



## **Digital Inclusion in Education Task & Finish Group (TFG)**

### **Report title: Digital Inclusion in Education TFG – final report**

**Date:** 8 March 2022

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

### **Outline and recommendations**

Following consideration of a broad range of evidence, as set out in the timeline of engagement below, Members of the TFG are requested to discuss the attached report and agree potential recommendations:

The TFG is asked to:

- Consider, comment on, and agree the attached report
- Agree any recommendations to be made as part of the review.

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The subject of this Task and Finish Group (TFG) was proposed by Cllr Colin Elliott.

The subject and membership of the TFG were agreed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 26 May 2021.

The scope and key lines of enquiry of the review were agreed on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Between July and February, the TFG has carried out around 10 meetings and engagement sessions with around 20 different stakeholders in Lewisham and elsewhere. This included:

- Lewisham Learning – 21<sup>st</sup> July
- School leaders from St Matthew Academy, Bonus Pastor, Forest Hill – September
- Carnegie UK Trust – 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Socitm – 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Youth First – 4<sup>th</sup> November
- School leaders from Sedgehill and Elfrida – November
- Glasgow City Council – 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- EdTech Consultant, Lawrence Tijjani – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- School governors from (Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale, Kilmorie, St Bartholomew's, Forest Hill) 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Key council officers – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

## 1. Summary

1.1. The report attached at appendix A sets out the key findings of the Task and Finish Group.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Task and Finish Group is asked to:

- Consider, comment on and agree the final report.
- Agree any recommendations to be made as part of the review.

## 3. Policy context

3.1. The Council's *Corporate Strategy (2018-2022)* outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents over the next four years. Delivering this strategy includes the following priority outcomes that relate to digital inclusion in education:

- *Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.*
- *Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.*

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- 3.2. The committee should also note and take into account the four strategic themes at the heart of the Council's response to the impact of the pandemic, which support what we want for every single resident and that we know are what we need to focus on locally. These four strategic themes are: An economically sound future; a healthy and well future; a greener future; and a future we all have a part in. The first of these is particularly relevant to digital inclusion:
- *An economically sound future: We are working to get the borough back in business, with a future where everyone has the jobs and skills they need to get the best that London has to offer. We are a borough with businesses that are adaptable and prepared for change, a thriving local economy that sees 'local' as the first and best choice, with digital inclusion at the heart of our plans. We do all we can to support residents into jobs that pay fairly and provide families with the opportunities and security they deserve.*

## 4. Background

- 4.1. The Task and Finish Group (TFG) was proposed by Councillor Colin Elliott and agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> May along with the membership of the group. The TFG have received evidence from a range of sources and activities and have produced a report summarising their findings attached at appendix A.
- 4.2. The TFG are being asked to review and agree the final report summarising the evidence received and agree any recommendations they wish to make.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group may have financial implications and these will need to be considered in due course.

## 6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that "Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it."

## 7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

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- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.3. There may be equalities implications arising from recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group and the Council will need to give due consideration to this in their response.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations considered by the Task and Finish Group may have climate change implications and these will need to be given due consideration.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be given due consideration when any recommendations are considered.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be given due consideration when any recommendations are considered.

## **11. Report author and contact**

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact:  
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