



Liverpool
City Council

1st September 2023

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you managed to get some rest away from school so that that you and your team are ready for the year ahead.

Jenny Turnross joined us in August as the new Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services. I know she is keen to meet and work with you but also wanted to share the following message:

I am very pleased to have joined Liverpool as the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services. I have joined the council from Birmingham where I was the Director of Practice at Birmingham Children's Trust for five years, where I led the improvement of Children's Services from Inadequate to good in all areas. Prior to this, I worked as Senior HMI with Ofsted and this followed a twenty year career in the North West in a number of social work and senior leadership roles.

You will all be aware of, and sometimes impacted by the current challenges to social work and social care in Liverpool. We have developed an ambitious improvement plan, the improvements will be delivered through a dedicated Board. I am also very keen to strengthen the work that we do through the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership, the LSCP and the improvements to Children's Services will impact positively on the work of our schools and education settings.

I do of course want to support the work that you do, I am very keen to meet with as many of you as possible – so I will be happy to join you in a number of forums. I look forward to working with you all.

Best wishes

Jenny

All the vacancies in the leadership of Children's Services have now been filled. Alison Brown has been appointed Director for Practice Improvement and Development and Peter Murphy as Director of Children's Social Care along with Suzanne Metcalfe as Director of Ealy Help and Commissioning.

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A full organigram is provided but be mindful that this changes regular with the coming and goings of officers.

Within the education directorate: Carolyn Lawler has reverted to the role of Virtual School Head given the widened responsibilities; Ben Blake has picked up the responsibilities of Alternative Provision to reflect the alignment in national policy. To support and shape how this will look moving forward, Joanne Hall joins us on a one-year secondment as Section 19 Manager. You will be aware that the aspects of provision covered under s19 is of particular challenge and that the infrastructure and offer isn't sufficient to meet the increased need.

Welcome

I would like to welcome the following colleagues who take up their new posts this week or towards the end of the last academic year:

- Craig Bolton as Headteacher of East Prescott Road Nursery
- Jo Costello as Headteacher of Springwood Heath Primary
- Iain Duggan as Principal of Dixons Croxteth Academy
- Mandy Hesketh as Headteacher of Redbridge School
- Gary Lloyd as Headteacher of The Academy of St Nicholas
- Terri Cheung as Headteacher of Phoenix Primary
- Maxine O'Neill as Headteacher of Hope Special
- Jamie Wilson as Headteacher of Banks Road Primary

Colleagues undertaking interim or acting roles include:

- Karen Barr as Interim Headteacher of Dovecot Primary
- Ella Brett as Interim Headteacher of Bellerive FCJ
- Scott Corden as Acting Principal of Kings Leadership Academy Liverpool
- Louise Evans as Interim Headteacher of Matthew Arnold Primary
- Donna Hey as Interim Headteacher of St Oswald's Primary
- Paula Jones as Acting Headteacher of Roscoe Primary
- Kate McCourt as Interim Headteacher of St Julie's
- Kelly-Anne Poulson as Acting Headteacher of New Park
- Paul Voural as Interim Headteacher of Ernest Cookson

I am sure that you will make all those new to the city and/or very welcome.

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RAAC

To date, no RAAC has been identified in any of the schools for which the LA is the responsible body. However, further survey work will be carried out in a number of schools. The DfE's approach is to contact headteacher's directly if their school has been affected. The DfE issued guidance for responsible bodies here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-guidance-for-responsible-bodies-and-education-settings-with-confirmed-raac>

The contact at the LA for matters relating to RAAC is Rob Gilland who is responsible for Schools Capital (rob.gilland@liverpool.gov.uk). Undoubtedly, this will be a developing situation.

SEND Strategy 2023-2028

The SEND Partnership has published the new strategy:

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/liverpool/fsd/files/send_strategy_final_v1.pdf). This Strategy is multi-agency and has been co-produced with partners, parents and carers, children and young people over the last 8 months. Thank you to all who have taken part and provided feedback during the process.

Wave 15 Free School

Plans submitted by Star Academies to establish a new secondary school in Liverpool have been approved by the DfE.

Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Liverpool will serve girls aged 11-18 with a Muslim ethos. During its opening year, the school will admit an intake of 120 pupils in Year 7. The school will continue to admit a new intake of Year 7 pupils at the beginning of each academic year. A suitable site must be identified but it is envisaged to start admitting pupils from September 2026.

A site and premises have been found for Kings Leadership Academy Wavertree and pupils will be admitted from September 2024.

A Sufficiency Plan for primary, secondary and special places will be published by the end of this term.

Schools with disproportionate EHCPs

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) allows for local authorities to provide additional SEND funding 'to a minority of schools which have particular challenges because of their disproportionate number of pupils with SEND.' To that end, this year, we have devised a formula to provide circa £2m to schools with the highest proportions of SEND and EHCPs. This will be done retrospectively for summer term 2023, based on the May census, and then for autumn and spring terms, based on October census. Further information will be provided to relevant schools in due course.

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Academic Year 2023/4

'Review fatigue' was an accurate descriptor used last year. There have been a number of reviews undertaken and still ongoing. This year the focus will be on concluding and embedding. This includes the sufficiency review; therapies review; special school funding formula; BAESIS; and social inclusion.

And finally ...

Notwithstanding the challenges and frustrations, there is still much to be grateful for and good things are happening.

We finished the last academic year with the highest proportion of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted ever; attainment gaps with national are narrowing in some key indicators; 492 specialist provision places created; Parklands being used once again as a school; the work of LPHA on the inclusion agenda.

With my best wishes to you, your staff and the pupils in your care for a very successful year. Please be sure of my continued support.



Jonathan Jones

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