

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 July 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

3.1.1 At the time of writing this report, eight schools were designated with LA Concerns. Of these, seven are primary schools and one is a secondary school.

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

2005-06 one school

2008-09 one school

2009-10 one school

2010-11 four schools

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

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

3.1.5 Reasons for escalation: The predominant causes of schools becoming a concern are declining achievement (attainment and/or pupil progress) and the quality of leadership and management. Other factors include the quality of teaching and learning, assessment, staffing issues and safeguarding issues. For current schools, concerns were declared for the following reasons:

- Declining achievement (attainment and/or progress) - two schools
- Declining achievement and leadership and management – four schools
- Support for leadership and management around an HR issue - one school - achievement was also low in 2010
- Exclusions and pupils' behaviour – one school – this school has since been given a Notice to Improve as pupil progress in Key Stage 2 was judged to be poor

3.1.6 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 re-inspection by Ofsted. For other schools, an improvement in standards that is deemed to be sustainable will result in an exit from concerns.

- 3.1.7 Two schools in Special Measures have had two monitoring inspections now and both are judged to be making satisfactory progress. It is expected that they will emerge from the category no later than the autumn term of 2012. A third school in Special Measures is awaiting its first monitoring inspection which is now due to take place.
- 3.1.8 One school with a Notice to Improve expects a monitoring inspection at any time now and it is expected that it will emerge from the Ofsted category within the required timescale towards the end of December 2011. The second school with a Notice to Improve was inspected in June of this year and is expected to emerge from the Ofsted category within the required timescale in June 2012
- 3.1.9 The school at Level 3 is making significant improvements so the level of concern will be reviewed in the autumn term of 2011.
- 3.1.10 One school at Level 1 should be removed from a level of concern once ongoing HR issues are resolved and achievement is securely above the national average. A second school at Level 1 should be removed from concerns if an analysis of 2011 test results and predictions for 2012 results shows an improving trend.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

	Red	Amber	Green
Nursery	0	2	7
Special	0	1	9
Primary	5	10	65
Secondary	1	0	13

- 3.2.1 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 the quality of leadership and management or to pupil performance.

3.3 Ofsted Inspections

- 3.3.1 There have been eight Ofsted Inspections carried out since the last report to Committee on 7th April 2011 (six primary schools, one secondary school and one special school). Two of these schools were judged to be outstanding, one good, three satisfactory, one was given a Notice to Improve and one was placed in Special Measures.

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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