



Northumberland

County Council

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5TH JANUARY 2023

Update of School Organisation Plan 2021-24

Report of Interim Joint Directors of Children's Services, Audrey Kingham and Graham Reiter.

Cabinet Member: Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, Lead Member for Children's Services.

Purpose of Report

Cabinet approved the publication of the second iteration of the School Organisation Plan for 2021-24 in September 2021. As agreed, the plan is to be updated on an annual basis with the latest relevant school information and data. FACS are asked to note the update of the School Organisation Plan for 2021-24 and recommend its publication.

Recommendations

FACS OSC are recommended to note:

- 1) that the School Organisation Plan 2021-24 has been updated with the latest school information and data for 2022 as agreed by Cabinet in October 2021. The data reflects changed data and circumstances relating to relevant schools within Northumberland since July 2021.
- 2) that the updated School Organisation Plan 2021-24 will be circulated to all schools and academies in the county and will be published on the Council's website.

Link to Corporate Plan

These proposals are most closely linked to the Council's priority for Learning (achieving and realising potential), but it is also strongly linked with the priority for Connecting (having access to the things you need).

Key Issues

1. Although it has not been a statutory requirement for local authorities to publish

a school organisation plan for a number of years, the Council chose to reinitiate the publication of a 3-year plan for Northumberland in 2018 in order to bring key school place planning data and information into one document.

2. The Northumberland School Organisation Plan assists schools, academies, parents, the DfE and other partners to understand the factors that impact school place planning within the county such as housebuilding, pupil growth and pupil decline. It also sets out the methodology for forecasting school places, including the identification of both the need for additional places in some areas or the potential need for reduction of the availability of places in other areas as a result of falling pupil rolls.
3. The capacity and pupil forecasting information set out in the School Organisation Plan is also required by the DfE on an annual basis through their school place data collection process (SCAP) in any event. This is used to inform the need for places across the country and the allocation of Basic Need capital funding.
4. FACS should also note that as a result of the approval by Cabinet of the SEND Capacity and Place Planning Strategy, the latter document is now referenced in the School Organisation Plan 2021-24 and a link to it is provided.
5. FACS is now requested to recommend the circulation of the updated School Organisation Plan for 2021-24 and its publication on the Council's website.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	The School Organisation Plan are most closely linked to the Council's priority for Learning (achieving and realising potential), but it is also strongly linked with the priority for Connecting (having access to the things you need)
Finance and value for money:	There are no direct financial implications as a result of the School Organisation Plan.
Legal:	There is no statutory requirement on local authorities to publish a school organisation plan. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions reserved to Full Council.
Procurement:	There are no direct Procurement implications as a result of the School Organisation Plan.
Human Resources:	There are no direct HR implications as a result of the School Organisation Plan.
Property:	There are no direct property implications as a result of the School Organisation Plan.
Equalities: (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	There are no direct equalities issues as a result of the School Organisation Plan 2021-24. However, should any specific proposals for schools arise as a result of any of the processes or plans set out in the plan, then an Equalities Impact Assessment would be carried out in relation to any protected groups that could be impacted by such plans.
Risk Assessment:	Not applicable
Crime & Disorder:	This report has considered Section 17 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
Customer Considerations:	The purpose of the School Organisation Plan is to support the educational interests of children and young people in Northumberland
Carbon Reduction:	It is envisaged that the methodology set out in the plan to reduce places at schools with over-provision for their community would have a positive impact on carbon reduction as it would encourage parents to choose schools within or closer to their home communities.
Health and Wellbeing:	The strategy aims to improve the educational experience and outcomes for children and young people in the county by providing appropriate provision as close to their homes communities as

	possible.
Wards:	All

Background Papers

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children’s Services,
12 October 2021

Report Sign Off

Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Interim Joint Director of Children’s Services	Audrey Kingham
Interim Chief Executive	Rick O’Farrell
Portfolio Holder(s)	Guy Renner-Thompson

Author and Contact Details

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Appendices

School Organisation Plan 2021-24 (updated)



APPENDIX ONE -
School Organisation F