

School Ofsted Inspection outcomes, September 2012 onwards

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A new Ofsted inspection framework was introduced on 1 September 2012. In this framework the 'Satisfactory' judgement was replaced with the term 'Requires Improvement' (RI). Schools now designated as RI are not placed in an Ofsted category of concern, but will be subject to monitoring and support by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) in order to ensure that they improve at a rapid pace. The aim is for all schools to be judged as good or outstanding.
- 1.2 Comments on LAs were introduced into the Ofsted reports from September 2012. As part of the inspection process, lead inspectors now meet with the Senior School Improvement Officers to discuss the role the LA has played in supporting and challenging the school. In Derby, the comments relating to the LA have been overwhelmingly positive (Appendix 2) and reflect the effective implementation of the 'Derby Winners' policy.
- 1.3 In January 2013, Derby was subject to 10 focused inspections led by HMI. During these inspections, very detailed discussions were held with headteachers and governors about the LA role in school improvement. The summary findings from these discussions are included in the Ofsted reports from the ten schools. The outcomes of these discussions informed the summary letter sent to Andrew Bunyan and published on the Ofsted website. (Appendix 3)
- 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 25 schools inspected have shown an improvement and the percentage of LA maintained schools judged good or better has improved from 40% to 66%. (Appendix 3).
- 1.5 The School Improvement team provides support for schools in preparing for Ofsted so that they are in a strong position to demonstrate their strengths and the improvements made. The team are all trained in the inspection process and 3 members of the team have been asked to train as lead inspectors. This means that Senior School Improvement Officers are able to accurately judge

schools against the Ofsted criteria and schools value their expertise and advice.

- 1.6 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.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the Ofsted inspection judgements and agree strategies for support to schools.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that all schools are appropriately challenged to become good or better.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Implications
4.2 Extracts from Ofsted reports, September 2012 onwards
4.3 Ofsted judgement data by phase
4.4 Letter to DCS focused inspections in Derby

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Lynda Poole, Director Learning and Inclusion
Other(s)	N/A

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Background papers:
List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 - Extracts from inspection reports: LA comments
Appendix 3 - Ofsted judgement data by phase
Appendix 4 – Focused Inspections in Derby – letter to DCS

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1

Schools buy back School Improvement and Governance services as part of the Sold Services packages. This enables the team to attend inspections and inspection feedback and to support headteachers and governors in the preparing for Ofsted inspections.

Legal

2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

6.1 None arising from this report.

Asset Management

7.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 This report contributes to the following Council objectives:
- Achieving Learning Potential