

## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny – Ofsted Subgroup**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2011**

**Present:**

Councillor Carmody – in the Chair

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children’s Services

**Apologies:**

Councillors Chamberlain, Reeves, Reid and Tavernor

Mr Arnold

### **CYP/OSG/11/04            Minutes**

**Decision:**

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2011 as a correct record.

### **CYP/OSG/11/05            Ofsted Reports**

The Subgroup commented on a range of Ofsted reports which members selected at their previous meeting.

#### **Victoria Avenue Community Primary School**

The school was inspected on 1-2 December 2010 and was rated by Ofsted as inadequate. The Executive Member for Children’s Services commented that it was a very poor report. The SIP and Intervention Manager said that the Council has been aware of concerns about the school for some time and these concerns were identified and addressed by the local authority in advance of the Ofsted inspection. The Ofsted Inspection mirrored the results of the local authority review and the school has been put into special measures.

The Senior School Effectiveness Officer has been working with the interim leaders of the school since the local authority inspection to make improvements and since then, a number of new Governors have been appointed. The Governors will apply to become a sponsored academy. The Council considered it appropriate to support the school’s application to become a sponsored academy through strengthening the governance of the school and continuing discussions with the governing body around the future leadership of the school.

#### **Buglawton Hall School**

The school was inspected on 19-20 January 2011 and was rated by Ofsted as satisfactory. The SIP and Interventions Manager said that the school was now out of special measures and that there has been significant improvement in the leadership and management of the school since the previous inspection and this was reflected in the improved rating. The boarding provision of the school was rated as

satisfactory although the minimum national standard was not met. These were long term issues with accommodation which was in the process of being upgraded and improvements were ongoing.

The Executive Member for Children's Services commented that she was particularly impressed with the improvements and the ratings for the quality of teaching and pupil behaviour. The SIP and Interventions Manager said that the school had clearly benefited from being part of a federation of schools and there were some ongoing discussions about the future structure of this federation.

### **Charlestown Community Primary School**

Charlestown Community Primary School was inspected on 13-14 January 2011 and rated as satisfactory by Ofsted with good capacity for sustained improvement. The SIP and Interventions Manager said that the School Effectiveness Officers had worked with the school to improve capacity and the success of this was evident from this inspection. The Ofsted report noted that the school had a number of inexperienced teachers who were coping well with the changes required supported by good leadership and it was likely that scores would improve further with their experience.

### **Burnage Media Arts College**

Burnage Media Arts College was inspected on 3-4 March 2010 and rated as satisfactory by Ofsted with good capacity for sustained improvement. The SIP and Interventions Manager said that although the outcome of the inspection was satisfactory many elements within the report showed the school to be good or outstanding in certain aspects. The school had building work going on at the time of inspection. Overall the school was making good progress with attainment levels improving. The Executive Member added that she had visited and was very impressed with the school.

The Chair asked how the building work would affect the inspection result. The SIP and Intervention Manager responded that simple things such as the way children enter and exit the building could affect the safeguarding score, and teaching in an unfamiliar environment and in temporary accommodation could sometimes be disruptive to the school day.

### **The Divine Mercy RC Primary School**

The school was inspected on 20-21 January 2011 and was rated satisfactory by Ofsted. The SIP and Intervention Manager said that this was a larger than average school following the amalgamation of two local RC primary schools. There were some transitional issues in the first year including a change in leadership and the school was making progress with good scores for some areas including pupil safety. It was possible that Ofsted might revisit the school next year but this was dependent on the planned changes to the inspection regime

In response to a query about whether the Government could enforce failing faith schools to become academies, the SIP and Interventions Manager confirmed that all

schools could be mandated to become academies if Ofsted rated them as inadequate. It was possible for faith schools to undergo this process but it would be more complex. In cases where schools would be expected to apply for academy status if they were failing, the Council would work to reach a local solution to address the problems before the Government intervened.

Overall, the inspection results reflected what the Council expected each school to achieve, which proved that the Council was aware of the progress and status of schools, so they could work with them effectively to achieve the best possible result.

**Decision:**

To note the reports.

**CYP/OSG/11/06                      Work Programme**

**Decision:**

To agree to defer consideration of the Subgroup's work programme until the next municipal year.