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| Meeting:             | <b>Schools Forum</b>   |
| Date:                | 19 October 2021  |
| Subject:             | <b>Update on Raising the Achievement of Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage Project</b> |
| Responsible Officer: | David Harrington, Head of Business Intelligence                                      |

### Update on work so far

- 1.1 In November 2020, Schools Forum approved 2 projects;
  - 1.1.1 Local authority-led project on Exclusions of Boys of Black Caribbean heritage (BBCH), backward looking research piece, with £6000 of funding from the LA
  - 1.1.2 Schools-led project on Achievement and Exclusions of BBCH, forward looking, actions that have a positive impact on raising achievement and reducing exclusions, with £230k funding from the Schools Forum, in two phases; an initial £80k, with a further £150k for the second phase
- 1.2 Both projects have been delayed by Covid, but the Schools Forum received a summary of the research carried out by Sarah Douglass to date at its September meeting. Sarah presented an initial set of recommendations from her review of the cases of 10 young people who had been permanently excluded and from interviewing professionals involved.
- 1.3 Schools Forum welcomed the recommendations and emphasised that the planned next stage of the research, which is to engage with the

young people and their families, is vital to provide the full picture and should commence as soon as possible.

1.4 The funding for the second project (£230k) is yet to be allocated. In the original approval, SF agreed that no funding was to be allocated beyond initial research costs until a full programme is identified by a working party and a delivery method through existing partnerships and presented at Schools Forum.

1.5 Research in other authorities and at a national level has identified issues that are in line with the initial findings of the local research. Many of the recommendations from this literature are aimed at central government and regulators, and therefore not within the control of local education partners. However, there is growing evidence of effective practice at a local level that we can draw from, including:

1.5.1 Strengthening pastoral care structures

1.5.2 Engaging parents and carers as partners in education

1.5.3 Investment in multi-disciplinary teams to intervene early

1.5.4 Training, guidance and review of policies to promote a more consistently inclusive ethos

1.5.5 Improved tracking and monitoring of all moves

## **1.6 Next steps**

1.7 The working party is considering next steps and proposes the following to Schools Forum;

1.8 Using role profiles from similar work in other local authorities to establish posts which will support better outcomes for BBCH. This support would follow the young person from setting to setting, rather than being based in one school, and would co-ordinate the multi-agency response to young people identified as being at risk. The posts will work across the primary and secondary phases, depending on where need is identified

1.9 It is anticipated that establishing 2 posts would use the first phase of funding (£80k) over a one year period. The second phase of funding could be released for a wider intervention, subject to the success of the first phase.

1.10 These posts would initially focus on BBCH, but the model used could go on to provide support for other vulnerable groups.

- 1.11 A standardised form for primary to secondary transition has been developed, to provide more comprehensive information to enable earlier identification of risk and improved continuity of support. This is not something that can be mandated but it will be promoted across the borough – including by Harrow School Standards & Effectiveness Service
- 1.12 In parallel with this, implement the other recommendations from the research, including those that emerge from the engagement with young people and their families. This will be overseen by the existing working party, reporting regularly to Schools Forum
- 1.13 Interventions will need to be designed to be complementary to, and build on existing interventions across the borough. These include existing support for vulnerable pupils in individuals schools, the LA's Early Support service, Social Worker in Schools pilot, work with local voluntary sector.
- 1.14 Aims by the end of this term:**
- 1.14.1 To develop an action plan to address the findings of the research and to implement other good practice**
- 1.14.2 To be ready to recruit into support roles.**

***Appendix A – Summary of 2 projects from original proposal***

**Section 3 – contact details**

**Contact:**

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## **Background Papers**

Schools Forum 14 September 2021

Item 4 – Update on Raising the Achievement of Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage Project

Schools Forum 17 November 2020

Item 6 – Raising the Achievement of Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage