

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2010**

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

**Visit from Children and Young People's Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health National Support Team**

Lincolnshire is to benefit from a visit from the Children and Young People's Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health (CYPPW & MH) National Support Team (NST). This team offers support to improving outcomes for the emotional wellbeing of all children and young people and children and young people with a specific mental health need. This support takes the form of a two and a half day visit by a team with specialist expertise in Children and Young People's Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health.

**Celebration Service – 7 February 2010**

A Children's Celebration Service took place at St Botolph's Church (The Boston Stump) in Boston on Sunday 7 February at 2pm. Four local schools took part in the service along with the Lincolnshire Youth Symphony Orchestra.

**Safeguarding**

Referrals into Social Care have decreased since October 2009 from 439 to 278 in December 2009. Whilst this may reflect the Christmas lull, the average number of referrals has remained relatively steady at 396, comparing exactly with our statistical neighbour (396) and the England average of 497. The percentage of repeat referrals remains low at 14.7%.

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan is now decreasing (post Haringey) from 276 in October 2009 to 250 in December 2009. An audit of child protection activity has begun to help to explain the reasons for growth in numbers and to assist in good planning to ameliorate the presenting risk and harm.

The number of Children in Public Care has decreased from 544 in July 2009 to 504 in December 2009. The tendency to become risk averse following Haringey appears to have been stemmed. A panel has been established in Lincoln City to access timely resources to support the child/ren within their birth family, together with increased uptake of Family Group Conferences and the identification of carers within the family. Our Family Support Teams are also being reconfigured to ensure that intensive, flexible and early support can be targeted to enable the child to remain at home.

We have set up a Partnership Stock Take of Safeguarding and Children in Public Care (first meeting January 2009), to assess the effectiveness of practice across all agencies. The majority of our partners are represented on this group reporting into the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and the Corporate Parenting Panel. This will prepare us for the Announced Inspections of Safeguarding within the next three years and will focus on quality in partnership practice.

The LSCB and Children's Social Care are currently working up proposals to meet the contents of the new Working Together (December 2009) and the revised care planning regulations and arrangements (November 2009), currently out for consultation.

### **Celebrating Achievements**

We celebrated the successes of Children's Services, highlighting the contribution of Social Care, at an evening event to launch a new DVD about Children's Services. 'Making a Difference' highlights the work of our social care workforce.

### **Community Service Pilot**

Lincolnshire County Council has been awarded £1.4m to pilot Community Service in Boston and Spalding. One of only 5 successful Local Authorities from 44 eligible to bid, Lincolnshire, along with partner agencies and schools, will work together on the project. Community Service involves young people making direct and positive contributions to improve their community.

The pilot will test out whether very high levels of 14-16 year olds can be engaged in Community Service. For young people, volunteering and Community Service opportunities enable them to make a personal contribution, helping them to develop an awareness of issues affecting their communities, sharing their time and talents to make a tangible difference to their local community and to recognise they can change things for the better.

## **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

### **Performance in Key Stage 2**

The final results for Key stage 2 were released in December 2009 and these show significant improvement on the provisional results:

- Level 4 English 81% - 1% above national figure
- Level 4 Mathematics 80% - 1% above the national figure

In the National Indicator 73, which is combined Maths and English Level 4+, we achieved 73%, 1% above national figure.

### **Securing Level 4**

Currently 161 schools are being intensively supported. 30 schools are receiving two intervention projects. A further 38 schools will become part of the Maths Specialist Teacher Programme as of January 2010.

We have currently allocated 2,240 primary 1:1 tuition places, the majority of which are expected to be used in year 6. We continue to be aspirational in the targets we aim to achieve as an LA and all Primary schools have set aspirational targets for 2011.

In order to support schools in achieving the targets set for 2010 we have allocated a range of additional short term interventions. These include:

- Focus group work with additional staff working in 20 schools
- Securing level 4 readers - training for additional teaching assistants to provide structured support to Year 6 pupils in reading 30 schools
- Guided work, additional support for planning preparation and teaching input prior to SATs - 30 schools
- Easter Booster schools 4 days provision during Easter break - 20 schools.

### **Maths Specialist Teachers (MaST)**

The MaST programme is a new professional Masters-degree level training course for primary school teachers, created as a result of a recommendation in the 'Independent Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools' by Sir Peter Williams (June 2008), that every primary school should have access to a Mathematics Specialist Teacher by 2019.

In response to his recommendation, the DCSF launched the Mathematics Specialist Teacher Programme in October 2009. Lincolnshire, working alongside our partner Universities and Local Authorities, is at the forefront of this programme and we have 30 Lincolnshire teachers in the first cohort of Maths Specialist Teachers in training in the country.

The guest speaker for the launch event was Dr Kate Bellingham, television and radio presenter and promoter of technology, science, engineering and maths to the general public.

### **Headteacher Vacancies in the Primary Sector**

Headteacher recruitment continues to be challenging. Last term in the primary sector, eight vacancies were advertised, and three of these were advertised twice. Four appointed a Headteacher, three on first advert and one on second attempt and two small schools each recruited a deputy on secondment to fill their vacancies on a temporary basis, having failed to recruit a permanent Headteacher. One school failed to attract a single applicant, despite advertising twice.

We are currently aware of twenty three Headship vacancies in primary schools for September, most of which will be advertised this term. In addition, there are currently twenty six primary schools with Acting Headteachers, six of whom are long term arrangements.

### **Leadership**

Lincolnshire's approach to growing and supporting future and new leaders has been recognised both regionally and nationally as being much more comprehensive and well developed than in most other parts of the country. We have a team of senior staff dedicated to this aspect of our work and there have been significant steps forward in the range and reach of their work across the county.

