

minutes



Meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 11th January 2005 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Stella Smedley (Chair)

A M Suthers OBE (Vice-Chair)

	Colin Bromfield	A	Mrs Nellie Smedley
A	Yvonne Davidson	A	Richard Robinson
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Brian Smith
	E Llewellyn-Jones		Andy Stewart
A	Tom Pettengell		Yvonne Woodhead
	Peter D Prebble		

Statutory Added Members

A Mr K Daly
Mr D Richards JP
Ms P Burbidge (Parent Governor)
Ms L Wooding (Parent Governor)

Non-Voting Co-optees

	Mr L Jefferies	(Teacher Trades Unions)
	Mrs G Lane	(School Governors)
A	Mr N Lewis	(F E sector)
A	Mr A McAllister	(Ethnic Minority Communities)
	Dr B Ramsey	(School Governors)
A	Ms L Regan	(Teacher Trades Unions)
	Mr A Ross	(Teacher Trades Unions)
A	Mr J Wilson	(Head Teachers)
	Vacancy	(Head Teachers)

Others invited to attend

A Ms T Carnachan (Support Staff Unions)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Martin Brandon-Bravo
Mr J Cocking

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd November 2004 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Yvonne Davidson

- “ Mrs N Smedley (on other County Council business)
- “ Richard Robinson
- “ Martin Suthers

Mr K Daly

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

CABINET MEMBER'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2004

In introducing the report, Councillor Storey drew particular attention to the sections on integrated childrens' services and the DfES 5 year strategy. In relation to the latter, he had gained the view that Nottinghamshire Head Teachers thought that the strategy was a step too far. Mrs Burbidge agreed with this point of view, referring to the considerable present responsibilities of governors, and the experience of some NHS trusts. Councillor Heptinstall was concerned that the strategy did not address the needs of either schools or pupils who were doing less well. Councillor Stella Smedley referred to a recent Radio 4 programme about foundation schools, and their relatively high rates of excluded pupils. She wondered whether the Committee might want to scrutinise the performance of foundation schools at some point in the future.

ANALYSIS OF TARGETED SUPPORT, APRIL 2003 – MARCH 2004

Di Morton, Assistant Director (Strategic Services) introduced the report, which gave a mixed message. However figures showed that the LEA's approach of helping schools with their own self-evaluation was the right one. In response to a question from Councillor Heptinstall, Mrs Morton stated that for the first time, data was held at the level of an individual pupil, so that achievements could be tracked and the value added more clearly assessed. Inspectors took this information into schools on their laptop computers, but were somewhat constrained by the technology available to them. Members expressed concern that this should be the case, and Mrs Morton offered to pursue their concerns.

Councillor Brandon-Bravo asked in what way a 6th Form was “inadequate”, and was surprised that some schools should be poor at self-assessment, given that this had been part of the OFSTED regime for a number of years. Mrs Morton replied that the OFSTED definition of an inadequate 6th Form meant one that was not providing the right curriculum or results. She explained that every school had support in self-evaluation and the opportunity to participate in training programmes run every year. She referred to the need for schools not to become complacent, and to the sometimes counter-productive health checks carried out by consultants engaged directly by schools. Councillor Brandon-Bravo also asked whether there were schools which retained a small 6th Form to the detriment of its students. Mrs Morton replied that schools worked hard to minimise the impact on students of a small 6th Form, by entering consortia with other schools to offer the widest curriculum. In reply to questions from Mrs Lane, she explained how the performance of Nottinghamshire schools receiving targeted support compared with the national picture, and agreed to provide clarification for the next meeting on the figures in paragraph 6 of the report.

It was agreed to note the report, with no items being identified for further scrutiny.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEA'S POST-INSPECTION ACTION PLAN FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED PROVISION

Mrs Morton introduced the report, indicating that a more detailed report would be brought in the summer. At Councillor Prebble's suggestion, she offered to let the Committee have sight of the governors' training pack. In reply to Councillor Smith, she stated that the take up on training courses had been good.

PERFORMANCE IN FORMER COALFIELD AREAS STUDY GROUP

Councillor Stella Smedley reported that the study group had held its last meeting the previous day, and the final report would be presented to Committee in due course.

DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICE STUDY GROUP

Councillor Smedley reported that the study group had given further attention to the benefits of advanced skills teachers, and the next meeting would be about families of schools.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

CHAIR