

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 January 2010

TERMLY SUMMARY REPORT FROM CONCERNS, SHARED INTELLIGENCE AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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 from the Head of Standards.

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

Fifteen schools were identified with LA designated concerns in the Autumn term 2009. Of these, 11 were primary schools, two secondary and the Pupil Referral Units for behaviour and returners.

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

2005-06	four schools
2007/08	seven schools
2008/09	two school
2009/10	two schools

Current levels: in relation to current levels of concerns six schools are at level 2 and six at level 3. There are currently two notices to improve and one school in special measures.

Reasons for escalation: The predominant causes of these school becoming a concern are standards and/leadership and management. Other factors include teaching and learning, assessment, staffing and safeguarding.

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.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

	Red	Amber	Green
Nursery	0	2	7
Special	1	1	5
Primary	12	17	53
Secondary	1	3	10

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

- 3.3 Ofsted Inspections: Four schools have inspected under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. Two of these schools received notices 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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