

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2012

**Statement from: Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for
Children’s Services & Life Long Learning**

CfBT wins National Award for School Improvement

CfBT were presented with the national award of ‘School Improvement Service of the Year 2012’ at the Education Investor Awards at the Park Lane Hilton Hotel in London on 15 November. This is a tremendous performance and reflects the excellent working relationship between the County Council and CfBT. The judges commented on the year on year improvement made by Lincolnshire schools, combined with the wide range of high quality additional services CfBT provides, such as graduate teacher training, music and the arts, as well as specific programmes for vulnerable children and the outstanding Birth to Five Service. This award reflects well on our decision to outsource and to entrust the management of our Education Services to CfBT.

The 2012 LAFTAs Film Awards Ceremony

“Really important and exciting!” – that is how Hollywood movie star and Oscar winner Jim Broadbent described the work being undertaken by Lincolnshire young film makers in schools across the county. The annual LAFTAS (Local Awards for Film, Teamwork and Animation), which was held at the Engine Shed Lincoln on 22nd October, featured films written, directed and starring pupils whose ages ranged from Nursery to Sixth Form. Schools throughout Lincolnshire had submitted over one hundred and forty films to the LAFTAS judging panel, which included members of Film Education, Film Club, National Media Archive, DfE, Institute of Education and Espresso – a line up which illustrates the national recognition which this local creative and educational initiative is attracting.

Interviewed by Leanne Brown of BBC’s Look North, Jim expressed his admiration for the films produced in Lincolnshire schools commenting that he was “Hugely impressed” by the standard of films he had seen. He added that, “They are always good – imaginative, strong and funny – right through from primary to secondary”. His appreciation of the efforts of all of the budding cinematographers is underlined by the fact that he awarded the Primary Patron’s Prize to a nursery age pupil due to the uncomplicated and natural qualities of his film.

We are very grateful to all of the sponsors who supported this prestigious event.

Lincolnshire Music Service (Music for Youth – Blue in Green – Royal Albert Hall)

Lincolnshire Music Service has been awarded for four consecutive years a National Music Council Jazz Award for their commitment to high quality Jazz, Rock and Pop programmes. This is in addition to around 14,500 children and young people accessing the service on an annual basis to learn to play a musical instrument, sing, play in an ensemble/choir and also progress to the next level of achievement. On Monday 12th November 2012, two Lincolnshire based jazz ensembles performed to a

capacity crowd at the Royal Albert Hall demonstrating the level of excellence and opportunities available in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Music Service is the lead organisation of the Lincolnshire Music and Arts Education Hub launched in August 2012. The hub represents around 14 organisations united in providing the best possible music opportunities for children and young people in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Music Service (String Celebration – Grantham Meres leisure Centre)

Over 300 young string players united as a massed ensemble on Saturday 10th November at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre. Players ranging in ability from pre-grade 1 to post-grade 8 performed together alongside the Lincolnshire Youth Cello Ensemble and Lincolnshire Youth String Chamber Orchestra.

The Young Journalist Academy

Unique and continuing the strong tradition of high quality journalism and the phenomenal levels of engagement, schools participating in the Young Journalist Academy programme at both Primary and Secondary levels continue to break records both for quality of content and sheer volume of output. With a growing number of schools participating in the programme each year and an alumni of over 1500 young people already trained and actively submitting work on a daily basis there is a torrent of material that is actively being consumed by young people and adults alike across the globe. The sister sites of www.youngjournalistacademy.co.uk for Secondary pupils and www.juniornews.co.uk for Primary pupils, host more content than any local media outlet and importantly it has all been written, produced, filmed, photographed, recorded and broadcast by pupils between the ages of 6 and 19 from schools in Lincolnshire. The programme connects staff, schools and pupils with professional journalists and industry leaders to learn about the art and skills of the professional journalist. Having become established over 5 years the YJA brand is now synonymous with quality ensuring that our young people get to the front of the queue when it comes to getting the scoop - with exclusive access to the county's cultural venues and visits to some of the nation's most interesting sites - this programme continues to offer an unparalleled level of opportunity to Lincolnshire schools.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Service shortlisted for Children and Young People Now Award

Children's Services is delighted to have been selected as a finalist in the Early Intervention category of the Children and Young People Now Awards 2012, for the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Service. This new service has been developed in partnership with NHS Lincolnshire and delivered through Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, and is providing a much improved service to young people in the county.

Great day out with Short Breaks

The Short Breaks team held a successful Activity Awareness Day at Tattershall Lakes on 16 September, with more than 200 attendees including parents, carers, and grandparents with their children and young people with a disability. Many families took advantage of the buddying service available to allow them to have a break from their caring role for the day, while their children were able to enjoy a range of activities including a climbing wall, kayaking, judo, music workshops, laser tag, blind cricket, archery and craft sessions.

Partnership Working with Lincoln Showroom

A new partnership arrangement has been developed between The Showroom and Children's Services which will enable locality teams to support the young people they are working with to access a range of services and activities from The Showroom in Lincoln. Young people supported through Children's Services will receive a personalised Showroom welcome pack, to be known as a 'SHOWT' pack. This welcome pack includes a personalised Showroom reduction card which will enable the young person to access The Showroom whenever they choose.

Anti-Bullying

Education for All is Stonewall's campaign to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying in schools. Lincolnshire's practice was recognised as good practice by Stonewall and showcased at the national Education for All Conference in London in July.

As a member of Stonewall Education Champions Programme, we are provided with a wide range of resources such as DVDs, posters and lesson plans.

In the Spring term 2013, we are expecting to host Sir Ian McKellen. This will be an opportunity to celebrate work taking place for LGBT History Month in February.

