

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – OfSTED Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2012

Present:

Councillor Carmody – in the Chair
Councillors Adams, S Newman, and Reid

Apologies:

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

YPC/OSG/12/01 Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny OfSTED subgroup held on 13 March 2012 were submitted for information.

Decision

To note the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny OfSTED subgroup held on 13 March 2012.

YPC/OSG/12/02 OfSTED Reports

The Quality Assurance Manager informed members that all of the reports circulated for consideration had been inspected under the current framework and confirmed that no schools had been awarded a rating of either 'outstanding' or 'special measures' since the subgroup's last meeting. The focus of this meeting therefore would be on schools located within the city's North district that had been awarded a rating of either 'good' or 'satisfactory'.

She also reminded members that the revised OfSTED inspection framework will come into force in September 2012 and offered to provide members with an overview of the revised ratings and likely implications for schools. The subgroup agreed to this.

A: St Willibrord's Primary School

This school was previously inspected in 2006 and was rated by OfSTED as 'good'. As a result of the most recent inspection in May 2012, the school had maintained this rating under the current inspection framework. The Quality Assurance Manager commented that in view of number of inspection frameworks which had been implemented in the intervening years, this was a pleasing result.

Members noted that the inspection gave particular emphasis to the quality of teaching and the pace of lessons. The Quality Assurance Manager confirmed that this was an emerging theme of the current inspection framework. Members also

noted that the inspectors recognised that the school provided exceptional care and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs. Relationships with parents and carers were also reported to be excellent.

Members broadly felt that the school was on the verge on being awarded a rating of 'outstanding' in view of the good practices in place and good leadership from both the Executive Head and Head of the school.

B: Crab Lane Primary School

This school had previously been inspected in 2010 and had been awarded an OfSTED rating of 'satisfactory'. The Quality Assurance Manager informed members that as a result of the inspection in May 2012 the school's overall rating had improved to that of 'good'.

Members noted that the quality of teaching was reported to be good, with some described as outstanding. The curriculum was judged to be broad and 'exciting'. They also noted that some teaching practices were described to be excellent, with good use of ICT and learning targets. It was also noted that the development of middle leaders roles need to be further developed to obtain the most from observing and supporting colleagues.

The Subgroup noted that good behaviour was reported to be a strong feature within the school, with bullying is almost nonexistent and the Headteacher's role was described to central to the success of the school.

Members broadly felt that the overall success of the school was very good, particularly given the length of time the new Head had been in place.

C: Holy Trinity Primary School

This school was previously inspected on 2006 and was rated by OfSTED as 'good'. The Quality Assurance Manager told members that the school has maintained its rating of good as a result of its recent inspection in March 2012 under the new inspection framework.

Members noted that quality of teaching had been rated as good overall with good levels of pace although this quality was not consistent across the school. Achievement was found to be good, with attainment across the school's diverse population meeting national expectations. The pupils were described to display good behaviour and demonstrate a good understanding the different types of bullying. It was also noted that leadership and management were found to be good, with good evaluation of its own strength and weaknesses, with high expectations and ambition from the Head and the enhanced roles of the Teaching Assistants.

The Quality Assurance Manager took the subgroup through what was required to bring about further improvement in the school. Members broadly felt that this was another good school, which was solidly improving with good capacity to improve their rating even further.

D: Park View Community Primary School

This school was inspected in 2009, and was rated by OfSTED as 'satisfactory'. This rating was maintained as a result of the inspection which took place in April 2012.

The Quality Assurance Manager reiterated the link between the overall rating and that of the quality of teaching. The school was found to have improving attendance with strong punctuality. Pupils were described to demonstrate good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage, with attainment overall approaching the national average. The progress of the pupils with Special Educational Needs was found to be in-line with that of their peers. Pupils reportedly enjoyed school, demonstrated a mature social conscience and were found to have a good understanding of the different types of bullying, including cyber-bullying. It was noted, however, that there was a need to accelerate progress in Maths and English across the curriculum.

Members noted that the leadership of the school was found to be good, with strong capacity to improve and that good safeguarding and child protection policies were in place.

Overview

The Subgroup discussed the emerging themes arising from this group of inspection reports, in particular the emphasis on the pace of teaching to ensure learning is interesting, instills enthusiasm and allows pupils to remain focused in the learning environment.

Members also discussed the positive impact of planned activities before school starts, (eg breakfast clubs) on punctuality across schools.

The subgroup then discussed the emphasis of safeguarding practices, including the incidence of bullying across the reports in general. Discussions then turned to subject of cyber-bullying, the role of the parents and the importance of appropriate education of parents on the risks. A member suggested that this could be a future item for consideration by the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee. The Subgroup agreed to this.

Decision

1. To write to St Willibrord's, Crab Lane and Holy Trinity Primary schools to congratulate them on the results of their OfSTED inspections.
2. To add an oral update by the Quality Assurance Manager on the revised OfSTED inspection framework ratings to the subgroup's next meeting.
3. To ask the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee to look the issue of cyber- bullying and the importance of raising awareness in parents with regard to the associated risks.

YPC/OSG/12/03 Work Programme

Members were provided with the subgroup's Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal year for information.

Decision:

To agree the Work Programme for the municipal year subject to the amendment as set out in YPC/OSG/12/02.

YPC/OSG/12/04 Request from Gorton Mount Primary School

The Chair informed the subgroup that a request from the Headteacher of Gorton Mount Primary School had been received to put on a record a statement in response to the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny OfSTED Subgroup on 29 July 2011. Members were provided with a copy the Headteacher's letter together with an extract of the relevant minute for information.

The (verbatim) statement is set out below:

The governing body of Gorton Mount Primary School has followed LA instruction and has cooperated fully with the process to become an academy and with the wishes and instructions of the sponsor and the Local Authority. Gorton Mount Primary School has been on a journey of improvement for the last eight and a half years. This has been acknowledged by Ofsted HMI Assessors, Inclusion Quality Mark Assessors, Healthy School Assessors and the Montessori Accreditation body.

The Chair asked members whether they were happy to agree to put the statement on record. The subgroup agreed to this.

Decision:

To agree to put on record the statement of the Headteacher of Gorton Mount Primary School as set out above.

(Councillor Reid declared a personal interest in this item as Governor at Gorton Mount School)

YPC/OSG/12/05 Date of next meetings

Members were provided with the suggested future meeting dates of the subgroup for the remainder of the municipal year as set out below.

Tuesday 23 October 2012, 10am (Venue to be confirmed)
Tuesday 19 February 2012, 10am (Venue to be confirmed)

Decision

To agree the subgroup's future meeting dates for the municipal year as set out above.