

EDUCATION MONITORING PANEL

Meeting: 16 September 2008
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Owen Breen, Colin Foster and Mark Weldon.

Officers

Richard Bates	-	Service Director (Learning & Achievement), Children & Young People's Directorate
Sue Davidson	-	Senior School Improvement Adviser, Children & Young People's Directorate
Sue Guy	-	Head of School Improvement, Children & Young People's Directorate
Chris Braithwaite	-	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mark Weldon be elected Chair of the Panel until the next Annual Council Meeting.

Councillor Mark Weldon in the Chair

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Colin Foster be appointed Vice-Chair of the Panel until the next Annual Council Meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Jenny Humphreys and John Pantall.

4. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 18 March 2008 were approved as a correct record.

5. WINDLEHURST SCHOOL - UPDATE

The Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the Monitoring Panel with an update on the performance of Windlehurst School following the HMI Monitoring Visit on Tuesday 29 April.

The HMI Monitoring Visit judged that following the Ofsted inspection of 22 November 2006 the school had made inadequate progress in addressing the issues identified as requiring attention, and raised concerns regarding the levels of attendance, the

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pace of lessons and a lack of effectiveness in leadership and management.

The Service Director (Learning & Achievement) also reported that due to a serious incident occurring on 2 July 2008 during the event welcoming new students from Oak Grove Primary School to Windlehurst School, it had been judged that it was not appropriate for students from Oak Grove Primary to enter Year 7 at Windlehurst School in the autumn term, and that as a result Windlehurst School currently had no Year 7 pupils.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The next Ofsted inspection of the school was likely to take place during the 2008/09 academic year. A poor inspection would result in the school being placed on Notice to Improve or Special Measures.
- The lack of Year 7 students was a major concern.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. TAME VALLEY AND WESTMORLAND SCHOOLS – LESSONS LEARNED

The Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) regarding the lessons learnt from the closure of Tame Valley Primary School and the extension of Westmorland Primary School.

The importance of a strong, open and honest relationship with the Headteacher and Governor's of under-performing schools was felt to be critical, as was the need for the Local Authority to not be reticent about action and intervention if the quality of education at a school was not acceptable, which the revised Code of Conduct for Schools on Stage 3 and 4 of the Local Authority Protocol would make easier.

It was reported that the overall process of extending Westmorland Primary has been relatively successful, and was felt to have improved the standard of education provided in Brinnington.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The possibility of the Education Monitoring Panel acting as a critical friend to schools was discussed.
- The speed with which action was taken follow the Ofsted report of "unsatisfactory progress" was encouraging.
- The benefits of presenting the Local Authority's view of a school to the Governor's and parents directly, rather than through the Headteacher, were discussed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. PROVISIONAL REPORT ON FOUNDATION STAGE TO KEY STAGE 4 RESULTS 2008

A representative of the Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the provisional Foundation Stage to

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Key Stage 4 results for 2008.

Stockport's results were above the national average at all stages where national data was available, and at Key Stage 2 Stockport's results were ranked sixth nationally. No results were available for Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 Stockport saw an increase of 6.2% in the number of children achieving 5 A*-C grades.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SCHOOLS ON STAGES 3 AND 4 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PROTOCOL

The Service Director (Learning & Achievement) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing details of the schools currently at Stages 3 and 4 of the Local Authority Schools with Additional Needs Protocol.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an updated report be submitted to the Monitoring Panel at the meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 17 March 2009.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm