

- 9 The Schools Strategic Group will maximise the positive impact of all schools and services in their delivery of excellence for all children and young people and stimulate forward thinking and planning to inform future developments on local, regional and national issues.

## **Financial Implications**

- 10 No financial implications have been identified, although the emphasis is on achieving better value for money and better outcomes in an environment of reducing budgets.

## **Legal Implications**

- 11 No legal implications have been identified.

## **Risk Management**

- 12 No risks have been identified.

## **Consultees**

- 13 None

## **Appendices**

- 14 None

## **Background Papers**

- 15 Minutes of Schools Strategic Meeting on 10 March 2011.