

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

27 October 2022



## Report of: People Scrutiny Commission

**Title:** Inclusion in Mainstream Education –  
Report of People Scrutiny Commission working group

**Ward:** All

**Member presenting report:** Cllr Tim Kent, Chair, People Scrutiny Commission

### Recommendation:

That OSMB note and comment as appropriate on the enclosed report from the Working Group.

### The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the main report of the working group (enclosed as annex 1).



## Summary

1. The Working Group's objectives were to:
  - a. Identify the key challenges and opportunities to enable inclusive education in mainstream settings in Bristol (including local policy and practice, significance of admissions policies, and national policy).
  - b. Inform policy development within the Council and across mainstream educational settings, to help address and overcome the systemic barriers to inclusive mainstream education.
2. The report of the Working Group is enclosed as Annex 1.
3. The report was considered at the meeting of the People Scrutiny Commission held on 26 September.
4. For the information of OSMB, the draft minute extract relating to the People Scrutiny Commission's discussion on 26 September is set out below:

### **Draft minute extract – People Scrutiny Commission – 26 September 2022:**

#### **Report from Working Group on inclusion in mainstream education**

The Chair, in moving the report, thanked members of the working group, officers and all participants who had given evidence to the working group. In addition to the recommendation set out in the report, he suggested, and it was agreed, that it would be appropriate for the Commission to formally refer the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for information and awareness.

#### Summary of main points raised:

- a. Cllr Townsend suggested that a task and finish group might be set up by the Commission to track progress on actions taken forward in light of the report. The Chair took note of this suggestion but indicated that it would be more appropriate for updates to be given through the People scrutiny lead members meeting.
- b. In response to a point raised by Cllr Townsend, the Interim Director: Education and Skills undertook to arrange for a city map/graphic to be produced to show school cohorts compared with the communities in which schools were geographically located. This would be useful as a visual indication of how reflective schools were of their local communities.
- c. The Interim Director: Education and Skills commented that many aspects of the working group's report aligned with and were being taken forward in the context of the Council's Belonging Strategy for Children and Young People. In addition to the recommendation to refer the report to the Bristol Learning City Excellence in Schools group, he suggested it would also be appropriate to refer it to the Race Equality Steering Group given the issues raised around equalities and diversity.
- d. Cllr Hornchen commented that there were issues around equalities and diversity to be addressed within the city's teaching system / workforce. Cllr Craig (attending the meeting as Cabinet member) commented that there were a number of organisations and networks in the city working to address

issues around representation and diversity within teaching staff and the recruitment of teachers. She also drew attention to the fact that following a call for action from the city’s Youth Mayors around school exclusions, and in the context of the Belonging Strategy, work was starting with one of the academy trusts on a pilot programme to work towards 100% inclusion and how this approach could potentially be rolled out across Bristol.

The Commission **RESOLVED**:

1. To endorse the working group’s report.
2. To refer the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for information and awareness.
3. To refer the report to the following for consideration and with an invitation to respond to the report:
  - \* Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities.
  - \* Bristol Learning City Excellence in Schools group.
  - \* Race Equality Steering Group.’

**5. OSMB is asked to note and comment on the report as appropriate.**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

### **Background Papers:**

**People Scrutiny agenda papers – 26 September 2022**

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