

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

agenda item number

**7a iv.**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

### **Exam results**

1. Officers have asked me to stress that all the figures I am going to share with you are provisional and subject to further amendment. However, experience tells us that they will be sufficiently accurate to indicate the broad picture of the achievements of Nottinghamshire children and young people. We now have the key provisional results for Nottinghamshire for our youngest children at the end of the foundation stage, aged 5, and for those at the end of primary schooling, aged 11, as well as results for students at the end of their statutory schooling, aged 16, and those 18 year olds in full time education in our schools.
2. For our youngest children the average scores across a range of measures is broadly in line with the national averages. The measure which is regarded as the most important is the gap between the average score for all children and that which is achieved by the 20% of children who are the lowest performing. One of the key purposes of the provision in the early years is to begin the process of closing the gap between the outcomes for the children from disadvantaged homes in comparison to those achieved by children from wealthier ones. In Nottinghamshire in 2009 and 2010 this gap was greater than the national average. It has improved to be in line with the national average and means that, by and large, more of our young children are now ready for school.
3. Outcomes in the key subjects of English and mathematics are formally assessed, with external validation, for the first time for children when they reach the end of key stage 2, aged 11. In Nottinghamshire 83% of our pupils achieved the expected level 4 in English. This takes the County result 2% points above the national average and is commendable. Members will be aware that Government places local authorities, for purposes of comparison, alongside those other authorities most similar in terms of both economic and social advantage and disadvantage. Our English results at the expected level 4 place Nottinghamshire as second in our 11 authority group, 1% point below Derbyshire, but ahead of such authorities as Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Northamptonshire and others in that group. Again, at the higher level 5, attained only by more able children, our score of 32%

places us as second in this statistical group and ahead of the national average.

4. In mathematics our 11 year olds are 3% points ahead of the national figure at the expected level 4 at 83%, again coming second in this statistical neighbour list. At the higher level 5, 38% of the children achieved this standard, again above the national average and second in the ranking of statistical neighbours. These results bode well for the future success of our young people.
5. At the end of statutory schooling, at 16, provisional figures indicate that we have, for a sixth consecutive year, out-performed the average increase in improvement attained nationally in the key measure of five or more A\* - C (including English and mathematics) grades at GCSE. Earliest indications show that it is likely that the size of this increase will place the County as first in the improvement table for statistical neighbours for this year. I have already congratulated the young people, their teachers, parents and our staff involved in **all** our improving results and take the opportunity, at this particular point, to do so again. Our provisional improvement figure on this main measure is 6.5%. We expect that this may well mean that performance overall at 16 has moved to be in line with the figure achieved nationally. This would represent a significant moment for the County as it would mean that our outcomes at 16 broadly match the expectations held for Nottinghamshire by Government and other external evaluators, who observe that our economic and social profile, though highly variable through the different parts of the County, is, overall, similar to the national position. We should, therefore, have at least similar outcomes for our children and young people to those achieved nationally. As I have just explained, this is now the case at ages 5 and 16, and is, in fact, bettered at age 11, where outcomes are above the national average. This is a much better position for Nottinghamshire than has previously been the case.
6. However, the improvement seen further down the school system has not, as yet, translated into outcomes for our 18 year olds. The overall pass rate in full 'A' Levels for Nottinghamshire schools has increased this year from 96.7% in 2010 to 97.3%. This compares to 97.85% nationally. The gap in performance, however, shows most starkly in the higher grades which young people need to achieve to secure a place at the more selective universities. In Nottinghamshire 41.7% of entries were graded at A\*, A or B. Nationally the figure is 52.6%. This is a gap of almost 11% and we have much to do to match the national performance.
7. The Council will continue to work in partnership with all our schools, children's centres and other providers to build upon all of these results into the future for the benefit of all of our children, young people and their families.

