

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

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

**Higher Education events**

More than 4,600 people recently benefited from events put on by Children's Services in partnership with the University of Lincoln. Around 600 parents attended three events at the University of Lincoln, Boston Conference Centre and Grantham College, which provided information about application and admission processes, fees and finance and other issues to consider before their children go to university. The following week around 4,000 Year 12 students came to the annual Higher Education Convention, also at the University of Lincoln.

More than 90 universities attended, with national higher education organisations including UCAS and Student Finance England.

**New Children's Centre for Abbey Ward**

This month saw the opening of Abbey Children's Centre at its newly refurbished premises at Lincoln Baptist Church in Croft Street. Lincolnshire County Council contributed £60,000 and helped secure £30,000 from the Impact Migration Fund for the makeover. It is hoped that the centre will become a focal point for the community. Families in Abbey Ward will be able to access a range of services including messy play, sing along and PEEP, as well as health clinics and training courses for families.

Two children centres, Market Rasen and Gainsborough, have also achieved outstanding since the last Council report.

**Outstanding result for Strut House**

Strut House recently underwent an Ofsted inspection, and was awarded Outstanding in all judgement areas including: overall effectiveness, safeguarding children and young people, outcomes for children and young people, quality of care, leadership and management, and Equality and Diversity. Strut House provides residential short breaks for children and young people who have a disability. This outcome reflects the team's ambition and commitment to providing children and young people with a caring environment that enables and promotes consultation, participation, involvement and celebration of individual differences and achievements.

**Overall Star Team Award**

Congratulations to Lynn Wade and Terry Cheeseman who won the overall Stars Award in the team category this year for their hard work and dedication to the Independent Travel Training project.

**Social Care**

Open referrals in Social Care have seen a slight increase since the last full council report in May 2011 to 3,628 July 2011. 94% of initial and 91% of core assessments remain in timescale from a low of 55% for cores this time last year. This excellent

performance has been sustained despite a rise of 100 in the completion of both core and initial assessments since December 2010.

The number of children looked after has fallen to 472 as of 8 August 2011. This continues to be due to our preventative and support services enabling children to live with their birth families safely and the exiting of children from public care.

As a continued consequence of our low number of accommodated children, children subject to a CP plan have increased to 302. This is so that children supported at home can be effectively monitored and safeguarded by professionals across all disciplines and agencies.

The government response to Munro has been published and we now have a clear action plan for its implementation. The government will be issuing further guidance to local authorities through a revision of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. Our action plan will be monitored through the LSCB Board and our departmental management team.

Ofsted have published their consultative paper on arrangements for unannounced safeguarding and looked after children inspections. We are using this framework to self evaluate our preventative and specialist family support provision in the autumn.

We are also participating in an Ofsted survey of social work support including inspectors measuring the impact of support to social workers and on the effectiveness of the work delivered.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that Ofsted awarded our fostering provision as outstanding across every outcome area, as part of their three day inspection:

Overall rating- outstanding  
Helping children be Healthy – outstanding  
Protecting children from harm or neglect- outstanding  
Enjoy and Achieve- outstanding  
Positive contribution – outstanding  
Organisation- outstanding

The report is subject to quality assurance and moderation by Ofsted.

A massive thank you to Janice Spencer, Tara Jones, John Harris and their team for all the hard work in delivering this fantastic result for Children's Services. Their dedication, commitment, enthusiasm, creativity, dynamism and hard work were all commented on by the Inspectorate. A high level of satisfaction from carers and looked after children was reported, together with robust care planning and support. The join up with Health was positively received, especially around children's emotional well being, including prompt access to Health services. Consultation with carers and looked after children was reported as being excellent, with a strong Corporate Parenting Panel and Councillor commitment. We believe we are the only Local Authority who has received outstanding against every outcome area in such an inspection.

This is an excellent outcome and our staff should feel justifiably proud of this great achievement.

### **Community Budget – Complex Families**

Our community budget pilot is now firmly established and working with 33 families. More staff are being recruited to work with more families. Financial costings have been prepared to evidence the savings to be achieved by working as a single organisation with one coordinator and one set of outcomes. Partner organisations and Whitehall are pleased with our progress which has been faster than many other authorities.

