

**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

**COMMITTEE:** PERSONNEL

**DATE:** 20 JUNE 2007

**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS –  
PROPOSED POST OF EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT  
PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide an overview of Education Improvement Partnerships (EIPs) and to set out a proposal to establish the post of EIP Co-ordinator which will take a lead role in supporting the EIP Strategy Group and developing EIPs within Manchester.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree the establishment of the post of Education Improvement Partnerships (EIP) Co-ordinator at a salary of £50,000 per annum.
2. Grant delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Head of Corporate Personnel to develop the job description and person specification for this post.
3. Grant delegated authority for the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Head of Corporate Personnel to develop and implement detailed structural arrangements for the remainder of the service.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The cost of this proposed new post will be £60,000 per annum inclusive of salary related on costs. This can be covered from within existing Departmental budget provision.

## **CONTACT OFFICERS**

Pauline Newman, Director of Children's Services 234 3804  
E-mail: Pauline.newman@manchester.gov.uk

Kieran McDermott, Assistant Director 234 7334  
Children's Services Education  
E-mail: k.mcdermott@manchester.gov.uk

Jon Redfern, Head of Corporate Personnel 234 1800  
E-Mail: j.redfern@manchester.gov.uk

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR:**

<b>Anti poverty</b>	<b>Equal Opportunities</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Employment</b>
No	No	No	No

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Education Improvement Partnerships (EIP) are a government initiative aimed at securing high quality collaboration within education by bringing together a range of organisations at a local level. An EIP operates within a framework which has three key objectives:
- (i) school improvement - raising attainment and improving behaviour and attendance in all schools within the partnership;
  - (ii) personalisation of provision for children and young people; and
  - (iii) delivering on the outcomes of Every Child Matters in all schools and through childcare and extended services.
- 1.2 The government recommends that EIPs include organisations such as universities and further education colleges, work-based training providers, early years providers, such as nursery schools or accredited childminder networks, and other private and voluntary sector providers, business partners and sports clubs as well as primary and secondary schools, special schools, City Technology Colleges, academies, pupil referral units and independent schools.
- 1.3 EIPs can be geographically focused e.g. one per Districts or thematic e.g. Primary education.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The establishment of EIPs in Manchester is an important part of work to improve child outcomes particularly educational attainment and achievement. EIPs would sit alongside and compliment the development of District working and would foster effective collaboration between schools
- 2.2 In Manchester there is already a strong commitment to working in partnership between schools. This has mostly been developed through the Excellence in Cities (EIC) initiative, the objective of which was to raise standards of attainment, improve diversity of provision and provide equal access and strengthened networking. The next stage is to now establish effective EIPs, with the aim of improving outcomes for Manchester children and young people. In February 2007 an EIP interim strategy group was established to take lead responsibility for input into the education strategy for the city. The group is chaired by the Director of Children's Services and brings together Manchester Headteachers (primary and secondary) with representatives from the University and college sectors. It is proposed that the membership of the permanent EIP strategy group would be extended to include the LSC and Health sector with strong links to various other bodies.

- 2.3 EIC has used funding (which ends in March 2008) to bring about collaborative working with schools in a number of areas, including: Gifted and Talented; Learning mentors; Action Zones; Behavioural Improvement Programme; City Learning Centres and after school study.
- 2.4 The aim of the EIP strategy group is to develop and support strategies that help maximise attainment and achievement in all children and young people in Manchester, and thereby contribute to improvement in all 5 Every Child Matters outcomes – be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and secure economic well being. The EIP strategy group would report to the Children’s Board and have a two way relationship with the Transforming Educational Outcomes Trust.
- 2.5 The three key areas of work for the Strategy Group are:

#### Education Strategy

- a) Develop and monitor Manchester’s strategy to improve education outcomes and meet local and national attainment targets.
- b) Ensure the strategy is reflected in the Children and Young People’s Plan and ensure actions in the Plan are delivered as agreed.
- c) Provide a strategic commissioning function for school improvement and other education initiatives in the city.

#### School Collaboration

- a) Ensure arrangements are in place for schools to play a full part in the district and locality based structures and processes being implemented across children’s and young people’s services.
- b) Review and, where appropriate, rationalise existing arrangements for communicating with schools and engaging them in strategies, programmes and projects, and then vet all future proposals to change or add to these arrangements.
- c) Ensure there are effective mechanisms in place to celebrate and promote best practice.

#### Multi-agency Collaboration

- a) Ensure Manchester’s education related priorities and the views of schools are appropriately represented in the Manchester Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership - LSP), the city’s Sustainable Community Strategy.
- b) Provide a vehicle, when appropriate and within reason, for partners to consult and engage with schools on key issues affecting the city.
- c) To ensure the education sector is supporting the Children and Young People’s Engagement Strategy, especially at the district and school level.

- 2.6 In order to support the work of the EIP strategy group and help deliver much of the work, it is proposed to establish a post of the Co-ordinator, who would report to the Assistant Director – Children’s Services Education.

### **3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST OF EIP CO-ORDINATOR**

- 3.1 The EIP Co-ordinator will provide high level strategic support to the EIP Strategy Group and lead on the development of EIPs in Manchester. They will be the key person in ensuring that the EIP strategy delivers school improvement and assists with the transformation of education within Manchester. In addition they would provide leadership and direction to the work of the EIP Strategy Group and support the work of the Transforming Educational Outcomes Trust which is responsible for providing a route for sponsorship and engagement from the business community, the private sector, higher education institutions and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 The EIP Co-ordinator will be responsible for establishing effective communication links with schools (head teachers, staff and governors) service providers, partners, and stakeholders as well as Department for Education and Skills and the Government Office of the North West in relation to city-wide and regional initiatives. Working with the Assistant Director (Children’s Services) they will plan the annual allocation of resources (financial and staffing) to District and Locality Teams based on the need to support or intervene with schools or vulnerable children/young people.
- 3.3 Of primary importance at least in the early phase will be to lead and manage the transition from EIC to EIP ensuring that the successful legacy is not lost but enhanced for the future.
- 3.4 Due to the high level of knowledge and influence required for this post, it is vital to attract a field of candidates who have the skills, abilities, experience and attributes to deliver this agenda. It is therefore proposed to set a salary of £50,000 for this post.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 To ensure improved outcomes for children and young people it is vital that there is a strong collaboration between all organisations across the city. The establishment of EIPs is seen as a vital part of realising this. The post of EIP Coordinator will ensure that the work of the EIP strategy group is developed and implemented across the city.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE PERSONNEL**

- 5.1 I have discussed this new post with the Director of Children’s Services and support the proposals set out in the report.
- 5.2 I believe the proposed salary of £50,000 is appropriate and reasonable.

5.3 I will support the Director of Children's Services in the development of a job description and person specification for this post and with arrangements for in the advertising and appointment to this post.