

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2013

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

Two Year Old Free Entitlement

During 2012/13, a total of 995 children have benefitted from accessing the 2 year old entitlement. The total number of children currently accessing the entitlement in the Spring Term 2013 is 597.

From September 2013, the entitlement will be delivered to the national 20% target and in September 2014, this will be extended to support 40% of 2 year olds nationally. During the first phase of the entitlement, places will be targeted towards children who will benefit the most, with a primary focus on economic disadvantage and two year old looked after children. This has been shown as 1,268 two year olds in Lincolnshire.

There are currently 150 providers across the county delivering the offer for 2 year olds; these providers all meet the high quality criteria of Good or Outstanding at Ofsted with a graduate leading practice within the setting. The Birth to Five Service is continuing to build this offer to ensure high quality provision is available for all eligible children in Lincolnshire. Assessment by the DfE has commended the Local Authority's progress with the initiative.

Early Years Services in Children's Centres

Lincolnshire County Council has contracted CfBT Education Services to deliver Early Years Services in Children's Centres. Currently these activities, which run in 48 Children's Centres across the county, are delivered by 8 different organisations. From April 2013, all Early Years activities will be delivered by CfBT Education Services, bringing cohesion, consistency and equity for families who access Lincolnshire's Children's Centres.

Early Years activities will be developed following a comprehensive Community Needs Analysis which will take into account data, monitoring and evaluation information from Children's Centre Leaders and consultation with families. The activities will be outcome-driven and developed in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance. They will include evidence-based programmes such as Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP) and the Growing Talk Programme (developed by the Lincolnshire-based company Tots on Tour.)

Primary

Leadership

A key to the success of our primary schools is the quality of leadership. Since September 2012 we have helped schools to appoint 25 Headteachers and we have been impressed by the quality of those appointed, mostly from within the Local Authority. Only two schools have had to re-advertise and one of them has now appointed a Headteacher. The other, Deeping Linchfield, is being covered by an Interim Headteacher whilst they re-advertise. At the moment we have ten schools which have not appointed their own Headteachers but have good solutions in place; such as Executive Headteachers who are not yet permanent. We have now developed a recruitment and induction package to support governors and new Headteachers. The leadership programmes run by the Local Authority have played a key role in the supply of good quality leaders. The Future Leaders programme continues to be a great success and inspires teachers to become Headteachers, whilst 83 Senior Leaders have enrolled on this year's tailored programme of Growing into Leadership. Joint work with the Diocese has helped to develop perspective leaders of our 141 church schools.

Collaborative Partnerships

128 schools have joined one of the 30 collaborative partnerships. They are now beginning to have a real impact as they focus on improving teaching and learning with a focus on vulnerable pupils. A recent survey of schools has confirmed this with many schools confirming that they are able to share costs and thus make savings. We have bid for funding to carry out some action research but have been turned down as the bid was not large enough! We have resubmitted the bid and hope to be successful which could lead to a piece of work that is published nationally. David Hargreaves, a national leader in this field, will be at the Headteacher Conference on 7th/8th March, for which 97 Headteachers have already signed up.

Secondary

Ofsted update

Since the introduction of the new Framework for Inspection in September 2012 three Secondary schools have had full Ofsted inspections; two schools retained their status as good overall, the third was upgraded from satisfactory to good,

Currently 74% of Lincolnshire's Secondary schools are judged to be good or better, compared with the national average of 70%. Nationally 21% of Secondary schools are outstanding whereas in Lincolnshire 33% are judged to be outstanding at present.

The annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of schools includes a calculation that 81% of Lincolnshire's secondary age pupils attend a good or better school, placing Lincolnshire at rank 1 compared to statistical neighbours.

GCSE Results

Lincolnshire has outstripped national averages for GCSEs with our very impressive results.

Results for 16-year olds at GCSE show the 5A*-C including English and maths pass rate was 62.1%, 3.3% above the national average.

