

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

15 September 2016

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gordon Jones Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills
Contact details:	Tel: 01473 260750 Email: Gordon.Jones@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Recent Schools Ofsted Inspections

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Laxfield

Date of Inspection - 24th May 2016 (Outstanding)

Date of Previous Inspection - 15th May 2014 (Requires Improvement)

Leadership is outstanding. The Executive Headteacher has successfully created a highly aspirational, caring and nurturing environment for pupils to learn and develop their self-confidence.

As a result of excellent teaching, pupils in all year groups make impressive progress in a range of subjects including reading, writing and mathematics.

Teachers have high expectations of how all pupils will behave and the quality of pupils’ work. They nurture very positive attitudes to learning and ensure that pupils correct errors in their work.

Children in the early years get off to an excellent start and make rapid progress so they are very well prepared for more formal learning in Key Stage 1.

Disadvantaged pupils make excellent progress. In recent years, their progress by the end of Year 6 has been faster than their classmates and equal to other pupils nationally.

The teaching of phonics (the link between sounds and letters) is outstanding which has ensured that pupils achieve above-average results in the Year 1 national phonics check.

Highly effective support for pupils who have special educational needs or disability enables them to thrive.

Pupils' behaviour around the school is exemplary. They mix well together, show high levels of care and respect for one another and have excellent attitudes to learning.

Pupils and parents agree that the school provides a very safe environment. Pupils have excellent knowledge about how to keep themselves safe.

The school makes first-rate provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through its lively and interesting curriculum.

Governors are highly effective. They challenge school leaders in order to ensure the school continues to improve.

Honington C of EVCP School

Date of Inspection – 24th May 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 26th May 2011 (Good)

Honington Primary has a well-deserved reputation as a friendly, welcoming and caring school, where all staff work very hard to ensure that pupils are happy and achieve well. In their written responses to the Inspection survey, parents were overwhelmingly positive in their praise for the school, often singling out the quality of the school's pastoral care and support. This is vital because the school experiences an exceptionally high pupil turnover, with pupils of all ages arriving or leaving at different times of the year, some having already attended several different schools.

Parents appreciate that, when they arrive from other schools, their children are helped to integrate quickly and settle happily. They say that everyone, from office reception to class teachers and assistants, are approachable and supportive. Home-school communication is excellent.

In the five years since its previous Inspection, the school has successfully sustained high standards for children in the early years and pupils in Key Stage 1, although the high turnover of pupils in some cohorts caused an occasional dip in results.

The school became an all-through primary in 2014, expanding with a smart new building to accommodate pupils in Years 5 and 6, and recording its first Key Stage 2 results in 2015. However, the outcomes for Year 6 pupils last year came as a shock because, although standards were broadly in line with national figures, pupils had not made enough progress in reading, writing or mathematics, from their comparatively high starting points at the end of Year 2. Notwithstanding the fact that many pupils had not attended Honington for the duration of Key Stage 2, these results were not good enough, particularly in writing.

Hadleigh Community Primary School

Date of Inspection – 25th May 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 3rd June 2014 (Requires Improvement)

After a slow start, Hadleigh Primary has improved rapidly over the last year. In particular, pupils make good progress and achieve well because of good teaching.

The Governing Body is effective. A review of its work has brought about beneficial changes so that Governors are now making a fuller contribution to school improvement.

On his return, the Headteacher quickly prioritised the fundamental changes that needed to be made urgently, and galvanised staff and governors into action. As a result, the quality of education provided is good.

Teachers in each year group share expertise and ideas to provide consistently good-quality teaching and learning activities.

Teaching Assistants and apprentices are well trained, skilled and enthusiastic. As a result, they make an effective contribution to pupils' learning.

The wider curriculum, for example in music, sports and outdoor learning, is outstanding. It makes a significant contribution to pupils' good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Pupils' behaviour is good. Pupils say they feel happy and safe in school, and staff care for them well. Parents overwhelmingly agree.

Pupils respond very positively to the school's challenge to do their best in everything they do.

Parents are full of praise for how the school caters for each pupil's unique needs.

