

Select Committee on Children's Services – 15 September 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

School Improvement Policy

Purpose of Report

1. This report brings to the attention of the Select Committee the recently-revised Policy.

Background

2. The School Improvement Policy is the vehicle through which the Local Authority implements its statutory powers to monitor, challenge, support and intervene in schools. This Policy has been successfully implemented for a number of years
3. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 updated the statutory duties of local authorities and further outlined how the Local Authority should conduct its relationships with schools. In particular, this legislation made it compulsory for all schools to have a School Improvement Partner (SIPs) to act as the single point of contact between schools and the Local Authority by conducting a series of discussions about school improvement and its rate of progress. In essence SIPs would act as the primary person acting on behalf of the Local Authority in pursuit of their statutory duties. The revised policy has been updated to reflect this change. In addition, it has been revised to update the criteria by which the Local Authority bands schools according to need in order that Local Authority support can be targeted on schools in line with the support by inverse proportion principle. The role of the School Performance Group in this assessment remains unchanged from the previous Policy.
4. The Policy has been developed alongside schools, and has undergone a full consultation with all partners and stakeholders. Very few formal responses were received and the general view was very positive.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The funding for the implementation of this policy sits within the School Improvement base budget and the School Improvement Partner Standards Grant.

Law

6. The Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Equality Impact

7. A stage 1 assessment was undertaken and it was decided that a further assessment was not needed on this occasion. The positive stakeholder and partner responses and evidence from monitoring the previous policy are evidence that any changes are unlikely to have adverse impact on any particular group.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Select Committee notes this policy and remits it for further consideration to the School Performance Working Group.



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John Freeman
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Dave Perrett, Senior Education Improvement Officer
Telephone: 01384 818025
Email: dave.perrett@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Policy attached.