



Derby City Council

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**15 May 2013**

**ITEM 15**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and  
Young People Services

## **School Improvement Progress Report**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents an update of school improvement since February 2013
- 1.2 Education improvement is judged in terms of pupil outcomes, (progress and attainment), and in terms of Ofsted judgements. In addition, Senior School Improvement Officers categorise all schools on a termly basis based on the criteria and triggers outlined in the Derby Winners Strategy. This provides a clear overview of the performance of all Derby schools and academies and enables early intervention where schools are at risk of failure.
- 1.3 All data from 2012 examinations has now been validated. This shows improvements at all key stages and a significant reduction in the number of schools below the national floor standard. Higher results at KS2 and KS4 were outstripped by some national improvements, but comparisons with similar areas show Derby to be improving.
- 1.4 Derby was identified as having a low percentage of schools judged as good or better at the time of the Ofsted Annual Report, 31 August 2012. Since then 14 of the 27 schools inspected have shown an improvement and the percentage of LA maintained schools judged good or better has improved from 43% to 66%. (Appendix 3).
- 1.5 Following the outcome of focused inspections in Derby, the establishment of an Education Development Board has been agreed. This Board will meet termly with effect from the Summer Term 2013. Terms of reference have been drawn up for consideration at the first meeting (Appendix 4). The Education Development Board will focus on continuing to raise standards in schools, especially at key stage 2.
- 1.6 Membership of the Board has been finalised by the Lead Member.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the latest schools update and progress report
- 2.2 To support the continued implementation of the Derby Winners policy
- 2.3 To agree the development of the Education Development Board in driving forward school improvement.
- 2.4 To seek a further update report in September 2013.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To secure further improvements in pupil outcomes, especially at Key Stage 2
- 3.2 To ensure that the percentage of schools judged good or better continues to increase



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Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People Services

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The criteria for categorising schools in the Derby Winners policy align closely with the Ofsted inspection criteria. This ensures that schools currently judged by the LA as 3a (Grade 3 school with potential to become good) receive appropriate support to move towards good. Schools currently judged as 3B (vulnerable school requiring improvement) or 4 (underperforming school) are suitably challenged and intervention strategies are put in place to address persistent under-performance (Appendix 3)
- 4.2 Of the 24 maintained schools currently categorised by Ofsted as Grade 3 (Satisfactory/Requires Improvement), 20 are predicted to be good at the next inspection. The remaining 4 are subject to intensive support and challenge by the LA. Where appropriate, LA actions plans are in place with clear milestones for improvement. Partnership Board meetings are held with the headteacher and Chair of Governors to hold the school accountable for improvements against identified milestones.

To date there have been 27 Ofsted inspections carried out under the current framework, 2 schools were classed as outstanding, 16 good, 7 satisfactory and 2 schools were put under special measures. 15 schools have improved by at least one grade, and 2 schools were taken out of Ofsted categories.

- 4.3 Five schools have been placed in Ofsted Categories of Concern. For all these schools HMI have judged the LA Statements of Action submitted to Ofsted as 'fit for purpose.' These schools will be closely monitored by the LA.
- 4.4 Ravensdale Junior School is making good progress and the anticipated date of removal from Special Measures is Autumn 2013. There have been significant improvements in quality of teaching, pupil progress and governance.
- 4.5 Pear Tree Junior was placed in Special measures in November 2012. An IEB (Interim Executive Board) has replaced the governing body at this school, chaired by a headteacher from an outstanding school in Leicester City. The school receives intensive support from LA teams as well as support commissioned from successful schools within and beyond the City. The headteacher of Pear Tree Junior School left in March 2013 and the permanent post will be advertised in April 2013. An HMI inspection due this term will judge the school's progress against the action plan milestones.

