

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2011

**Statement from: Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for
Children's Services & Adult Education**

Early Years Inclusion

The Early Years Inclusion Fund continues to be an important way to support early intervention for children with additional needs in Early Years settings. We currently provide additional funding to support 114 children. The funding enables the purchase of additional resources and enhances staff ratios in order that children's additional needs can be met in a community setting, enabling children to play and learn alongside their peers in their local setting.

During the past twelve months the Service has worked with twelve experienced Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) from the private voluntary and independent sector to become mentors to newly qualified SENCOs across the county. This has been an exciting opportunity for our experienced SENCOs to further their own professional development by taking on a new role.

Two Year Old Pilot

Since September 2009, the Birth to Five Service has successfully introduced funded early years places for the most disadvantaged two year olds through the Two Year Old Pilot Scheme. In January, the DfE requested a visit to the Service to look at the model of delivery as it was recommended as demonstrating excellent practice and will be used as part of a national case study.

This scheme has successfully placed 586 two year olds in Good and Outstanding provision across the County. This pilot has encouraged parent/toddler time at home and actively supported parents to devise appropriate activities that support their child's development. Providers have been supported to signpost families to services such as health, training, counselling and employment to ensure all participating families know how to access the support they need to provide family stability and a positive environment for their child.

Ofsted Inspections

Since September 2010, Ofsted has inspected 60 settings. 7 settings were rated as Outstanding and a further 45 were rated as Good. This is above the national average. One setting was graded as Inadequate and support is being provided. A further setting was removed from an Inadequate category, gaining a Good grading on first inspection.

PRIMARY

Ofsted Inspections

Since the introduction of the new framework we have had 113 inspections of Primary, Junior, Infant or nursery schools.

Ofsted Judgement	Lincolnshire	National
Outstanding	4% (4 schools)	9%
Good	36% (41 schools)	44%
Satisfactory	64% (42 schools)	39%
Inadequate	4% (1 school)	7%

Two schools were removed from an Ofsted category during inspections last term. One school (Tattershall Primary School) was put into Special Measures at the end of the autumn term. A new Acting Headteacher, with the support of an Interim Headteacher, has been put in place and four additional governors, including a new Chair of Governors, have been put in place.

One school (Boston St Thomas') has been placed in Special Measures in the spring term. Two schools (Quadring Cowley & Brown's and North Somercotes) have been placed in the Notice to Improve category. The way in which both inspections were conducted caused concern and in both cases, the School Improvement Service and the schools have submitted a letter of complaint.

Leadership in the Primary Sector

Lincolnshire is proud of its record of supporting and growing leaders. Since April 2010, 31 headteachers have taken up their posts in Lincolnshire with a further 6 having been appointed to take up posts in September 2011. Of these, 7 came from out of county, 7 are Lincolnshire headteachers moving into a second headship and of the remaining 23, 16 are the product of our own Lincolnshire leadership programmes. We have seen considerable success with these programmes and we believe it is essential to continue to offer a range of training for our future school leaders which will help meet the needs of our schools.

Our own team of interim headteachers continue to do an outstanding job in schools across the county. They not only take on the leadership of some of our most challenging schools at a moment's notice, but they also are part of the team which supports our new and acting heads, offering high quality coaching and mentoring. They play a significant part in leading and delivering our leadership programmes and their contribution to developing leadership across the county has been very effective.

Federation in Lincolnshire continues to grow, inspired in some instances by the need to make best use of financial resources and in others by a vision of improved provision through close partnership work.

There are currently 23 primary schools in federations of various kinds, and 16 in formal collaborations (formerly called 'soft governance' federations). This represents around 14% of the county's primary schools. This is expected to grow in the next six months.

These federations include partnerships between primary and secondary schools and a 'cross-border' federation between a Lincolnshire and a Rutland school.

SECONDARY

GCSE Results

The final GCSE results were published on 31 March 2011.

In 2002 when CfBT were awarded the contract in Lincolnshire, in 5A*-C Lincolnshire was just above Leicester and Nottingham with 52%.

In 2010 in 5A*-C we gained 80.4%, which is better than any East Midlands LA, and also better than our three closest statistical neighbours; Norfolk, East Riding and Shropshire, who achieved 67.1%, 77.7% and 72.6% respectively.

Using the newer measure of 5A*-C including English and Maths, Lincolnshire gained 59.2% with only Rutland doing better in the East Midlands. Norfolk gained 52.3%, East Riding 58.6%, and Shropshire 57.8%.

94.7% of Lincolnshire students gained 5A*-G including English and Maths; 99.5% gained a pass in at least one subject; and the average points score per pupil was 482.5, which is the best in both the East Midlands and our statistical neighbours' group.

We are delighted to report that this is the eighth consecutive year that the two main indicators have shown an improvement.

14-19

Lincoln College has just announced its latest grading by Ofsted is Outstanding. Boston College's Principal, Sue Daley, has announced that she will be retiring in the summer. Her successor will be Amanda Mosek who is currently Vice-Principal at Grantham College.

