

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2012

Present:

Councillor Carmody – in the Chair
Councillors Fisher and Keller

Mr D Arnold, Co-opted Member, King David's Schools
Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Apologies:

Councillor J Reid

CYP/OSG/12/01 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2011 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/12/02 Ofsted Inspection Framework

The Subgroup discussed the latest changes to the revised Ofsted Inspection Framework, on which members received an oral update to the previous meeting. The Quality Assurance Manager told members that the 'satisfactory' category would be changed to 'requires improvement' in the new framework. The focus of the new framework is on outcomes for pupils. The purpose of this was to raise standards across all schools.

The effect of the new framework on Manchester schools is not yet known. The Quality Assurance Manager said the some schools that had not been inspected for several years might see a drop in their grading. She added that three schools will be inspected under the new framework over the next week, and the results of these inspections should give some indication as to how Manchester schools will be affected by the change. Members were provided with a summary of the Local Government Information Unit briefing on the new inspection framework for information.

A member asked for clarification on whether academies would be inspected under the new framework and whether these report would be published. The Quality Assurance Manager agreed to clarify this for members.

Decision:

To ask the Quality Assurance Manager to clarify whether academies would be inspected under the new inspection framework and whether these reports would be published.

CYP/OSG/12/03 Ofsted Reports

The Subgroup commented on a range of Ofsted reports from inspections that had taken place since their last meeting. The Subgroup have agreed to look at all reports which judged the school to be outstanding or inadequate along with a selection of those that had taken place in the north district of the city. There were no “inadequate” inspections since the last meeting. Reports A and B below were “outstanding” and C, D and E were from the north district.

A: St Chrysostom’s Church of England Primary School

The school was inspected on the 3 – 4 November 2011, and was rated by Ofsted as “outstanding”. Members noted that the report reflected the consistency of quality teaching and that it commended the leadership and management for being able to accurately evaluate the effectiveness of the school. Members also noted that the school has supported pupils to achieve their full potential regardless of their background.

B: Brookburn Community School

Brookburn Community School was inspected on 17-18 November 2011 and was rated by Ofsted as “outstanding”. The Quality Assurance Manager identified some of the key achievements of the school such as the extensive curriculum, which engages the children in their learning. The Subgroup were particularly impressed that both Brookburn and St Chrysostom’s schools made it fun to learn, which members felt made a big difference to the achievement of children in the school.

A member asked whether it was common for children to self assess their own progress. The Quality Assurance Manager confirmed that it was used by many schools to help children understand the progress they are making and what they need to do to improve.

The Subgroup agreed to send a letter to both schools that were rated as “outstanding” to congratulate them.

C: St Patrick’s RC Primary School

St Patrick’s School was inspected on 7 –8 December 2011 and Ofsted rated it “satisfactory”. The school was put into special measures after its previous inspection. The Quality Assurance Manager said that the determination of the new headteacher, fully supported by the staff at the school was instrumental in tackling the weaknesses identified at the last inspection. The Headteacher and the governing body have been able to take difficult decisions to bring these improvements about. The school has worked in partnership with Briscoe Lane Primary School and both schools have supported each other to improve.

A member asked about the length of time it had taken to bring the school out of special measures to become satisfactory. The Quality Assurance Manager said that it had taken approximately 18 months for the changes to become embedded into the culture of the school. The Subgroup noted that Ofsted awarded St Patrick’s a ‘good’

grade for some elements such as child behaviour and partnership. The number of applications for admission to the school have also risen which is a positive sign that more parents wanted their child to go to the school.

Members noted that the new headteacher and the governing body of the school had worked hard to improve the school, but there was still some way to go to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning was consistent enough to raise attainment levels in the school. The Ofsted report acknowledged that the school needed to do some further work with individual teachers to raise consistency of teaching for all year groups. Further work was also needed to raise attendance.

D: Ashbury Meadow Primary School

The school was inspected on 14 – 15 November 2011 and Ofsted rated it as good". The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted some of the key achievements of the school, noting that it was a strong 'good' rating. The school also has good capacity to improve further.

Members noted that the school had achieved 'outstanding' ratings for the extent to which pupils felt safe and for the effectiveness of the guidance and support for pupils, which demonstrated the school's excellent pastoral care. They also noted that children entering the school with low skill levels made good progress with their learning to bring them up to national average. The school also makes good use of ICT across the curriculum to support children in their learning. Overall, members felt that this was a positive report

E: Abraham Moss High School

The school was inspected on 12 – 13 October 2011 and was rated by Ofsted as 'good'. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted some of the key achievements of the school including the harmonious and diverse community in the school and the pastoral care to support pupils.

Members noted that the school was rated 'good' despite achieving an 'inadequate' rating for student attainment. The Quality Assurance Manager said that the school's attainment has improved year on year. The school has a large intake of students at different times of the year, some with little or no knowledge of English. Despite this, students make excellent progress from their starting points usually above national average. They also noted the excellent transition arrangements in place for year 7 pupils.

Decision

1. To write to St Chrysostom's Church of England Primary School and Brookburn Community School to congratulate them for achieving an 'outstanding' rating in their Ofsted inspection.
2. To write to St Patrick's Roman Catholic Primary School, Asbury Meadow Primary School and Abraham Moss High School to congratulate them on their inspection results to provide a summary of the subgroup's findings.

CYP/OSG/12/04 Work Programme of the Ofsted Subgroup

Members discussed the Work Programme of the Subgroup. The approach that has been agreed by members at previous meetings was to look at inspection reports for “outstanding” and “inadequate” schools and a selection of reports from a specific district in Manchester. As the new inspection was now in place, members felt that the next meeting in March should concentrate on inspection reports for schools inspected under the new framework.

Decision:

To agree to amend the work programme to consider Ofsted inspection reports conducted under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework at the March meeting.