

**Select Committee on Children's Services - 21 January 2009**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**The Progress of Dudley Schools as measured by Ofsted Inspection**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with an update on the quality of education provision in Dudley schools when measured against Ofsted inspection criteria.

**Background**

2. The 2006 Education and Inspections Act re-affirmed the statutory requirement for all schools to be subject to Ofsted inspection and for reports to be published for parents and the wider community to see the progress being made.
3. The statutory role of the Local Authority is to monitor, challenge and support school improvement. The school inspection outcomes are used as a gauge as to how effect the Local Authority has been in discharging its statutory responsibilities. The evidence provided is used to inform the Council's Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Review.
4. The work of the Local Authority is governed by its School Improvement Policy incorporating the role of School Improvement Partners. This policy was formulated in consultation with all schools and relevant stakeholders.

**Outcomes**

5. During the period September 2005 – December 2008 all Dudley schools have been inspected using the existing Ofsted framework. A small number of schools in the period September 2008 – December 2008 were inspected however as part of the pilot inspection process aimed at revising and updating Ofsted's framework.
6. At the time of writing this update Dudley has no schools deemed to require a Notice to Improve or be in need of Special Measures. This statistic is significant in that this is the first time the Local Authority has been in this position for nearly ten years. The last school to have been judged to have made significant

progress and no longer require a Notice to Improve was Bramford primary school.

7. At present 7% of all schools (8 schools) have been judged outstanding for their overall effectiveness. A further 44% (49 schools) of all schools have been judged to have good overall effectiveness leaving 49% with satisfactory overall effectiveness. 67% of secondary schools (14 schools) are judged to have a good or outstanding quality of education, whilst 76% (16 schools) of secondary schools are judged to have good or outstanding leadership and management. All of these figures are higher than national figures for school inspections undertaken between September 2007 – July 2008. Similar judgements regarding special schools (85% good or better) are also in line with or above the latest national figures. The percentage of primary schools with good or outstanding overall effectiveness in Dudley is 46% (36 schools). This is slightly below the national picture for 2007-2008. Leadership and management was good or outstanding in 56% (44 schools) of Dudley schools, again this is slightly below national figures.
8. In the period September 2007 – July 2008 36 schools were inspected in Dudley. Overall, the performance of schools showed sustained improvement. In particular, the percentage of secondary schools (80%, 5 schools) and special schools (100%, 3 schools) judged good or better for overall effectiveness and achievement and standards were above the national figures for the similar period.
9. The Directorate's priorities for 2009/10 are:
  1. Make every effort to support and challenge schools so that no school is judged to require a Notice to Improve or Special Measures. This activity will be set against the changing nature of the inspection framework.
  2. To improve the number of schools judged to be outstanding.
  3. To increase the number of schools (especially primary) judged to be good.
10. In order to achieve these priorities the key activities for the local authority will be:
  1. To sustain the effective targeting of support and challenge to all schools and in particular to those at most risk of an adverse Ofsted inspection.
  2. To maximise the impact of the Black Country Challenge in meeting the priorities outlined above.

## **Finance**

11. The work of school improvement services is funded by the Local Authority, Area Based Grant, and targeted school funding provided by central government and monitored via the National Strategy Team. The work of the service has been planned within existing budgets and no additional resource is being sought.

### **Law**

12. The main provision relating to Ofsted inspections are contained in the Education Act 2005 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

### **Equality Impact**

13. The work of the school improvement service is aimed at attaining the highest quality of education provision for all schools and young people. Consequently, all actions are monitored to ensure no individual or group of young people is adversely affected by the work undertaken.

### **Recommendation**

14. It is recommended that:-

The committee receive this report on behalf of the Council.



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