In November to coincide with **National Anti-Bullying Week**, the Lincolnshire **online survey** will be available again to enable schools to consult with their pupils anonymously about bullying of different types and where it happens and receive feedback about how their school compares to other schools in the county. Schools who participated last year found the feedback very useful and we hope they will repeat the exercise and that many more schools will recognise the benefits of participating and take part too.

Strut House

Strut House, a respite centre for children with disabilities, was inspected by Ofsted on 17 October and received a grading of "Outstanding in all areas" with no recommendations or requirements. The Ofsted Inspection commented that 'the quality of care in the home is outstanding, and staff work extremely hard to offer excellent and genuine care'

For the centre to be judged so highly under the new judgment framework is credit to the hard work and dedication of the teams at Haven Cottage and Strut House.

Adoption Service – Publication of the Adoption Scorecard

Lincolnshire is in a strong position to meet the challenging proposals set out in the action plan. As you know Lincolnshire's adoption service was rated as outstanding by Ofsted in February 2012. The service was particularly applauded for efforts in placing children quickly and efficiently with adoptive parents. In 2011 Adoption was achieved for 40 children and 90.2% of these children were placed within 12 months of the best interest decision.

The results of the November scorecard for Lincolnshire are extremely positive. The service has met and exceeded the thresholds for the three main performance indicators and is performing above the national average in each indicator. Lincolnshire's percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family is at 72% compared with the England three year average of 56%. Care proceedings in Lincolnshire are on average 8 weeks shorter than the England 3 year average. Lincolnshire continues to be successful in placing children over 5 years for adoption, 2% more than the all England average.

There remains a challenge going forward as the thresholds for the average time indicators for 2013/16 become even tougher. This will mean further emphasis on recruitment, speeding up the process for the approval of prospective adopters and the use of voluntary adoption agencies and the National Adoption Register for placements for older children and sibling groups.

Primary

KS2 SATs

KS2 SATs show a real improvement from last year with 6% more pupils achieving level 4 in both maths and English and a 7% increase in the number achieving a level 5. For those children in receipt of FSM, the data was even better with the gap between these children and all other pupils narrowing to 20%. This is the lowest figure for at least six years and is now below the national average. For pupils with SEN, the gap has decreased by 6%. The number of schools below the floor target has dropped from 41 to 14.

KS1 SATS

There is now a 4 year upward trend in Reading, Writing and Maths for those children achieving a level 2 or above and a 3 year upward trend for level 3 and above.

Phonics Screening

Lincolnshire pupils achieved very well in the new phonics screening assessment which has been introduced by the government. 69% achieved the threshold compared to 59% nationally. We were the third most successful LA in the country. Schools have

worked very hard at developing phonics skills with pupils and have received support and training from the LA.

Continuing with our support for schools in phonics, our third intervention was launched this autumn to support any children who did not secure the threshold of the screening check last June. This programme will support these children in securing the skills of segmenting and blending longer words, those containing vowel digraphs and adjacent consonants. It aims to develop children's confidence and accuracy in decoding Phase 4 and 5 words.

Birth to Five

EYFS Profile Outcomes

Early Years results show an improvement of 5.5%, which is outstanding and builds on the top quartile performance of last year. In this area the gap in achievement narrowed in 2011 and has done so again this year. The percentage of children achieving 78 points or more across all 13 scales and 6+ in PSED and CLL in Lincolnshire rose to 70% in 2012. This represents the percentage of children achieving a 'good level of development'. The results have significantly surpassed the target set of 59%. In comparison to National Outcomes in 2012 Lincolnshire exceeded the national scores by 6%. Lincolnshire is placed well within the top 10% of all LAs nationally. Increases in scores are contributed to improved assessment processes in schools, extensive LA moderation of outcomes at school level and enhanced quality of early years provision across Lincolnshire.

The achievement gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children and the average reduced by 1.6% across Lincolnshire in 2012. The gap is smaller than England as a whole by 3.0%. This places the LA within the top 10% of LAs, with the gap narrowing at a greater rate than the national. The gap continues to narrow for those children accessing FSM.

Two Year Old Entitlement

Since September 2009, Lincolnshire has been delivering a DfE pilot project to offer early years places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds. Children are offered a place based on specific government defined criteria relating directly to an individual family's economic circumstances. In Lincolnshire this has been linked directly to the CAF process. Children have accessed a maximum of 10 hours per week of high quality early years provision over 38 weeks a year.

An evaluation of the pilot of free early education for disadvantaged two year olds found that, for children who attended high-quality childcare settings, there was a positive impact on language ability and on parent-child relationships. Over 800 children have benefitted from the pilot so far in Lincolnshire and there is currently a waiting list for places.

As part of a coherent framework of services for families announced in 2011, the Government will increase the offer to 1700 two year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds across Lincolnshire from September 2013. The LA is well placed to meet this need due to the high percentage of high quality setting in the county.

Lifelong Learning

Helping young people understand about the workplace and employment is an important part of my role.

In October I was pleased to open a “Have a go” day which gave school children the chance experience jobs within the construction industry. I am also pleased to report that the Lincolnshire and Rutland Employment and Skills Board, which the county council support and I attend as a member, is trying to tackle this subject through pilot schemes including one which will bring employers and school children in Market Rasen together to help the young people to understand the career options available to them.

Our adult learning programme continues to thrive.

We recently held our annual Learner of the Year celebration. These celebrations always demonstrate the breadth of lifelong learning that we deliver and its importance to the learners that follow the courses. We need to make sure that we the learning we provide is the best that it can be. We do this by benchmarking our performance with other county councils across the country, and we have recently won a £20,000 grant from government to help us do more of this work.