

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2012

HASTING HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL – MONITORING INSPECTION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 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 To provide Members with an update on the progress of Hasting Hill Primary School following the school being placed in special measures after an inspection in March 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 The inspection, conducted on 29 February and 1 March 2012, was the third monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in March 2011.
- 2.2 The monitoring inspection report was published on the Ofsted website on 22nd March 2012 and is attached at appendix 1 of this report.

3. Current position

- 3.1 Evidence gathered by HMI during the visit on 29 February and 1 March 2012 showed that the school made satisfactory progress since the last monitoring inspection against all key issues although progress since the Section 5 inspection last year remains inadequate. As a result of the improvements in the quality of provision, children's progress is improving although significant weaknesses in their literacy and numeracy skills remain. An increasing amount of good teaching is now evident and there has been a marked improvement in classroom environments. As a result, pupils' learning needs are being better met. The appointment of a new leadership team and continued progress by the school's Governing Body to hold the school to account more effectively mean that the school's strategic capacity for improvement is extended.
- 3.2 In January 2012, the Governing Body appointed the Executive Headteacher of Town End and Bexhill Primary Academies as Executive Headteacher of Hasting Hill Primary School and a senior colleague from the Academy as Executive Associate Headteacher, both posts on a temporary basis. The Executive Headteacher had already been supporting Hasting Hill Primary School in her role as a National Leader of Education (NLE) since May 2011. The school's

substantive Headteacher retains responsibility for day-to-day management of the school.

- 3.3 Two members of the teaching staff left the school in February 2012 and have been replaced by two supply teachers. The school took the decision to remove the mixed-age class structure so that since January 2012 all pupils are now taught in single year groups.
- 3.4 The Governing Body has submitted their proposals to the Department for Education to seek permission for the school to become an academy. Bexhill and Town End Primary Academies Limited has been approved as sponsor. The Department's decision is expected imminently.
- 3.5 As the school's leadership capacity has improved support from the Local Authority has been proportionately reduced. The Local Authority systems for monitoring progress and bringing the necessary challenge to the school's leadership remain in place.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Section 8 inspection report for Hasting Hill Primary School.

5 Background Papers

Ofsted – Section 8 inspection report (Hasting Hill Primary School)

Contact Officer: Mike Foster
Deputy Executive Director Children's Services
Tel: 0191 561 1393
Email: mike.foster@sunderland.gov.uk