

WEST PEOPLE BOARD**5th APRIL 2017****SCHOOL TRANSITION – ENABLING ENTERPRISE AND SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review a proposal from West schools to deliver a school transition project, which would support young people in Year 6 with their transition into Year 7 (senior school). The transition arrangements would ensure young people were not only supported to safeguard their wellbeing but also create an appetite with the young person to think about enterprise and other opportunities available to them, as they progress through their school journey to Year 11 and beyond.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Chair of West Area Committee and the West Area Co-ordinator met with Howard Kemp, the Head Teacher of Farringdon Academy in March 2017. The meeting was to discuss the progress to-date of the Healthy Lifestyles Co-ordinator (Dawn Thompson), who is based within Farringdon Academy as well as the Committee's aspirations to continue to connect schools across the West with the VCS and vice versa to ensure our young people receive the very best support.
- 2.2 Young People's mental health and raising their aspirations continues to be a key priority for the West Area Committee, as well as enabling young people to achieve their greatest potential, via apprenticeships and enterprise.
- 2.3 Currently 14 VCS organisations from across the West are delivering Young People's Mental Health projects, working with schools to ensure young people are sign-posted from their school, into the dedicated support within their local community. This project is going well, with named teachers (given the role of specialist mental health lead) within the West schools now liaising and working with VCS organisations. This approach is ensuring that the SIB funded project leads to a sustained partnership between schools and the West VCS moving forward.
- 2.4 The West Area Committee continues to see enterprise and creating opportunities for young people to think big, think differently, as an important priority. The West Event for 2017 is testament to this – focusing upon Science, Engineering and the Environment as its theme, ensuring that children across all of the schools in the West obtain the opportunity to get creative and enjoy activities which will hopefully inspire our next budding scientist or engineer.

3. NEXT STEPS - OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 3.1 To ensure continued momentum with schools, the Head of Farringdon Academy has presented a proposal for People Board's consideration. Currently, Farringdon Academy hosts a transition week, prior to the summer holidays, with young people from the feeder primary schools, sending Year 6 pupils to Farringdon Academy for a week of transition activities. The purpose of the week is to try and alleviate any fears which the young people may have (moving to a bigger school etc.), as well as encourage their thinking and get their ideas flowing, to ensure they are fully engaged with all subjects, when they commence Year 7 in September.
- 3.2 The end of the transition week sees the young people present their project proposal (which is enterprise focused), to a 'Dragon's Den' panel. The winner(s) see their proposal developed. This year, Howard Kemp has invited the Chair of West Area Committee to join the panel, which takes place on the 26th June.

- 3.3 To enable this transition week to take place, Farringdon trained teaching staff to enable the staff to be competent in the delivery of these additional activities, as well as confident to address potential mental health issues in the future. The training programme was undertaken with the organisation 'Stepping into Business' www.steppingintobusiness.org.
- 3.4 Farringdon Academy are now able to continue to deliver the transition week, year-on-year, as a cohort of core staff are trained to deliver. However, only those children who are going to Farringdon benefit from this activity. Employers, parents, schools and teachers all know children need to develop essential life skills like resilience, communication, problem solving, teamwork and confidence to achieve their potential
- 3.5 Ideally, to ensure all West primary/junior schools offer the opportunity to deliver transition activities, staff would be trained within each of the West's secondary schools/academies – namely Academy 360; Sandhill Academy; (additional staff from) Farringdon Academy (and potentially Venerable Bede). Howard, as the Chair of the Head Teachers' Forum, would lead the delivery of the training to ensure a sustainable approach was taken and that parental engagement and working in partnership with the West VCS were key features of future transition activities.
- 3.6 The cost of the training would in total be £10,000 to train teaching staff in each of the schools, as noted above.
- 3.7 The training /education programme comprises:
- a) All the key skills needed for young people to learn about enterprise, business and life.
 - b) All the materials, content and support needed for teachers and also add the extra value of integrating business and community involvement, is threaded through the programme at key points.
 - c) All content is mapped to curriculum and has demonstrable links to the Ofsted framework. Ofsted are increasingly looking for schools to demonstrate early engagement with business and employers.
 - d) Programmes are teacher led and sustainable. 'Stepping into Business' work with teachers to improve their knowledge and confidence in enterprise, to support delivery.
- 3.8 Once trained, the transition week process would be sustainable, with schools delivering year upon year, to ensure our young people have the very best start to their secondary education journey, with a positive outlook and aspirations for the future.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Consider the report and the proposal and make a recommendation for any future actions to be taken.