School sixth-forms have recently received their budgets for 2011-12. This year there has been a reduction of funding per learner to the same rates as colleges. There is transitional protection for the per learner funding at a scale that will reduce to zero over the next three years. Nevertheless, around two thirds of sixth-forms have seen a significant reduction in their funding as a result of falling recruitment. This is likely to continue for the next few years as the overall number of young people aged 16-19 in the county reduces. All but one school has received transitional protection this year. Those that remain as local authority maintained schools will continue to receive our support to help them manage a difficult situation. We continue to vigorously support collaborative arrangements that are the key to survival of the sixth-form offer in many areas of the county.

Our new quality assurance arrangements for off-site and collaborative arrangements will be launched in the summer when many institutions will receive their initial accreditation. Similarly, our Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance Team will also launch its new offer in the summer aimed specifically at helping schools to move to respond to their new responsibilities for the provision of independent guidance by 2012.

The Raising of the Participation Age in 2013, remains a key focus for 14-19 activity. The local authority retains its central responsibility for ensuring sufficient high quality learning provision for all. Significant progress has been made with Further Education

colleges, Independent Private Providers and Special schools in securing sufficient local provision for learners with the most significant learning difficulties and disabilities, although there are some very significant challenges ahead.

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance

New careers coaching accreditation is available for schools. We need to ensure young people prepare for transition and we have developed a new Careers Coaching course in partnership with the National Open College Network that will upskill school staff to give better career information and advice to students.

The aims of the course are to:

- Equip tutors with the knowledge to help young people make informed choices
- Develop capacity of educational establishments to advise young people and encourage them to develop a more integrated and co-ordinated approach to learner support and progression.

The course will run from July 2011 to February 2012 Progression.

Special School and Mainstream Specialist Unit Review

The Review report has gone through the full Council process and has been adopted as the formal strategy for Special Education by the County Council. Funding has been identified in the capital programme to support small scale reconfiguration of special school sites in Lincoln City, East Lindsey and Grantham. This will be used to improve facilities and to enable the schools to accommodate a wider range of Special Educational Need than is currently the case and so reduce the need for children and young people to travel unnecessarily to access appropriate provision.

The two Designated Specialist Units in the Priory Witham and Priory City Academies will open in 2011 and 2014 respectively and will accommodate up to 100 children and young people with additional needs across the two sites but not those requiring a specialist environment/facilities. The Academies will work in partnership with city special schools to provide inclusion opportunities for children and young people, drawing on the expertise of special school staff to enhance their skills.

A substantial review of funding for special schools has been undertaken and a new formula put in place from April 2011. Transitional arrangements are in place over the next three years to ensure that schools are able to manage the changes to their funding in a planned manner and the necessary support will be provided to schools by the Local Authority to support this.

Arts

The programme of Arts offered to schools and their communities continues to be oversubscribed. Recent successes include an excellent exhibition at the Sam Scorer Gallery in Lincoln, the involvement of Lincolnshire Young Journalists in the work of the national press and the continuation of the highly successful Arts Award in the county. The relationship between the Arts Team and the Music Service will be further developed to ensure that talented children and young people have the best possible opportunities to access high quality tuition throughout the county.

Two Lincolnshire secondary schools (Robert Pattinson and The Priory LSST) have been successful in having their proposals for a film version of Madame Butterfly being used at the Royal Albert Hall in the summer, with the film being shown to schools

nationally and internationally. This is a tremendous achievement as they were competing against schools from all over the country for this prestigious opportunity. Their involvement in this project is through the Lincolnshire Young Journalist Academy that is offered to schools via the School Improvement Service.

The same programme has also resulted in a student from Sleaford Carres Grammar School being short-listed for the Human Rights Young Journalist of the Year 2011 award, sponsored by Amnesty International and the Guardian newspaper, in recognition for his film about Holocaust survivor Haneke Dye - filmed during a visit to her presentation at The Collection, Lincoln.

Music

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Music Service has been judged to be Outstanding at a recent assessment undertaken by the Federation of Music Services. The assessment recognised the progress the service has made over the past four years in developing its offer to children and young people, schools and the wider community and the exceptional high quality of performances given by our young musicians through the various orchestras, ensembles, choirs and groups and bands. The service is actively seeking to work in greater partnership with other providers to ensure that the offer to children and young people is as comprehensive as possible and is accessible throughout the county.

CfBT East Lincolnshire Graduate Teacher Scheme

The CfBT East Lincolnshire Employment Based Scheme for training teachers in schools is going from strength to strength. Building on its Ofsted status as an 'outstanding provider' it has been allocated a larger number of places in Lincolnshire schools. The scheme allows CfBT to train and accredit trainee teachers in Lincolnshire primary, secondary and special schools. Although focused largely on the east side of Lincolnshire where recruitment has traditionally been most difficult, numbers have risen from a handful to an estimated 58 this year. The proportion of those graduating with the top grade has also risen to well over half of the trainees. The scheme is now the second largest provider of new teachers in Lincolnshire. What has become even more reassuring is the fact that the vast majority of trainees stay in Lincolnshire schools and some of the earliest trainees on the scheme have now reached senior management positions in Lincolnshire schools. The number leaving the profession in the first three years is a national concern but those trained through the CfBT East Lincolnshire scheme and who have left the profession is negligible.

