

## **Inclusion & Learning update to DEF**

### **Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures**

#### **Recommendation:**

That the forum:

- a) Note the draft strategy has been issued to all schools and presented to DSLS School Leadership Briefing on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- b) Note that phase 1 of the inclusion and learning service redesign has commenced. Phase 1 is the recruitment of the leadership team.
- c) Note that the implementation team for FSM auto enrolment has been created and a third party consultancy has been commissioned to deliver in time for the October school census.

#### **1. Background:**

1.1 This report provides an update on the activities and progress of the Inclusion and Learning Team from January 2025 to March 2025. Key developments include initiation of phase 1 of the team redesign and sharing of the Inclusion and Learning Strategy for Devon.

#### **2. Inclusion & Learning Strategy**

2.1 The Authority has launched an Inclusion and Learning Strategy that builds on the SEND Strategy and identifies strategic priorities, an implementation framework and effective monitoring procedures. We will be imminently sharing how partners, settings and organisations can sign up to the strategy in order to effectively improve outcomes for Devon's children and young people.

2.2 The strategy will be structured around 3 key analytical questions that will shape monitoring procedures:

- a) **Are children safe? Do they feel safe?**
- b) **Are children attending? Are the places of education fit for purpose?**
- c) **Are children achieving? Are we providing the opportunities and support they need to achieve?**

The implementation framework for the strategy will be designed in the localities with partners who sign up to the strategy.

#### **3. Inclusion & Learning Service Redesign**

3.1 Phase 1 of the redesign of the Inclusion and Learning Team is focussed on establishing the leadership team which will drive the strategic direction and

operational effectiveness of our inclusion and learning activities. We look forward to sharing details of our appointments with our partners shortly.

#### **4. FSM Auto – Enrolment Implementation plan**

4.1 Implementation of FSM auto-enrolment has frequently been discussed at DEF. We have initiated a plan to ensure all eligible children in Devon receive their entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM) through an auto-enrolment system. The implementation team have their ‘kick off’ meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2025. Regular updates will be provided to DEF members and partners as we progress.

4.2 School finance group have recommended that a recoupment charge is levied for every new individual found to be eligible for free school meals. Full details will be provided as part of our regular updates.

**Julian Wooster**  
**Director of Children & Young People’s Futures**

**For further information please ask for:**

Jack Newton  
Interim Deputy Director, Head of Inclusion and Learning  
[Jack.newton@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Jack.newton@devon.gov.uk)

#### **Appendices:**

- 1) Appendix 1 – Inclusion and Learning Data Report – March 2025
- 2) Appendix 2 - Final Inclusion and Learning Strategy 2025.