

## Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 1630 in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Bradford

### Members of the Committee - Councillors

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Bradford Independents
Sykes (Ch)	Engel	J Sunderland	F Khan
M Pollard (DCh)	Peart		
	Shaheen		
	Tait		
	Thirkill		

### Alternates:

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Bradford Independents</u>
Carmody	Bacon	N Pollard	Collector
Rickard	Abid Hussain		
	Lee		
	Akhtar		

### VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Church representatives: Claire Parr (RC), Joyce Simpson (CE)

Parent Governor Representatives: Mr Sidiq Ali, vacancy

### NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Health Representative elect: Tina Wildy

Teachers Secondary School Representative: Tom Bright

Teachers Primary School Representative: Stephen Pickles

Teachers Special School Representative: Irene Docherty

Voluntary Sector Representative: Janet Jewitt, Kerr Kennedy

### Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or audio format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

### From:

D Pearson

Interim City Solicitor

Agenda Contact: Jill Bell

Phone: 01274 434580

E-Mail: [jill.bell@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:jill.bell@bradford.gov.uk)

### To:



## **A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

### **1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS** (Standing Order 34)

The Interim City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

### **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

*Notes:*

- (1) *Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.

### **3. MINUTES**

**Recommended –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).**



#### **4. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting. Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Jill Bell - 01274 434580)

#### **5. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

To receive referrals that have been made to this Committee after the publication of this agenda.

The Committee is asked to note the referrals and decide how it wishes to proceed, for example by incorporating the item into the work programme, requesting that it be subject to more detailed examination, or refer it to an appropriate Working Group/Committee.

(Jill Bell - 01274 434580)

#### **A. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES**

#### **6. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-OFSTED ACTION PLAN**

Bradford Council's Local Authority's arrangements for school improvement were inspected by Ofsted between 15 and 19 June 2015. Following the publication of the report, in the form of a letter, on 21 August an action plan was developed to address the issues raised in the report. The plan was submitted to Ofsted on 28 September and a response was received on 26 October.

The report of the Assistant Director, Education and School Improvement (**Document "AQ"**) provides an update on the work to develop a structured action plan and implement it, the response of Ofsted following their evaluation of the action plan, the further steps that have been taken to address the issues raised, and the next steps to publish the action plan on the Council website.

**Recommendation -**

**Committee Members are requested to consider and note the information provided.**

(Judith Kirk - 01274 432438)



## **7. SCHOOLS FORUM UPDATE**

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for a regular update on the work of the Schools Forum. The Schools Forum has met twice since the last report, on 9 December 2015 and again on the 6 January 2016. The decisions list from the 9 December Schools Forum meeting is attached at Appendix 1 to **Document "AR"**.

At the 6 January meeting, the Forum was asked to make its final recommendations on the allocation of the 2016/17 financial year Schools Budget. The decisions list from this meeting is not available for attachment at the time this report is published. This decisions list will be provided as a late report for the Committee (by email) and a presentation will be given verbally to the Committee on the key recommendations the Schools Forum has made.

A paper outlining the Schools Forum's recommendations will be presented to the Executive on 23 February 2016 as part of the Authority's budget setting process.

### **Recommendation -**

**Committee Members are asked to consider and to note the information provided in this update.**

(Andrew Redding - 01274 432678)

## **8. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16**

The report of the Chair of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document "AS"**) presents the Committee's Work Programme 2015-16.

### **Recommended -**

**That the Work Programme 2015-16 continues to be reviewed during the year.**

(Licia Woodhead - 01274 432119)

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER



## **Report of the Assistant Director, Education and School Improvement to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 12 January 2016**

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**AQ**

**Subject:**

**Update on the development and implementation of the post-Ofsted Action Plan**

**Summary statement:**

Bradford Council's Local Authority's arrangements for school improvement were inspected by Ofsted between 15 and 19 June 2015. Following the publication of the report, in the form of a letter, on 21 August an action plan was developed to address the issues raised in the report. The plan was submitted to Ofsted on 28 September and a response was received on 26 October.