- 4.6 Shelton Junior School was placed in Special Measures in February 2013. The school receives intensive support from the Senior School Improvement Officer and the headteacher of a successful junior school in the City. Two teachers have left since the publication of the report and a restructure of the teaching and leadership team is in progress. An HMI visit due this term will review the school's plan and set out the process for future HMI monitoring visits.
- 4.7 Noel Baker and Osmaston schools were subject to former Ofsted category of concern known as 'Notice to Improve'. Following a full inspection, Noel Baker was removed from this category in March 2013. Osmaston Primary is due to be inspected later this term and is on track to be removed from this category, although attainment at the school remains persistently low.
- 4.8 Sinfin Community School is subject to Special Measures and at the last monitoring visit was judged to be making good progress. Following intervention by DfE, the school will become a sponsored academy later in the Summer term with Greenwood Dale as the agreed sponsor.
- 4.9 In 2011, 18 Derby City primary schools were below the 60% government floor standards for English and maths attainment. The validated data for 2012 shows that this figure has reduced to 5 (Alvaston Junior, Allenton Primary, Osmaston Primary, Sinfin Primary and Lakeside Primary) and one sponsored primary academy, (Moorhead). Based on internal tracking data supplied by the school improvements are expected for 2013.
- 4.10 Alvaston Junior School is making good progress under the leadership of the headteacher from Village Primary. Proposals to federate the two schools are currently open to formal consultation.
- 4.11 Allenton School is supported by the National Leader in Education from St Andrew's School funded via a National College grant. The LA have secured the secondment of a successful deputy headteacher to strengthen the leadership team at Allenton from April 2013.
- 4.12 Osmaston School is supported by the National Leader in Education from St Chad's/Castle Nursery School. The LA has placed two additional members onto the governing body to extend the range of expertise. A new leadership team established in September 2012 is driving forward improvement and the school is on track to be removed from the Ofsted category of concern
- 4.13 Sinfin Primary (now known as Cotton Fields) is making good progress under the leadership of the Executive headteacher from Ash Croft. These two schools formed a formal federation from 1 April 2013.

- 4.14 In the case of Lakeside, the school manages a nurture unit for pupils with complex learning needs. The school is funded by the LA to take these pupils from across the City. This intake clearly impacts on the end of key stage data, a factor which is taken into account when assessing the school's performance. The school was judged to be 'good' in its most recent inspection. Nevertheless the LA monitors progress of the school's own improvement plan and has taken steps to ensure that attainment will rise above the floor standard in 2013.
- 4.15 Moorhead school is sponsored by the Landau Forte Trust and purchases school improvement services from the group. The LA is represented on the academy governing body which enables in year monitoring of pupil performance.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 To continue monitoring performance as at present.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Legal officer</b>            | N/A  |
| <b>Financial officer</b>        | N/A  |
| <b>Human Resources officer</b>  | N/A  |
| <b>Estates/Property officer</b> | N/A  |
| <b>Service Director(s)</b>      | Lynda Poole – Service Director – Learning and Inclusion      |
| <b>Other(s)</b>                 | Christine Tarpey - Head of Quality Standards and Performance |

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>For more information contact:</b> | Lynda Poole 01332 642665 lynda.poole@derby.gov.uk  |
| <b>Background papers:</b>            | None   |
| <b>List of appendices:</b>           | Appendix 1 – Implications<br>Appendix 2a – Academy Ofsted Judgements data<br>Appendix 2b – School Ofsted Judgements data<br>Appendix 3 – Ofsted Judgement Report<br>Appendix 4 - Education Development Board Terms of Reference<br>Appendix 5 - Categorisation |

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| <b>IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The national focus on LA's role in school improvement carried implications for the resource needed by LA's to deliver that role

**Legal**

- 2.1 The context of the recommendations is a) the statutory provisions and guidance regarding schools causing concern b) the under powers of the LA to promote high standards

**Personnel**

- 3.1 School improvement demands sensitive personnel casework

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 The Council's equalities policy can be delivered through the recommendations

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None

**Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 An effective school improvement function in Derby will support maintained schools in raising standards.

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 School performance can be volatile, especially regarding staffing. Risk management is the responsibility of Derby's School Improvement team; it is important that the team has full and updated information on all DCC schools.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Achieving their learning potential  
Good quality services that meet local needs.