

Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – OfSTED Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2013

Present:

Councillor Stone– in the Chair
Councillors Midgley, Reid and Tavernor

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

Apologies:

Councillors Adams and S Newman

YPC/OSG/13/01 Chair

The Subgroup had been invited to nominate and agree a Chair for the Subgroup for the remainder of the municipal year. The Subgroup agreed to appoint Councillor Stone as Chair of the Subgroup

Decision

To appoint Councillor Stone as Chair of the Subgroup for the remainder of the municipal year.

YPC/OSG/13/02 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the Scrutiny OfSTED subgroup held on 12 March 2013 as a correct record.

YPC/OSG/13/03 OfSTED Reports – Outstanding Schools

The Quality Assurance Manager summarised the achievements of each of the schools that had been graded as ‘outstanding’ since the subgroup’s last meeting.

A: Chorlton Park Primary School

This school had been previously inspected in 2009 and had been awarded an ‘outstanding’ rating. As a result of the most recent inspection in June 2013, the school had sustained this rating under the new inspection framework. Members noted that all aspects of the school had been rated as ‘outstanding’ and that this had been found to be due to the highly motivational Executive Headteacher with strong support from the senior leadership team. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that pupils’ achievement had been found to be outstanding and that increasing proportions of pupils made better progress than similar pupils nationally. The rich curriculum was felt to be highly stimulating and skillfully adapted to meet pupils’ needs and interests with excellent opportunities for pupils to develop their independence, exploration and investigative learning skills both in and out of classrooms.

B: Piper Hill Specialist Support School

This school had been previously inspected in 2007 and had been awarded an 'outstanding' rating. As a result of the most recent inspection in March 2013, the school had maintained this rating under the new inspection framework. Members noted that since the time of the last inspection the school had continued to improve. The Headteacher had established a highly effective leadership team who had successfully developed a crystal clear vision of what makes an outstanding school. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that the Local Authority used the school as a model of best practice and that the Headteacher had supported a number of schools to improve, both locally and nationally.

Decision

To write to Chorlton Park Primary School and Piper Hill Specialist Support School to congratulate them on the results of their OfSTED inspections.

YPC/OSG/13/04 OfSTED Reports - Good/Requires Improvement - 'North District'

The Quality Assurance Manager summarised some of the key areas highlighted in each of the OfSTED reports that were provided to the Committee.

A: Temple Primary School

This school had previously been inspected in 2007 and had been awarded an OfSTED rating of 'outstanding'. At its most recent inspection in July 2013 the school was awarded a rating of 'Good' under the new inspection framework. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that pupils made good progress from starting points that were well below average; pupils' achievements were found to be good and particularly strong in English. Members also noted that leaders, managers and the governing body had a relentless and successful focus on providing the best possible opportunities for all pupils.

B: Crumpsall Lane Primary School

This school had previously been inspected in 2009 and had been awarded an OfSTED rating of 'good'. At its most recent inspection in May 2013 the school was awarded a rating of 'requires improvement' under the new inspection framework. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that pupils' achievement had been found to be an area of concern in a previous inspection and still required improvement. Members noted that progress between Years 1 and 6 needed to be strengthened that the most-able pupils were not always provided with work that really stretched them in lessons.

C: Broadhurst Primary School

This school had been previously inspected in 2009 and had been awarded a 'satisfactory' rating. As a result of the most recent inspection in May 2013, the school had been awarded an improved rating of 'good' under the new inspection framework. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the Subgroup that leadership at all levels, including governance, had been found to be good and that children achieved a good start in the Early Years Foundation Stage, particularly in their personal development. Members also noted teaching is good and some is outstanding.

D: Our Lady's RC High School

This school was previously inspected in 2010 and was awarded a 'satisfactory' rating. As a result of the most recent inspection in May 2013, the school was awarded a rating of 'requires improvement' under the new inspection framework. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the Subgroup that some students were found to have not made fast enough progress, especially in mathematics, therefore overall achievement was not felt to be as good as it should have been. Members noted that students did not have enough opportunities to think for themselves in lessons or to do work that stretched them enough. Members also noted however, that the school was a very happy place where students behave well, develop a strong sense of right and wrong and take responsibility for others

Decision

To agree to write to the schools that had been awarded a 'good' OfSTED inspection rating to congratulate them on their achievement.

YPC/OSG/13/05 OfSTED Reports - Inadequate

The Quality Assurance Manager summarised the challenges for each of the schools that had been graded as 'inadequate' since the subgroup's last meeting,

A: Manchester Creative and Media Academy for Boys

The Quality Assurance Manager advised the school has moved to a new site and will eventually become co-educational. A new Headteacher was now in place over both schools and had retained a strong focus on improvement and the senior leadership team. Members also noted that progress had been made in improving the most important areas of the academy's work with teaching, behaviour and attendance all at a better standard than they were a year ago.

B: Levenshulme High School

The Quality Assurance Manager advised that arrangements for safeguarding students had been found to be inadequate because leaders and managers, including governors had failed to secure an environment where students could learn effectively. The Subgroup noted that many students felt unsafe at school and had little confidence in the ability of leaders and managers to deal with unacceptable behaviour. It was also noted that the curriculum failed to engage some groups of students, which had resulted in them becoming disengaged, demonstrating poor behaviour and incidences of truanting. Members also noted however that there were pockets of high quality teaching, with an active school council function and opportunities for student leadership.

Decision

To note the reports.

YPC/OSG/13/06 Work Programme

The Subgroup was presented with the draft Work Programme for the year and proposed future meeting dates. Members agreed the future meeting dates as set out in the report.

On discussion of the draft Work Programme, members agreed to undertake fact-finding visits to 2 primary and 2 secondary schools; 2 of whom had been awarded an outstanding rating and 2 of whom had been judged as 'requiring improvement'. Members agreed to arrange visits to Chorlton Park Primary School and Piper Hill Specialist Support School between now and the next scheduled meeting.

Discussions then turned to the current remit of the Subgroup; members expressed an interest in widening the existing scope of the Subgroup to allow consideration of OfSTED inspection reports of Early Years Centres that operate out of premises that are leased from the Council. The Scrutiny Support Officer advised that a report that presents the revised terms of reference should be submitted to the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee for formal endorsement to allow this.

There was also a discussion about the framework for the Local Authority's OfSTED inspection. The Quality Assurance Manager offered to share the framework documents with the Scrutiny Support Officer for circulation to the Subgroup for comment. The subgroup agreed to this. Members expressed an interest in undertaking a detailed exploration of the outcomes of the inspection findings and asked that Terms of Reference for the Subgroup are amended to enable this.

Decision:

- 1 To agree the future meeting dates for the Subgroup as set out in the Work Programme.
2. To request that the Scrutiny Support Officer arranges visits to Piper Hill Specialist School and Chorlton Park Primary School
3. To recommend that a revised Terms of Reference for the Subgroup is submitted to the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee setting out proposals to take a broader overview of the areas for which the Council has statutory responsibilities. This should include-
 - OfSTED inspection reports for Children's Centres
 - OfSTED inspection reports for Daycare providers, where this links to the Local Authorities accountability for the performance of Children's Centres.
 - the recently introduced OfSTED inspection into how local authorities secure school improvement, in due course.