

Strategic Director's Briefing for Children's PDS 15 November 2016

Head of Education Transformation

I am delighted to announce that Margaret Simmons-Bird has been appointed as the new Head of Education Transformation, following an interview process. This post completes my Senior Leadership Team and means that Margaret will be the strategic lead for education, leading the development of the future role of the Local Authority in Education as well as taking on my previous management responsibilities across the spectrum of School Improvement and Achievement, Early Years Foundation Stage, Governor Services, Music Service, Virtual School, and Business Support. Margaret will take on line management of the Head of the Virtual School and Richard Morgan in his Business Support role and will work closely with them and with other teams including Education Inclusion and wider Council departments which deliver education-related services.

MASH launched

The joint Children's Services and Adult Services Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has been launched. The MASH has staff from both Services sitting with Police officers and Health staff to share information on cases where safeguarding concerns have been identified, but access to further information is required in order that we make informed decisions about the most appropriate next steps. The referral routes for both Adults and Children's safeguarding concerns will remain unchanged, through the ASSIST team and Children's Duty team, who will then make a decision about whether or not the referral needs to go to the MASH. Each agency within the MASH will have access to their own database, and so for any case that is passed to the MASH, they will be able to check the information they have on that case and highlight concerns much more effectively. The MASH approach to sharing information is already in use in a large number of Councils across the country and has proved to be advantageous in speeding up decision-making and in terms of improving communication and information sharing.

Early Years – acknowledgement of good work

A report published this month by Save the Children called '*Untapped Potential: How England's nursery lottery is failing too many children*' recognises Bath and North East Somerset as one of the better performing authorities in the country, in terms of the number of settings with a qualified teacher – which makes children almost 10% more likely to reach the expected level of development at age five.. To get to this strong position (69% of settings) the Council's Early Years Service have offered:

- Advice about the impact of qualifications on outcomes for children and guidance on the courses available
- Support, both financial and through advice, mentoring and further professional development opportunities
- A universal training programme, accessible and affordable to meet the needs of a sector where staff turnover can be high

- Strong support networks which makes B&NES an attractive place to set up an early years business and in a competitive market, a graduate lead becomes a market influence.

Academies

Currently there are

School Type	Maintained	Academy
Primary	43	18
Secondary	3	10
Studio	0	3
Special	0	3
Total	46	34

There are 7 more planned primary conversions between now and April 2017 and 12 schools understood to be working with the Bath 'Architects Group' to draw up plans for a Primary MAT.

Bath Community Academy

We are still awaiting news on the future of BCA from the Cabot Learning Federation and the DfE's Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). Discussions have been ongoing over the last few months and we have submitted information to the RSC regarding projected pupil numbers in the city of Bath. We have pledged to work with both agencies and local schools to ensure, once a decision is clear, that we can support those impacted. About 50 pupils have already moved to other schools, but 241 remain on roll.

Mike Bowden
Strategic Director for People and Communities