LEARNING CENTRES

Lincoln City On Target Centre

The learning centre at Lincoln has been especially active and successful in recent months. 84 children at OnTarget (the Lincoln City centre) have been involved in study support since September. The JUMP Study Support Programmes for Looked After Children has been very effective with 16 children working with 16 university mentors. The 'Back at OnTarget' has been a nurture group for children in danger of exclusion. Other programmes have linked with the Young Journalist and gifted and talented programmes. The original partnership with Lincoln City Football Club of 39 days at the Centre has been extended to the whole year which should allow more varied programmes to be created. It was selected by the DfE as part of a national survey on the impact of Playing for Success initiative and praised for its data collection methods

and impact. A successful Big Lottery Bid has resulted in a new kitchen area to teach food technology.

Freiston Environmental Centre

The last few months have confirmed the trend – that this is its busiest year ever. Over 1,400 Lincolnshire children have been involved with the centre with an increasing range of programmes including residential and day visits covering the age range 2 to 18, holiday programmes for those needing support to achieve targets, taster programmes and transition programmes. Successful bids have meant an increase in facilities such as a new climbing tower, food technology centre and the purchase of specialist equipment such as wheelchairs and bikes. New activities possible include photography, outdoor music and archery. The Centre has also been part of a 3-year Comenius Regio partnership with 4 Lincolnshire schools and the Elblag region of Poland.

Social Care

Open referrals in Social Care have remained relatively steady at 3,440 (average per month) since the last Council report in December 2010. 96% of initial assessments were held in timescale in March 2011. The end of year figure for initial assessments completed in timescale was 87% against our target of 83%. For core assessments, 90% were completed in timescale in March 2011. The end of year figure for core assessments was 70% against a statistical neighbour average of 67.5%. Performance dipped earlier in the year with an increasing amount of core assessments undertaken from 155 in April 2010 to 305 in August 2010. There has, however, been an increasing number completed in timescale from 72% in September 2010 to 89% / 90% in February and March 2011. These statistics illustrate that the work is being effectively managed with an increased number of assessments being completed (241 in March 2011).

The number of children Looked After has fallen from 515 in December 2010 to 492 in March 2011, equating to 32 per 10,000 of our under 18 population, compared to an English average of 58 per 10,000. This downward trend signifies that children are being supported whenever possible at home with their birth families through a range of preventative strategies.

There are 29 Looked After children living in specialist provision outside Lincolnshire, of which 9 are unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The rest of our Looked After children are living in foster placements or with birth relatives.

Children subject to a Child Protection Plan have increased from 244 in December 2010 to 271 in March 2011. This maybe a consequence of our low number of accommodated children. In some cases where children are living in impoverished circumstances, they can be monitored with confidence by partner agencies rather than them being accommodated.

The Munro Review is due to be completed in April and we will be measuring ourselves against any recommendations made.

Community Budget Pilot – Complex Families

Our Community Budget pilot, whereby we are pooling budgets to bring agencies together into delivering services to families with complex needs, is now in operation. Our Families Working Together team is working with 28 families acting as a single

organisation with one co-ordinator and one set of outcomes. A further 50 families have been identified. The success of the project will be measured by a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, improvement in family functioning and reduced risk, fewer children subject to a Child Protection Plan and less incidents of domestic violence. Additional funding from DCLG has been given to assist families in securing tenancies. We will also be working with the DWP to reduce unemployment with additional funding from the European Social Fund.

LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE

Summer term learning

The new summer term learning brochure is now available. The brochure features over 500 courses many of which are free. Courses on offer include IT, business skills, beauty therapy and much more. The brochure also features information on the Big Society, volunteering and our family learning programmes.

Adult Learners' Week 14 May – 20 May 2011

Adult Learners' Week is the UK's largest and longest running festival of learning. Celebrating its 20th Anniversary and held between 14–20 May this year, it will give thousands of adults, whatever their age and background, the opportunity to give learning a go. In Lincolnshire we are pleased to offer a wide range of activities and events throughout the county for anyone to come along and try for FREE.

Cultural Diversity Day at The Collection, Lincoln on Sunday 15 May kick-started Adult Learners' Week in Lincolnshire. Throughout this week there have been activities taking place across the county ranging from Silver Surfer sessions, learning foreign languages to creative crafts.

National Learning at Work Day, 19 May

National Learning at Work Day took place on the 19 May and was the biggest annual celebration of workplace learning. Fun, business-related learning activities to help employees learn new skills were advertised on George along with information on some of the best learning resources available on the web. This year, the initiative was open to all staff within the council.