

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	14 January 2016
Subject: Exam scrutiny panel meetings	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

In accordance with the City Corporation's accountability framework for the City academies, scrutiny meetings were held in December. These meetings provided an opportunity for the City Corporation to ensure that each academy has robust and effective processes in place to analyse and address performance. At the meeting each academy was invited to identify areas where the City Corporation may be able to provide additional support to help address risks. The Education Unit is working with each academy to explore the feasibility of providing additional support.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Following the agreement of the accountability framework at the Education Board's meeting in October 2015, Officers convened exam scrutiny meetings for each of the City's secondary academies in December 2015.

Current Position

2. The Chairman of Governors and Principal of each of the City's secondary academies attended the meeting and were invited by the panel – comprising the Chairman of the Education Board, Deputy Chairman of the Education Board, a Member of the Education Board, Director of Community and Children's Services, and Education Strategy Director – to present their analysis of the academy's 2015 summer examinations results, action they have taken to mitigate identified risks, and an outline of the predicted grades for their current cohort. Specific attention was paid to the analysis of the un-validated raise data. The panel then questioned the Chairman of Governors and Principal and provided them with an opportunity to identify any areas where additional support from the City Corporation could help to mitigate concerns/risks they had identified.

3. In each instance the panel felt that the Chairmen and Principals provided a robust analysis of their examination results and that appropriate mitigating actions were being taken to address risks.
4. The areas where the Chairmen and Principals felt that additional support from the City Corporation could help to mitigate concerns/risks are outlined below:
 - a) The City Academy, Hackney – support to develop a study weekend and/or residential study programme that provides students with support between specific exams (e.g. two maths papers) and support from the City schools in understanding the teaching skills and techniques that are required to achieve A*s at A2 would be beneficial.
 - b) City of London Academy (Southwark) – managing the MAT governance changes, and capacity and financial issues related to the proposed expansion of the Sixth Forum.
 - c) City of London Academy, Islington – funding for additional staff to teach English and maths, and weekend study sessions and the ability to provide a boarding experience for students between exams.
5. The Education Unit is working with the academies to explore the areas of additional support that have been identified.
6. Following the meetings it was noted that a representative of co-sponsors should be invited to attend future scrutiny meetings, where they are not already invited as Chairman of the Governing Body. It was also suggested that a representative from the relevant Local Authority could be invited to attend if all parties thought this would be helpful.

Conclusion

7. The scrutiny panels provided a valuable opportunity for the City Corporation to ensure that each of its academies has robust and effective performance monitoring and analysis in place, and to recognise the excellent work that they carry out. Having identified a number of areas where the City Corporation may be able to provide additional support to the academies, the Education Unit will work with each academy to explore these options further. Where an academy is co-sponsored, a representative of the co-sponsor will be invited to attend future meetings.

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