This report provides an update on the work to develop a structured action plan and implement it, the response of Ofsted following their evaluation of the action plan, the further steps that have been taken to address the issues raised, and the next steps to publish the action plan on the Council website.

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Michael Jameson  
Strategic Director

**Portfolio:**  
Education, Culture and Skills

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Judith Kirk  
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Education and School Improvement  
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**Overview & Scrutiny area:**  
Children's Services

## 1. Summary

1.1 Bradford Council's Local Authority's arrangements for school improvement were inspected by Ofsted between 15 and 19 June 2015. Following the publication of the report, in the form of a letter, on 21 August an action plan was developed to address the issues raised in the report. The plan was submitted to Ofsted on 28 September and a response was received on 26 October.

1.2 This report provides an update on the work to:

- i. Develop, implement, monitor and evaluate a structured action plan.
- ii. The response by Ofsted following their evaluation of the action plan.
- iii. The further steps that have been taken to address the issues raised
- iv. The next steps to publish the action plan on the Council website.

## 2. Background

2.1 The Local Authority's arrangements for school improvement were inspected by Ofsted between 15 and 19 June 2015. A letter from HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector), who led the inspection, was published on 21 August. This letter included a detailed report on the outcomes of the inspection.

### 2.2 Structure of the plan

The overall objective of the action plan comes from a quote the inspection report – to “accelerate the work begun to raise pupils’ achievement and attendance at all levels”. The Local Authority School Improvement (LASI) Action Plan is now the single plan which will deliver the improvements that Bradford needs. It replaces all other school improvement plans that were previously used.

2.3 The plan is split into nine key themes or projects, each led by a senior lead officer. These themes respond to the main areas of improvement that were specified as an outcome of the inspection. Each project has an aim and a series of tasks; each task has a performance indicator or outcome which will deliver the project aim. The nine themes or projects are:

1. School Improvement Strategy
2. LA Intervention in Schools
3. School Improvement Governance Arrangements
4. School Performance Risk Assessment
5. Use of Performance and Management Information
6. Quality of School Leadership & School-to-School Support
7. LA Staff Performance
8. Value for Money of Post 16 provision
9. Baseline and Comparator Work

2.4 The progress of the plan is tracked through a Progress Monitor and a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Monitor

- Progress Monitor: This requires each reporting officer to RAG (red / amber / green) the progress of each activity on a monthly basis. The RAGs have

been defined to ensure there is a focus on each task having a positive impact rather than just being implemented.

<b>Red</b>	<b>Implementation commenced - No impact.</b>
<b>Amber</b>	<b>Implementation has taken place but impact is limited.</b>
<b>Green</b>	<b>Implemented and positive impact evidenced / KPI Met.</b>

- KPI Monitor: This consists of 26 measurable performance indicators that are tracked and updated as new data becomes available. A baseline has been provided and the figures are referenced to national averages and the average of Bradford's ten statistical neighbours (Blackburn with Darwen, Bolton, Derby, Kirklees, Oldham, Peterborough, Rochdale, Sheffield, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall). A copy of the latest KPI Monitor is attached to this report as appendix A.

## 2.5 Evaluation of the LASI Action Plan

The LASI Action Plan was sent to Ofsted on 28 September 2015 and their evaluation of the plan was received from Nick Hudson, Ofsted's Regional Director, in a letter dated 26 October.

