

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

8 December 2016

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gordon Jones Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills
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1. Recent Schools Ofsted Inspections

The Attic

Date of Inspection – 22nd September 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 17th September 2014 (Requires Improvement)

Senior leaders are determined to provide every pupil with the best chance to develop the skills they need to be successful in adult life.

Staff morale is high. Staff are very positive and share the senior leaders’ vision to provide every pupil with the best possible opportunities at The Attic.

Rigorous assessment before starting school ensures that teachers have detailed knowledge of pupils’ academic ability and interests. Teachers use this well to provide interesting learning activities.

Teachers and teaching assistants work well together to support pupils’ learning.

Progress in English and science is particularly strong.

Staff manage pupils’ behaviour well. They skilfully intervene to prevent incidents so that lessons progress without disruption.

Pupils socialise well together. Relationships between staff and pupils are very positive.

Keeping pupils safe is a high priority for all staff. Pupils agree that they are safe and well cared for in school.

The work of the school to support pupils’ personal development and welfare is exemplary. Pupils thrive in this nurturing environment and their self-confidence develops.

Most pupils arrive with a history of very poor attendance. Staff work tirelessly to improve attendance, bringing about improved attendance for a large majority of pupils.

The overwhelming majority of Year 11 pupils in 2015/16 progressed on to education, employment or training.

In a small number of lessons teachers do not move pupils on to the next activity quickly enough. Progress is slower in these lessons.

Progress in mathematics is not as rapid as it is in English because work is sometimes too easy and pupils do not have enough opportunity to solve mathematical problems or use their mathematics skills in other subjects.

The school needs to continue to develop the range of GCSE courses offered.

Very few pupils read outside their English lesson.

Harbour PRU

Date of Inspection – 27th September 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 13th November 2014 (Requires Improvement)

Leaders and managers have improved Harbour since the previous inspection and subsequent monitoring visit. In particular, the quality of teaching and pupils' outcomes are both good.

The Head of School is ambitious for all pupils to benefit from high-quality education. She is ably supported by the Executive Headteacher, managers and staff.

Pupils' progress is good because teachers make sure that the activities they are given are neither too easy nor too hard.

Good use of subject specialists enables pupils to learn well in subjects such as music.

Skilled behaviour support assistants make a valuable contribution to pupils' learning.

The staff very effectively manage pupils' social and emotional needs so that pupils learn to understand their feelings, and how to manage them successfully.

The staff's strong emphasis on pupils' well-being and mental health ensures that pupils feel happy and well cared for.

Pupils' behaviour is good overall. Many present challenging behaviour when they arrive. Staff manage this well so pupils quickly improve.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. Staff provide activities that encourage pupils to work and play well together. These also contribute to their preparation for their next school.

The curriculum is enriched by many interesting activities that enthuse pupils.

Pupils are very well prepared for their next school and the majority return to mainstream school successfully.

The relationship with parents is very positive. Parents say the school staff always 'go the extra mile' for their children.

Bungay Primary School

Date of Inspection – 4th October 2016 (Good)

Date of Previous Inspection – 29th January 2015 (Requires Improvement)

The Headteacher has successfully established a culture of high expectations of pupils and staff.

Staff work well as a team for the benefit of all. They value the training and support they receive from the Headteacher and Deputy.

School leaders, including governors, have secured key improvements in the quality of education provided since the previous inspection. Pupils now make good progress.

Teachers plan lessons well and make clear to pupils what they are expecting them to learn. They work well with teaching assistants to make sure that no pupil gets left behind.

Standards of writing in English are good across the school. However, pupils' writing in other subjects is not as well developed.

Pupils enjoy reading and are developing a love of books. They develop good skills in reading a variety of texts, but sometimes find it difficult to pick out less obvious information and meaning.

Attractive displays around the school contribute well to a stimulating learning environment.

The support for pupils who have special educational needs and / or disabilities is highly effective in enabling them to achieve well.

Additional support for pupils' social and emotional development, through the 'nurture group' provision for example, is exceptionally good. Its focus on learning ensures that pupils who use this support make good progress in their work as well.