The 5 A*-C results increased to 85.9% which is 2.9% above the national average, while 96% of all year 11 children achieved 5+ A*-G grades.

Lincolnshire has again outperformed average pass rates for its statistical neighbours over all categories of performance, including a 5.3% lead in terms of 5A*-C grades including English and maths.

The percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate, introduced by the Coalition in 2010, has increased by 2% in Lincolnshire to 20.6%. This is well above the national average of 16.2% and eight of our schools exceed 60% for this measure.

Lincolnshire's maintained schools have outperformed academies, with 66% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades including English and maths, compared to 62% for academies - although there were some outstanding results in all types of school.

Music and Arts

Lincolnshire Music Service joins forces with the very best of British session musicians

On Saturday 12th January Lincolnshire Jazz and Rock Academy's workshop/concert day was joined by a group of the very best of British session musicians to help them prepare for their showcase concert later this year.

Gilson Lavis and Dave Swift from the Jools Holland Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, were joined by M People guitarist Dave Ital, saxophonist Simon Bates who recently played the Kylie London O2 shows, vocalist Mary Pearce whose resume includes backing for Michael Jackson and Lincolnshire Music Service Keyboard Alumni Carl Hudson recently back from Australia performing with Jesse J and rapper Professor Green. After the show Gilson Lavis stated "I can't believe the skill and enthusiasm of these young people".

This year their Showcase Concert will be a tribute to The Boston Gliderdrome in the Gliderdrome itself. The young people are busy preparing a programme featuring exclusively artists who played there, from the Big Band era right up to the progressive Rock of the late 70s.

Lincolnshire's 'Jazz Vehicle' played at World Education Forum

On 29th January, Jazz Vehicle was invited to play at the World Education Forum, held at the Dorchester Hotel in London. The Forum was opened by Charles Clarke, former SoS for Education, who was joined by Sir Bob Geldof. The young people of Lincolnshire were very well received, and were thanked by Mr Dominic Savage OBE who stated 'you have just played for education ministers that represent over 77% of the world's learners'.

School Admissions

This year has seen a very successful primary school admissions cycle as we have received applications for over 96% of the expected cohort in time to make an offer on 16th April. The school admissions team is very grateful for all the support from colleagues in early years settings, nurseries, primary and infant schools, Birth to Five service and EMTET (ethnic minority and traveller education team) encouraging parents to submit their applications online by the deadline. As a result of this success the school admissions team will be better able to work with colleagues in the provision planning team to meet as many parental first preferences as possible and make sure children receive offers of places in alternative local schools where the first preference is not available.

Lincolnshire Supplementary Schools Annual Cultural Celebration Event

The Lincolnshire's Supplementary Schools Forum (LSSF) held their third Annual Cultural Celebration evening event on Friday 30th November 2012 at Myle Cross Centre, Lincoln. It was a hugely successful evening attended by over 130 people who enjoyed an exhibition of the many achievements of the pupils, staff and volunteers involved in the Supplementary School sector. All supplementary schools across Lincolnshire worked together to stage this year's event. There were performances from the Polish, Tamil, Arabic, Chinese, Afghan Hazara, and Eastern European Supplementary Schools. Their performances included showcasing traditional costumes, dance, singing and poetry recital. Mr Richard Dale (Solicitor Director to Dale and Co), a member of the local Jewish community in Lincoln, delivered the keynote speech. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Lady Graydon DL was also present along with participation from local authorities, mainstream schools, local charities, Councillors and communities.

The evening brought local traditional communities and institutions together with the diverse ethnic minority communities across Lincolnshire. It was a memorable occasion that encouraged, embraced and celebrated community cohesion and the rich cultural diversity Lincolnshire has to offer.

The event was sponsored by EMTET and supported by CfBT whose professional officer's work closely with LSSF volunteers to harness the community spirit and cohesion of our local public, private and voluntary sectors.