- 2.6 The evaluation is largely positive. There was a request for a few minor improvements that have now been actioned; the plan has been approved. To quote from Nick Hudson's letter:

- *The plan is succinct, clear and specific. 'Key Planning Themes' and actions within the plan link directly and successfully to all areas identified as in need of improvement following the inspection.*
- *The overarching position statement at the front of the plan identifies helpfully the current position of school performance in Bradford*
- *The first section also describes the way that improvement is to be monitored and evaluated through the Education Improvement Strategic Board (EISB)*
- *Each Key Theme has a 'lead manager' to oversee the implementation of the work within that theme*
- *Timescales for completion are ambitious but given the aspiration to improve rapidly appear to be manageable*
- *The plan is supported by a set of appropriate key performance indicators at the back of the plan and some measurable targets threaded through the plan which should help you to track the impact of your actions*
- *Overall, the plan appears to be a useful tool to drive the required improvements with suitable referencing of the resources required to implement the plan*

- 2.7 Nick Hudson has offered constructive comments for further improvement:

- *Certain actions within the plan do not provide sufficient detail of the monitoring process*
- *less secure arrangements for elected members to monitor and challenge*
- *although there is reference to the role of Elected Members in underpinning actions, it is not clear how Elected Members as a discrete group will hold senior leaders, both boards and partners to account robustly for their work*
- *whilst it is commendable that targets are usually measurable, there are no baselines of current performance or comparison to the national average so it is hard for elected members to know whether targets are challenging enough*

2.8 As a result of these comments we have sharpened the monitoring arrangements to make sure that it is explicit about how and when Elected Members will be able to track progress and be clear about whether progress is sufficient. Elected Members are represented on the Education Improvement Strategic Board (EISB) and regular progress reports will come to the EISB and this committee. All the KPIs have been baselined (with Bradford's current data) and set against the national and statistical neighbour averages. A copy of Nick Hudson's letter is provided at appendix B and the KPIs are at appendix A.

**2.9 Implementation and monitoring of the LASI Action Plan**

The action plan strongly supports sector-led school improvement whereby key stakeholders have a shared vision for improving educational outcomes and all partners (schools, their partnerships, teaching school alliances (TSA), academy sponsors, dioceses and the LA) are engaged in supporting the delivery of the required improvements, guided by the plan. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE) have all recently attended the EISB and given their full support to Bradford to deliver this plan.

2.10 The LASI Action Plan tracks 73 tasks. A summary of the progress of tasks during the autumn term 2015 is given below as a profile of the RAG ratings.

	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov/Dec 2015
No Action To Date	3	3	3
Red - Implementation commenced - No impact	51	36	29
Amber - Implementation has taken place but impact is limited	18	33	38
Green - Implemented and positive impact evidenced / KPI Met	1	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>

The RAG ratings are strongly focused on impact. So whilst the majority of tasks have been implemented or are being implemented, there have been limited opportunities to demonstrate sustainable impact so far. Three tasks have not yet been actioned as they rely on other tasks to have had time to be completed and show impact, for example one of those tasks is the preparation of a report to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the reconstituted EISB (Education Improvement Strategic Board) and new BEICB (Bradford Education Improvement Commissioning Board) after one year of operation.

**3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.1 Next Steps - publication the plan on the Council website**

Local Authority officers are now working on a version of the plan that will be published on the Council website and be accessible to all stakeholders.

3.2 The support and contribution to the Ofsted Action Plan by all stakeholders will be critical to success. The plan will be published early in the new year.



**4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 The LASI Action Plan and its implementation is funded through the funding available to strategic partners. Following a request by the EISB (Education Improvement Strategic Board) any additional funding provided to support the delivery of tasks is now recorded on each project plan.

**5. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 5.1 None.

**6. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1 None.

**7. OPTIONS**

- 7.1 Not applicable.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Committee Members are requested to consider and note the information provided.