Pupils are enthusiastic about school and learning. They enjoy lessons and get on well with one another. Pupils are safe in school.

Pupils are well prepared for their next stage of education. For example, they have settled into new classes or key stages quickly, resulting in a brisk start to work in the new academic year.

Children in the early years have settled in very well and are happy. In lessons, they quickly get involved in interesting and purposeful activities.

A wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities enhance the broad range of taught subjects well.

Governors know the school well because they maintain good oversight of its work. They challenge school leaders effectively to make it even better.

While leaders know the school well and are focusing on the right areas for improvement, they do not analyse assessment information or the impact of their actions sharply enough.

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

2. Raising the Bar

Provisional School Results 2015/16

In October provisional A-level, GCSE and Early Years Foundation results were released by the Department for Education. The overall A-level pass-rate has continued to rise and for the first time GCSE progress has risen above the national average, and there has been a 3% rise in the number of students achieving the GCSE threshold in English and Maths. Provisional results also show a rise in Suffolk children achieving a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage results and we are above the rest of England. While Key Stage 2 results, released in August, remain below the national average, Suffolk's ranking has significantly improved from 134 to 119.

I am also proud to report that 85% of Suffolk schools are now being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, this is the highest percentage we have ever had and it is improving twice as quickly as England overall.

For further information please contact: Mark Bennett; Email: mark.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 263946

New Performance Information Review Process

Following consultation with school leaders, I am delighted that there is now an improved performance information review process as an evolution from the Council's risk rating system. Guidance for schools and settings published about new performance information review process was published at the beginning of term.

For further information, please contact: Adrian Orr; Email: adrian.orr@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264709

Schools Implementing New Interventions to Boost Attainment

As I reported previously, 122 schools have been offered funding as part of the Raising the Bar Challenge Fund in partnership with the nationally renowned Education Endowment Foundation. As a result, I am pleased to hear that staff from these schools have now received training in programmes that have evidence to promise a boost in attainment, and are excited to start implementing these innovative approaches in their schools.

We have entered discussions with the Education Endowment Foundation about further innovative joint initiatives with Raising the Bar for 2017.

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

Strengthened Governor's Services

As part of a reorganisation, Governors Services has moved to Education and Learning's school leadership function. This means we can fully align our statutory duties with school improvement work. We are now taking a fresh strategic look on how to further enhance our support to Governors in Suffolk's schools.

For further information, please contact: Carol Hitchman; Email: carol.hitchman@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 263952

Get into Teaching

We hosted a "Getting into Teaching" information event, to encourage more people to consider teaching as a career. Run with local Teaching Schools and Teacher Training providers, over 200 people registered for this event who were considering teaching as a career choice.

Great teachers are at the forefront of our push to extend opportunities to every single child. I am delighted that, with such events, we can focus on attracting more talented people into the profession, to inspire young people, open doors to their future and help prepare them for life.

For further information, please contact: Stella Day; Email: stella.day@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 07779130418

3. Skills

Suffolk Skills Show 2016 – www.suffolkskills.com

This year's Suffolk Skills Show saw nearly 5,000 young people visit from across the County. Attendees aged between 11 and 24 met face to face with over 100 employers from 15 employment sectors. The attendees were given the opportunity to talk about working in the various sectors or for the represented companies, how to get into the jobs being showcased and what employment opportunities exist including apprenticeships and work experience.

As well as employers, the event showcased the four Further Education Colleges and Higher Education support from the University of Suffolk, University of East Anglia and Norwich University of the Arts along with private providers and careers professionals to help young people discover their career path.

All of the information, advice and guidance offered on the day, was positioned alongside engaging 'have a go' activities ranging from driving a mini crane or laying bricks to understanding aerodynamics or the process of making a nuclear power station work. All exhibitors on the day were encouraged to create a 'have a go' or include hands on activity on their stand to help the wider careers conversation.

Early feedback from the event indicates it was the most successful yet with well-prepared young people and a noticeable rise in aspirations and confidence of those engaging with employers. Schools in-particular have advised the event is valuable to their students and 100% of those who have given feedback say they would book next year. The date for the 2017 event is 18 October 2017 at Trinity Park, Ipswich.