### **Schools converting to Academy status**

Lincolnshire has already seen a number of schools convert to Academy status over the past year and the number of schools looking to 'Academise' in the coming months is growing fast. The table below provides a summary of the current position:

#### Current Academies/Location

Trent Valley Academy, Gainsborough  
Priory Federation of Academies:  
Priory Witham Academy Lincoln  
Priory City of Lincoln Academy Lincoln  
Priory Academy LSST Lincoln  
Priory Ruskin Academy Grantham  
St. Georges Academy Sleaford  
Skegness Academy Skegness  
The University Academy, Holbeach  
The Giles Academy Old Leake  
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Alford  
Bourne Abbey CE Primary Academy Bourne  
Branston Community Academy Branston  
Caistor Grammar School Caistor  
William Farr C.E. Comprehensive School Welton  
De Aston School Market Rasen  
West Grantham Academy Grantham:  
West Grantham Academy Charles Read  
West Grantham Academy Spitalgate  
West Grantham Academy St Hugh's  
West Grantham Academy The Earl of Dysart  
Walton Girls High School and 6th Form Grantham  
Lincoln Castle Academy Lincoln  
Tower Road Boston  
Fosse Way Academy North Hykeham  
North Kesteven School North Hykeham  
Ermine Primary Academy Lincoln  
Carre's Grammar School Sleaford  
Millfield Community Academy Heighington  
Sir Robert Pattinson Academy North Hykeham  
The King's School Academy Grantham  
John Spendluffe Foundation Technology College Alford  
Caistor Yarborough School Caistor

Schools which have submitted applications to become an Academy:

Lincoln Christ's Hospital School Lincoln  
The Queen Elizabeth's High School Gainsborough  
The Robert Manning College Bourne  
The Deepings, Deeping St James  
The Phoenix School Grantham  
Westgate Junior School Lincoln  
The William Alvey Church of England School Sleaford  
Bourne Grammar School  
Bourne Westfield Primary School  
Kesteven and Sleaford High School, Sleaford  
Lincoln Mount Street Infant and Nursery

**Primary**

Ofsted Inspections

Since the introduction of the new framework in September 2009 we have had 136 inspections of Primary, Junior, Infant or Nursery schools. 5 schools (4% of those inspected) were judged to be outstanding, 53 schools (39%) were good, 74 (54%) satisfactory and 4 schools (3%) inadequate.

23 Good and Outstanding schools that were due for inspection in 2009-10 were informed by Ofsted that their inspection has been deferred until September 2011 at the earliest and a further 24 schools due to be inspected in 2010-11 have had their inspection deferred until May 2012.

Currently, we have the following numbers of Primary, Junior, Infant or Nursery schools in each category:

Ofsted Judgement	Lincolnshire	National
Outstanding	9.5% (27 schools)	9%
Good	49% (139 schools)	44%
Satisfactory	40% (114 schools)	39%
Inadequate	1.5% (4 schools)	7%

One school (Tattershall Primary School) was put into Special Measures in December 2010. A new Acting Head, with the support of an Interim Head, has been put in place and four additional governors, including a new Chair of Governors, have been put in place. A monitoring visit in May 2011 found satisfactory progress.

One school (Boston St Thomas') was placed in Special Measures in the Spring term. Two schools (Quadring Cowley & Brown's and North Somercotes) were placed in the Notice to Improve category in the same term. The way in which both inspections were conducted caused concern and in both cases, the School Improvement Service and the schools submitted letters of complaint to Ofsted which were not upheld. There were no schools placed in categories in the Summer term.

**Key Stage 2 Results 2011**

The initial Key Stage 2 results for 11 year olds in Lincolnshire show that Lincolnshire pupils are holding their own against pupils in the rest of the country.

Last year's improvement in mathematics has been maintained, with 80% of pupils achieving the expected Level 4. At the same time, there has been an improvement in English, with 81% of children now achieving Level 4.

Level 5 performance in mathematics has been maintained and Level 5 performance in English has fallen by 3% in line with the National decline.

By sustaining and building on the 2010 results, Lincolnshire remains broadly in line with the National outcomes, although once again a number of schools have reported inaccuracies in grades and have had to return papers for re-marking. Final results will not be available until later in the year.

### **Leadership in the Primary Sector**

Since September 2010, 26 headteachers have taken up their posts in Lincolnshire with a further 12 having been appointed to take up posts in September 2011. Of these, 5 came from out of county, 7 are Lincolnshire headteachers moving into a second or subsequent headship and the remaining 26 are all new to headship though many have been acting heads.

In addition we have had an increasing number of acting headteachers. This number varies throughout the year but in this last term we had 15 acting headteachers. We continue to appoint acting headteachers on a year's secondment from their substantive schools and this has proved to be an effective strategy. This growing number of seconded acting headteachers receive coaching and mentoring support from experienced headteachers to ensure they meet the challenges of taking up these positions. Over the last 2 years this apprenticeship model of headship has seen 8 move into permanent headships with a further 3 this year.

The number of executive headteachers has increased with the head of Wyberton now executive head of Boston St Thomas', the existing executive head of Gedney Drove End and Holbeach St Marks' now also over Sutton Bridge Westmere and the head of Lincoln Mount Street taking on executive headship of Saxilby from September.