**9. APPENDICES**

- 9.1 Appendix A: Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Monitor  
Appendix B: Evaluation of Bradford Local Authority Action Plan – letter from Nick Hudson, Regional Director Ofsted

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 10.1 Bradford Local Authority School Improvement Inspection Report - <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/bradford>

KPI MONITOR

Service Improvement Plan - Bradford local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement

Programme Objective: To "Accelerate the work begun to raise pupils achievement and attendance at all levels"

Project Title: Monitoring and Reporting "Key Performance Indicators"

Project Lead: School Improvement Performance Data Manager (Jonny Trayer)

Key Performance Indicators for 2016:

Insert up to date figure in relevant cell when it becomes available

Indicator Ref. No:	Target	How frequently is the indicator updated?	Bradford baseline figure		National figure		Statistical Neighbours figure		We Are Here																	
			Figure	Date	Figure	Date	Figure	Date	Oct-15	Nov-15	EISB 2nd Dec	Jan-16	EISB 1st Feb	Mar-16	EISB 18th Apr	May-16	Jun-16	EISB 4th Jul	Aug-16	Sep - 16 & Beyond						
1	The percentage of childminders and group PVI settings that are good or outstanding is 90%	Termly	Childminders 86% PVI 84%	Oct-15	85%	Mar-15																				
2	Termly percentage of 2 year old children taking up Early Education is 80%	Termly	64%	21/05/15	58%	15/01/15	59% (average of Manchester 68% Leeds 58% Birmingham 49% Liverpool 60% Sheffield 60%)																			
3	Termly percentage of 4 year old children taking up Early Education is 99%	Termly	97%	21/05/15	99%	15/01/15	99%	15/01/15																		
4	69% of children achieve a GLD in the EYFS	Annual	62.20%	13/10/15	66.30%	13/10/15	61.70%	13/10/15																		
5	100% of children attend a nursery school which is "good" or better	Termly	84%	31/03/15	96%	31/03/15																				
6	80% of children and young people attend a school which is "good" or better	Termly	59%	31/03/15	79%	31/03/15																			By July 2017	
7	85% of children and young people attend a primary school which is "good" or better	Termly	68%	31/03/15	82%	31/03/15																			By July 2017	
8	57% of children and young people attend a secondary school which is "good" or better	Termly	41%	31/03/15	76%	31/03/15																			By July 2017	
9	Bradford schools are at least in line with national figures for overall absence, unauthorised absence and persistent absence.	Annual	Primary OA% 4.5%, UA 1.1%, AA 3.4%, PA 3.9% Secondary OA 5.9%, UA 2.3%, AA 3.5%, PA 7.2% Figures from Autumn 2014/Spring 2015 Terms	20/10/15	Primary OA% 4.0%, UA 0.7%, AA 3.3%, PA 2.7% Secondary OA 5.2%, UA 1.2%, AA 4.0%, PA 5.5% Figures from Autumn 2014/Spring 2015 Terms	20/10/15	Primary OA% 4.2%, UA 0.9%, AA 3.2%, PA 3.2% Secondary OA 5.2%, UA 1.4%, AA 3.8%, PA 5.8% Figures from Autumn 2014/Spring 2015 Terms	20/10/15																	Target	
10	Bradford schools will continue to be below national average for Permanent Exclusions and Fixed Term Exclusions	Annual	Permanent 0.01% Fixed 1.76%	09/11/15	Permanent 0.06% Fixed 3.5%	09/11/15	Permanent 0.08% Fixed 2.11%	09/11/15																		Target
11	85% of NQTs are retained in Bradford schools beyond their NQT year	Annual	82.40%	31/07/15	Not available		Not available																			Target
12	Reduced number of schools below floor standards by at least 50%	Annual	16.90%	2014 Performance Tables	5.0%	2015 Performance Tables	7.20%	2015 Performance Tables			9.70%															Target
13	78% of Year 1 children will pass the phonics screening check.	Annual	74%	24/09/15	77%	24/09/15	75.10%	24/09/15																		Target
14	91% of Year 2 children will have passed the phonics screening check.	Annual	87%	24/09/15	90%	24/09/15	85.60%	24/09/15																		Target
15	KS1 - 85% of pupils to reach/be working at age related expectation in reading	Annual (predictions updated termly)	77%	24/09/15	82%	24/09/15	79.60%	24/09/15																		Target
16	KS1 - 75% of pupils to reach/be working at age related expectation in writing	Annual (predictions updated termly)	68%	24/09/15	72%	24/09/15	68.40%	24/09/15																		Target
17	KS1 - 83% of pupils to reach/be working at age related expectation in mathematics	Annual (predictions updated termly)	77%	24/09/15	72%	24/09/15	78.70%	24/09/15																		Target
18	KS2 - 71% of pupils to reach the expected national standard in combined reading, writing and mathematics (equivalent to L4b+)	Annual (predictions updated termly)	61%	27/09/15	69%	10/12/15	66%	10/12/15			62%															Target
19	KS2 - 91% of pupils will make expected progress in reading	Annual (predictions updated termly)	89%	27/09/15	91%	10/12/15	90%	10/12/15			89%															Target
20	KS2 - 95% of pupils will make expected progress in writing	Annual (predictions updated termly)	94%	27/09/15	94%	10/12/15	94%	10/12/15			95%															Target
21	KS2 - 90% of pupils will make expected progress in mathematics	Annual (predictions updated termly)	89%	27/09/15	90%	10/12/15	90%	10/12/15			89%															Target
22	KS4 - Progress 8 measure exceeds -0.2	Annual (predictions updated termly)	N/A		N/A		N/A																			Target
23	Level 2 and Level 3 attainment at age 19 to be at the median as compared to our statistical neighbours.	Annual	L2 80.3%; L3 50.6%	31/03/15	L2 87%; L3 59.9%	31/03/15	L2 84.6%; L3 53.4%	31/03/15																		By the end of 2017/18 academic year
24	Narrow the gap between male and female A Level performance to be the median compared to our statistical neighbours.	Annual	55.10%	Jan-15	36.5	Jan-15	50	Jan-15																		By the end of 2017/18 academic year
25	100% of all post-16 education and training providers judged as "Good" or better.	Termly	38.50%	?	83%	?	Not currently able to source																			By the end of 2017/18 academic year
26	NEET figures including those from defined vulnerable groups are the lowest compared to our statistical neighbours.	Annual	5.40%	Nov 14 to Jan 15 Av	4.70%	Nov 14 to Jan 15 Av	4.2% (Rochdale)	Nov 14 to Jan 15 Av																		By the Nov 17 to Jan 18 NEET measurement point.