Icanbea... - www.icanbea.org.uk

'Icanbea...' is the new online platform that showcases career opportunities in the local economy to young people in Suffolk. It was launched on the 14 October 2016, at Ipswich Town Football Club, to a crowd of over 160 partners and employers with a follow up education launch at the Suffolk Skills Show 2016.

At the launch, employers Ipswich Building Society and Adnams, who both have profiles on the site, endorsed the website as a way to better engage with the wider skills agenda. It was also a fantastic opportunity to hear more about the New Anglia Youth Pledge Marque. The Youth Pledge recognises those employers offering work experience or apprenticeships whilst Icanbea... can help employers promote such opportunities to young people.

The Icanbea... website aims to be an accessible resource to for those aged 11-24 to ensure they are aware of the potential career opportunities for them in the local area. As well as information on each industry the most important area of the site showcases local employers from across Norfolk and Suffolk including details

of what type of roles they offer, what they look for in an employee etc. Many profiles have added 'talking head' videos to better engage young people.

Use of the site is completely free and young people, once they have completed a simple sign in process can build their own personalised feed by 'liking' and 'following' certain industries or individual employers which they have an interest in.

Now Icanbea... has launched we are implementing plans to embed use of the site within schools and promote it to young people over the course of the next academic year. Colleagues are invited to visit the site and promote it in conversations with local businesses, schools and youth groups.

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

4. Health Update

Commissioning

There is close working with the Public Health Commissioners of the Health Visiting, School Nursing and the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme to deliver an effective, outcome-based service within the budgetary constraints of a 6% reduction in funding over a period of 3 years.

Health Visiting

Innovative solutions continue to address the staffing shortages in the west of the County, particularly Forest Heath.

The Service Manager and the HR Strategic Partner are visiting all teams to promote open discussion on a range of issues including the outcomes of the Public Health review of services and models of service delivery to meet national and local requirements and the planned budgetary constraints.

School Nursing

There is a shortage of school nurses nationally. To support local numbers, the service is currently training 2 nurses.

The ChatHealth school nursing text messaging service statistics of use show Suffolk comparing favourably to other areas with this facility. Figures show it is being used in equal numbers by children and parents with the most common request for contact or to be seen.

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme

Reduced staff numbers within the team due to maternity leave have meant they are working at 75% capacity for caseload. This has been approved with the Public Health commissioners.

Family Support Practitioners (FSPs) are currently being given additional training on parental attachment by the FNP Manager. This enables some of the specialist skills of the FNP model to be shared more widely to the benefit of the broader population.

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.

The Council is awaiting a current tender bid submission outcome which would see the combination of four CHIS services across the East of England.

Learning Disability Nursing Service

The staffing numbers have stabilised and 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 operationally functional: work is in place to address some technical process issues especially with agreements around initial health assessments for out of county children. The dashboard has been devised and is being populated to provide comprehensive performance data and detailed analysis.

The Named Nurses continue to work across the county with health visitors, school nurses and FNP using a signs of safety approach in the supervision. They are co-ordinating two current serious case reviews and taking an active role with the learning and action plans.

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. Corporate Parenting

Priorities of the Corporate Parenting Service – Autumn 2016

The Fostering Changes Team has seen an increase in workload due to the continuing increase in numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in Suffolk.

The majority of UASC arrive individually or in small groups having made their way or been smuggled into the Country from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and North Africa. In addition, there is a Government Scheme to resettle UASC safely across the Country; the National UASC Transfer Scheme. Suffolk has signed up to the scheme and will be expected to accommodate 106 children and young people in total by April 2017.

UASC are treated as Children in Care under S20 Children Act. As of 7 November 2016, we have 68 under 18 UASC, which means we need to take a further 38 to meet the agreed quota. The CPB has supported the CYP plan to opt for 16/17 year olds and have a staged reception of 20 - 30 young people in March 2017, and the balance of 10 - 20 in May – June 2017, in order to develop the resources needed in a planned way.

We are working to ensure we have the level of suitable accommodation, Further Education (FE) provision, social work support and specialist youth support required for these young people as below.

