

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2014**

#### **Present:**

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

Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member, Children’s Services

#### **Apologies:**

Mrs M Gadian, Co-opted Member, Teacher Representative

#### **YPC/OSG/14/15                      Minutes**

To agree the minutes of the Scrutiny Ofsted subgroup held on 25 March 2014 as a correct record.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/16                      Wright Robinson College – Requires Improvement**

This school had previously been inspected in 2012 when it had been awarded a ‘Requires improvement’ rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that this was the second inspection that had resulted in a ‘Requires improvement’ rating. She noted that the quality of grades had improved since the last visit especially in the subjects of Maths and English however, the inspection report indicated that this progress had been variable and fluctuated.

The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that regular progress meeting had been held with the school to monitor and support its improvement. She further commented that she is confident that the next inspection will reflect the improvements made at the school by the strong leadership team.

Members commented that whilst they were disappointed with the findings of the inspection the report highlighted evidence to suggest that improvements will be achieved that will be reflected in the inspection scheduled for February 2015.

#### **Decision:**

To continue to monitor the progress at Wright Robinson College.

#### **YPC/OSG/14/17                      Reports – Outstanding Schools**

##### **A: Lancasterian School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2010 when it had been awarded an ‘Outstanding’ rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the

school are very keen have members of the group visit the school. The members endorsed this recommendation and asked that this be organised for the autumn. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the school continues to be rated as Outstanding and the report reflects the positive work undertaken at the school. She made particular reference to the positive contribution that Teaching Assistants had that was recognised within the report. She further noted that the school has an excellent, well-informed governing body that provides strong leadership.

Members welcomed the report and the continued achievements of the school in delivering excellent outcomes for students across all of the areas inspected. A member welcomed the reference in the report to the school trips and visits that contribute to pupils experiences of managing risk and staying safe.

**Decision:**

1. To write to the school to congratulate them on their 'Outstanding' rating .
2. To arrange a visit to Lancasterian School

**B: North Ridge High School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2011 when it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the school had demonstrated an improvement since the last inspection, especially with regard to the 6<sup>th</sup> form provision which was acknowledged within the report. She further commented that the school had benefited from a strong team of governors and staff that have driven these improvements. The report further recognised the important contribution that Teaching Assistants had played.

Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the improvements that had been achieved at the school. The Chair noted that the report recognised that the school has a positive impact on schools in the surrounding areas.

**Decision:**

1. To write to the school to congratulate them on their 'Outstanding' rating.
2. To arrange a visit to North Ridge High School

**YPC/OSG/14/18 Ofsted Reports – Good/Requires Improvement – North District**

**A: St Malachy's RC Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2012 when it had been awarded a 'Requires Improvement' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group

that the school continues to improve and the governing body have a good understanding of all aspects of the schools work. The report further recognised the important contribution that Teaching Assistants had played.

Members welcomed the improvements achieved at the school. In particular, they noted that the foundations of these improvements are established in the Early Years Foundation Stage that then continues throughout the school. The Chair commented that the ethos of the school is very positive and fosters a sense of community for the children.

The Executive Member noted that a OfSTED are commenting on and paying attention to the presentation of pupil's work when conducting their inspections. The Quality Assurance Manager agreed that this is a criteria that inspectors will examine.

**Decision:**

1. To write to the school to congratulate them on their 'Good' rating

**B: St Clare's RC Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2013 when it had been awarded a 'Requires Improvement' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the school continues to improve and the report reflects that standards had improved. She commented that the leadership at the school is effective and have a clear understanding of how to continue with their improvement.

The Executive Member, Children's Services commented that this demonstrates the importance of establishing a strong management team, as this is then reflected across the body of the school via effective teaching and is then reflected in the behaviour of the pupils.

The members further noted that important contribution that Teaching Assistants had played was recognised within the report. Members welcomed the report and the improvements that have been implement and recognised during the inspection.

**Decision:**

1. To write to the school to congratulate them on their 'Good' rating

**YPC/OSG/14/19 Ofsted Reports – Inadequate**

**A: St Kentigern's RC Primary School**

This school had previously been inspected in 2010 when it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the report highlighted the serious weaknesses that were identified during the inspection. She advised the members that currently the school was not in special measures and

whilst this is disappointing, the report did identify strengths that can be built upon to improve standards going forward.

Members noted that the new governing body is committed to school improvements and they continue to work closely with the diocese and the local authority. Members further commented that whilst they were disappointed with the findings of the inspection the report had identified positive achievements around reading and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Members commented that whilst they remain optimistic that improvements will be achieved they will continue to monitor the situation.

**Decision:**

1. The group note the report
2. The group request a future update report

**B: St James CofE Primary School Gorton**

This school had previously been inspected in 2011 when it had been awarded a 'Good' rating. The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that the school was now in special measures. She informed the group that as a result of this the Department for Education (DfE) is in discussion with the Dioceses and the local authority with a view to the school becoming an Academy. She further informed the group that an Interim Executive Board has been established which currently has a vacancy for a member with a business and finance background. In response to a question from the group she advised that whilst this was not identified as a failing within the report it is a requirement of the DfE.

Members expressed their concern regarding the decline in standards across the whole of the school that resulted in the inspections conclusions. The Chair stated he was very disappointed to learn that the report highlighted that the teachers low expectations of pupils achievements had resulted in below average standards.

**Decision:**

1. The group note the report
2. The group request a future update report

**YPC/OSG/14/20**

**Children's Centres**

There were no Children's Centres for the sub group to consider.

**YPC/OSG/14/21**

**Daycare Providers**

**A: Tiddlywinks Day Nursery, Crumpsall**

The Quality Assurance Manager advised the group that this was an exemplary report that demonstrates the excellent practice that is employed at this day centre. She

informed the group that this service was commissioned by the local authority and the provider has a number of day provisions, all of which have attained an 'Outstanding' rating following inspection.

The Quality Assurance Manager stated that the success of the provision is largely attributed to the investment and ongoing training and development of the staff. She stated that this is recognised within the report which states the quality of the teaching is 'superb' and that staff 'demonstrate a genuine interest in what the children are saying.'

Members welcomed the report and recognised the excellent service that is provided at this site. They further noted that the recommendation made within the report to improve were already in development.

Two members commented that they had recently visited the nursery and explained to the group that they had been very impressed by what they had observed during their visit. They had observed that the interaction between staff and young people was excellent and the physical environment was very stimulating, all of which support and encourages early years development.

**Decision:**

1. The group note the report
2. To write to the nursery to congratulate them on their 'Outstanding' rating and to thank them for allowing members of the group to visit them.

**YPC/OSG/14/22    Dates of future meeting**

The group agreed to the following dates for future meetings –

11 November 2014  
17 March 2015