

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 April 2012

TERMLY SUMMARY REPORT FROM CONCERNS, SHARED INTELLIGENCE AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS

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 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, ten are primary schools and one is a secondary school.

Date Joined Concerns:

Of the ten primary schools on the concerns register currently, they were identified as causing concern in the following academic years:

2005-06 one school

2009-10 one school

2010-11 four schools

2011- 12 four 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 two schools are at Level 2 and three schools are at Level 3. There are currently three schools with a Notice to Improve and there are three schools in Special Measures.

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) - five 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

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.

Two schools in Special Measures have had two monitoring inspections which judge them to be making good progress and the third is making satisfactory progress. It is expected two schools will emerge from the category no later than the autumn term of 2012. The Governing Body of the third school in Special Measures 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 have been approved as sponsor. The Department's decision is expected imminently.

One school with a Notice to Improve has just had a monitoring inspection and was judged to be making satisfactory progress. This school expects to emerge from the category in or around July 2012. A second 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 around June 2012. A third school with a Notice to Improve will receive a monitoring inspection in April 2012 and is expected to emerge from the category within the required timescale in October 2012.

The schools at Level 3 of local authority concern are making some improvements so the level of concern in each will be reviewed in the summer term of 2011.

One school at Level 2 of local authority concern is making the required improvements but a second is failing to make improvements quickly enough so the level of concern is currently being escalated to Level 3

One school which has been at Level 1 of local authority concern for some time now has been escalated to Level 3 concern as pupil achievement is in decline. A second school at Level 1 at the time of the last report to scrutiny has also been moved to Level 3 concern for the same reason.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

| | Red | Amber | Green |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|
| Nursery | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Special | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Primary | 10 | 13 | 55 |
| Secondary | 1 | 3 | 9 |

Academies are not included here

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:

There have been twenty three Ofsted Inspections carried out and their reports published since the last report to Committee on 21st July 2011 (twelve primary schools, three secondary schools, four special schools, two nursery schools and two academies). Four of these schools were judged to be outstanding, six good, twelve satisfactory and one 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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