

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MAY 2010**

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

**Pupil Voice – Participation of Young People**

A total of 35,000 Lincolnshire pupils have now completed Every Child Matters (ECM) Perceptions Surveys. This is an interactive tool which gives opportunities for young people to share their views.

65% of all our schools are now using ECM Essentials. This means that the Authority has a high level of information about the views of children and young people to inform service planning and delivery

Even more encouraging is the news that some schools are now engaging with the Staff Confidence survey and Parental Perception is beginning to be used in some schools. These are elements of ECM Essentials where we seek the views of professionals in schools and parents

**Youth Election**

In the last eighteen months we have increased Participation in Youth Elections from 4,700 to 9,000 and in February this year over 15,000 actually voted in the Youth Elections.

**Safeguarding**

Referrals into Social Care increased in March 2010 to 465 from 352 in February 2010, having remained relatively stable since December 2009. The percentage of repeat referrals remains low at 15.9%.

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has increased to 248 in March 2010 owing to large sibling groups and a number of new cases where significant harm has been evidenced. The number of children in public care has also risen from 510 in February 2010 to 518 in March 2010. This is, however, a decrease from 538 in April 2009.

The Director, the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and myself, continue to visit frontline Social Care Teams to carry out our Safeguarding Assurance Days. The days have resulted in us understanding social work practices much better, and it also allows staff to talk to us about any issues they may have. Following these days, we have listened to staff concerns regarding the ICS system and we have made some changes to processes, and we are working with Mouchel and the ICS provider, Northgate, to investigate further upgrades on this system. Staff feedback is very positive about our visits, and we are planning a further day in June.

We have been notified of an Ofsted Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection, and the fieldwork starts on 10 May completing on 21 May 2010.

## **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

### **Ofsted Inspections**

Since the introduction of the new framework we have had 54 inspections of Primary, Junior, Infant or nursery schools.

- 3 schools have been deemed outstanding
- 24 deemed good
- 27 deemed satisfactory

Two schools were removed from an Ofsted category during inspections last term. The number of Lincolnshire Primary schools in Ofsted categories is now 2 and is the lowest for many years. We expect Saxilby to be removed from Ntl during the summer term.

### **Securing Level 4**

In order to support schools in achieving the targets set for 2010 we have allocated a range of additional short term interventions. These included the running of 24 Easter Booster schools across the county. 400 Year 6 children received additional support and the feedback from teachers, schools and pupils was overwhelmingly positive. The DCSF monitored the provision in 2 Easter schools and was impressed with the quality of the tuition.

### **Key Stage 2 SATs**

It seems likely that a number of our schools will decide to take industrial action and not take part in the Key Stage 2 SATs. We are currently considering our response to this decision.

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

Since January 2010, twenty two Headteacher posts in primary schools have been advertised. Of these fourteen have been filled, three are going to re-advertise, and five have yet to interview. There were seven new Headteachers in post in April 2010 and they are all currently receiving support from the Primary Leadership team.

There are currently twenty eight Acting Heads, six of whom are long term arrangements.

### **Leadership**

Twenty six Headteachers have been accepted on the national programme called Local Leaders of Education and are currently undergoing a four-day training course in readiness for working with partner schools in September. Three of these Headteachers are from the Secondary sector and the remainder are from the Primary sector.

### **Federations**

Schools continue to show an interest in federations, chiefly as a solution to the recruitment position. Nearly 16% of Primary schools are now in either a hard or soft governance federation. The most recent hard governance federations are New York Primary and Frithville Primary, which have been in hard governance federation since January 2010 and Stamford St Augustine's RC Primary, who have agreed to consult on hard governance with Rutland English Martyrs RC Primary.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The Academies programme goes from strength to strength. We have received confirmation that the Expression of Interest for the Ruskin Academy has been agreed. This Academy will replace the Grantham Church VA High School and Central Technology and Sports College and will be sponsored by the Priory Federation of Academies Trust. Significant work is taking place to ensure that the new Academy will open on 1 September 2010, initially on two sites. The Principal Designate and Deputy Principal Designate have now been appointed and a transition plan is in place.

