

Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014

Present:

Councillor Stone– in the Chair
Councillor Reid

Apologies:

Councillors Midgley and Tavernor
Mrs B Kellner, Co-opted Member, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

YPC/OSG/14/09 Councillor Tavernor

The Chair noted that Councillor Tavernor was retiring and expressed his thanks for her work.

Decision:

To thank Councillor Tavernor for her valuable contribution to the Ofsted Subgroup.

YPC/OSG/14/10 Minutes

The Subgroup reviewed the minutes from the last meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup on 28 January 2014. The Quality Assurance Manager stated that she had suggested some minor amendments to the minutes but, due to the short timeframe for producing the minutes, these had not been incorporated. An alternative set of minutes, showing the suggested amendments, were circulated to members. The Chair also advised that his declared interest should state that he is a member of the Manchester Governors Association Executive Committee. Members agreed to the amendments to the minutes.

Decision:

To agree the minutes of the Ofsted Subgroup meeting held on 28 January 2014, subject to the suggested amendments.

YPC/OSG/14/11 Ofsted Reports – Outstanding Schools

A: Trinity High School

This school had been inspected for the first time in January 2014 and had been awarded an 'Outstanding' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager noted that the school had been rated as 'Outstanding' rating in every inspection category. She highlighted the subject expertise of the teachers and the high expectations they had for their students, the clear boundaries set for students and the harmonious nature of the school, which included students from a diverse range of backgrounds and beliefs. She advised that the headteacher provided strong leadership and that the governing body played a key role in ensuring high standards. She informed members that most

female students were making outstanding progress and the school were working hard to improve boys' progress. The Subgroup were pleased to note that, while the school was already outstanding, the leadership were continuing to identify areas for further development and working to make the school even better.

The Subgroup was pleased to hear that Trinity High School was an 'outstanding' school. The Chair commented that this was an excellent report and a great achievement for the school.

Decision:

To write to the school to congratulate them on achieving an 'outstanding' rating.

YPC/OSG/14/12 Ofsted Reports – Good/Requires Improvement – Central District

A: Claremont Primary School

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 Quality Assurance Manager highlighted the strength in the senior and middle leadership of the school and the important role played by the governing body. Leaders had high aspirations for the school and pupil progress was accurately tracked. Teaching was generally good and some was outstanding. She informed members that pupil achievement had improved and that pupils behaved well and felt safe in school. She stated that the school was actively involved in partnership working and worked hard to include parents through a range of activities. She reported that, in common with many schools across Manchester, key areas for further improvement were reading and the progress of the most able pupils. She advised that, previously, reading and writing had been areas requiring improvement in many Manchester schools and, while there had been improvements in both areas, reading skills still needed further improvement.

The Subgroup were pleased that the school had been awarded a 'Good' rating and agreed that it was a very positive report.

B: St Margaret's Primary School

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 Quality Assurance Manager reported that pupils made good progress at the school, often from a low starting point on entry. She highlighted the outstanding partnership with parents, the strong leadership and the contribution of the school governors. She informed members that teaching was generally good but assessment information needed to be used effectively and pupil progress checked to ensure that teaching was being pitched at the appropriate level. She noted that tracking pupil progress was made more challenging by the relatively high proportion of pupils arriving or leaving the school during the school year. She drew members' attention to the positive comments in the report on pupil behaviour and safety. The Subgroup noted that, while the school had a comparatively transient

population, it provided a welcoming environment for pupils. They were pleased that the school had been awarded a 'Good' rating and agreed that this was an encouraging report.

Decision:

To write to both school to congratulate them on achieving a 'Good' rating.

Wright Robinson College

The Quality Assurance Manager informed members that Wright Robinson College has recently been inspected but the report had not been published at the time the agenda for this meeting was produced. She advised that the school had been awarded a 'requires improvement' rating overall but some aspects of the school had been assessed as 'good' or 'outstanding'. Members agreed that they would consider the inspection report at their next meeting.

Decision:

To consider the Ofsted report for Wright Robinson College at the next meeting.

YPC/OSG/14/13 Children's Centres

A: Levenshulme Sure Start Children's Centre

The Children's Centre had been inspected for the first time in January 2014 and had been awarded a 'Requires Improvement' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that 66% of Sure Start Children's Centres were rated as 'Requires Improvement'. A member noted that the centres no longer required a qualified teacher. The Quality Assurance Manager informed members that Levenshulme was a well-equipped centre with some positive activities which supported families. However, it needed to improve how it tracked and monitored progress in order to demonstrate its impact on children and families. This included working with partners to ensure that they regularly shared consistent, relevant data and analysing this information. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that the centre had a new leader and the report had noted that she had a good understanding of the centre's strengths and areas for development and was already making improvements.

Members noted that Crumpsall Sure Start Children's Centre had recently been awarded a 'Good' rating and that there was a need to identify what Crumpsall was doing well and share best practice. The Quality Assurance Manager reported that Crumpsall had good leadership. She advised that centre leaders met on a monthly basis and that Crumpsall had shared their self-assessment with other centre leaders.

The Quality Assurance Manager referred to the comments in the report that the local authority was not setting the centre clear challenges to improve practice. She informed members that the local authority did set targets for centres but some centre leaders were not aware of them. She reported that she and her team were working with Levenshulme and other centres to ensure that they were clear on the targets that had been put in place.

Decision:

To note the contents of the inspection report.

YPC/OSG/14/14 Daycare Providers

A: Skittles

This was a private provider of daycare which had previously been inspected in 2011 when it was awarded a 'Good' rating. The provider was awarded an 'Inadequate' rating when it was inspected again in October 2013. The Quality Assurance Manager informed members that the provider needed to work with its staff to ensure they understood the requirements of the Early Years Foundation stage and to focus on the quality of learning and development. They also needed to ensure that appropriate records were maintained.

A member asked what the next steps were and how the Council would be involved. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that Ofsted would return for a further inspection within a specified timeframe. The Council's Quality Assurance Team would also be working with the provider to make improvements. The Chair asked whether their Ofsted registration could be revoked. The Quality Assurance Manager advised that this was a potential outcome but the provider would first be given time to meet the requirements and demonstrated that it had made improvements. If at its next inspection the provider was still not meeting the requirements, it would be given an 'Inadequate 2' rating and would be given a shorter timeframe for meeting the required standards or having its registration revoked. If the provider was given an 'Inadequate 2' rating, the Council would no longer fund places for two-year-olds at the setting. Members asked to be kept informed of the situation.

Decision:

To ask the Quality Assurance Manager to provide an update at a future meeting.

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