

Children and Young People Select Committee			
Title	Promoting Best Practice Between Schools Review: Scoping Paper	Item No	5
Contributors	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	2 October 2014

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1. At its meeting on 1 July 2014, the Committee decided as part of its work programme to undertake a rapid review looking at how best practice is promoted and shared amongst schools in Lewisham.
- 1.2. This paper sets out the rationale for the review, provides some background information on the current situation within Lewisham and sets out proposed terms of reference for the review.
- 1.3. The in-depth review process is outlined at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Select Committee is asked to:
 - note the content of the report
 - consider and agree the proposed terms of reference for the review, outlined in section 6 and the timetable, outlined in section 7.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee on the 1 July 2014, the Committee discussed undertaking a rapid review looking at sharing best practice within schools based around the Gold Club, including site visits to schools.
- 3.2. Lewisham is currently looking at how to close the gap between the achievement levels of those not on the pupil premium and those on the pupil premium by looking at good practice and how to share it.
- 3.3. The Mayor of London's London Schools' Gold Club is an annual scheme which celebrates and shares exceptional practice in London's primary and secondary schools. Gold Club members are schools that have succeeded against the odds in improving pupils' aspirations and achievements. The London Schools' Gold Club forms a centrepiece of the Mayor of London's Education Programme, which aims to play a significant role in helping London schools to be even more ambitious in improving standards. It came from the Mayor of London's education

inquiry in 2011-12 and the independent panel's final report 'Going for Gold: Turning achievement into excellence in London's schools'.¹

- 3.4. The scheme champions exceptional schools and works with them to identify what has made the difference for their school and helps them share this practice and their experience with other London schools. The Gold Club is based on the belief that all schools can aspire to attain excellence for all their pupils, whatever their circumstances. The messages to London schools are that children with pupil premium funding should be doing at least as well as the national average. For primary schools, Level 5 or above is the benchmark rather than Level 4. Schools with a high proportion of children with pupil premium funding should have high numbers of pupils achieving at Level 5.²
- 3.5. A school to school learning programme allows all schools across London to learn from Gold Club schools' good practice in "bucking the trend" – particularly those that are overcoming factors of poverty, disadvantage and low attainment for their pupils. The Gold Club sits alongside the £24 million London Schools Excellence Fund, whose focus is on more professional development for teachers across London and spreading excellent teaching to raise standards in literacy, numeracy, STEM (separate sciences, technology, engineering and maths) and modern and ancient foreign languages.
- 3.6. There are over 100 Gold Club schools in London, with 9 Gold Club primary schools in Lewisham and one secondary school:
 - Brindishe Lee School
 - Brindishe Green School
 - Eliot Bank Primary School
 - Fairlawn Primary School
 - Grinling Gibbons Primary School
 - John Ball Primary School
 - Lee Manor School
 - Rathfern Primary School
 - Sir Francis Drake Primary School
 - Sydenham School

4. Policy context

- 4.1. Lewisham's Sustainable Communities Strategy sets out six key priorities for the borough as a whole.³ The review falls under the 'Ambitious and achieving' priority which aims to inspire our young people to achieve their full potential by removing the barriers.

¹ The Mayor's Education Inquiry: Going for Gold – Turning achievement into excellence in London's schools
<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/The%20Mayor%27s%20Education%20Inquiry%20Final%20Report.pdf>

² London Schools' Gold Club website <http://www.londonschoolsgoldclub.org.uk/>

³ Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020
<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

- 4.2. Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan for 2012-2015, entitled 'It's everybody's business'⁴ sets out key areas for impact and priorities surrounding children and young people. This review will fall under the 'Enjoy and achieve' priority, specifically the EA1 priority which aims to 'Raise achievement at all key stages' as well as the EA2 priority which aims to 'Close the achievement gaps between under-achieving groups and their peers'.

5. Meeting the criteria for a review

- 5.1. A review looking at how best practice is promoted and shared amongst schools in Lewisham meets the criteria for carrying out a scrutiny review, because:
- The issue affects a number of people living working and studying in the borough

6. Key lines of Inquiry

- 6.1. In order to understand how best practice is shared the Committee should consider the following key lines of inquiry during its review and at the site visits to schools:
- How does the Gold Club support better sharing of best practice and how effective is this support
 - How are the impacts of best practice sharing being monitored in potential improvements in school results
 - How does Lewisham Council support the sharing of best practice and are there opportunities for this to be improved
- 6.2. While not part of the rapid review, members will be able to ask questions about the best practice approaches that are being taken by schools as part of the planned visits. The Committee indicated in its meeting on 1 July 2014 that they would be particularly interested in best practice approaches surrounding the pupil premium and innovative uses of using IT to deliver learning.

7. Timetable

- 7.1. The Committee is asked to consider the outline timetable for the review as set out below:

Evidence gathering visits (November, December and January)

The Committee will visit a number of schools in order to speak to staff there about how they share best practice with other schools and the role that the Gold Club plays in supporting this.

While conducting these visits, members will be able to ask questions about the best practice approaches that are being taken by schools particularly surrounding the pupil premium and innovative uses of using IT to deliver learning.

⁴ Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015
<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/children/Documents/CYPP2012-15.pdf>

Evidence-taking session (4 February 2015):

This will be an opportunity for the Committee to share and discuss the findings from site visits to schools. A report from officers will provide information around the background to the London Schools Gold Club as well as the support that Lewisham Council provides to schools in sharing best practice.

Recommendations and final report (18 March 2015)

The Committee will consider a final report presenting all the evidence taken and agree recommendations for submission to Mayor & Cabinet.

8. Further implications

- 8.1. At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

For further information please contact Andrew Hagger, Scrutiny Manager on 020 8314 9446 or email andrew.hagger@lewisham.gov.uk