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26<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Mr Michael Jameson  
Strategic Director Children's Services  
Room 202  
City Hall  
Bradford  
D1 1HY

**Nick Hudson**  
Regional Director,  
North East, Yorkshire  
and Humber

Dear Michael,

**Subject: Evaluation of Bradford Local Authority action plan**

Thank you for sending your school improvement action plan to tackle the issues raised as a result of the inspection of the local authority's arrangements for supporting school improvement which took place in Bradford in June 2015.

The plan is succinct, clear and specific. 'Key Planning Themes' and actions within the plan link directly and successfully to all areas identified as in need of improvement following the inspection. The overarching position statement at the front of the plan identifies helpfully the current position of school performance in Bradford. For example, noting improvements since the inspection, continuing weaknesses and aspirations for the future. The first section also describes the way that improvement is to be monitored and evaluated through the Education Improvement Strategic Board (EISB). This board will have an independent Chair to provide additional challenge and hold commissioned services to account for the actions they have lead responsibility for through the Bradford Education Improvement Commissioning Board (BEISCB).

Each Key Theme has a 'lead manager' to oversee the implementation of the work within that theme. These professionals are at a senior enough level to make sure that there is constant senior leadership oversight of what is working and what else needs to improve. Timescales for completion are ambitious but given the aspiration to improve rapidly appear to be manageable. The plan is supported by a set of appropriate key performance indicators at the back of the plan and some measurable targets threaded through the plan which should help you to track the impact of your actions.