We are also delighted that the proposal to develop an Academy based at the George Farmer site in Holbeach has been agreed. The lead sponsor for this Academy will be Lincoln University working with a number of co-sponsors who are leading local business leaders. The University and Governing Body are working together to develop the Expression of Interest and are hopeful that the Academy can be opened in January 2011.

We are coming to the end of the first year of the one to one tuition programme in Secondary and Primary. So far there has been an 89% take up of places across both phases. There is increased funding from DCSF for 2010/11 and the School Improvement Service is currently working with schools to support them in the delivery of this programme. The recent visit by the DCSF to look at one to one tuition and assessment for learning was very favourable. The DCSF highlighted many aspects of the programmes that were exemplary and will be sharing this with other local authorities.

### **Ofsted Inspections**

There have been a number of OFSTED inspections under the new framework since September 2009.

- 3 deemed outstanding
- 3 deemed good
- 3 deemed satisfactory
- 2 given Notice to Improve

These are the first Secondary schools for over three years to be placed into a category and already a strategic solution has been found to address the issues.

The DCSF recently came to visit the LA to look at the work we are doing in relation to Narrowing the Gap. They discussed this with the School Improvement Service as well as visiting four schools; two Secondary and two Primary.

### **National Challenge**

The number of National Challenge schools has continued to fall following the successful interventions put in place by the School Improvement Service in partnership with the schools. At the start of the programme in 2008/9 there were sixteen schools that were below the floor targets. For the final year of the programme there will be only two schools that will be subject to the National Challenge, although others will still be monitored via the LA's SIP programme. Structural solutions, such as National Challenge Trusts, Academies and BSF have been an effective lever for change.

## **14-19**

Nine staff from the former Learning and Skills Council (LSC) transferred to the Local Authority on 1 April 2010. These staff form the 16-19 Planning and Allocations section of an integrated 14-19 Team managed by the CfBT School Improvement Service. They are joined by four 14-19 Co-ordinators, a support officer employed by CfBT and the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance development team who are employed by Lincolnshire Council but managed by CfBT.

The Raising of the Participation age is one of the key changes of 14-19 Reforms. From 2012, the Local Authority will have the responsibility for ensuring that all young people aged 16-19 participate in learning (at college, school, in an apprenticeship or in work-based learning) until they are at least 17 years old. These young people are currently at the end of Year 7: their first year at secondary school. The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that the current Year 7 can stay on in learning until at least 18 in 2015. Young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD) have the same entitlement until the age of 25. The budget which has been transferred to the LA of £90M will have to ensure sufficient places to meet this new demand.

A Report will be brought to Children's Services Scrutiny Panel in June and subsequently to Executive seeking approval for a consultative process by which *Annual Priorities* for 16-19 Allocations can secure Council approval. The Report is likely to suggest that the justified *Priorities* will be taken to Scrutiny in September and then, subject to modifications arising from the discussion, to Executive in October. The finally approved *Priorities* will inform the allocations process. In particular, 16-19 providers (schools, colleges and Independent Private Providers (IPP)) must show that any requests for growth will respond to the agreed *Priorities*. The *Prioritisation* process in 2010 is likely to recommend that 'Improving Participation in Learning at 17' becomes a Council *Priority*.

## **LIFE LONG LEARNING SERVICE**

### **Summer Lifelong Learning**

The new summer 2010 lifelong learning brochure is out now. The brochure features nineteen providers offering adult learning courses across the county.

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.

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.

### **Adult Learners' Week**

Adult Learners' Week is the largest celebration of adult learning in the UK and took place from 15 – 21 May.

From learning Pilates to ICT, Adult Learners' Week celebrates learning and learners in all their diversity, inspiring thousands of people each year to try something new. In 2009, in the eighteenth Adult Learners' Week celebration, over seven hundred learners took part in seventy events across Lincolnshire.