



meeting	EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE		
date	12 October 2004	agenda item number	4

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Education: June - August 2004**

1. This report highlights major activities undertaken as part of my work as Cabinet Member for Education for the period June 2004 to August 2004.

### **School and nursery visits**

2. In the period prior to the school holidays I visited the following schools and nurseries:

Little Angels Nursery  
Norbridge Primary School  
Redlands Primary School  
Ollerton Infant School  
Ramsden Primary School  
Bowbridge Primary School  
The Wheldon School.

I also joined the staff and pupils from Bracken Lane and Bircotes and Harworth Schools making School Council visits to County Hall as part of their citizenship work.

### **Interviews**

3. In June I was involved in the interviews for two posts for Assistant Directors in the Education Department. An appointment was made for the Assistant Director for School Improvement but unfortunately no appointment was made to the post of Assistant Director for Inclusion Services. This was the third time this post has been advertised.

### **Conferences**

4. The first Good Practice Conference was held at the end of June. I was delighted to be involved in the conference which celebrated the work of Nottinghamshire pupils and schools and was attended by teachers, headteachers and governors. It is planned to hold the conference as a regular event.

## **Attendance**

5. Of particular importance to me is the encouragement given to pupils with 100% attendance at school by an awards ceremony. I joined the Chairman of the County Council and Director of Education to present certificates to pupils from across the county who had full attendance at their secondary school. The government has recently acknowledged the strong link between school attendance and achievement and has announced a new national target to reduce school absence by 8% by 2007-2008. The DfES expects LEAs to focus their work on schools which have higher levels of absence than others in similar circumstances.

## **14-19 education**

6. Another crucial area of new national policy development is that of 14-19 education. I chair the board of the North Nottinghamshire Learning Partnership and at its recent meeting in June, there was a strong focus on Strategic Area Reviews of post-16 learning and training.

## **Admissions**

7. I chaired the Nottinghamshire Schools' Admission Forum at the end of June. Much work has been done to ensure coordinated admission schemes across seven LEAs in our region. The LEA has received a small amount of funding from central government to support an on-line admissions pilot programme. This will be focused on Mansfield and Rushcliffe.

## **Achievement**

8. Finally I was pleased to commend Nottinghamshire schools in recent press interviews for the improvements in this year's national test and examinations. Nottinghamshire primary schools achieved test results at both key stage 1 and key stage 2 that were again above or in line with the national average. Local secondary schools have improved their GCSE examination results by 1% from last year.

## **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL STOREY**

Cabinet Member for Education

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