Children in the early years get off to a good start and are well prepared for entry to Year 1. The early years is a strength of the school. Parents are very supportive and make a full and positive contribution to their children's education.

St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School

Date of Inspection – 8th June 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 15th May 2014 (Requires Improvement)

The school has improved rapidly since the last Inspection. The Headteacher's determination to develop strong teaching has resulted in good outcomes for pupils.

Governors know the school well. They have high aspirations for the school and challenge leaders by holding them to account for the progress pupils' make.

Leaders ensure that all groups of pupils now make good progress from their different starting points in reading, writing and mathematics.

Overall, teaching is good with some that is exceptional. Teachers plan challenging activities in English and mathematics to deepen pupils' understanding.

Interesting tasks in the well-planned curriculum motivate and engage the pupils well. This enables pupils to make good progress in their learning.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength of the school. Pupils in this fully inclusive school are being well prepared to become confident citizens in modern Britain.

Most pupils behave well, show pride in their school and are keen to learn. They say they feel safe and well looked after by adults in the school.

The leadership and early years provision is good. The children show perseverance in their learning and make good progress.

Elmswell Community Primary School

Date of Inspection – 15th June 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 20th March 2014 (Requires Improvement)

The Headteacher is providing strong leadership which has created a powerful culture of good teaching, learning and behaviour across the school. With good support from senior leaders and Governors, and despite considerable staffing difficulties, the Headteacher has successfully moved the school out of a condition requiring improvement and into one that is good and improving.

Leaders are effective in promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their physical well-being.

Teaching, learning and assessment are good. Teachers' good subject knowledge and effective use of questioning ensure pupils acquire new knowledge, understanding and skills quickly.

Pupils' behaviour across the school is good and they have good attitudes to learning. Pupils are keen to come to school and their attendance is above average.

The school's caring atmosphere successfully promotes pupils' welfare. Safeguarding is effective and as a result pupils feel safe.

Pupils make good progress during their time in school across different subjects, including English and mathematics. Older pupils are well prepared for secondary school.

Strong leadership, good teaching and assessment enable children to make good progress in all areas of learning in the early years. Children stay safe and their behaviour is good.

Fressingfield C of EVCP School

Date of Inspection – 29th June 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 11th February 2014 (Requires Improvement)

The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher have been effective in improving the school since the previous Inspection. They have been well supported by the Governors and staff. They have all been committed and effective in improving teaching, learning and achievement.

Governors regularly and thoroughly review the work of leaders and check pupils' progress. They use this information to challenge school leaders to secure the best outcomes for pupils.

Leaders provide a high-quality curriculum. It is enriched by exciting visits, and focused days and weeks that bring alive subjects like science, art, history, geography and PSHE.

Pupils practise and improve their reading, writing and mathematics knowledge and skills in a range of subjects.

Actions taken since the previous Inspection have improved the early years. Children make good progress, often from starting points that are lower than typical for their age. They are well prepared for Year 1.

Pupils enjoy coming to school, are punctual and attend regularly. Attendance was in line with national averages in 2015, and has risen even higher this year.

Pupils' positive 'can do' learning attitudes are a major strength. Learning time is used productively and fully by all.

Relationships between pupils and staff are very strong. Pupils are always courteous and respectful and this means they listen and respond well to teachers' explanations and guidance.

Handford Hall Primary School

Date of Inspection – 1st July 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 26th November 2010 (Good)

The Leadership Team has maintained and further developed the high quality of education in the school since the previous Inspection.

Handford Hall Primary is a school that is a purposeful place for children to learn, underpinned by a strong ethos and your core values, 'Achieve, Believe and Celebrate'. The Headteacher, other leaders and staff are constantly striving to be even better.

Pupils love coming to school, are proud and exceptionally motivated to learn and achieve. Pupils enjoy the many trips and special days that are organised for them. One pupil said she could not wait for the next art day because the theme was going to be a surprise and she 'just loved them'.

