

REPORT TO: Children and Young People and Families Performance and Policy Board (PPB)

DATE: 20 October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children & Enterprise

WARDS: Borough-wide

SUBJECT: School Development Panel

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members with an update of schools that have been scrutinised by the School Development Panel (SDP) in the 2013/14 academic year

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

2.1 Members take note of the report and the quality of educational provision in the schools inspected during this period.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 The School Development Panel, as part of Halton's Learning and Achievement Strategy, holds schools to account following their most recent Ofsted inspection.

3.2 The Headteacher and Chair of Governors attend the School Development Panel as soon as practicable after their school has been inspected by Ofsted. The school is asked to present and share the outcomes of its inspection with members. The school is also asked as part of this presentation, to report on progress against the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report.

3.3 The SDP members, through this process challenge schools where the inspection outcome is less than good. If any barriers to improvement are identified, the school is asked on how it will overcome these and if any external support is being provided, the effectiveness of this support is evaluated by members.

3.4 Where schools have been judged as good or outstanding this gives SDP members opportunities to celebrate the school's success and explore how any good practice could be shared widely.

3.5 The above scrutiny process helps SDP members keep in touch with our schools and this helps identify opportunities for scrutiny in order to influence education in Halton. This process also helps support school leaders and governors improve the quality of educational provision. This report helps

'join up' the functions of the SDP and the Children, Young People and Families Performance and Policy Board (PPB). Monitoring, challenge and support remain clear roles for both the SDP and the PPB.

4.0 School Development Panel Programme 2013/14

4.1 During the 2013/14 academic year the School Development Panel, which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families met on five occasions, to discuss the inspection outcomes of 23 schools.

4.2 The list of schools including Academies and the free school are discussed in sections 5.1 to 5.6 of this report.

5.0 Summary Evaluations

5.1 At first meeting of the SDP on 25 September 2013 three schools attended the SDP meeting namely:

Ditton Nursery (4)
Simms Cross (3)
Farnworth CE Primary (2)

- Ditton Nursery was in Special Measures at that time. Ditton Nursery was taken out of Special Measures in June 2014. The overall effectiveness was judged as good.
- Simms Cross was requiring improvement but the school was judged as good in July 2014.
- Farnworth was judged as good and the school continues to improve and is now providing support to another local school.

5.2 The next SDP meeting was held on 20 November 2013. Three schools attended this meeting as follows:

West Bank (4)
Murdishaw West (3)
Windmill Hill (1)

- West Bank is still in Special Measures and has been subject to HMI monitoring. The most recent HMI monitoring visit in June 2014 concluded that the school was making reasonable progress. Another HMI visit is due this term.
- Murdishaw West requires improvement. The school has had external support from HMI and from its Link Officer. The school is being monitored closely.
- Windmill Hill was judged outstanding in all areas.

5.3 On 29 January 2014, All Saints Upton, The Brow and Fairfield Infant attended the School Development Panel.

- Fairfield Infants is now part of Fairfield Primary. Overall the last inspection of Infant School judged it as good overall.

- All Saints Upton requires improvement and under the leadership of a new Headteacher is making reasonable progress.
- The Brow, the Headteacher has been on long term illness since February 2014. The Deputy Headteacher is currently the Acting Headteacher. The school has strengthened its Governing Body and continues to receive external support from its Link Officer, HMI and other Council Departments.

5.4 The next batch of schools to come before the SDP was on 19 March 2014. They are as follows:

- Moore Primary was judged as good overall.
- St Edwards was judged as good overall.
- Woodside, a school that had been subject to a Warning Notice, was judged as good overall.
- St Martin's was judged good overall.
- Sandymoor Free School, overall effectiveness was judged as good.

5.5 On 21 May 2014 the following schools attended the SDP:

- St Clement's requires improvement. The school continues to have external support from HMI and its Link Officer. The school is improving but it has had difficulty recruiting experienced teachers.
- Pewithall was judged outstanding and provides support and training to other schools on computer programming.
- Birchfield Nursery was judged as good overall.
- St John Fisher was judged as good overall.
- Chesnut Lodge was judged good across all areas.

5.6 The last group of schools to come before the SDP for the academic year on 9 July 2014 was:

- The Grange All Through School was judged to require improvement. Feedback from the most recent HMI monitoring visit was positive.
- Oakfield was judged to be requiring improvement but leadership, teaching, behaviour and safety were judged as good.
- Halebank, the school was judged as good overall.
- Ditton Primary was judged good across all areas under new leadership.

6.0 Summary – Overall Effectiveness

6.1 The 23 schools scrutinised by SDP were inspected under the new framework. Two schools, Ditton Nursery and Simms Cross Primary were re-inspected towards the end of the 2013/14 academic year and both improved on their previous overall effectiveness judgements. Simms Cross Primary, previously judged as requiring improvement was judged as good and Ditton Nursery, previously in Special Measures was judged as good.

6.2 Total number of schools scrutinised by the SDP: 23

Overall Effectiveness, Judgements, Changes between September 2013 and July 2014				
Judgement	Number of schools		Change July 2014	
Outstanding	2	8.69%	2	8.69%
Good	12	52.1%	14	60.8%
Requires Improvement	7	30.0%	6	26%
Serious Weaknesses	0	0%	0	0%
Special Measures	2	8.69%	1	4.34%
TOTAL	23		23	

6.3 Overall, as at the end of August 2014, 82% of all schools in Halton were judged as good or outstanding compared to 80% nationally.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – N/A

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People

The monitoring, challenge and scrutiny provided by the School Development Panel contributes to the raising of pupil achievement across all schools in Halton regardless of school type.

8.2 Employment and skills in Halton – N/A

8.3 A Healthy Halton – N/A

8.4 A Safer Halton

Most Ofsted inspection judgements on Behaviour and Safety are good or outstanding.

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – N/A

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to monitor and scrutinise school performance could lead to underperformance and poor relationships with our schools.

10.0 Equality and Diversity Issues

All schools come before the School Development Panel and the performance of various groups is scrutinised in particular the use of the Pupil Premium to close the attainment gaps.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

Learning and Achievement Strategy available from
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