## Conversion of maintained schools to academy status

8. The first academy in Nottinghamshire was established on 1 Sept 2008. The Samworth Church Academy was established to replace the Sherwood Hall School
9. The Academies Act 2010 allows all maintained schools to apply to convert to Academy status. Since this act the following maintained and Voluntary Aided schools in Nottinghamshire have successfully converted:

### **September, 2010**

- Barnby Rd Primary (Newark)
- George Spencer Foundation School and Technology College (Stapleford)

### **December, 2010**

- Redhill Comprehensive (Carlton)

### **April, 2011**

- Carlton le Willows School & Technology College
- The West Bridgford School

### **July, 2011**

- Toot Hill Comprehensive (Bingham)

### **August, 2011**

- National C of E Technology College (Hucknall)
- Manor Comprehensive (Mansfield)
- Tuxford Comprehensive

### **September, 2011**

- Dayncourt School Specialist Sports College (Radcliffe on Trent)
- St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary (West Bridgford)
- Norbridge Primary (Worksop)
- Serlby Park (Bircotes)
- Becket Catholic Comprehensive (West Bridgford)
- The Wheldon School and Sports College (Carlton)

This represents 27% of Nottinghamshire mainstream secondary schools together with the only mainstream 3-18 all through school.

10. A further 3 conversions relating to PFI schools (Portland School Specialist Science College (Worksop), Retford Oaks High School, Valley Comprehensive (Worksop)) were also due to be completed on 1 September. Their full conversion has been unavoidably delayed. This is due to a legal issue raised nationally by PFI providers and their funders. The Department for Education (DfE) are currently seeking Counsel opinion about the issue raised. In the interim, officers are working with the DfE and the sponsors of these proposed academies to manage the schools in the interim and ensure education is not adversely affected.

11. A number of other schools are actively considering or are progressing toward academy status and the status of these schools can be summarised as follows:

**Schools proposing to convert without a partner or sponsor  
Where an Academy Order has been issued by DfE**

- Arnold Hill School & Technology College – proposing to convert 1 Oct, 2011
- Joseph Whitaker Foundation School (Rainworth) – proposing to convert 1 Oct, 2011

**Schools proposing to convert with a partner or sponsor and for which a Statement of Intent has been issued by the DfE**

- The Gedling School and Science College
- Queen Elizabeth Endowed Comprehensive (Mansfield)

### **Early Intervention and Prevention Conferences**

12. Following the approval of the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy by the County Council in June 2011, six conferences were held across Nottinghamshire to launch the Strategy to practitioners and managers working with children and young people.
13. The conferences were attended by over 600 delegates and provided them the opportunity to find out more about the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, and the ambition of the County Council to develop further its early intervention and prevention services. Updates were provided on a number of associated key areas of activity including:
  - Nottinghamshire's Safeguarding Improvement Programme (including details of the work to transform Children's Social Care work in Nottinghamshire)
  - The development of a Targeted Support Service for young people
  - The refocusing of the Early Years and Early Intervention Service
  - Developments in children's health services and the wider NHS.
14. Delegates attending represented a very wide range of services including schools, the police and the health service. A key feature of each conference was multi agency group discussions allowing participants to discuss their role in delivering the strategy. Delegates in their feedback especially welcomed this opportunity to work with colleagues across agencies.

### **Nottinghamshire schools celebrate London 2012 International Legacy**

15. Eight schools across Nottinghamshire came together to celebrate links with their Brazilian partner schools through International Inspiration, London 2012's international sporting legacy programme for children and young people around the world.

