

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 April 2011

TERMLY SUMMARY REPORT FROM CONCERNS, SHARED INTELLIGENCE AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: Learning City

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES: Delivering Customer
Focused Services, Efficient and Effective Council**

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1** Following the presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009 on the Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools in England from September 2009, it was agreed that Members would receive a termly summary report.

2. Background

- 2.1** Concerns Policy: Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 outlines the provisions relating to schools causing concern in England. The section builds on existing statutory powers and good practice to ensure that every pupil is provided with the education and opportunities they deserve. Local authorities can make full use of the powers provided by the Act to tackle school under-performance so that it does not become entrenched and lead to formal school failure, to ensure that effective support and challenge is provided immediately when an unacceptable standard of education is identified, and to secure decisive action if a school in special measures fails to make sufficient improvement. Supporting Success in Schools, 2008 provides Sunderland's guidelines in relation to this responsibility.
- 2.2** Shared Intelligence: This is the means by which Children's Services accumulate information from the Concerns Policy, and from other sources within Children's Services and the wider Council to identify schools in need of support and intervention. These schools are RAG rated.
- 2.3** Ofsted Inspections: The evaluation schedule of judgements for schools inspections under section 5 of the Education Act, 2005 was revised in September 2009. The detail of the new inspection framework was the subject of a presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009.

3. Current position

3.1 Concerns Policy

At the time of writing this report, eleven schools were designated with LA Concerns. Of these, 10 were primary schools and one was a secondary school.

Date Joined Concerns: of the ten primary schools on the concerns register currently, they were identified as causing concern in academic years:

2005-06	two schools
2007/08	three schools
2008/09	one school
2009/10	two schools
2010/11	two schools

The secondary school on the concerns register was identified as causing concern in 2008 and was placed in Special Measures in 2010.

Current levels: in relation to current levels of concerns three schools are at Level 1, three schools are at Level 2 and two at Level 3. There is currently one Notice to Improve and there are two schools in Special Measures.

Reasons for escalation: The predominant causes of these schools becoming a concern are declining standards and leadership and management. Other factors include teaching and learning, assessment, staffing and safeguarding. For current schools, concerns were declared for the following reasons:

Declining achievement (attainment and/or progress) - one school

Declining achievement and leadership and management – eight schools

Support for leadership and management - one school

Exclusions and pupils' behaviour – one school

Anticipated Exit from concerns: For some schools a satisfactory Ofsted will signal an exit from concerns whilst other schools may remain in concerns despite satisfactory Ofsted. For schools in categories, the timescale for the exit from that category is dependent upon Ofsted. For other schools, an improvement in standards that is deemed to be sustainable will result in an exit from concerns.

The two schools in Special Measures have only recently entered this category and it is expected that they will emerge no later than the autumn term of 2012.

The school with a Notice to Improve has only recently entered this category and it is expected that it will emerge within the required timescale toward the end of December 2011.

The concern in two schools has now reduced to Level 1 as a result of improvements made. These schools are expected to be removed from a level of concern within this academic year when their remaining issues are resolved. A third school at Level 1 should be removed from a level of concern once ongoing HR issues are resolved.

The level of concern in two schools should reduce once the partnership working within their federation arrangements brings about an upward trajectory in the school's results. The level of concern in the remaining three schools should reduce once the new substantive Headteachers bring about sustainable improvements.

Two of the schools at Level 3 Concern remain in a vulnerable position due to the scale of improvement needed.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

	Red	Amber	Green
Nursery	0	1	8
Special	0	2	8
Primary	11	22	49
Secondary	1	1	12

The reason for a school to be identified on the shared intelligence matrix may reflect any issue that is impacting upon the school, and so is not necessarily a matter relating to quality of leadership and management or pupil performance.

3.3 Ofsted Inspections:

There have been ten Ofsted Inspections carried out since the last report to Committee on 10th December 2010 (9 primary and 1 nursery). Three of these schools were judged to be good, six satisfactory and one primary school was given a Notice to Improve.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1** Members of Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and provide comment on content for future termly reports.

5 Background Papers

Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006

Supporting Success in Schools, 2008

Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools In England, 2009

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