**Public Consultation on the Warwickshire County Council Education and Learning Strategy 2018 - 2023**

March 5th 2018 – April 2nd 2018

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**What is this consultation about?**

It is time to update the Warwickshire County Council Education and Learning Strategy so that it reflects current challenges. An overarching vision for education in Warwickshire is needed so that one agreed strategy can guide the work of council and partners.

It will have one uniting and overarching purpose: to improve educational outcomes, and thus the life chances, of learners in Warwickshire.

The purpose of this Education Strategy is to set out clearly our aspirations and priorities for education in Warwickshire, and to summarise how Council teams will be working with partners to achieve them.

This Strategy will bring together the work of different teams in the Education and Learning Business Unit. As a result we hope that services will be more joined-up and, despite financial challenges, the quality of services, and the impact of learners’ incomes, will continue to improve.

We are going to ensure that Council plans ‘join up’. All plans in the Education and Learning Business Unit, and all staff objectives, will explicitly support this Strategy. Meetings and Boards led by Education and Learning staff will all be driven by this Strategy. We also hope that partners and education professionals sign up to the Strategy and use it to enhance the effectiveness of their work.

Our aim is for a shared vision to give clarity, transparency and relative simplicity within the complex education environment of 2018.

Anyone who is interested can comment on the draft strategy. Responses are invited from a range of partners and stakeholders to include parents and students, WCC colleagues, schools, colleges, early years providers, childminders, children’s centres, challenge boards, consortia groups, area analysis groups and schools forums.

The consultation will inform the final decision about the vision and key targets for the new Education and Learning Strategy 2018 – 2023. This strategy will be implemented from September 1st 2018.

**The consultation will run from March 5th to April 2nd 2018.**

**Why is Warwickshire County Council consulting?**

The new Education and Learning Strategy will replace the current document ‘Education Strategy’ – Championing the Learner – Vision, Values and Priorities 2014.

**Difficult challenges**

A great deal has changed in the last few years and we need to face up to difficult challenges. There were 64 permanent exclusions from Warwickshire schools in 2015/16. This increased to 76 in 2016/2017. In the autumn term of 2017 there had already been 45 so the predicted end of year figure in July 2018 is nearly double that of the previous year.

**National Context**

The recent DfE publication ‘Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential, December 2017 outlines how the Government intends to improve social mobility through education. This is especially relevant in Warwickshire where outcomes for vulnerable learners are below expected levels in all Key Stages.

The four national ambitions outlines in the DfE publication are;

1. Close the ‘word gap’ in early years
2. Close the attainment gap in school, continuing to raise standards for all
3. High quality post-16 education choices for all young people
4. Everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers

These national ambitions align well with our Warwickshire priorities.

All existing Education and Learning policies will be reviewed and revised in line with the new Strategic Vision.

It is very important to us that all partners and stakeholders are aware of and able to feed back on these exciting new proposals to develop education in Warwickshire over the next five years.

**Key elements of the Policy**

Warwickshire County Council will work effectively with colleagues in schools, and settings, with partners and professionals, so that simple, consistent services enable all Warwickshire’s learners to learn in safe and enabling environments.

Our proposed priorities for Education and Learning are:

1: Promoting the best possible start in life through early education

2: Unlocking talent, building resilience, and fulfilling the potential of our vulnerable learners:

1. Children out of school
2. Children at risk of under-achievement
3. Looked After Children, through the Virtual School,
4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
5. People with social, emotional and mental health needs.

3: Supporting successful system leadership, empowering communities, so that the Warwickshire Family of Schools can thrive, and no school is left behind.

4: Promoting employability; offering the best possible opportunities for all learners so that the local economy can grow, and young people can take on the responsibilities of adult life.

We will also sell high quality services to schools, to enhance education in the county, for example[Warwickshire Music](https://www.warwickshiremusichub.org/about-us) and [Warwickshire Education Services](https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/Wes/)

We are committed to **empowering** education professionals and partners to help us to achieve these priorities. We **champion** vulnerable learners, and will **challenge,** constructively, where we can make a positive difference to learner outcomes.

