

Committee	Dated:
Education Board	12 May 2016
Subject: Education Strategy Update Report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Each objective is underpinned by a series of recommendations. Every recommendation identifies a key deliverable that the City Corporation is seeking to achieve and details specific actions that will facilitate this.

Current Position

2. The implementation of the Education Strategy is overseen by the Education Board. This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

Education Strategy Update

3. Strategic Objective 1: To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education
 - a) The City schools Career Convention took place on 19 April. The City of London School for Girls' careers department supported the event and students were able to meet employers from a range of sectors including banking, construction, business and finance, legal services, retail, technology, design, medical, and higher education.

- b) In line with the Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework, the Education Strategy Director has visited every City school and a report of his visits appears as a separate agenda item.

4. Strategic Objective 2: To strive for excellence in the City schools

- a) The Headteachers' Forum has agreed to meet half-termly for the forthcoming year. At their meeting on 21 April the headteachers discussed the possibility of holding a City Schools Conference for all teaching staff at City schools, and the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework.
- b) The Chairmen of Governors Forum met on 10 March and discussed Governor Training, an update on the development of City of London Academies Trust, and planned partnership activities for the City schools.
- c) City of London Academy, Islington (COLAI) and City of London Academy Southwark (COLAS) have been nationally recognised for their 2015 performance by the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT). Educational Outcomes data analysis from SSAT shows that COLAI is in the top 10% and COLAS is in the top 20%, nationally, for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their key stage 4 results. Figures released by the Department for Education also show that The City Academy, Hackney is within the top five schools in the country for levels of progress made for the second year in a row.

5. Strategic Objective 3: To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities

Open Spaces

- a) The City Bridge Trust funded 'Green Spaces, Learning Places' programme launches during the May half-term with four innovative projects aiming to engage our local communities with our open spaces:
- Guerrilla Interpretation Project (based at West Ham Park and Epping Forest) aims to connect London's families to nature through 'bringing nature to families' using bespoke interpretation tricycles.
 - Green Spaces Friendly Schools Project (based at West Ham Park) takes a full-school approach with a smaller number of London's inner city schools. The project aims to embed outdoor learning in a school's ethos and curriculum, and create a sense of place with their local green space, through assemblies, school sessions, teacher training and senior leadership support.
 - Green Space Play Project (based at Hampstead Heath & Queen's Park) aims to address barriers to connection with nature by targeting families with under-5s through natural play activities.
 - Green Talent (based primarily at Hampstead Heath & Bunhill Fields) provides opportunities for long term unemployed young people to explore careers in the environmental and green spaces sector.

Through these projects, Open Spaces aims to deliver tangible outcomes to the urbanised and deprived communities it works with across five areas of learning impact: understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing, and connection.

- b) Open Spaces also continues to develop its successful school programmes at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest, engaging with close to 10,000 students in 2015/16.
- c) Open Spaces is currently developing an in depth evaluation framework to understand the impact that its programmes make to young people in London.

Museum of London

- d) Over 400 people took part in the Schools & Families Day of the National Festival of LGBT History on Sunday 7 February, which took place at the museum in partnership with Schools OUT UK. The UK Children's Laureate, book illustrator and political cartoonist Chris Riddell attended the festival and created a sketch-diary of the day.
- e) On Monday 22 February students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) performed original site-specific compositions in the Pleasure Gardens and the World City gallery. This was an inaugural collaboration with GSMD which the Museum of London hopes to continue next year.
- f) The annual Chinese New Year family day took place during half-term at the Museum of London Docklands, which saw over 800 people take part in a range of activities including watching the renowned Chongqing Sichuan Opera perform. The rest of the week saw an additional 4,000 people taking part in family events on the theme of Heroes of London.
- g) 67 applications to the City of London School Visits Fund have been approved since it launched in November, benefitting 3,658 pupils. On average, schools applying to the fund have 49% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium, compared to the national average of 26%.
- h) The Designing Cities family festival took place at the Museum of London Docklands on 5 and 6 March, with 1,782 people taking part in activities. The weekend was in partnership with the Iranian Youth Development Association whose young people led tours in the museum. A particular highlight of the festival was the showing of films about inventions that have changed Londoners' lives, which were made in a recent Arts Award project with teenagers from the Fostering Network.
- i) Over 3,000 people took part in the Families Find Out festival at the museum on 12-13 March. Part of British Science Week, science communication masters students from Imperial College London developed a variety of stalls and activities to reveal the science behind our city.

