

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

9 May 2023

Outcomes of the Consultation on Proposals for the Berwick Partnership

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, and Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources, to the Committee at their meeting on 4 May 2023.

Members thanked officers for the detailed report and sought clarification and reassurance on a number of areas. The Committee sought a plan for supporting smaller, rural schools to ensure their sustainability in light of the recommendations of this report. Officers explained that many small schools work in mutual partnership with larger schools to ensure they can deliver high quality education.

Members were concerned at the notion that some students may be moved from schools rated as 'Good' to schools rated as 'requires improvement' however, they were assured that the schools in the Berwick Partnership have been evolving and improving over recent years. Officers reiterated to the Committee that the Council works closely with the Regional Schools Director to offer strong support networks to these schools. Members were also informed that the Berwick Partnership had requested the Schools Improvement Team to be their significant partner over the next year.

Following these discussions, the Committee **agreed** to advise the Cabinet they supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.

**WAYNE DALEY
CHAIRMAN**