



meeting	GCSE Attainment and Deprivation	
date	9 February 2009	agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the GCSE Attainment and Deprivation Select Committee

Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To provide an introduction to departmental officers who have been asked to present information requested at the initial meeting of the select committee.
2. To consider and agree the future work programme.

Background

3. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on October 13 2008 commissioned a select committee to examine GCSE attainment levels for pupils who are in receipt of free school meals. Free school meal rates give a broad indication of the level of deprivation among pupils attending a particular school. 13.9% of Nottinghamshire pupils in receipt of free school meals (FSM) achieved 5 A* to C passes at GCSE including english and maths compared with 45 % of pupils not in receipt of FSM for the academic year 2007. Nottinghamshire was ranked 130th out of a total of 148 local authorities.
4. At its first meeting members of the Select Committee received a presentation from departmental officers which outlined the challenge of closing the performance gap for young people who are eligible for FSM. Nottingham County Council's strategic priorities including the raising of standards in core subjects, improving the quality of teaching, learning and curriculum provision were outlined. The need to share good practice; the support available for schools which have additional needs; the role of advanced skills teachers and the broadening of the range of curriculum pathways was discussed. The role of the National Challenge programme in improving schools performance and how contextual value added measures progress between key stages as also explained.

Further Information

5. Colin Shepherd, Principal Officer Data Analysis, Children and Young Peoples Services attend the meeting to present a report (appendix 1) and discuss 2008 GCSE and equivalent data which will include:
 - a breakdown of FSM and non FSM performance for each school in Nottinghamshire
 - Nottinghamshire FSM performance relative to other local authorities and statistical neighbours
 - Contextual Value Added (CVA) scores between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 for each Nottinghamshire school.
6. John Slater, Service Director - Learning and Achievement Children and Young People's Services will attend the meeting to inform Members about the progress of the 13 Nottinghamshire schools identified by the National Challenge criteria.

Work Programme

7. The date for the next Select Committee meeting is the 16 March. Subject to Member agreement this will now be used for school visits. Suggested dates for additional Select Committees are:
 - 20 April 2009 - to discuss the findings of the school visits and receive any additional information identified
 - 11 May 2009 - to agree the key themes of the review and discuss recommendations.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that GCSE Attainment and Deprivation Select Committee:
 - consider and ask questions about the information provided to the Select Committee and discuss any issues arising from the presentations
 - agree the date for the school visits
 - agree additional Select Committee dates
 - consider issues where the Select Committee may require additional information and agree any areas around the future work programme.

Councillor Yvonne Davidson

Chair of the GCSE Attainment and Deprivation Select Committee

Background papers: nil.