

# minutes



Meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING STANDING  
SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

A Stella Smedley (Chair)  
M Suthers OBE (Vice-Chair)

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

## 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**

A Mr R Sydes (Support Staff Unions)

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor M Storey  
Councillor M Brandon-Bravo  
Mr B Pardon

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:-

Apology for absence from Councillor Tom Pettengell (on other County Council business)

Mr D Richards (and not Dr B Ramsey) had declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No.4.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Stella Smedley  
“ Peter D Prebble  
“ Mrs N Smedley

Mr N Lewis  
Ms L Regan  
Mr J Wilson

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

### **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION: JUNE – AUGUST 2004**

Councillor Storey introduced his report, and invited questions and comments. He explained how shortlisting for the Assistant Director for Inclusion Services post had recently taken place. Mr Richards emphasised the importance of good attendance by both staff and students. Councillor Smith wondered whether problems arose from the DfES expectation that the LEA would focus its attention on schools with higher levels of absence. Councillor Storey replied that schools not being given extra support could feel left out. Dr

Ramsey congratulated schools who worked hard to reduce their absence levels.

## **KEY MESSAGES FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEA'S STATISTICAL PROFILE**

Dianne Morton, Assistant Director (Strategic Services) introduced the report, which compared aspects of the performance of Nottinghamshire schools in respect to the national picture and in similar LEAs. Councillor Suthers commented on the difference between primary and secondary schools. In reply to a question from Dr Ramsey, Mrs Morton said that the figures covered all secondary schools and drew on information gathered since 1999.

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones believed that the strengths in primary schools might result from the size of the school, or from having particular good individual teachers. He recalled studies in the 1960s which had identified the importance of these factors. Councillor Heptinstall believed that pupil behaviour was key, and hoped that improvements in the primary phase would translate to secondary schools.

In reply to questions, Mrs Morton said that the report could include numbers as well as percentages, where the information was available. She indicated that in relation to secondary schools, the Department was looking at how other LEAs dealt with disaffected and potentially disaffected pupils. Mentoring had been shown to be useful. She stated that information was shared with secondary headteachers at their termly meetings with the Director of Education. There were frank discussions at these meetings. However she added that there were no easy answers to the issues raised. She indicated that the Futures Group had started work on issues relating to ethos.

## **SUMMER TERM 2004 EXCLUSION DATA**

Alan Coker, Local Education Officer, drew out the key messages from the report. Councillor Brandon-Bravo asked about the effect of changing DfES policies. Mr Coker replied that there had been a change in climate 2-3 years ago when pastoral support plans had been introduced, along with targets for schools and the LEA on exclusions. The number of exclusions had increased since those targets had been removed. Dr Ramsey observed that it might be interesting to have information on pupils' family background which was included on the forms completed by schools.

In reply to Councillor Heptinstall, Mr Coker stated that it was difficult to make comparisons with other LEAs until comparative data was published by the DfES. However, in the past, figures in Nottinghamshire had been about average. He explained that the LEA now had responsibility for providing education to children excluded for more than 15 days, and there was a team in place to provide this. Most children were placed in alternative schools, with places also being available in pupil referral units and the further education sector. Councillor Pettengell asked for information on fixed term exclusions, in relation to repeat offences and the reasons for exclusion. Mr Coker offered to provide this information.

## **PERFORMANCE IN FORMER COALFIELDS AREA STUDY GROUP**

Councillor Yvonne Davidson reported on recent work by the Study Group, which had met Link Inspectors, Early Years staff and the literacy and numeracy consultant. They had heard of the LEA's aim to raise performance of Key Stage 3 pupils from level 3 to level 5. The Study Group had considered the arts and environmental education support for pupils, and its next plan was to visit some secondary schools. Councillor Llewellyn-Jones commented that schools could make more use of the facilities at Cresswell Craggs.

## **DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICE STUDY GROUP**

Mr Richards reported on recent work by the group which had thought that the Good Practice Conference in Newark had been excellent. The group was now looking at families of schools, had visited schools with good practice and sent out questionnaires to gather information.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.

## **CHAIR**

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