Overall, the plan appears to be a useful tool to drive the required improvements with suitable referencing of the resources required to implement the plan. However there are some weaknesses that need to be tackled. Certain actions within the plan do not provide sufficient detail of the monitoring process. For example *Key Planning Theme 3: School Improvement –Governance Arrangements* indicates there will be a half-termly reporting format approved by the EISB and the BISCBC. It goes on to assert

that this approach will track progress toward both local authority and partnership targets and will quickly identify performance trends and prompt swift mitigating action where improvement is not rapid enough. However, this contrasts with less secure arrangements for elected members to monitor and challenge. For example, although there is reference to the role of Elected Members in underpinning actions, it is not clear how Elected Members as a discrete group will hold senior leaders, both boards and partners to account robustly for their work. This is because reporting requirements to Elected Members are not separated out clearly enough in the action plan or the overarching monitoring and evaluation strategy. Additionally, whilst it is commendable that targets are usually measurable, there are no baselines of current performance or comparison to the national average so it is hard for elected members to know whether targets are challenging enough.

Clearly, the measure of effectiveness of this plan will be if the authority can deliver on it. For this plan to turn into reality the authority must strategically reverse the poor track record it has and facilitate and provoke improvement in educational provision and outcomes in Bradford in a much more successful and deep-rooted way than it has managed over time. I hope this evaluation will help you and your team in your work to improve educational provision and outcomes in Bradford.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Nick Hudson**  
**Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire and Humber**

## **Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 12 January 2016.**

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**AR**

**Subject:**

**Schools Forum Update**

**Summary statement:**

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for a regular update on the work of the Schools Forum.**

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Michael Jameson  
Strategic Director, Children's Services

**Portfolio:**

**Children's Services**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's' Services**



## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Committee has asked for regular updates to be provided on the work of the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum has met twice since the last report, on 9 December 2015 and again on the 6 January 2016.
- 1.3 The decisions list from the 9 December Schools Forum meeting is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 At the 6 January meeting, the Forum was asked to make its final recommendations on the allocation of the 2016/17 financial year Schools Budget. The decisions list from this meeting is not available for attachment at the time this report is published. This decisions list will be provided as a late report for the Committee (by email) and a presentation will be given verbally to the Committee on the key recommendations the Schools Forum has made.
- 1.5 A paper outlining the Schools Forum's recommendations will be presented to the Executive on 23 February 2016 as part of the Authority's budget setting process.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under national Regulations, every local authority is required to operate a Schools Forum. The primary function of a Schools Forum is to recommend to the Council's Executive Committee how the funding, which the Government provides for schools and individual pupils (known as the Dedicated Schools Grant), is managed. The Forum also has some specific technical decision making powers.
- 2.2 The Schools Forum meets every half term. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16 March 2016.
- 2.3 In the 25 November 2015 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced the Government's intention to consult on the implementation of a national funding formula for schools and academies from April 2017. We expect a consultation document to be published shortly and we anticipate that this will initiate a significant amount of work and discussion on the implications for the Bradford District.
- 2.4 Other key points from the Chancellor' Autumn Statement, as these affect school and academies budgets, and the Local Authority, are:
  - Funding for the universal infant FSM is to be "maintained".
  - The Pupil Premium is to be "protected at current rates" for the rest of the Parliament.



- Average childcare funding rates are to be increased from 2017/18 alongside the extension to 30 hours for working parents and the introduction of an Early Years National Funding Formula. It is currently unclear how the change in national rates will affect Bradford.
- The 16-19 base funding rate is protected “in cash terms”, but other non-base rate funding is expected to be reduced e.g. bursary funding; deprivation funding Post 16 funding formula.
- There is to be a significant focus on greater efficiency, with the DfE to provide detailed “actions and guidance” in 2016 to support schools and academies to make savings, including better use of economies of scale.
- There is to be a review of statutory duties alongside a £600m reduction (3/4 reduction) in Education Services Grant. This reduction will affect both academy and local authority budgets. A very clear statement in the Chancellor’s report about furthering the Government’s goal of “ending local authority running of schools”.
- There is to be an Apprenticeship Levy at 0.5% of the annual pay bill. It is not clear at this stage whether local government will be subject to payment of the levy (including schools where the Council is the employer and schools and academies that are their own employers with a payroll cost exceeding £3m). This levy may have implications for pay costs for school budgets.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

#### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.



