

Committee:	Date:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: Updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

This report provides the Education Board with an updated accountability framework that will enable the City of London Corporation to meet its responsibilities as an academy sponsor/co-sponsor, including ensuring its academies achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning.

The updated improvement and accountability framework will provide a mechanism for the early identification of any signs of underperformance in order to enable timely and effective intervention and action.

The proposed framework for clearer accountability, challenge, and support will be developed in partnership with the City Corporation's academies and their governing bodies, co-sponsors, and relevant local authority representatives, in order to establish a shared view of how to promote improvement, including arrangements for early identification and action to address any signs of underperformance.

The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to endorse the updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework.

Main Report

Background

1. On 24 October 2013 the Court of Common Council endorsed the City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013–2015 and on 1 May 2014 it approved the establishment of an Education Board to oversee the implementation of the Education Strategy.
2. As an academy sponsor the City Corporation is accountable to the Department for Education (DfE) for the performance of its sponsored/co-sponsored

academies. The City Corporation is accountable in its role as an academy sponsor through the Court of Common Council, which delegates this responsibility to the Education Board.

Proposal

Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework

3. The Education Strategy includes a commitment to establish an improvement and accountability framework to support the City Corporation's academies to achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning.
4. The improvement and accountability framework will also be a mechanism for the early identification of any signs of underperformance to enable timely and effective intervention and action. The framework needs to be proportionate, reasonable and appropriate to ensure that the City Corporation is able to support and challenge its academies appropriately, and flexible enough to include any additional academies that the City Corporation may choose to support.
5. The framework for clearer accountability, challenge, and support will be developed in partnership with the City Corporation's academies and their governing bodies, co-sponsors, and relevant local authority representatives, in order to establish a shared view of how to promote improvement, including arrangements for early identification and action to address signs of underperformance.
6. The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.
7. Analysis of the public examinations at GCSE and A level shall take place annually and a report will be provided to the Education Board for its October meeting. This information will be collated both from data provided by the City Corporation's academies and also published data. The report will show the three year trends.
8. Discussions will take place with each of the City Corporation's academies, individually, about their data. Principals and Chairmen of Governors will be invited to a scrutiny panel meeting to present their results, action plans, and forward targets for their academy.
9. A further report will be produced in the Spring Term following publication of the validated results as shown in Raise on Line and the Data Dashboard, by the Department of Education. This data will give a detailed comparison against other schools, both locally and nationally, on a number of measures. In addition, the

City Corporation's academies will be asked to provide their predicted grades so that they can be considered by the Education Board at its December meeting.

10. The Education Unit will gather the information from the City Corporation's academies under the current Ofsted Framework headings.
11. The Inspection Framework sets out clearly the standards to be attained and each school should have its own self-evaluation against these standards. The Education Unit will require Principals to provide a copy of their current analysis.
12. It is expected that each City Corporation academy has well-established arrangements for external challenge and support from local authority or other school improvement providers, and there is no intention to change arrangements that are working well. The City Corporation's academies will be asked to outline their arrangements and agree how the outcomes of challenge and support activity will be reported as part of the accountability framework. The Education Unit will receive copies of reports on the standards observed at the City Corporation's academies by any external agencies. If a City Corporation academy has no external moderation of standards in place the Education Unit will require them to commission a 'health check mini inspection'.
13. Visits will be made termly to each of the City Corporation's academies by the Education Strategy Director to discuss the standards and improvement strategies in place to ensure that all are progressing towards the 'Outstanding' quality mark.
14. In addition the Education Unit will collect information on the following areas:
 - curriculum development,
 - summary of the term's activities,
 - work experience and links with business,
 - enrichment opportunities,
 - use of the City Corporation's open spaces and cultural institutions, and
 - participation in City schools' activities and events.
15. Termly reports to governing bodies usually include these aspects. In order to reduce the administrative burden, a copy of the report each Principal submits to their Governing Body should be sent to the Education Unit. This will limit requests for information and this information will then be collated, with a summary reported to the Education Board.
16. Reports will be collected towards the end of each term and the first report will be produced for the January meeting of the Education Board and updated termly thereafter.

Annual Timeline

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Test/ Exam report to E.B.	Principal and Chair of Governors present exam analysis and action plan	Outcome targets for year to E.B.	Principal's report to G.B. to E.U.	Final results predictions	Principal's report to G.B. to E.U.
Risks/ mitigating action	Exam Scrutiny panel	Risks/ mitigating action	E.S.D. visit & report	Risks/ mitigating action	E.S.D. visit & report

Conclusion

17. This report provides the Education Board with an updated accountability framework to support the City Corporation's academies to achieve year on year improvement in educational attainment and standards of teaching and learning, and ensure that the City Corporation meets its responsibility as an academy sponsor/co-sponsor.
18. The Education Unit will report to the Education Board on the performance of the City Corporation's academies in relation to attainment and progress measures annually, and on the progress towards improvement targets termly.
19. It is recommended that Members endorse the updated Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework.

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