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Colin Pettigrew  
Corporate Director – Children, Young People and Schools  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Sent via email to: [Colin.Pettigrew@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:Colin.Pettigrew@nottscc.gov.uk)

**Emma Ing HMI**  
Regional Director  
East Midlands

## **Education Annual Conversation – 26 April 2019**

Dear Colin

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for meeting with Ofsted to discuss standards and performance in Nottinghamshire. It was also helpful to reflect on your work to embrace the opportunities presented by Ofsted's proposed new inspection framework.

We thought it would be beneficial to record the areas discussed and next steps that we agreed in the meeting that would help improve experiences and outcomes for children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

### **Early Years**

Your EY team have been engaging with providers in the lead up to the introduction of the EIF. They have also been working well with us, and we are due to attend one of your briefings to discuss the new framework with a range of providers in your region. We agreed that outcomes for children in respect of their levels of development (GLD) are still low. You are keen to work with providers to ensure improvements in the learning of phonics. Those children who are living in families where poverty is an issue make a particularly poor start in literacy and phonic knowledge.

In areas where there is most need you are introducing a home learning tool kit, which seeks to support families of children aged 0-7 help their children get off to a good start in learning communication and social skills. You are concerned particularly to ensure good practice in relation to children with special educational needs and disabilities.

### **Schools**

Recognising that the proposed new inspection framework will mean that some schools may need to revise their thinking in respect of their curriculum you have sought to advise and prepare leaders. We know, of course that David Carter SHMI has spoken on many occasions to different groups in the county. You have backed this up with Headteacher briefings,

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conferences and activities through traded services. There continue to be a range of opportunities for leaders to access up-to-date thinking about learning and the curriculum including conferences with speakers of national and international repute. We reflected on the importance of ensuring the professionals at all levels have access to good professional development in respect to both what and how children learn.

We considered the importance of ensuring good communication between schools so that they can work together to ensure that children have access to a coherently structured curriculum that meets their needs.

You are confident that the Gatsby framework has helped sharpen schools' thinking about preparing young people for future work and careers. You are keen to support the increased delivery of Ebacc, in line with the national ambition, but recognise that there are limitations to what can usefully be offered to pupils in the short and medium term. You also assured us that you are reviewing the curricula offer in Key Stages 4 and 5 for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to check that they are sufficiently demanding and adequately preparing this cohort for adult life.

We discussed Ofsted's growing concerns with high levels of permanent exclusions, pupil mobility and the growth of elective home education. Of particular concern, are those schools where a surprising number of children leave in Year 10 especially when it is not possible to identify which school they moved to. Thank you for sharing with me information about the way colleges are looking to break into the 'home education market'. I am pleased that you are going to be involved in Ofsted's research project about home education and look forward to sharing the outcomes of that research with you in due course.

Finally, we considered teachers' and leaders' workload and your efforts to ensure that it is manageable. You feel that there has been some response to the government's toolkit and that schools are generally reducing marking and assessment points. You are also working with schools to promote emotional health and wellbeing for both children and adults.

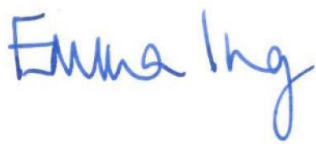
## **FES**

You shared your continuing concerns for outcomes for post-16 learners. While there are marginal gains you recognise that too many young people are on the wrong pathway. You acknowledge that CIAG is key to getting young people onto the right pathway. This sits well with the DfE's January 2018 statutory guidance which makes clear that 'a successful careers guidance programme will also be reflected in higher numbers of pupils progressing to positive destinations such as apprenticeships, technical routes, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, universities or employment'. You are keen to build on the Newark skills summit success from a few years ago and replicate that in Mansfield and Ashfield. The intention is that it will include local businesses, colleges and employers. This may help improve outcomes, as learners are more aware of available opportunities, along with the intended consultation on skills focus for post-16 learners and those with learning

difficulties/disabilities. I hope the strategy is ratified in autumn 2019 as you suggest and you begin to see the benefits.

We will follow with interest your progress in improving outcomes for children. We believe that the proposed new inspection framework will support providers in moving to delivering the real substance of education and ensuring that all children have access broad curricula which give them the important knowledge and skills to enable them to succeed. We wish you every success in moving forward with your improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emma Ing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Emma Ing HMI**  
Regional Director  
East Midlands