

## **Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – OfSTED Subgroup**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Stone – in the Chair  
Councillors Midgley, Reid and Tavernor  
Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Adams

#### **YPC/OSG/14/01**

#### **Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To agree the minutes of the Scrutiny OfSTED subgroup held on 24 September 2013 as a correct record.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/02**

#### **Visits**

Members reported back on their visits to Chorlton Park Primary School and Piper Hill Special School, which they found very useful and interesting. They commented that they felt it would be useful to have more than two members on each visit.

#### **Decision**

That more than two members attend visits in future, where possible.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/03**

#### **Revised Terms of Reference and Work Programme**

Members discussed the Revised Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the sub-group.

The Chair asked if the date of the next meeting could be confirmed. The proposed date was 25 March 2014.

The Quality Assurance Manager shared the OfSTED framework and handbook. She advised that they were not expecting Manchester City Council to be inspected before March. OfSTED have assessed school improvement at other local authorities in the region with one judged ineffective. She advised that members would be one of the key stakeholders in an inspection. Members felt it would be useful to have a briefing on the OfSTED guidance.

#### **Decision**

1. To confirm the next meeting as 25 March 2014 at 10am
2. To note the revised Terms of Reference

3. To request the Committee Support Officer to circulate copies of the OfSTED guidance to members

4. To arrange for the Quality Assurance Manager to deliver an informal briefing on the OfSTED guidance to members. Invitations would also be extended to all members of the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/04 OfSTED Reports – Outstanding Schools**

Since the sub-group last met on 24 September 2013 OfSTED reports had been published for schools in Manchester which had been assessed as 'Outstanding' and these would be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/05 OfSTED Reports - Good/Requires Improvement - 'South District'**

The Quality Assurance Manager summarised some of the key areas highlighted in each of the OfSTED reports that were provided to members. It was noted that primary schools in Manchester were improving and were now performing in line with national average and that secondary school attainment was still below the national average. In addition, progress in English is a strength in Manchester schools, mathematics is an area where Manchester needs to improve.

#### **A: Oswald Road Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2011 when it had been awarded a 'Satisfactory' rating. Under new leadership, the school was awarded a 'Good' rating in September 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the role of the governors who were highly skilled and knowledgeable and providing strong challenge to the school. She advised that teaching had also improved from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'. She drew attention to the ongoing work in developing the curriculum, the cross-curricular working, and the focus on encouraging independent working. Members commented on the multi-national elements of the curriculum which enabled to pupils to learn about other cultures.

The report stated that the most-able pupils were not always sufficiently challenged. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that, in both mainstream and special schools, OfSTED were now looking at individual progress to ensure pupils at all ability levels were making sufficient progress.

#### **B: Sandilands Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2010 when it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The school had sustained a 'Good' rating when inspected again in July 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager drew the members' attention to the inclusive nature of the school, the quality of the teaching and the behaviour and achievements of pupils, all judged Good when the inspection took place at the end of the summer term. Members noted that pupils had a clear understanding of bullying and felt that any occurrences were dealt with straight away. The Quality Assurance Manager noted that the development areas identified at the previous inspection had

been fully tackled and that the headteacher, supported by staff and governors, had a clear focus on continuous improvements. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the need for the school to improve feedback to pupils and the information provided to governors about the achievement of groups of pupils, including those who were eligible for pupil premium funding. Members were pleased with the report and the progress the school was making and felt that under the old inspection regime the rating for this school may have been higher.

### **C. St Ambrose RC Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2011 when it had been awarded a 'Satisfactory' rating. The school was awarded a 'Good' rating when it was inspected again in November 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted that pupils were making good progress and that standards were improving and that school governors had contributed to this. She advised that appointments had been made to the governing body to provide challenge and that this had proved successful. She stated that behaviour and safety of pupils were good and that teaching was consistently good and sometimes outstanding. She also drew the panel's attention to the rates of progress of different ability groups of pupils and, while marking was good overall, the need to ensure students were given sufficient feedback on how to improve their writing.

Members noted the inspector's comments that additional checks were needed to compare the progress of specific groups of pupils, particularly White British pupils, to ensure that their achievement and attendance improved. Members felt that a key theme in a number of the OfSTED reports was the need to improve data recording.

Members felt that this was a good report of an improving school.

### **D. St Brigid's RC Primary School**

Members noted that this school was in the north district but reviewed the inspection report. This school had previously been inspected in 2011 when it had been awarded a 'Satisfactory' rating. The school was awarded a 'Good' rating when it was inspected again in October 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted that outstanding leadership had brought significant improvement in key areas since the previous inspection. Members noted that the report referred to two issues which had been a common theme in a number of the reports: the quality of feedback to pupils and the issue of the more able pupils not making sufficient progress.

### **E. St Margaret's CofE Primary School**

Members noted that this school was in the central district but reviewed the inspection report. This school had previously been inspected in 2012 when it had been awarded a 'Satisfactory' rating. The school was awarded a 'Good' rating when it was inspected again in December 2013. The school had improved from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the progress made by pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium. The Chair noted that OfSTED had described the school's partnership with parents as 'outstanding'.

## **F. Old Moat Community Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2009 when it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The school had sustained a 'Good' rating when inspected again in July 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager explained that the school was a member of a federation of schools with Chorlton Park Primary and, since joining this, the school had been improving. She highlighted the welcoming school atmosphere, the progress of pupils, their good behaviour and the high quality of teaching and leadership within the school. She also drew members' attention to the need to improve marking and the attendance levels of a small minority of pupils. Members noted that OfSTED had again looked specifically at the progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium and that, while this group were not currently progressing as well as other pupils, this was in part due to transience. The role the governors had played in improving the school was also acknowledged.

