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DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1 OCTOBER 2013

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

PERFORMANCE REPORT ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN

1 April 2013 – 31 August 2013

1 Purpose of Report

To report on the performance of Local Authority schools causing concern to the Local Authority in the period 1 April 2013 to 31 August 2013.

2 Context

- Schools are identified as causing concern to the Local Authority where difficulties are persistent and beyond the capacity of the school to resolve without significant additional support, challenge or intervention from the Local Authority.
- Schools are judged by Ofsted to require significant improvement or to require Special Measures if their provision is judged inadequate in any of the key areas of achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and quality of leadership and management.
- Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework on 1st September 2012. As such, those schools in Derbyshire Local Authority which have been inspected since that time have been inspected under the new Ofsted framework. The new framework places increased emphasis on the direct observation of teaching and learning and the progress made by all groups of pupils in the school.
- Schools Causing Concern are supported through agreed Local Authority action plans which are communicated to governing bodies and, in the case of those in Ofsted categories, to Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). The Local Authority convenes a School Progress Review Team in all cases to lead intervention, support and monitor the rate of improvement and to ensure the prompt removal of causes of concern.

3 Information and Analysis

Schools Causing Concern

As at 31 August 2013, 28 schools were causing concern to the Local Authority and were supported through intensive programmes of intervention and support led by the Local Authority Advisory Service. Of these schools, seven are in the Ofsted categories.

Schools Requiring Significant Improvement:

- Since September 2012, schools judged to require significant improvement are deemed to have Serious Weaknesses. It is expected that schools will be removed from these categories within twelve months. There is one school which has been judged as having Serious Weaknesses.
- Aldercar Community Language College was inspected in February 2013 and judged as having Serious Weaknesses. The school was monitored by HMI in April 2013 and both the School's Improvement Plan and the Local Authority's Statement of Action were judged as fit for purpose. The report commented on the very good support provided by the Local Authority to ensure that there is 'no slippage in the planned actions'.

Schools Requiring Special Measures:

- Six Local Authority schools are judged to require Special Measures, three more than in the last reporting period: Newbold CE Primary School, Newbold Community School, Newtown Primary School, Springfield Junior School, St. Laurence CE Aided Primary School and The Pingle School.
- Newbold CE Primary School was inspected in April 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. A School Improvement Plan and the Local Authority Statement of Action are in place and the school awaits a monitoring visit by HMI.
- Newbold Community School was inspected in May 2013 and judged to require Special Measures. A School Improvement Plan and the Local Authority Statement of Action are in place and the school awaits a monitoring visit by HMI.
- Newtown Primary was judged to require Special Measures in March 2012. At the third monitoring visit in June 2013, the school has been judged to be making reasonable progress towards the removal of Special Measures. The report states that, 'the good support the school has received from the Local Authority has been a significant contributory factor in enabling the school to accelerate the rate of improvement. Senior leaders are now beginning to demonstrate that they are capable of driving school improvements and, consequently, are becoming less reliant on the Local Authority's advice, guidance and support'.
- Springfield Junior School was inspected in November 2012 and judged to require Special Measures. The school was then subject to a second monitoring visit by HMI in June 2013 and judged to be making reasonable progress towards

the removal of Special Measures. The report recognises that the Local Authority has provided 'good support to the headteacher and the school through the allocation of additional resources and by providing regular analysis and challenge.'

- St. Laurence CE Aided Primary was judged to require Special Measures in January 2012. The school was monitored by HMI in May 2013 and judged to be making good progress since the last monitoring visit in February 2013. The report states that the 'local authority has continued to provide good support to the school, well-tailored to its needs. This has been a significant contributory factor in enabling the school to continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning, although this has been increasingly driven by the senior leadership team.'
- Schools judged by Ofsted to require significant improvement prior to September 2012 received a Notice to Improve (NTI). The Pingle School was judged to require significant improvement and given a Notice to Improve in May 2012. The school had been subject to a monitoring visit by HMI in February 2013 and was judged to be making satisfactory progress. However, at the most recent full inspection, the school was judged to require Special Measures. A School Improvement Plan and the Local Authority Statement of Action are in place and the school awaits a monitoring visit by HMI.
- In addition to the Local Authority schools that are subject to Ofsted categories, the two Ormiston-sponsored academies; Ormiston Ilkeston and Ormiston Enterprise are currently judged by Ofsted to require Special Measures.

4 Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity and environmental, financial, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

5 Key Decision

No.

6 Background Papers

None.

7 Strategic Director's Recommendations

To note the performance of schools causing concern.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

APPENDIX 1

Local Authority Schools Causing Concern by Phase August 2013							
Category	Phase						
	Nursery	Infant	Junior	Primary	Special/ Support Centres	Secondary	TOTAL
Causing concern to the LA	0	0	3(3)	12(11)	1(1)	5(6)	21(21)
Requiring significant improvement	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	1(2)
Special Measures	0	0	1(1)	3(2)	0(0)	2(0)	6(3)
TOTALS	0	0	4(4)	15(13)	1(1)	8(8)	28(26)

Previous report figures in brackets