A significant proportion of pupils enter the school with little or no knowledge of the English language. The school addresses the challenge of the high number of pupils who start and leave during the school year extremely well by ensuring that structures and processes are firmly in place to help pupils settle quickly, learn English and make good progress in their learning. The school balances the structure and routines the pupils require with a variety of creative experiences. As a result, pupils become motivated and independent learners who want to excel. This year, the proportion of pupils in Year 6 who reach attainment standards in reading, writing and mathematics is set to rise to close to the national expectations for their age. Progress measures are above expected and most pupils make excellent progress from low starting points.

*Further information can be found about any or all of these inspections at:
www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report*

In addition to the full inspection reports, the link above allows access to the Ofsted data dashboard for all of the schools inspected. The data dashboard provides some helpful summary information about the school, and how its performance compares with other schools.

2. Raising the Bar

Raising the Bar Community Fund

A new round of the Raising the Bar Community Fund, focused on parental engagement, is now open for applications. A grant of up to £20,000 is available for projects aiming to provide a positive environment where learning is valued and children are encouraged; in particular the grant looks to support the

involvement of parents and carers in a way that complements learning at school and early years' settings.

Funding is available to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, and is recognition of the valuable contribution that the voluntary and community sector can make to the education of children and young people. In projects, the organisations will be expected to work in partnership with schools or nurseries.

We know that parents have such a key role for their children to do well at school, yet we are aware that sometimes it is hard to establish strong engagement of all parents. I am delighted that through this fund Raising the Bar, in partnership with the Suffolk Community Foundation, can explore new perspectives that the voluntary sector may bring in working with schools and nurseries on parental engagement.

Closing date is 29 September 2016.

For further information please see <http://suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/raising-the-bar-community-fund/> or contact: Michael Moll; Email: michael.moll@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264808

Raising the Bar Progress Report

We have recently published the latest biannual progress report for the Raising the Bar Programme, updating on progress in the programme priorities and measures.

Most notably, the report highlights the achievement of over 80% of Suffolk schools being judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. This is an all-time high. In the last year the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools nationally has increased by 3% - Suffolk's had a 6% increase. This means Suffolk schools are improving twice as fast as those across the Country.

I am encouraged by this progress, which clearly demonstrates the dedication and commitment of education providers, families, communities and businesses to working together to ensure that every child can achieve their full potential.

The full [report](#) is available on the [Raising the Bar website](#), along with an [animated film](#) that highlights the progress.

For further information please contact: Michael Moll; Email: michael.moll@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264808

3. Skills

MyGo Lowestoft

MyGo Lowestoft opened its doors to the public on Monday 25 July 2016, following a successful pre-launch at The Lowestoft Festival on 23 and 24 July.

Host, Work Coach and Service Manager all attended relishing the opportunity to pre-register as many young people as possible and raise the profile of the service with local people. Apprenticeships, training and employment opportunities were available for people to express an interest in and appointments were arranged for the opening week.

Following the soft launch, footfall has grown steadily as word spreads amongst local colleagues and partners – young people are registering and receiving individualised support from Work Coaches. The Team is gelling well and partnership working with Talent Match, Early Help and DWP colleagues is positive. Week 1 summary: 10 registrations and initial assessments completed (4 universal / 6 supported, 3 Work Coach appointments booked (1 of which happened in first week and was a 'recruit' from the Lowestoft Festival). No training courses booked as yet. The Skills Team has appointed a further Work Coach, Youth Support Worker and Training Coordinator, all with start dates in or before September 2016.

Suffolk Skills Show 2016

Delivery for the Suffolk Skills Show 2016, due to be held on the 19 October 2016 at Trinity Park, Ipswich, is progressing well. Steering Group Meetings have identified key businesses to target as exhibitors, who have already been active through the wider skills agenda and offer genuine opportunities for young people and exhibitor sign-ups are building with many more pledging to attend. We have the full support of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce in helping us to achieve a rich and diverse exhibitor base.

In addition to employers, we have a strong partnership with our colleagues in the FE and local HE sectors ensuring that the attendees meet both potential future employers and discover more about local growth sectors, but also have experienced educators to help them navigate their path from school in to further education and employment.

