

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair

Councillors Reid [CYP/OSG/16/21 - CYP/OSG/16/23] and Taylor

Councillor S Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services

Mrs Lizzie Wray, Head of Crowcroft Park Primary School

Apologies:

Councillor K Simcock

Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

CYP/OSG/16/18

Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 27 September 2016 as a correct record.

CYP/OSG/16/19

Lead Officer for the Ofsted Subgroup

The Subgroup noted that Liz Clarke, the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer, was replacing Karen Jarmany, the Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Early Years, as the Lead Officer for the Ofsted Subgroup. The Chair thanked Karen Jarmany for all her support to the Ofsted Subgroup over many years.

CYP/OSG/16/20

School Visits

The Chair informed members that he had visited Saviour Primary School, along with the ward councillor for Cheetham. He reported that it had been a good visit, noting that the school had improved its Ofsted rating from 'requires improvement' to 'good'.

The Chair advised that he had also visited Chorlton High School. He reported that he had met with a group of students to answer questions they wanted to put to their city councillors and that they had asked some good questions. He advised that, although many of their students cycled to school, the school was not aware of the bicycle vouchers scheme. He requested that officers ensure schools were aware of this scheme.

The Chair advised that he had discussed with the Executive Headteacher of Chorlton High School, Mr Andy Park, the impact of the new school performance measures, Progress 8 and Attainment 8, which measured students' progress and attainment across eight subjects. The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that, overall, she expected Manchester's outcomes to demonstrate good progress but to be less strong on attainment. She reported that people tended to focus on attainment but that the progress measure demonstrated how good Manchester's

schools were.

The Chair recommended that the Subgroup write to the schools to thank them for accommodating the visits.

Decision

To write to the schools to thank them for accommodating the visits.

CYP/OSG/16/21 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

The Chair reported that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had made a recommendation at its 11 October meeting to request that the Ofsted Subgroup consider in more detail information on schools which are not achieving good outcomes and the action being taken to address this. He advised that, in response to this, he had invited Mrs Lizzie Wray, the Head of Crowcroft Park Primary School to speak to the Subgroup about the support her school had received from the local authority. He informed members that he was also a governor at the school. He reported that the school had previously been judged 'requires improvement' but had improved to 'good' at its most recent inspection.

Mrs Wray outlined the school's response to its previous 'requires improvement' judgement, the support they had received from the local authority following this and how they had utilised knowledge, support and best practice from a range of sources to improve the school. She reported that the senior leadership team had had monthly meetings with one of the Council's Quality Assurance Officers and she had found the Quality Assurance Team to be very accessible. She advised that she had met with an Ofsted inspector to better understand how to work with Ofsted and their framework. She advised that the school was prioritised for attendance at Ofsted briefings and that she had attended a conference on raising reading standards and had also worked on raising writing standards. She reported that Manchester schools were good at working in partnership and supporting each other. She advised that she, the senior leadership team and teachers had visited outstanding schools in Manchester and also outstanding schools in other cities which had a similar pupil profile (for example, the number of different languages spoken) to learn from them. The Executive Member for Children's Services praised the attitude of Mrs Wray and her team to working in partnership to improve the school.

The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the Council had arranged workshops led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) and that part of HMI's remit had been to support and monitor schools which had been judged 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement'. She advised, however, that changes were being made to HMI and it was currently not clear whether this support would be available in future. Mrs Wray reported that the HMI conferences she had attended had included presentations from schools who had improved from 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' and that this had been uplifting and provided her school with the opportunity to make links with these schools and learn from them.

The Chair reported that the Education Support Grant, which funded the Quality Assurance Team, was being cut and that, as part of the budget process, the Children

and Young People Scrutiny Committee had supported a proposal that funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) be used to mitigate service reductions resulting from these cuts. Mrs Wray reported that the Quality Assurance Team was valuable to schools, advising she had found that consultants directly contracted by the school were more likely to say what the school wanted to hear. She advised that the networks and links with other schools were also important.