- j) 4,400 people took part in activities on the theme of inventions as part of the Easter family events programme at the Museum of London and Museum of London Docklands.
- k) During the financial year 2015-16, 130,000 school pupils and 47,500 people in family groups took part in the museum's learning programmes.

Great Fire of London website

- l) The Great Fire of London website project is proceeding apace and is currently operating on time and on budget. A new version of the existing interactive story for key stage 1 children (currently found at www.fireoflondon.org.uk) has been signed off. The new version reinvigorates the existing story with new, more contemporary graphics and improved functionality. Crucially, it is built in HTML5 which will allow it to work on smartphones and tablets, on which the current site did not work.
- m) In addition, some cartography work has been carried out to prepare three historic maps of London: pre-fire, burnt London and rebuilt London. These will form the basis of interactive elements of the site which we hope will overlay the maps onto a present-day map of the City. Lastly, a series of 3D images of highlight objects that tell the story of the Fire of London have been commissioned. These will add an extra dimension to other collection images on the site, providing website visitors with a view of the objects from every angle.
- n) The next stage, which is now beginning, is commissioning the design and build of the rest of the website and continuing with the process of planning, commissioning and creating the remaining content.

6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment

- a) EDO has provided the secretariat for a study into the City's role in supporting employability amongst young Londoners. The study is steered by a panel of 20 senior people (a cross-section of businesses, Livery Companies, City Corporation Members, charities and local authority leaders) and has developed five principles to strengthen the work of City institutions in supporting employability. The principles (and associated guide www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/thecitysbusiness) were launched at an event on 21 March. Tim Campbell, Mayoral Ambassador for Training and Enterprise, was the keynote speaker. Plans are now underway to develop a calendar of events led by panel members, to disseminate the principles.
- b) EDO is supporting Alderman Parmley in his role as a member of the Government's Apprenticeships Delivery Board, which was set up to provide advice on how to expand the apprenticeships programme. Alderman Parmley has been tasked with encouraging 20 financial and professional services firms to develop apprenticeship programmes. Alderman Parmley hosted an event on 23 March (jointly with National

Apprenticeships Service) on apprenticeships in the financial services sector, focusing on the practical implications of the upcoming Apprenticeships Levy.

- c) The City Business Traineeship internship programme for school-leavers in the City's neighbouring boroughs is now open for 2016 applications. The programme offers prestigious paid work placements within City businesses. The scheme helps young people build a professional network, improve future employability and learn about a career in financial and professional services. Delivered by the Brokerage Citylink, on the City Corporation's behalf, the scheme places more than 100 young people into placements each year.
 - d) The Brokerage Citylink has been appointed to deliver a further year of the City Careers Open House programme for the academic year 2016/17. The programme brings young people from neighbouring boroughs into City businesses on structured taster days.
 - e) A careers coordinator has been recruited at City of London Academy, Southwark, which we hope will enable more employability activity to take place through the Employee Volunteering Programme.
 - f) Nineteen City of London employees attended the careers convention at Guildhall on 19 April. Stalls were hosted by City of London Police, Barbican, City Business Library, Chamberlain's, City Surveyors, HR, and Built Environment to help give students a range of potential career avenues. The City Centre (former City Marketing Suite) also hosted a stall.
7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London
- a) The Department for Education has invited to the City Corporation to attend an interview on 13 May to progress the four free school applications that were submitted in Wave 11 of the free school application process.
 - b) An update on the progress of schools in the pre-opening and application phases will be provided under the corresponding agenda item.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

- 8. At its meeting on 21 April 2016 the Court of Common Council approved the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2016 – 2019.
- 9. The Education Strategy complements and supports the City Corporation's corporate policies and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

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