

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
14 JULY 2014	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services

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IMPLEMENTATIONS OF OFSTED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to review the proposed action plan arising from the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Inspection undertaken in February.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee reviews and agrees the action plan and that an update report on progress is brought to the committee early in 2015.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 3rd February 2014, a team of 3 inspectors from Ofsted reviewed our arrangements for school improvement. The inspection lasted 5 days. The inspection of a local authority provides an independent external evaluation of how well it carries out its statutory duties in relation to promoting high standards in schools and among other providers so that children and young people achieve well and fulfil their potential as defined by the Education Act 1996 (all schools including academies).

- 3.2 The authority was graded as being ‘effective’ and is only the second authority out of eleven in the England to date to receive this outcome. Although not required as part of the Ofsted framework, we have decided to develop an action plan to address the ‘areas of improvement’ identified in the report.

- 3.3 The areas identified for improvement were –

“To improve achievement and ensure that all pupils in Peterborough attend a good or better school, the local authority should:

1. Clarify milestones and targets in strategic plans and specify how each school will contribute to raising standards for all children and young people;
2. Focus relentlessly on supporting and challenging schools to improve outcomes for pupils who speak English as an additional language and those supported through pupil premium funding;
3. Embed high quality school-to-school partnership in order to promote the sharing of good practice and increase the autonomy of primary schools; and
4. Improve information, advice and guidance in schools and broaden the provision of work-based learning opportunities so that young people succeed along their education and training pathways.”

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Attached in appendix 1 is the proposed action plan to address the areas identified in the inspection. We have also added two other areas where we wish to continue focus improvement activity. The plan closely follows the prescribed / recommended format used by Ofsted in schools and provides detailed milestones on delivery. A number of these actions have already been completed.
- 4.2 Following the inspection of school improvement arrangements, the council received a 5 day review of the effectiveness of education and training provision for 16-19 year olds, particularly the most vulnerable young people. The inspection was positive and we are awaiting the final outcome letter which is expected imminently. As this review overlapped with action point 4, we will finalise the action in this area to coincide with the published review findings and recommendations. There was no grade or judgement for this review but a formal letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The action plan will be discussed in the quarterly meeting between officers and our regional Senior HMI, Tim Bristow.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This is an internal document but previous iterations have been shared with Headteachers and progress will be shared with them on an ongoing basis.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 It is proposed an update report is brought to the committee in early 2015 for review on progress.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 8.1 None

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – OfSTED Inspection of Arrangements to Support School Improvement Action Plan