Finally, we are also delighted by the commitment to the event from the schools across Suffolk, since the call to book has been issued we have already achieved bookings from 25 schools bringing over 3350 students on the day.

North Suffolk Skills Centre

The North Suffolk Skills Centre (NSSC), located in Halesworth, north Suffolk, was opened in September 2007. The project was developed as a response to the need to develop a collaborative model and supporting specialist facilities to address the skills challenges, facing this large rural area. When the project was opened it was led by a partnership of schools and other providers supported by the Suffolk 14-19 Strategy Team, the Local Authority and the Learning and Skills Council. Over time, this arrangement has changed and Bungay High School is the current tenant and provider of the learning offer.

In January 2016, Suffolk County Council was informed that Bungay High School would be withdrawing from their current lease due to a significant decline in the

uptake of 14-16 and Post-16 provision at the centre within the past 2 years. The Authority is now working to actively secure a new tenant and provider of education and skills training. It is important that the area continues to be provided with a local learning offer that meets local need and provides young people and adults with access to education and further study. We anticipate announcing the details of the new tenant in September 2016.

For more information please contact: Judith Mobbs, Email: judith.mobbs@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264317

4. Health Update

Commissioning

The final report and executive summary of the Public Health external review of Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership and School Nursing Services across Suffolk were recently made available. An action plan to address the recommendations is being developed. This will include:

- Actively reviewing vacancies to appropriately respond to service pressures.
- The use of remote information technology systems to improve workload management.
- Refining the service provided for special schools, children with special needs and sixth form schools.

Health Visiting

Whilst a successful recruitment campaign has considerably increased the number of health visitors in post to 110, close to the target of 115, services continue to be challenged in some localities due to sickness rates and also geographical location, for example, Forest Heath.

A number of initiatives to improve the situation are in place including:

- Sharing staff to support teams with low numbers.
- Working to co-locate teams in West Suffolk.
- The use of bank staff.
- Analysing data on staff sickness to address with appropriate support.
- Making Forest Heath an attractive employment prospect.

School Nursing

There are a number of qualified school nurse vacancies across the service. Interviews for these are in progress.

National data for July 2016 for the ChatHealth school nursing text messaging service shows that Suffolk compares favourably to other areas with this facility, despite it being a recent initiative. Plans are in place to develop the service to extend availability and improve response.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

The annual review of the effectiveness of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) team took place at the end of July 2016.

Whilst the team demonstrated positive impact on the outcomes for those they supported, there was recognition that the specialist support this team can provide is limited to a relatively low number of families and for Ipswich only.

Work continues to embed the 'golden threads' of the service within other teams and to provide relevant supplementary training to further staff groups, as this is made available by the national FNP organisation.

Child Health Information Service

The Child Health Information Service (CHIS) continues to deliver its key performance indicators and is recognised for this achievement by the NHS East of England commissioners.

Suffolk County Council will be submitting a bid within the current procurement process to combine and manage the existing four CHIS services across the East of England. The process to do this involves joint working by several personnel across various directorates within the Council. The result will be announced in October 2016.

Learning Disability Nursing Service

There have been some staffing challenges within the Learning Disability Nursing team but flexible working has meant that the team continues to deliver against the 18 week waiting target and sustain its support for families.

Work goes on with the local Clinical Commissioning Group to define and agree an improved pathway for these services.

Child in Care (CiC) Nursing Team and Named Nursing for Safeguarding

The new CiC Hub is functional. The main purpose of the hub is to co-ordinate and process a range of administrative and financial duties supporting the delivery of services within the CiC Nursing Team in addition to enhancing

communication, information sharing and data collection between health and social care.

The team have noted some priorities for the service which include:

- Development of a dashboard to demonstrate achievement of the key performance indicators identified within the new service specification.
- An improvement of the support provided to care leavers.

The latter was recognised as a need within the last Ofsted inspection.

The Named Nurses' priorities for development include:

- Signs of Safety strengthening for health visitors and school nurses.
- An audit of significant events to ensure learning has been taken and embedded.

The team have achieved 100% compliance with safeguarding supervision for the health visitors and school nurses.

