

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 6 November 2012

Electoral Division affected: All

Impact of partnership working with schools below the Floor Standard

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The past two years has seen a change in the statutory role of the local authority in supporting school improvement.

In the light of these changes the relationship between schools and the local authority is increasingly important and Lancashire has developed a very strong partnership with schools over the past decade. The great majority of schools buy into School Improvement Services and the Schools Forum provides additional support to schools in difficulty where appropriate.

This report sets out the impact of Lancashire's school improvement work in partnership with the lowest attaining schools over the past three years and highlights the key features of this support. Appendix 'A' sets out details of the following improvements:

1. Over the last three years the performance of Primary schools where schools' achievement was below the current Floor Standard of 60% of pupils achieving Level 4+ in English and Mathematics in 2009 shows:
 - Year on year improvement in both attainment and progress over 3 years
 - Attainment averaging above 70% in 2012 according to provisional results
2. Over the last three years the performance of Secondary schools where schools' achievement was below the current Floor Standard of 40% of pupils gaining 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics in 2009 shows:
 - Year on year improvement in attainment over 3 years
 - Attainment averaging over 45% in 2012 according to provisional results

Recommendation

That the Committee note and comment on reported performance information on the impact of partnership working with schools below the Floor Standard.

Background and Advice

The past two years has seen a change in the statutory role of the local authority in supporting school improvement. During this time schools have been given greater autonomy and the statutory role of the local authority School Improvement Partner, which monitored and challenged all schools and helped to set school level achievement targets, has been disestablished. At the same time more challenging performance standards have been created at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 and a more demanding Inspection framework has been introduced to help raise standards and improve the quality of provision.

In the light of these changes the relationship between schools and the local authority is increasingly important and Lancashire has developed a very strong partnership with schools over the past decade with schools buying into School Improvement Services and the Schools Forum supporting schools in difficulty where appropriate. Currently over 99% of primary schools, over 75% of secondary and special schools, and all nursery schools buy into Lancashire's school improvement services through a school service guarantee which provides support and challenge as well as monitoring school performance in partnership with schools. This programme of support also makes use of strong schools in Lancashire to offer school to school support.

Appendix 'A' sets out the impact of Lancashire's improvement partnership with schools on the lowest attaining schools over the past four years and highlights the key features of this support. It is also worth noting, however, that the performance of all schools in Lancashire has improved over this period, with results at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 being consistently above the national average.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Primary School performance tables 2009-2011	2009-2011	Jonathan Hewitt Directorate for Children and Young People (01772) 531663

Secondary School
performance tables 2009-2011

2009-2011

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