The Primary Leadership Team, previously the Interim Heads Team, continues to provide strong leadership in schools and additional capacity to support the wider development of leadership. New team members have proved to be very effective in their placements, whilst two of the team are currently seconded to work with School

Improvement staff to build leadership capacity at middle and senior leaders in schools

Leadership Programmes and support for middle and senior leaders continue to develop momentum. We now offer a mixture of national and Lincolnshire programmes.

Our good and outstanding Headteachers have been invited to take part in a national programme called Local Leaders of Education. With this programme, Headteachers can be accredited by the National College so that we can then use their skills and expertise to support vulnerable schools in Lincolnshire.

Support for new and Acting Heads has been enhanced with a dedicated consultant and members of the Lincolnshire Leadership Team providing mentoring and coaching. New Heads also now have access to a useful new website and a comprehensive set of resources via a memory stick.

### **Federations**

Schools continue to show an interest in federations, chiefly as a solution to the recruitment position. Nearly 14% of primary schools are now in either a hard or soft governance federation. The current position is:

- Hard Governance – 18 primary schools
- Soft Governance - 17 primary schools
- Mixed Governance – 2 secondary, 2 primary and 1 special school in one federation; 1 secondary and 2 primary schools in another

'Working Together – A Guide to Federation in Lincolnshire Schools' has been published and circulated to all schools. This publication is intended to give governors and staff information on the subject of federation.

### **Ofsted Inspections**

Since the introduction of the new framework we have had 33 inspections of Primary, Junior, Infant or nursery schools.

- 1 school was deemed outstanding
- 15 deemed good
- 17 deemed satisfactory

The number of Lincolnshire Primary schools in Ofsted categories remains at 4 and is now the lowest for some time. All 4 of the schools in categories have had successful monitoring visits this term.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

### **Results**

The validated GCSE examination results published on 14 January 2010 demonstrate, yet again, that secondary schools in Lincolnshire provide an excellent education for our young people.

The 5A\*-C including English and Maths pass rate at 56.1% rose by 3.5% and is 6.3% above the National average. Two schools achieved an outstanding 100% pass rate against this measure: Caistor Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Horncastle. The 5A\*-C results increased to 75.6%, 5.6% above the national average and this places Lincolnshire as one of the top 20 LAs in the country. 95% of all Year 11 children achieved 5A\*-G.

In addition, six schools are in the top 5% of schools nationally in terms of the progress made by pupils from key stage 2 (year 6) to key stage 4 (year 11). These are:

- The Priory Witham Academy, Lincoln
- Tennyson High School, Mablethorpe
- The Charles Read High School, Corby Glen
- The Giles School, Old Leake
- The Priory City of Lincoln Academy
- De Aston School, Market Rasen

At post 16, Lincolnshire students continue to achieve more points per candidate than in many other areas making them eminently well qualified to continue to the best universities. On this measure, Lincolnshire was the 15<sup>th</sup> best authority in the country. Expectations of our young people are exceptionally high given their phenomenal achievements at GCSE. Many have to achieve the highest possible grades to show value-added. The Giles School in Old Leake has shown what can be done and its students are in the top 25% for Value Added from Key Stage 4.

### **Progress Report on Transfer of the Learning & Skills Council to the Local Authority**

Detailed plans have now been drawn-up for the new Partnership arrangements that will be implemented to ensure that the responsibilities that are being transferred from the Learning and Skills Council on 1 April 2010 are fully integrated within our 14-19 planning structures.

The new arrangements will include:

- the establishment of a Sub-regional Planning Group with Rutland County Council
- the creation of a 14-19 Partnership Executive Group including myself to oversee the work of the 14-19 Strategic Partnership and approve the annual priorities against which over £80m of 16-19 provision will be commissioned annually
- the amalgamation of local 14-19 Partnerships into larger partnerships that are aligned with the three new Integrated Children's Services localities to facilitate integrated planning

The Executive have approved the memoranda of understanding and governance principles. Local partnerships and providers are currently being consulted about the aspects of the proposed changes that affect the way they collaborate.

### **The East Lincolnshire Graduate Training Partnership**

This is a partnership involving the Lincolnshire School Improvement Service and various primary and secondary schools in the county received its second detailed Ofsted inspection at the end of last year. The first inspection in 2005 assessed the training programme and the quality of the trainee teachers as 'very good'. This time, it was assessed as 'outstanding' with a series of top grades across all criteria.

Particular mention was given to the training programme, the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation and the care shown towards trainees. With approximately 30 teachers trained and accredited each year, it now represents the second largest provider of teachers to the Local Authority.

### **Ofsted Inspections**

We have had 5 Secondary Ofsted Inspections with the following results

- 1 school was deemed outstanding
- 2 deemed good
- 1 deemed satisfactory
- 1 school given Notice to Improve

### **LIFE LONG LEARNING SERVICE**

The new spring 2010 lifelong learning brochure is out now. The brochure features 17 providers offering adult learning courses across the county. Within the brochure there are 419 contracted provider courses in total at 67 different venues. Types of learning include vocational courses from bricklaying, to motor maintenance, to decorating and leisure learning that includes ICT, social networking, beauty therapy and drama courses.

The brochure includes courses targeted at priority communities including Computing and IT for the visually impaired, Life in the UK and Freeing the Net – a course especially designed for individuals with disabilities carried out in their own homes. Courses are also available in economically deprived areas such as St Giles, Birchwood and Mablethorpe.

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for learning providers and organisations to submit applications to receive funding for the 2010/2011 academic year.

Alongside contracted provision, the Family Learning team offer courses to enable parents and carers to participate in and inform their child's development. Opportunities are also offered for parents and carers to develop their own key skills such as literacy and numeracy.