



meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

date 13 September 2005 agenda item number 4

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Education Development Plan for Nottinghamshire: Progress report on 2004-2005 actions and activities for 2005-2006

Purpose of Report

1. To consider and scrutinise the outcomes of the 2004-2005 evaluation of the Education Development Plan (EDP) and the activities planned for 2005-2006. A copy of the EDP and a list of acronyms are **attached** for Committee members only.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The EDP, covering the period 2002-2007, was approved by County Council in April 2002. The plan was agreed by the Secretary of State and judged by the Department for Education and Skills and by Ofsted to be of good quality. It is a key statutory plan which contains the statutory targets for improving pupil achievement and identifies the priorities for school improvement. This is the fourth year of the five year plan. It will, however, be the final year in which the EDP will be produced as a stand alone document. For 2006-2007 the targets for improving pupil achievement and school performance will be incorporated into the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The planning for school improvement activities will either be incorporated into the new CYPP or held as a sub set of plans.
3. Each year officers with lead responsibility for the six sets of activity programmes report on a half yearly basis to an evaluation group chaired by an Assistant Director. Each lead officer compiles a report and gives a verbal update to the evaluation group. The purpose of the group is to provide appropriate challenge to the lead officers. The outcomes of these group meetings are tested against an audit of all the national tests and examination results for Nottinghamshire pupils, including scrutiny of the performance of different groups of pupils. In addition, the outcomes of all Ofsted inspections in Nottinghamshire

schools and information provided by the Advisory and Inspection Service from school reviews and targeted support for individual schools are considered. The findings from the audit process, evaluation of the impact of activities and feedback from schools guide the construction of the actions to be undertaken during the following year.

The evaluation of progress made with the EDP in 2004-2005

4. Overall, good progress was made in the delivery of the planned actions for 2004-2005, although the completion rate fell below that achieved in the previous year by 2%. In 2004-2005 87% of the activities were completed within the timeline. A further 10% were rescheduled or continued into the summer term. The remaining 3% of actions were not delivered because of delays arising from incompleteness of work by other partners, some technical difficulty with ICT solutions and reduced officer capacity owing to illness or unfilled vacancies. Details of the completion of all activity programmes, with explanation for any slippage, are set out in Section 3 of the EDP evaluation report (pages 19-40).
5. The effectiveness of the actions delivered is also evaluated in Section 3 of the EDP report. The evaluation shows that Nottinghamshire primary schools have continued to improve their standard of attainment to remain just above the national standard at age 11 on the completion of primary schooling. At the secondary level, however, attainment remains below that achieved nationally in all the key measures, both at key stage 3 (pupils aged 14) and at key stage 4 (pupils aged 16). A particular feature of the audit process for 2004-2005 has been an analysis of children's and young people's end of key stage outcomes in relation to parental occupation. This analysis confirms the strong link between parental occupation and pupil attainment, which widens as students move through the school system, especially at secondary level. Further analysis of students' staying on rate after the completion of statutory schooling indicates the impact of the culture of low aspiration which research now clearly shows affects former coalfield areas. Nottinghamshire has 32 of its 48 secondary schools defined by the DfES as former coalfield schools – only Durham has a higher proportion. These factors help to explain the continued slow overall progress in improving secondary outcomes compared to those achieved nationally and in comparison with the County's statistical neighbours.
6. The evaluation of the EDP considers performance against the LEA's statutory targets. The details are set out in Section 2.1 (pages 2-5). This section shows that the outcome targets for 2004 were not achieved. However, in some cases the raw figures do not do justice to the amount of progress made in recent years. For example, the proportion of 11 year olds at key stage 2 gaining level 4 or above has risen by almost 10% over the past 5 years, which is greater than the national rate and that of statistical neighbours. However, the outcome scores still fall short of the 2004 target by 7%. Similarly, in mathematics, the improvement rate of level 4 and above since 1999 is almost 3%, which is greater than the national average but leaves a raw

outcome figure which is over 9% short of the 2004 target. At key stage 3 the gap between targets and actual performance was less pronounced. However, the target was missed by almost 6% in English, in spite of above national average improvement in the previous four years. In mathematics the target was narrowly missed by just 1%, while in science it was over 7%. The teacher assessed outcome for information and communication technology (ICT) was short of target by 11%, although the view of the LEA is that this figure represents a raising of the assessment bar in a wholly teacher assessed test. At key stage 4 Nottinghamshire schools remain 3.5% below target and 4.5 % below the national average for the key national benchmark 5+ A* - C measure. Disappointingly, the more inclusive 5+ A*-G figure fell slightly in 2004 to 4.3% below target and 3.8% below the national figure.

7. The data for attendance outcomes are set out on page 5 of the EDP report. The LEA did not reach its targets for the percentage of half days missed in primary or secondary schools. Overall attendance increased in primary schools but fell slightly in secondary schools to below the national average.

Actions for 2005-2006

8. The actions for 2005-2006 are set out in the annex of the report. In line with the audit of outcomes, there is a particular emphasis upon targeting vulnerable groups of children and young people and an emphasis upon raising standards in secondary school, particular at key stage 4. The needs of white working class boys, particularly in former coalfield areas, and some ethnic minority groups are targeted. A full list of those groups and activities requiring particular emphasis over the coming months is given on page 43 of the EDP report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material they have been described in the text of the report. Members' attention is, however, drawn to the following:

Financial Implications

10. The costs of delivering the EDP are included within the Education Department budget.

Equal Opportunities Implications

11. The EDP contains a wide range of actions focusing on promoting and securing equality of opportunity for all Nottinghamshire pupils. In particular, there are actions to support under-achieving pupils, pupils with special educational needs and those in public care and at risk of exclusion.

Implications for Service Users

12. Schools have been consulted upon the activities of the EDP and are asked to consider the LEA's targets when setting their own statutory targets. The priorities for improvement are shared with schools and are those reflected in the majority of individual schools' own improvement plans.

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. There are actions in the EDP to contribute to promoting good citizenship, reducing exclusions and reducing teenage crime and the use and misuse of drugs and alcohol.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That the EDP annual evaluation report and the activity programmes are noted and that any items for future scrutiny are identified.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Background Papers Available for Inspection

The Education Development Plan for Nottinghamshire for 2002-2007.

M19C1384