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 27 primary schools in federations of various kinds, and 12 in formal collaborations (formerly called 'soft governance' federations). This represents around 14% of the county's primary schools.

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

### **Secondary**

#### GCSE Results

Provisional figures released 25 August 2011 by Lincolnshire schools show that the overall result for the national key GCSE indicator of 5+A\*-C (including English and Maths) has increased again this year by 4% to 63%. Yet again Lincolnshire schools'

overall performance is likely to be well above the national average for maintained schools.

Three schools, Caistor Grammar School, The King's School, Grantham and Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, achieved 100% at 5+A\*-C (including English and Maths). At Caistor Grammar School a record 77% of students achieved the highest grades A\*/A in at least five subjects.

Many schools made significant improvements over last year's results in their 5+A\*-C (including English and Maths) measure with seven schools making improvements of 10% or more. Results at the Haven High Technology College in Boston jumped by 28% to 53%.

Lincolnshire figures for the percentage of students qualifying for the newly introduced English Baccalaureate show a slight increase to 18.7% which is likely to remain above the national average.

Only two Lincolnshire schools have fallen below the new government national floor standard of 35%: Boston St. Bede's and Mablethorpe Tennyson.

This is the seventh year of continuous improvement in Lincolnshire's GCSE results and what an improvement it has been! Our young people and the teachers, parents and carers have done fantastically well. My heartiest congratulations go out to everyone involved but especially the students themselves.

## **14 – 19**

### **A level results**

With initial results submitted by all but two of the thirty-six schools with sixth-forms, provisional indications are that Lincolnshire has scored overall A-E grade pass rate of 98.4% for A-level qualifications, which is above the national average.

The national average for the achievement of A\* grades is 8.2%. Eight of our schools have matched or exceeded this, and these schools have achieved an average of 11.6%. At Caistor Grammar School 16% of entries achieve A\* grade, twice the national average.

More than a quarter of Lincolnshire Schools have exceeded the national figure of 27% of entries achieving the highest grades of A and A\*. Performance for A-level equivalent examinations is also improving.

### **Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities**

Improvements in the availability of provision for young people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) has resulted in more young people being able to access post 16 education within their own community.

New College Stamford's provision for LLDD was judged to be outstanding at their recent Ofsted inspection

Savings of £1.25m have been made on the Independent Specialist Provider budget, meaning we will be within the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) indicative budget allocation for 2011/12

## **School Sixth Forms**

A reduction in the size of the cohort, reduction in funding (as school sixth form funding is brought in line with that for further education colleges, and the application of the lagged learner number formula to determine funding allocations mean the majority of our school sixth forms face financial challenges over the next few years, particularly small sixth forms. Our forecasts based on information currently available indicate a worst case scenario of a reduction in overall funding of £2.5million across the 26 schools for which we have information.

## **LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE**

### **Autumn Term Learning**

The new autumn term learning brochure is now available. The brochure features over 400 courses many of which are free. Courses on offer include I.T, business skills, beauty therapy and much more. The brochure also features information on volunteering and our family learning programmes.

### **Learner Focus Groups**

Learner focus groups have been established during this academic year with excellent feedback being receiving from both providers and learners. This has included over 500 ideas for future courses, particularly in relation to The Big Society agenda. Following an interim report on the effectiveness of the Groups the next stage of development is to explore how feedback will be embedded into the service delivery plan as well as our learners becoming actively involved with the planning process as representatives of the 'Learner Voice'

### **New Providers for 2011-2012**

SkillLinc Ltd is one of three new contracted providers for 2011-12. The organisation has a successful record of delivering training in and around Lincoln and will be providing a range of introductory PCDL courses in community settings such as Hartsholme and Sincil Bank which are designated areas of deprivation, as well as from their premises on Lincoln High Street The courses will cover ICT, Health aspects such as safeguarding, dementia, autism and mental health as well as basic skills such as improving your maths and introduction to budgeting.. SkillsLinc will be holding an Open Day on 1 September 2011 at their High Street premises to promote the Autumn courses.

RHG Consult Ltd are a rapidly expanding management and training consultancy organisation. They have a reputation for delivering cost effective consultancy and training to the public, private and voluntary sector, this includes courses in management, armed forces resettlement, staff training and career transition. PCDL provision will focus on starting your own enterprise and will be offered in Horncastle, Boston, Stamford, Lincoln and Grantham.

Lincolnshire Sports Partnership (LSP) are a sports charity based in Lincoln whose main aim is to increase participation in sport and physical activity across the county. LSP will run multi-sports courses focusing on sports coaching in Gainsborough and Ingoldmells.