16. Over 300 children and young people took part and more than 120 pupils demonstrated leadership skills developed through the programme during a two-day celebration event at Nottingham Trent University from 4 - 5 July 2011. This included teaching both young people and adults how to play the sport and music of Brazil. County Councillor Lynn Sykes demonstrated great skill on the tamba during the session for the Samba band taught by pupils from St Giles Special School. Since teachers from Nottinghamshire first visited Brazil in 2008, Brazilian dance and sport have reached new levels of fame throughout the county. Today, Young Leaders are inspiring other young people to take part in sports and dance that they have learnt from their Brazilian partner schools such as capoeira, frevo, boccia and handball, motivating more young people to engage in PE and sport across Nottinghamshire.
17. As well as showing the benefits of International Inspiration school links for young people, teachers and the community, the event was also the first step in establishing a mutually beneficial link between the schools and Nottingham Trent University – helping to ensure that the benefits of the school links continue well beyond the 2012 Games.
18. This is the first time that an Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee has launched a programme like this with the London 2012 Games as the catalyst for this ambitious engagement through sport programme.
19. The schools taking part in the event were: Portland School; Elizabethan High Comprehensive (Retford); Serlby Park; Tuxford School; The Dukeries College (New Ollerton); Joseph Whitaker Foundation School; Minster C of E Comprehensive (Southwell); St Giles Special School (Retford).
20. Lord Coe, Chair of London 2012 said: “Our vision is to use the power of the Games to inspire lasting change – and changing lives is the driving force behind our plans. We took a very clear promise to Singapore – to encourage the youth of the world to choose sport – and the involvement of the Nottinghamshire schools is another key step towards delivering that promise. Sport can be a great force for good, and the International Inspiration programme will play a real role in improving the lives of young people around the world through sport.”

## **Opening of Eastwood Youth Centre**

21. Eastwood town has been without a permanent, fit-for purpose youth centre for several years, with the previous provision for young people being located within the grounds of Eastwood Comprehensive School.
22. This exciting development has been part of Nottinghamshire’s long term strategy to upgrade the provision available for young people to create facilities that support the work of the Youth Service. It also works towards the Government’s 10 year ‘Aiming High’ strategy to provide positive activities, places to go and things to do for young

people. In addition, a further £1 million from the Governments Co-location Funding Programme has been granted in order to extend the building and to offer services and a base for targeted youth support and youth justice, connexions and the youth service, all from one site.

23. Young people have been involved throughout the process, by influencing the design and delivery of the project. More recently, Eastwood Young People's Centre Advisory Committee was formed which includes local young people and key representatives from the community including local councillors, representatives from the Eastwood Comprehensive School, and the former Mayor of Eastwood. The Advisory Committee has been instrumental in the wider consultation with young people regarding aspects of the building, making decisions about design features, equipment, and resources.
24. Eastwood Young People's Centre also incorporates several 'green' features such as a large photovoltaic (PV) panel roof which will generate enough electricity in the daytime to cover the use of the building both in the day and at night. The building materials have been chosen from local manufacturers and suppliers wherever possible.
25. The official opening ceremony took place on Friday 9 September, with Councillor Keith Walker formally opening the building as the Chairman of the County Council, in the presence of Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir Andrew Buchanan.
26. Eastwood Young People's Centre officially opened its doors to young people on Monday 12 September 2011. The centre will be open office hours during the week to allow young people to access the advice and information that's on offer. In addition, it will open six times a week for evening youth work sessions.
27. Eastwood Young People's Centre will offer a large social space, coffee bar, meeting room, dance and recording studios, and a bright and modern environment, where a range of positive activities will be delivered.

### **Nottinghamshire County Council's Young People's Dance, Theatre and Music Performances - Summer 2011**

28. In July 2011, over 100 performers from Nottinghamshire County Council's County Performance programme took part in a season of summer concerts at Thoresby Hall and in a theatre production of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* at The Lakeside Arts Centre.
29. On 5 July, Councillor Allen Clarke attended the '*Rhythm of Life*' performance given by the County Choir, Contemporary Dance Company and Advanced Music Ensemble. The performance included a wide range of music from Handel to Bob Dylan and Coldplay. The performance showcased the talents of the young performers and highlighted their versatility in working across artforms.
30. Councillor Allen Clarke also attended the Theatre Company production of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* on 13 July. The production played to

over 140 people including a number of groups from Nottinghamshire schools. This was a fine production by the Mansfield-based company with some strong individual and ensemble acting that used the language of Mary Shelley's novel to create a real sense of gothic horror.

**COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

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