

## **Peterborough's English as an Additional Language (EAL) Strategy (refreshed June 2015)**

### **Progress to date**

- The attainment gap at Key Stage 2 has fallen from 15 to 8 percentage points (comparing EAL attainment to English first language attainment) and from 12 to 9 percentage points (compared to national EAL attainment); the bulk of this improvement occurred in those schools receiving school based training and consultancy through the EAL Strategy; progress is not so strong at GCSE
- 850 attendances at city wide delegate training courses in 2014-15 (including on line and masters level courses) and 1130 at school based courses; evaluations consistently mention the practical nature of the training
- A second edition of the Peterborough EAL Handbook produced and widely welcomed
- The eleven hub schools who received intensive support shared their learning at a conference for all Peterborough schools on February 11

### **1) The Four Key Strategic objectives**

- To improve progress and attainment of all EAL pupils and enable every school to meet their needs
- To share good practice and develop system wide EAL capacity across the city
- To develop a city-wide workforce with EAL knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to both classroom practice and leadership through a major professional development programme
- To engage with families and communities, in order to improve progress and attainment of EAL pupils

### **2) Key issues**

This strategy is based on a detailed audit of performance across Peterborough schools and language data. The key issues from the audit are:

- EAL numbers are expected to further increase;
- current attainment of pupils with EAL (including those who have been learning English for several years) is low compared to national performance of pupils with EAL;
- there is low attainment amongst both more newly arrived EAL pupils with a short time in Peterborough schools and more advanced EAL pupils who began their Peterborough education in Key Stage 1 (aged 5, 6 and 7 years);
- improving language acquisition and raising the attainment of pupils with EAL is increasingly key to improving overall education standards across the City.

### **3) Focus**

The new strategy focuses on:

- better preparing schools and settings for the growth in numbers of pupils with EAL;
- addressing the specific needs of newly arrived pupils with a particular focus on those from East European Roma backgrounds;
- closing the attainment gap for the large cohort of advanced EAL learners by enhancing their academic language skills;
- engaging bilingual families and communities in raising attainment;
- creating a city-wide network of highly skilled professionals with accredited EAL expertise;
- developing the leadership of EAL at all levels.

### **4) Preparing schools and settings for the expected growth in numbers of pupils with EAL**

To prepare schools and settings and settings for this growth we will:

- share up-to-date information about the latest demographic trends;
- provide all schools and settings with an updated Peterborough EAL Handbook;
- support schools and settings in understanding how to collect accurately and interpret effectively EAL data.

### **5) Addressing the needs of newly arrived pupils**

To support pupils new to English we will:

- support the development and operation of effective induction systems in all schools and settings;

- provide professional development in individual schools and settings and through central courses focussing on meeting the needs of newly arrived pupils in mainstream classrooms, including those who arrive in Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 (aged 7-16 years) with little or no literacy in any language;
- develop suitable on and off line resources for pupils new to English that accelerate English acquisition and give access to the new National Curriculum

## **6) Closing the attainment gap for the large cohort of advanced EAL learners by enhancing their academic language skills**

To enhance the academic language skills of pupils at the later stages of English language acquisition we will:

- provide all schools and settings with an updated Peterborough EAL Handbook;
- provide professional development in individual schools and settings and through central courses focussing on the teaching of the formal, academic language required for success in exams and tests;
- provide professional development focussing on the teaching of the language required for innovation and creativity;
- run Summer and Easter schools for Year 5 and Year 10 pupils on academic language development;
- enhance provision for advanced EAL learners in post-16 institutions.

## **7) Engaging families and communities in raising attainment**

In order to involve families and communities we will work with partners, including City College, to establish:

- arrangements to ensure there are well trained staff from newly arrived communities (especially newly arrived Roma communities) to act as a bridge between schools, parents and communities and encourages and assists parents into employment
- provide training and support for mother tongue and supplementary schools;
- provide professional development in individual schools and settings and through central courses in parental and community engagement;
- develop the forums in which we engage with community organisations in order to place improving progress and raising the attainment of EAL pupils high on the agenda;
- offer opportunities to provide joint training with ESOL providers.

## **8) Creating a City-wide network of highly skilled professionals with accredited EAL expertise**

In order to develop a network of highly skilled professionals with accredited EAL expertise we will:

- provide specialist degree and masters level programmes in the leadership of EAL customised to Peterborough, creating a cohort of specialist leaders of education with distinctive EAL expertise;
- provide lower level wholly on-line accredited programmes in EAL customised to Peterborough for teachers and support staff;
- provide an extensive programme of in class coaching for teachers;
- develop Peterborough teachers as trainers and consultants to other schools;
- set up and facilitate on-line and face-to-face EAL networks for senior and middle leaders.

### **9) Developing the leadership of EAL at all levels**

In order to support the development of leadership of EAL at all levels we will:

- work with the School Improvement Board through a group of collaborative leads to provide a strategic overview of EAL in the city;
- support the development of EAL confident senior leaders within schools;
- support the development of EAL co-ordination within schools;
- encourage and facilitate school-to-school support.

### **10) Resourcing the Strategy**

Funding for the strategy has been agreed subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation by Schools Forum. In addition training costs are subsidised by selling places on courses to schools outside Peterborough.