Actions

We are issuing a tender for additional supported accommodation, developing English language provision with local FE colleges and working with the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Group to ensure we take a systems approach to welcoming these young people.

During this quarter the Departmental Management Team has supported the corporate parenting service to establish new posts and recruit temporary workers to ensure that we have the capacity to meet these challenges.

The costs of UASC are covered by Central Government.

Enquiries and recruitment of new foster carers continues to be a challenge which is having an impact on our ability to place more children in-house. To assist with this a renewed marketing strategy is being developed as well as a more focused customer service approach. This Autumn has seen a concerted effort in improving communication with our foster carers, adopters and staff to ensure that we are sharing more information and gathering more views in order better to support them. This has included inviting the carer association to team meetings and text messaging to carers about placement referrals, events and updates.

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

6. Early Years National Funding Formula

The DfE consulted on changes to early years funding from 11 August to 22 September 2016. The response to the consultation has not been announced yet.

Whilst we believe the general principles in the consultation are sound the resulting rates that would be paid to providers (schools, private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers) are a significant reduction on current rates.

All schools and many PVI providers will see a decrease in rates from the current rates of £4.24 or £4.15 per hour to under £4 per hour. Those providers with the lowest levels of qualifications, such as childminders, will see flat funding or a small increase.

Our concerns are fourfold;

- This will put at risk our ability to meet our **statutory duty of sufficiency of provision**. Many providers are telling us they cannot afford to provide the existing fifteen hours at these rates, and may withdraw from this, other providers have fragile financial positions and reduction in income, along with cost increases such as the National Living Wage and increased business rates will make them unviable. This is particularly acute in our most rural areas.
- At these rates we will struggle to deliver the offer of 30 hours per week for lower income working families. This will have an impact on these families and have a **long term economic impact** on Suffolk.
- Outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage in Suffolk are improving and are again above national average. This proposal will disproportionately affect those providers with the highest qualified staff and will therefore result in **worse outcomes for children**.
- We believe this will result in **worse quality provision**, currently of those delivering the free entitlement 90% is rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. By disproportionately reducing funding to the providers with the best qualified staff we expect quality to suffer.

For further information please contact: Alison Manning; Email: alison.manning@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264727

7. Suffolk Festival of Learning

The Inaugural Suffolk Festival of Learning was held on 21 October 2016 at University for Suffolk. Over 1000 teachers and professional from the wider education community gathered for an energetic and challenging day with a wide diversity of high profile speakers, subject material, stand holders and events. I was delighted that Suffolk County Council and Raising the Bar had a strong presence as headline sponsor. Congratulations to the team of Headteachers and Principals that provided the leadership to bring this wonderful event to fruition.

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

8. DFE Innovation Fund Bids

CYP are partners in a number of Department for Education (DFE) Innovation Fund Bids. The following have passed the Expression of Interest Stage and are progressing to Full Bid Stage.

Signs of Safety Wave 2 - Focuses on support required for continued implementation, development and spread of Signs of Safety practice.

Compass / Signs of Safety Wave 2 – To increase therapeutic capacity to reduce need for children to enter care and to step-down needs.

Volunteer Mentors for Care Leavers Wave 2 – Recruitment and training of to help care leavers develop positive social networks, build self-esteem and sustain learning and work opportunities.

Buurtzorg Jong – Adapting a Social Enterprise approach in the Netherlands around delivery of Adult Care through client-centred, self-managing teams to work with Children's Services.

Mockingbird - Has already been notified as being successful. This programme supports the creation of networks of foster carers in self-supporting hubs with the aim to improve both child-centred care and carer retention. DFE will be funding approximately £130k to Suffolk.

There are a number of other bids to the DFE Innovations Fund and other sources of funding that are at a more exploratory stage.

We anticipate hearing the results of this round of bids at the end of 2016. Some bids will require a level of matched-funding, for example Year 2 funding from savings achieved in Year 1. Children and Young People's Services will develop implementation plans to ensure that the service developments are economically sustainable and will realise improved outcomes for children and families.

For further information please contact: Graham Beamish; Email: graham.beamish@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 265369

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