



Minutes of the meeting of the Education Advisory Group held on 5 October 2006 at 5.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Sandra Clark (Chair)  
Councillors E Henderson, Miles and Wharton

**Officers:** V Gwynn (Corporate Director Learning and Development), D Gamble (Group Director – School Improvement and Planning), G Morris (Assistant Director – School Improvement) and J Sloan (Committee Manager)

**Member of the Public:** 1

**EAG01 MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 24 November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**EAG02 MATTERS ARISING**

Further to **Minute EAG42** the Group was informed that 13 school governors had attended a governor training course. It was noted that increased efforts had been undertaken to improve communication between the Local Authority and school governors. It was suggested that the school governor briefing note issued in the summer term of 2006 be re-circulated.

RESOLVED –

That the governor briefing note be re-circulated to all school governors in Milton Keynes.

**EAG03 UPDATE ON OFSTED SCHOOL REPORTS**

The Group received an update on the Ofsted inspections of primary and secondary schools in Milton Keynes.

The following points were highlighted;

- (a) A number of schools achieved 'outstanding' grades by the Ofsted inspections including St Thomas Aquinas, Fenny House, Shenley Brook End and Ashbrook.
- (b) Schools had been reluctant to assess themselves at the higher grades.
- (c) Denbigh School achieved a grade lower than expected.
- (d) The Dual Headship arrangement at Castlethorpe School had proven to be effective and achieved a grade 2.
- (e) The Base Primary Pupil Referral Unit was to form a partnership with Romans Field School to support the management of the unit.
- (f) Officers would work with the Governors of Meadfurlong School to improve standards.
- (g) The Group was disappointed at the grade achieved by Middleton Primary School, but accepted that recent changes in management improved the school's potential.
- (h) The Group commended the efforts of the temporary interim Headteacher at Lavendon School to achieve a grade 2.
- (i) An Officer Emergency Group was assisting the management committee at YPOS (Young Persons Out of School) at Fenny.
- (j) Ofsted would re-visit weaker schools to review any improvements which had been made.
- (k) The overall success of the secondary sector in the Ofsted inspections.

RESOLVED

That the update on Ofsted reports be noted.

#### **EAG04**

#### **SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN**

The Group received an update on those schools currently causing concern in Milton Keynes.

The following points were highlighted;

- (a) Bushfield, Orchard and YPOS at Fenny had been designated schools in special measures. The Group were particularly disappointed for Bushfield as the school had the support of the community and staff.
- (b) St Andrews had previously been categorised a school with serious weaknesses by Ofsted.
- (c) Although the Queen Eleanor School was technically categorised as having serious weakness, it was re-

inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMI) and found to be satisfactory.

- (d) All secondary schools received consultancy support from the LA.
- (e) That some schools had difficulty assembling the data requested by HMI.

The Group was informed that additional, more thorough Ofsted inspections had identified an increased number of schools requiring special measures, both in Milton Keynes and nationally.

The Group noted that school inspections did not compensate for particular difficulties such as those situated in disadvantaged areas.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the update be noted.
- 2. That Officers provide a report on the national statistics for schools requiring special measures when these become available.

## **EAG05**

### **GCSE ATTAINMENT**

The Group received a report on the Provisional Key Stage and GCSE results for 2006.

The Group noted:

- (a) Key Stage (KS) 1 results in Milton Keynes matched or exceeded national levels for all indicators and previous performance improvements had been consolidated.
- (b) KS2 improvements in all indicators for maths, science, and in particular level 5 in English.
- (c) Although performance remained below national levels for all indicators, Value Added from KS1 to KS2 had improved from 2005 to 2006.
- (d) Additional focus on reading had showed a 7% improvement in level 5.
- (e) Very large improvement in Value Added measure from KS2 to KS3.
- (f) Overall performance at 5+A\*-C had declined, despite the best ever performance in four secondary schools.

The Group also received the local target and indicators of performance data. The Group was informed that an algorithm involving pupil prior attainment and, social and age related factors were used to calculate performance indicators. The Group noted

that, although there was a shortfall in schools obtaining their performance targets, the results for Milton Keynes ranked in the top half of national league tables for KS2 and KS3.

The Group expressed concern at the increased gap between the higher and lower performing schools in Milton Keynes

The Group noted that any distribution of Provisional Key Stage and GCSE results and indicators of performance to school governors should be supported by guidance notes.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted

#### **EAG06**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Group suggested items for future consideration:

- (a) Special schools performance statistics.
- (b) Briefing on how performance statistics are used in schools.

#### **EAG07**

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED –

That the following future meeting date be agreed;

Thursday 1 March 2007 at 5.00pm

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.15pm