Young Carers Service

A tender exercise has been undertaken to procure a countywide young carers service to support young carers and their families. The service will promote and improve the health and well-being of Young Carers and their families. It is jointly funded by children's and adults services to maximise the use of resources, and will support young carers up to the age of 25. User engagement was a key theme throughout the process and consultation exercises with young carers were used to develop a specification for the new service, based on the needs of local young carers. The tender panel comprised of a young carer, young adult carer, service area and commissioning team representatives who were jointly responsible for evaluating the tenders, including presentations and interviews.

Following the tender exercise, the charity 'Spurgeons' have been awarded the contract to start delivery on 1st April 2013 for a three year period, with a further opportunity to extend the service for 24 months, subject to review.

Staying Put

2012 was when the Staying Put scheme 'came of age'. It was the year when those young people who first joined at aged 18 celebrated their 21st birthdays. Staying Put began as a Government funded pilot scheme in 2008 and has been embraced by the Council and foster carers alike to ensure that as many looked after young people benefit from placement stability as they enter employment, education and training. Due to the positive outcomes for those young people who 'Stayed Put' it has become an integral part of the fostering service. Since being 'mainstreamed', all thirty of those currently on the scheme are in Education, Employment or Training.

"If people are in a place where they are happy and feel safe, it seems dreadfully unfair to be told they have to live independently," (at 18).

Those in further or higher education can remain until completion of their education in that academic year. This allows the opportunity to concentrate on their studies without the worry or disruption caused by moving out at a critical time in their education. Five young people attend University, seventeen attend further education at college and eight are in apprenticeships or training. Staying Put is a key component of accommodation provision for care leavers and is ensuring that a significant number of young people receive on-going family based support, well into adulthood.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Increase in New Entrants and Achievements

Lincolnshire demonstrated a **17.2% increase** in new entrants in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11 and an **18.5% increase** in Awards gained in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11 a tremendous achievement by all.

The 2012 Expedition season proved to be a very busy year not only for the **4614** Young People who undertook their DfE Expedition at either Bronze – (2917), Silver - (1178) or Gold – (519) level.

None of the above would have been possible without the support and dedication of the **3458 volunteer days** given by adult Supervisors and Assessors enabling young people to experience some of their most treasured memories!

“Families Working Together”

The successful partnership approach of Lincolnshire’s Community Budget pilot, and transition to the Troubled Families agenda, has been recognised at a national level with the Chief Executive, Tony McArdle, and Lincolnshire’s Troubled Families Co-Ordinator, Jo Kavanagh, delivering a presentation to the Local Government Association National Conference on Troubled Families on 23rd January.

Lincolnshire Police Chief Constable, Neil Rhodes, also participated in the presentation demonstrating the strong partnership ethos of the project. Indeed, Lincolnshire Police have now committed significant resources – in the form of seven Police Officers responsible for co-ordinating responses to Anti-Social Behaviour at a District level – to the project.

Other partners have also recently committed to contribute resources to the project in terms of both personnel and office accommodation to make Families Working Together a partnership in the truest sense of the word.

Work continues apace to identify families with complex needs requiring support so that the expanded team can continue the work that has resulted in savings of over £1.2m per annum in the first 18 months of operation, as well as maximise the available income Lincolnshire can take advantage of by successfully delivering the Troubled Families programme.

More importantly, more families with the greatest needs can be supported to turn around their lives, so that they can enjoy a much better quality of life, improved health and educational and employment prospects as well as reducing the negative effects some families may have on their wider communities.

Apprentices

You will be aware that we set up a pilot Apprenticeship Training Agency to take the burden off small businesses when they recruit apprentices. Our agency has had to endure some very frustrating bureaucracy in becoming established, which makes me think that we are definitely right to help to shield small businesses from that burden, but I am pleased to say that it has now placed its first seven apprentices, and it will place another 50 over the next 18 months.