

5. OCC Update for Schools Forum, June 2017

1. **Cabinet Member for Education:** following the County Council elections in May the new Cabinet Member for Education (and Public Health) is Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles, with Cllr Steve Harrod taking the role of Cabinet Member for Children and Families . Details of the new County Council Cabinet can be found [here](#). Cllr Hibbert-Biles will be linking proactively with Schools Forum.
2. **Council priorities:** all council staff working to Lucy Butler are prioritising the following ‘obsessions’. There is a strong focus on improving attendance in order to raise attainment:
 - Increasing school attendance – leading to improved attainment
 - Helping early – most effective, least intrusive, solutions to problems
 - Safely reducing the number of looked after children – to work effectively with families
 - Improving the confidence and capability of the whole workforce – to work effectively with families experiencing domestic abuse , parental mental health and drug and alcohol issues
3. In the OCC ‘**Education Quality**’ Team, led by Chris Malone, the ‘obsession’, taken from Oxfordshire’s Education Strategy 2015-18 is for ‘every Oxfordshire child to attend a school or setting that is at least good’. The attached draft Plan and single page Guarantee, which are simply updates of the 2016/17 documents have been featured in Schools News. All schools will receive email communication before the end of the Summer Term. The contract to deliver improvement services to schools has been agreed with the Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance (OTSA). OTSA will therefore build on the valuable work in the current academic year. This work is funded through the one-off Government School Improvement Grant to local authorities. Oxfordshire offers truly ‘system-led’ school improvement.
4. The first application round for the national **Strategic School Improvement Fund** is now open. You can read about it here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-school-improvement-fund> . Two bids are being put together by OTSA and colleagues on behalf of the Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB), one bid together with the regional Teaching School Alliance, and one bid relating to Oxfordshire schools. Schools will be asked if they wish to be included in the bid before it is submitted by the deadline of 22nd June 2017.

Chris Malone
June 2017