

minutes



Meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 23rd November 2004 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Stella Smedley (Chair)

M Suthers OBE (Vice-Chair)

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

Statutory Added Members

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

Non-Voting Co-optees

A	Mr L Jefferies	(Teacher Trades Unions)
A	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

Ms T Carnachan (Support Staff Unions)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr B Pardon
Mr J Cocking

MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Councillor C J Bromfield had been appointed to the Committee to fill a vacancy, and that Ms T Carnachan had replaced Mr R Sydes as a representative of the Support Staff Unions.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th October 2004 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Stan Heptinstall
“ Peter D Prebble
“ Mrs N Smedley
Ms L Regan

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

ANALYSIS OF OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SEPTEMBER 2003 – JULY 2004

Anne Allsop, School Improvement Service, drew out the key points from the analysis of OFSTED inspection reports on schools during 2003/04. She drew attention both to the strengths which had been identified, and to areas where there was scope for improvement. In response to questions from Dr Ramsey, Ms Allsop stated that schools which had piloted the new inspection regime were positive about the experience, and all schools would follow this format from 2005. She referred to work with teachers to ensure they maximise their potential, and to a national debate taking place about standards in science. In reply to Councillor Davidson, Ms Allsop stated that no teaching had been identified as poor, with unsatisfactory being the lowest category.

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones reminded the Committee that nursery units and centres were now inspected by OFSTED, and of the need to train staff in nurseries to prepare for inspections. Ms Allsop pointed out that the LEA's early years inspectors worked with the nurseries. Councillor Stella Smedley pointed out that the Committee had identified early years provision as a topic for a future study group.

In relation to secondary schools, Ms Allsop emphasised that the sample was small, and no denominational secondary schools had been inspected. She illustrated the steps the LEA might take to improve school leadership and to improve schools in special measures. Members emphasised the need to keep governors informed of developments, and Ms Allsop agreed there was a need to address such issues more consistently. However the link inspector's role was to link with the headteacher rather than the governors. Di Morton, Assistant Director (Strategic Services), added that the LEA took account of circumstances in its approach to schools in special measures. Mr Cocking pointed out that the school improvement document was key. Councillor Stella Smedley identified work with schools in special measures as a possible topic for a future study group.

KEELE UNIVERSITY SURVEY OF PUPILS' ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL LIFE

Di Morton introduced the report on Nottinghamshire pupils' responses to the survey undertaken by Keele University. She offered to provide Councillor Davidson with more detailed information for use by the study group on performance in former coalfield areas. Ms Burbage asked how schools prepared for the transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. Mrs Morton replied that the School Improvement Service worked with schools to develop a transition strategy and transition curriculum, which included visits by pupils and teachers. As far as performance by boys in particular was concerned, Ms Allsop stated that this was a priority for the School Improvement Service across both key stages, and learning from best practice was taking place. Mr Pardon observed that while he was pleased that the bullying figure was low, it should still be lower.

It was agreed that a report on the Keele University survey should be presented on an annual basis.

PERFORMANCE IN FORMER COALFIELDS AREA STUDY GROUP

Councillor Yvonne Davidson reported that the study group was now in its final phase, and was preparing its recommendations. At the last meeting, there had been presentations on absence and building learning communities. The group was aware that parents' experience of education impacted on their children. She thanked the schools that the study group had visited.

DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICE STUDY GROUP

Councillor Stella Smedley reported that the study group had looked at the dissemination of good practice in families of schools, and had found gaps as well as effective working. Mr Richards added that the group had identified the value of seconding teachers, and the benefits of advanced skills teachers. Councillor Llewellyn-Jones commented that the recruitment and retention study group had also recognised the value of advanced skills teachers.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.

CHAIR

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