

EDUCATION MONITORING PANEL

Meeting: 8 January 2008
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor John Pantall (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Jenny Humphreys (Vice-Chair); Councillors Ben Alexander, Owen Breen, Colin Foster, and Paul Porgess

Officers

Richard Bates	-	Service Director (Learning & Achievement)
Sue Davidson	-	Senior School Improvement Advisor – Inclusion
Sue Guy	-	Head of School Improvement
Damian Eaton	-	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate
Chris Braithwaite	-	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate

Also in attendance

Councillor Mark Weldon

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 25 September 2007 were approved as a correct record.

3. WINDLEHURST SCHOOL – MONITORING REPORT

A representative of the Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress made to date at Windlehurst School in response to the Ofsted Inspection undertaken in November 2006.

Mr Kevin Lloyd, Headteacher, and Mrs Chris Elwood, Chair of Governors, attended the meeting and answered Councillors' questions.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The Review of Progress report was more positive than was initially anticipated.
- Windlehurst School is the Borough's only SEBD school, specialising in dealing with the Borough's more challenging students, and that such schools tended to perform more poorly than other schools without these issues.
- There was a need to ensure that the school was integrated within the whole family of schools in Stockport to remove a sense of isolation which was felt by some at the school.

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- The Panel was encouraged by the fact that some students have been reintegrated back into the mainstream school system.
- The Panel noted the school had a significant number of places available and that its funding was less dependent on filling those places than other schools.
- There was potential for drama lessons to be made available to students if they were integrated with lessons from another school.
- The Headteacher and Chair of Governors were confident heading into the Ofsted reinspection.
- Concern was expressed that Maths and English are two of the particularly underperforming areas.
- There was discussion as to what incentives might be offered to make SEBD schools more attractive for teachers to work in, although it was acknowledged that they were already paid more than their mainstream school equivalents.
- It was pleasing to note the progress that had been made at Windlehurst School, although it was clear that more work needed to be done to tackle problems around staffing and the utilisation of staff.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

4. MEADOWBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL – MONITORING REPORT

A representative of the Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress made to date in response to the Ofsted Inspection of February 2007.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The school has made satisfactory progress since the initial inspection and was judged to be “well placed to improve further”.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the high level of temporary staff at the school, although it was acknowledged that the staffing situation had stabilised.
- There remained the psychological problem which resulted from having a split school site, although it was hoped that this would be resolved through construction work at the school to physically join the two buildings.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. TAME VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL – MONITORING REPORT

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress made to date in response to the Ofsted Inspection of May 2007.

It was reported that the Monitoring Inspection undertaken by Ofsted in October/November 2007 had concluded that the school had thus far been making inadequate progress.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The Panel expressed its concern at the slow pace of improvement at the school.
- The school currently has a large and unsustainable level of financial support in

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the long-term to assist its progress toward being brought out of special measures.

- The Panel was advised that teacher remuneration appeared to be based on past not current responsibility.
- The Panel noted the importance of an element of continuity being maintained at the school.
- The Panel expressed its concern at the outcome of the Ofsted inspection, and concluded that it was necessary for the Local Authority and the governing body to find an immediate solution. The inadequate progress of the school towards meeting its areas of improvement needed to be urgently resolved.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. ST ANNES RC SCHOOL – MONITORING REPORT

A representative of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress made to date in response to the Ofsted Inspection of November 2006.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.

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