



Minutes of the meeting of the Education Advisory Group held on 23 February 2006 at 5.00pm.

Present: Councillor Sandra Clark (Chair)
Councillors Dransfield, E Henderson, Miles and Snell

Officers: D Bonette (Early Years Advisor), D Gamble (Director – School Improvement and Planning), G Morris (Assistant Director – School Improvement and Planning) and J Partridge (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Drewett

EAG41 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Snell disclosed an interest in Item 3 (Schools OFSTED Report Update) as a governor for Giles Brook School.

EAG41 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.

EAG 42 MATTERS ARISING

Further to **Minute EAG38** the Group considered the support given to governing bodies and curriculum committees in understanding Performance and Value Added Measures Information, Education PANDA reports, etc. The Group was told that letters had been sent to all secondary school chairs and governors informing them of the support that was available from Milton Keynes Council (MKC). A senior Officer or adviser had been offered to each school to assist in the interpretation of data.

It was considered that some governors were reluctant to take account of the information that was provided and greater promotion of the information was required. The Group discussed that information in respect of the support could be included in the Governor briefing note to be distributed in the summer term and an

Item could be placed on the Curriculum Committee to draw attention to this issue.

EAG42 SCHOOLS OFSTED REPORT UPDATE

The Group received an update on the schools in Milton Keynes that had been inspected by Ofsted since November 2005.

The following points were highlighted;

- More schools were being inspected by Ofsted in shorter periods of time.
- Good preparations had taken place in schools prior to Ofsted inspections being undertaken.
- Feedback had been provided by Officers to HMI in respect of the national inspection system.
- That the inspection of Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School had been difficult for inspectors and the school as it had not been open for a long period of time. The Group commented that inspections should not take place in schools until they had been open for years as had been the practice under the old inspection system.
- That Ofsted inspection would take place in all category 3 schools and schools in special measures prior to their regular 3 yearly inspection.
- That complaints in respect of the overall 2 grading for Giles Brook Primary School were justified as they had been told they were excellent prior to their inspection.
- That following an appeal to Ofsted the overall grading of Eaton Mill Primary School had been changed from a 3 to a 2.
- That the sixth form at Walton High School had grown more slowly than the rest of the school which had resulted in it being overstretched in its first year.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted
2. That an annual report be submitted to the Learning and Development Policy Development Committee regarding the work of the Group.

EAG43 SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN

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

The following points were highlighted;

- Consultation would be held with the local diocese in respect of future provisions at St Andrews School, which would lead to a full review of the schools in that area.

- St Andrews would be re-inspected as a school with special weaknesses prior to the summer term. It was noted that it was a key concern that the governing body had not been identified.
- Child protection weaknesses at St Andrews had now been resolved.
- Changes of curriculum at Sir Frank Markham School had been made which would affect year 10 students. There had been greater progress and attendance as a result of this.
- Interviews were to take place for an interim head teacher post at Sir Frank Markham for a 3 year deployment. The standard of applicants had been high.
- Improvements had been made at Chestnuts due to a new head teacher and the school was preparing to appoint a new deputy head for September 2006.
- A new head teacher had been employed at Gatehouse which had resulted in a much calmer atmosphere at the school.
- Slow improvements had been made at New Chapter school following an audit during the last term
- Downs Barn School should be removed from the weaknesses category during the next term.
- YPOS at Fenny had been moved to the old Fenny House in Bletchley. Concerns were highlighted regarding slow progress, which could be as a result of the head teacher presently being off sick.
- Germander Park School had fallen down in standards at a recent audit. Additional support was being provided to improve standards in this school.

The Group considered governance arrangements at these schools and the increased demand for monitoring to ensure that schools progressed.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

EAG44

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

The Group received a list of the various support mechanisms for schools in Milton Keynes. The Group heard that the following support mechanisms were provided;

1. Intensifying Support Programme (ISP).
2. Primary Leadership Programme (PLP) primarily used to provide leadership support for heads and deputies without experience.
3. Core, for support in core areas, e.g. literacy and

- numeracy.
4. Early Years (EY) to provide early intervention in schools to maintain good provision in teaching.
 5. Building Learning Power (BLP) to increase the capacity of children's engagement.
 6. English as an Additional Language (EAL) which was being piloted as a 10 week intensive programme to provide support to children with specific needs.
 7. Excellence Cluster (EC) which was predominantly to link groups of lower attaining schools.
 8. Networks, to promote examples of best practice.

The Group was told that schools were entitled to opt out or use support from other sources and that using these support mechanisms did not necessarily indicate that there was a problem. If a school had problems the Local Authority insisted on support being used.

It was noted that the table did not distinguish between the amounts of support used by each of the schools.

EAG45

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GCSE and Equivalents 2005

The Group received comparative statistics on GCSE results in 2005 for Milton Keynes and equivalent statistical neighbours. The following points were highlighted;

- The gap in performance nationally and in Milton Keynes at Key Stage 2 had decreased from 8.4 in 1999 to 4.4 in 2005.
- That Milton Keynes highest rank was in those children with "any passes".
- That the proportion of children awarded an A – A* was lower than the national average.
- Nationally girls performance was better than boys.
- The need to provide excellence for provision to national industry.

KS1 2001 – KS2 2005

The Group received statistics on the proportion of pupils in Milton Keynes achieving results at Key Stage 1 in English, Maths and Science compared to national levels of attainment.

The Group discussed the colour system used on the statistics in relation to those figures shaded yellow. It was considered that in some cases figures should be unshaded where there are less than 10 or 5 pupils in that band as the colour could be misleading where there are low numbers of students.

It was discussed that two forms should be produced, one that would be the same as the current form and another which would show white areas where there were less than 3 pupils in any specific band.

EAG46

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That the following future meeting dates be agreed;

- Thursday 29 June 2006 from 5pm in Meeting Room 4
- Thursday 30 November 2006 from 5pm in Meeting Room 4
- Thursday 22 February 2007 from 5pm in Meeting Room 4

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.39pm