Section 3 of the draft strategy identifies a range of 2023 targets against these priorities

**How are we going to get there?**

The Education and Learning Business Unit is structured into four functions.

* Learning and Performance
* SEND and inclusion
* Education Sufficiency and Access
* Adult and Community Learning

Each function will develop a ‘plan on a page’ that summarises the year’s business. The plans for 2018/19 will derive directly from the priorities championed in the Strategy, and will also include business as usual so the Council can meet statutory responsibilities.

Targets and aspirations cannot be met by Council staff alone. Partners will be approached to play their part on this journey so that simple and consistent services enable all Warwickshire’s learners to learn in safe and enabling environments.

**Resourcing our vision**

Funding for education services are reducing in real terms but leaner funding provides an opportunity to focus relentlessly on achieving the maximum impact with reducing resource.

Firstly we will focus on bringing additional funding into Warwickshire through grants and funding bids.

Secondly we will provide choice for schools and settings through trading services on a full cost recovery basis.

Thirdly we will use this Strategy to make difficult decisions about reducing some services in order inject additional funding in our priority projects.

The draft policy is available in full online at [*www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLRUM%5CDownloads%5Cwww.warwickshire.gov.uk%5Cask)

**Supporting Information**

We have chosen the four priorities for the following reasons.

All children deserve the best possible start in life and this means making sure we get early education right.

Warwickshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to support all vulnerable learners.

The Warwickshire County Council One Operational Plan ( OOP ) outlines the need for communities to work together to support each other. The community of schools is no different and system leadership means helping schools to support each other.

We need to help all our people to find meaningful employment or further education post 16 – to enable them to take a full and active role as young adults.

**Supporting Documents**

The following documents are available on [*www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLRUM%5CDownloads%5Cwww.warwickshire.gov.uk%5Cask)

* Warwickshire County Council Draft Education and Learning Strategy 2018 – 2023
* Warwickshire Education Strategy 2018-2023 single page VISION
* Equality Impact Assessment
* Information leaflet
* FAQs
* Warwickshire County Council One Organisational Plan
* [Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-social-mobility-through-education), DfE, December 2017

**How can I take part in the consultation?**

The main way to feedback is an online questionnaire that can be accessed from Warwickshire County Council’s online consultation hub [*www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLRUM%5CDownloads%5Cwww.warwickshire.gov.uk%5Cask)*.*

The questionnaire is anonymous and does not ask for any personal information.

If you require a paper copy of the questionnaire or an alternative format please contact us by phone or Email.

An Education and Learning Strategy leaflet will be widely circulated to all educational settings and they will be encouraged to make this leaflet available to parents and students. This leaflet and all other supporting documents are also available online at [*www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLRUM%5CDownloads%5Cwww.warwickshire.gov.uk%5Cask)*.*

Schools and other educational settings will be widely consulted through informal and formal meetings, conferences and events.

If you would like to respond to this consultation in writing you can do this by Emailing educationstrategy@warwickshire.gov.uk or sending your written response to Warwickshire Education Strategy, Education and Learning Saltisford Office Park Ansell Way Warwick CV34 4UL.

**Privacy statement.**

The questionnaire is anonymous and does not ask for any personal information.

Information you provide in any additional correspondence to the survey, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, including your contact details, please tell us why, but be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, Warwickshire County Council cannot always guarantee confidentiality.

**Contact Details**

For further information on this consultation please contact:

Email: educationstrategy@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01926 742588

**Closing date**

The consultation will close at midnight on Monday April 2nd 2018.

**What will happen after the consultation**

Following the consultation all feedback will be analysed and will inform the final decision about the vision and key targets for the new Education and Learning Strategy 2018 – 2023.

Once approved, the new Education and Learning Strategy will be in place for September 1st 2018.