

# Minutes



Meeting GCSE ATTAINMENT AND DEPRIVATION SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 9 February 2009 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

Yvonne Davisdon (Chair)  
Andy Stewart (Vice Chair)

A Peter Barnes  
Jen Cole  
Philip Owen

A Martin Suthers  
A Kevan Wakefield  
Yvonne Woodhead

## STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A Mr E Hayes (Diocese of Nottingham)  
Mr D Richards (Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham)  
A Mrs I Wooding (Parent Governor)  
Vacancy (Parent Governor)

The representative from the Chief Executive's Department reported that Mr J Rudd and Mr J Parry were in the process of being appointed to serve as Statutory Co-opted Members on the Select Committee.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillors Peter Barnes  
Martin Suthers  
Kevan Wakefield

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

**PRESENTATION BY JOHN SLATER SERVICE DIRECTOR LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT AND COLIN SHEPHERD PRINCIPAL OFFICER DATA ANALYSIS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

The Select Committee received a presentation from John Slater Service Director Learning and Achievement on the significant progress made by the 13 Nottinghamshire schools identified by the National Challenge programme. The programme was a government initiative aimed at serving the most deprived children in the community. The schools all had a national challenge advisor responsible for ensuring that accurate tracking systems were in place to improve performance to 30%.

Colin Shepherd Principal Officer Data Analysis appraised the Select Committee on the data provided following a request from its last meeting:-

- 2008 Key Stage 4 achievement by free school meal eligibility in Nottinghamshire schools
- Percentage of KS4 pupils who are eligible for free school meals in Nottinghamshire schools
- Nottinghamshire's KS4 performance by FSM eligibility relative to statistical neighbours
- Percentage of all pupils who are eligible for free school meals by Local Authorities
- Summary of Nottinghamshire's KS4 achievement rankings 2005-2008
- Key Stage 2 to key Stage 4 Contextual Value Added analysis
- 2008 Key achievement outcomes at Key Stage 4 in Nottinghamshire schools
- Nottinghamshire's KS4 achievement relative to statistical neighbours 2005-2007.

It was reported that results for 2008 showed that a percentage of pupils eligible for FSM achieving five or more A\* -C grades had almost doubled to 25.4% since 2005. Compared to other Local Authorities, Nottinghamshire's performance had improved but remained in the bottom quartile. A new performance measure introduced by government to specifically look at the achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers showed that the attainment gap in Nottinghamshire was 31.7 percentage points this is above the national average of 27.8 percentage points. The aim for Nottinghamshire and all other local authorities was to reduce the attainment gap and ensure greater equality.

Locally the attainment gap between those eligible for FSM and their peers was greatest in Bassetlaw with Ashfield having the smallest. It was pointed out that when assessing individual school performance it was important to consider the size of the FSM cohort since the challenges faced by schools with a cohort of 5 pupils eligible for FSM was different to schools with over 50 FSM pupils.

There was a discussion on the information presented which included other factors that may have a significant effect on performance such as poor home life and absence. It was important to look at individual children. In terms of CVA

Nottinghamshire was not doing as well as they would like to be, although the number of schools on or about 1000 had doubled over the last 2 years. In response to a question the Authority were looking closely into why some children with FSM were performing well.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme for future meetings was discussed.

- It was agreed that arrangements be made for members of the Select Committee to go on school visits on 16 March 2009 to be arranged by the Scrutiny Officer.
- It was also agreed that 2 further meetings be arranged to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 to enable the Select Committee to conclude its business.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

**CHAIR**