## **G. Parrs Wood High School**

The school had previously been assessed as 'Satisfactory' at its previous inspection in 2012. It had been inspected again in December 2013 when it was awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that pupils achieved well, although improvements were still needed in the sixth form and to narrow the gap between pupils eligible for the pupil premium and other pupils. She highlighted the good attendance levels and behaviour of pupils and the quality of teaching. The report noted the knowledge, skill and commitment of the governors. Again, the quality of marking and feedback to pupils was highlighted as an area for improvement. It was noted that students arrived in Year 7 with standards above average and that this was evidence of the achievements of local primary schools. The Quality Assurance Manager stated that the school had identified priority areas for development, such as numeracy skills, and that the school had capacity to improve further. She also highlighted the positive comments on the leadership of the school the role of the governing body in providing challenge and support.

## **Decision**

1. To write to all of the schools in south district which had been awarded a 'Good' rating to congratulate them.
2. To note the reports of those schools that had been included but were not within the south district
3. To arrange a visit to Parrs Wood High School

## **YPC/OSG/14/06 Schools: Inadequate OfSTED Reports**

### **Manchester Health Academy**

This school had previously been inspected in 2012 and had been awarded an OfSTED rating of 'Satisfactory'. At its most recent inspection in November 2013, it was awarded an 'Inadequate' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that

because two areas ('behaviour and safety' and 'leadership and management') had been awarded the higher rating of 'requires improvement' rather 'Inadequate', the school had not been put in special measures but they would receive regular monitoring visits. She also advised that the report noted areas of weakness including the pupils' under-developed literacy and communication skills, the lower level of achievements of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding and that sometimes teachers did not have high enough expectations of what pupils could achieve. She highlighted that achievement in English and mathematics have improved and that teaching in these areas is good but that, in other areas, teaching during the inspection was not judged as consistently good. She advised that a new head teacher had started in September 2013 and that Manchester City Council is working with the new Head to support improvements. The Chair questioned whether governance at the school would be improved and the Quality Assurance Manager confirmed that there would be a review of governance at the school and that governance was an important factor in OfSTED ratings.

## **YPC/OSG/14/07 Children's Centres**

### **Crumpsall Children's Centre**

The Quality Assurance Manager advised that OfSTED had started inspecting Children's Centres in 2010 so this was the first time this centre had been inspected and it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that the majority of Children's Centres which had been inspected had been awarded a 'Satisfactory' rating (under the old rating system) The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the good balance of universal and targeted services provided and the steps taken to ensure that families were well-informed about the activities and services available. She advised that the Head of Centre provided good leadership and was skilled at bringing together different people and agencies to work in partnership. She drew the Committees' attention to the on-site provision of ante-natal services and birth registration, the effective sharing of information and the improvements the centre had made in the information it collects about service users.

The Quality Assurance Manager stated that the report noted that further improvement was needed in the partnerships between children's centres and schools as this wasn't systematic enough and work was taking place across the city to address this. This was important as Children Centre's were responsible for all children under 4. She advised that a briefing was planned for Head Teachers to which Children's Centre managers would also be invited. She also advised that Children's Centres had an advisory board which acted as a governing body and stressed the importance of this.

### **Decision**

1. To write to the Head of Crumpsall Children's Centre to congratulate her on the positive OfSTED report.
2. To arrange a visit to Crumpsall Children's Centre

## **YPC/OSG/14/08 Daycare Providers**

### **a. Holyrood Nursery at Baguley Children's Centre**

This daycare provider had previously been inspected in May 2010 and had been awarded an OfSTED rating of 'Satisfactory'. At its most recent inspection in October 2013, it was awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager clarified that this was a private daycare provider operating out of Baguley Children's Centre, following the decision by Manchester City Council to withdraw from providing daycare. This was an unannounced, one-day inspection. It was acknowledged that that this was a good report and the report stated that staff had worked hard to improve quality since the last inspection. The Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the key strengths of the provider, including the well-planned educational programme, the key person system, the safeguarding arrangements and self-evaluation. She advised that the report noted that children were provided with a range of activities to improve their physical skills, observation was good and children's individual needs were well met. Areas for improvement were information to parents on how they can support their child's learning and the full incorporation of peer observations into monitoring staff performance. A member questioned whether the inspectors would be Early Years specialists. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that OfSTED had increased the number of inspectors who were Early Years specialists.

#### **Decision**

To write to the provider and congratulate them on the OfSTED report.

### **b. ABC Nursery**

This was not a Manchester City Council provider and the sub-group would not normally review the reports for providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors. However, it was felt that it was important for members to increase their awareness of the quality of some daycare providers in the private sector. This daycare provider had been previously inspected in April 2013 and had been awarded an 'Inadequate' rating. At its most recent inspection in October 2013, it was again rated as 'Inadequate'. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that the report demonstrated that staff at this daycare setting had a poor understanding of children's learning. She highlighted the ineffective risk assessments, weak key person system and the leaders' and managers' poor understanding of their responsibilities. She advised that Manchester City Council no longer fund 2-year-olds at the setting. Members expressed concern about information in the report, in particular of young children being distressed.

#### **Decision**

1. To ask the Quality Assurance Manager to provide an urgent update
2. To continue to consider OfSTED reports regarding private providers, where serious concerns were raised

[Councillor Stone declared an interest as a member of the Manchester Governors Association Executive Committee]