For further information please contact: Sara Fletcher; Email: sara.fletcher@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264557

5. Health and Wellbeing Board

I attended the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 21 July 2016.

The Board agreed the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2016 - 2021.

It was noted that building volunteering capacity and community resilience is crucial to prevention, and underpins Family 2020 and the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans. The Board noted that there may be additional resource required to quicken the pace, but this would be skills based, rather than financial. It was agreed that policies enabling employers to take paid volunteering leave should be discussed at Suffolk Chief Officers Leadership Team. Members supported efforts to map and gather information about volunteering opportunities for children and young people.

The Board recognised that the Strategy would support its objective of building community resilience, and would create the opportunity to build strong neighbourhood networks in Suffolk, contributing to the vision for people in Suffolk to live healthier, happier lives. Members anticipated that the strategy and action plan would bring together a partnership of key agencies to maximise volunteering opportunities and the resources that enabled volunteering, to enhance the benefits for residents and the services that they needed.

The Board received an update on Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) for Norfolk and Waveney. The key priorities identified by NHS England were “keep me at home”, addressing prevention and wellbeing and developing new models of primary and community care. The Plan will now be revised to state more clearly how services will be delivered over the next five years; what changes would be made and where savings would be made, and be explicit about mental health needs. The Board were satisfied that the needs of Waveney were reflected on behalf of the Board, but required regular updates. The STP will be finalised in October.

The Board received an update on Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) Suffolk and North East Essex. NHS England requires further work on bridging the financial gap and details of the transformation schemes. It was noted that the VCS and local members needed to be involved. It was noted that innovative thinking was required to build resilient communities, in a similar way to the Children and Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Transformation Plan, where small amounts of funding have been available to encourage new thinking.

The Board supported the thrust of the STP for Suffolk and North East Essex, recognising that it was in broad alignment with Suffolk’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and that it reflected the need for health and care integration, resilient communities and greater emphasis on prevention, as well as the considerable financial challenge faced by Suffolk and North East Essex.

Nevertheless, members were aware that a great deal more work was required, including further discussions about governance arrangements and engagement with local Councillors, the voluntary and community sector and members of the public. The Board wished to be kept informed of progress.

The Board received an update on the Children and Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Transformation Plan (EWB 2020), which supports Family 2020 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Members heard that as part of EWB 2020, a funded programme of learning and development resources had been put in place to reflect the broad needs of the workforce, families / carers and children and young people. It is intended there will be a Single Point of Access and Assessment (SPAA), co-located with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in Landmark House. The purpose of the SPAA would be to ensure that no child, young person or their family/carer would be turned away without being offered appropriate help, information or advice. Under the EWB 2020 Programme, grants had been awarded to 22 local projects in the voluntary and community sector.

The Board was pleased with progress in developing a single point of access and assessment for the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, which was a key priority of the Family 2020 Strategy. Members recognised the importance of having a skilled and confident workforce and they wished to see all partner

organisations encourage appropriate staff to take advantage of the new development opportunities.

For further information please contact: Tina Hines; Email: tina.hines@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264596

6. Corporate Parenting

The number of children in care rose to 805 in August, with 296 care leavers also receiving a service. Of these, 51 are unaccompanied asylum seekers. Suffolk has taken an additional 15 young people in support of Kent County Council and the Government has identified we should be taking up to 106 young people as part of the national dispersal scheme. Although funds are provided for their care this adds pressure to the need to develop our local accommodation provision for teenagers and care leavers.

A major new fostering recruitment campaign is underway, led by a newly-appointed manager and supported by the Director and Councillors. For older young people a set of supported accommodation and lodgings contracts has been awarded and the providers are recruiting and developing resources to offer high quality housing and support. Recent Inspections of our children's homes have rated three as 'Good' and the other two are making significant improvements.

A new Head of the Virtual School has been appointed and the service reorganised to strengthen its focus on schools and other education providers improving the quality of education to children in care. Alongside this, we are working on the development of a Virtual College for improving the education, employment, and training opportunities for young people over 16 and care leavers.

For further information please contact: Cliff James; Email: cliff.james@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264731

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