The Chair thanked Mrs Wray for attending. He recommended that the Subgroup write to Crowcroft Park Primary School to congratulate them on improving their Ofsted rating to 'good'. He advised members to let the Committee Support Officer know if they wished to visit Crowcroft Park Primary School.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from The Birches, which had retained its judgement of 'outstanding' following a one-day visit. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that, while most 'outstanding' schools were exempt from Ofsted inspections, 'outstanding' special schools were still re-inspected. The Chair welcomed the excellent report and recommended that the Subgroup write to The Birches to congratulate them on the report. He also recommended that a visit to The Birches be arranged for Subgroup members.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Levenshulme High School, which had been judged 'outstanding'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed members that the school had been put into special measures at its previous inspection but had since become an academy sponsored by Whalley Range High School. She reported that there had been major improvements, including to the leadership and teaching, and greater clarity on how to improve. She advised that the school had always worked well with the local authority and continued to do so. Members discussed the school's previous problems and welcomed the improvements outlined in the report. The Chair highlighted the comment in the report that the school had moved from needing considerable support to being in a position to share its outstanding practice with others. He recommended that the Subgroup write to the school and that a visit be arranged for Subgroup members.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Loreto High School Chorlton, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Chair noted that lack of effective governance had been identified as an issue. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer reported that the Council had had some concerns prior to the inspection. She advised that the school was engaging with the Council's Quality Assurance Team and the Director of Education and Skills was having progress meetings with the school to ensure their plans addressed the identified areas for improvement.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Manchester Communication Academy, which had been judged as 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer advised that the school did not engage with the Council's Quality Assurance Team, although the neighbouring Manchester Communication Primary Academy did. She advised that the Council continued to offer quality assurance opportunities to the school but did not have powers to intervene in an academy and that these powers lay with the Regional Schools Commissioner. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup monitor the school's

progress.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Manchester Academy, which had been judged 'requires improvement'. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed members that Manchester Academy was part of the United Learning academy chain. She reported that, despite good relationships with United Learning's Director of Education, the Council had been unable to access their high schools to support improvement and, therefore, was going to work directly with the school's leadership team. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup monitor the school's progress.

Decisions

1. To write to Crowcroft Park Primary School to congratulate them on improving their Ofsted rating to 'good'.
2. To ask members to inform the Committee Support Officer if they wish to visit Crowcroft Park Primary School.
3. To write to The Birches, following their recent inspection, and to arrange a visit for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
4. To write to Levenshulme High School following their recent inspection, and to arrange a visit for members of the Ofsted Subgroup.
5. To monitor the progress of Manchester Communication Academy.
6. To monitor the progress of Manchester Academy.

CYP/OSG/16/22

Daycare Providers

The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer provided an update on Lemon Tree Manchester Limited, Plymouth Grove, whose report the Subgroup had considered at the previous meeting. She advised that, following its 'inadequate' judgement, the Council's Early Years Quality Assurance Team had been working with the provider to bring about improvements but that the provider subsequently resigned its daycare registration for this site. She advised that the provider still had two day care provisions, in Levenshulme and Rusholme.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from BOSH 5, which had improved from 'requires improvement' to 'good'. The Chair welcomed the positive report. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer advised that the provider had identified what they needed to improve and worked with the Council's Quality Assurance Team and accessed other opportunities offered, such as forums, to help themselves improve.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from First Steps Day Nursery, which had maintained its rating of 'good'. In response a member's question, the Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer advised that the provider would be working on staff's questioning techniques, which had been identified as an area for further development.

The Subgroup considered the recent inspection findings from Lemon Tree Limited, Stockport Road. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer informed members that this was the setting's first inspection. She outlined the support provided to new

settings prior to their first inspection and advised that this support would continue because the setting had been assessed as 'requires improvement'. In response to a member's question, she advised that the setting had 12 months to achieve a 'good' judgement before the Council would stop funding places for two and three year olds. The Chair recommended that the Subgroup arrange a visit to Lemon Tree Limited, Stockport Road.

Decision

To arrange a visit to Lemon Tree Limited, Stockport Road for members of the Subgroup.

CYP/OSG/16/23

Terms of Reference and Work Programme

Members discussed the timing of future meetings and agreed that the next meeting of the Subgroup on Tuesday 14 February would take place at 10.00am. The Chair noted that two members had left the Subgroup and requested that more members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be invited to join the Subgroup.

Decisions

1. To note the terms of reference and approve the work programme.
2. To agree that the next meeting of the Subgroup on Tuesday 14 February will take place at 10.00am
3. To invite additional members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to join the Subgroup.