## **7.2 TRADE UNION**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

## **9. OPTIONS**

Not applicable – this is an update for information.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**10.1 Committee Members are asked to consider and to note the information provided in this update.**

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Schools Forum Decisions List 9 December 2015

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None





## DECISIONS OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2015

### DECISIONS:

#### 1. MATTERS RAISED BY SCHOOLS

No resolution was passed on this item.

#### 2. STANDING ITEM – DSG GROWTH FUND ALLOCATIONS

No resolution was passed on this item.

#### 3. STANDING ITEM – BRADFORD EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT COMMISSIONING BOARD (BEICB)

No resolution was passed on this item.

#### 4. THE AUTUMN SPENDING REVIEW

Resolved – That the information provided on Autumn Spending Review be noted.

#### 5. THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S BUDGET CONSULTATION

Resolved –

(1) That the feedback of Forum Members (recorded in the minutes of this meeting) on the budget proposals be considered by the Council.

(2) That further specific detail is provided to the Schools Forum on the proposal to re-commission SEND specialist teaching support services; to include further impact assessment, the important milestones for the transfer of responsibility for services to schools and what liabilities, including for Council infrastructure (re-charge) costs, may also transfer.

**LEADS: Strategic Director, Children's Services**  
**Interim Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion**



**6. 2015/16 SPENDING POSITION AND ONE OFF MONIES**

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the information provided in Document FM be noted at this stage.
- (2) That further information is provided to the next meeting on who is providing oversight (and how this is provided) to ensure that the raising of standards at Beckfoot Upper Heaton Academy is not impeded by the financial imperative to increase pupil numbers as quickly as possible.

*LEAD: Business Advisor, Schools*

**7. 2016/17 DSG UPDATE**

**Resolved –** That the contents of Document FN be noted.

**8. FUNDING HIGH NEEDS 2016/17**

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the Forum is presented with further details on the review (and implications) of the SEND and Behaviour Strategies, as a priority as soon as possible, so that the Forum can consider and assess how these reviews should influence DSG spending decisions.
- (2) That further information is provided to the next meeting on how the Authority is investigating the free school option to increase the number of available specialist places in the District.

*LEAD: Interim Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion*

**9. CENTRAL AND DE-DELEGATED EARLY YEARS & SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDS 2016/17**

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the information provided on the current position of the review of the centrally managed and de-delegated funds be noted at this stage.
- (2) That, in making final recommendations on the 2016/17 DSG on 6 January, Forum Members remain aware that financial pressures on schools and academies are “becoming acute”.

**10. REPORT FROM THE FORMULA FUNDING WORKING GROUP**

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the information provided on the Primary and Secondary formulae modelling be noted at this stage.

**(3) That the final modelling for the 6 January meeting is presented incorporating the FFWG's steer on how a contribution from delegated budgets to the DSG affordability gap in 2016/17 should be taken (flat contribution from all factors). That the modelling shows clearly the contributions taken from each setting so that Members can assess impact.**

***LEAD: Principal Finance Officer (Schools)***

**11. OTHER SCHOOLS FORUM STANDING ITEMS**

**No resolution was passed on this item.**

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**No resolution was passed on this item.**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting of the Schools Forum is Wednesday 6 January 2015.**

*FROM: Dermot Person (Interim City Solicitor)  
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council*

*Contact Asad Shah: 01274 432280  
Committee Secretariat  
i:\decsheets15-16\schoolsforum\21Dec15*

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## **Report of the Chair of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2016.**

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**AS**

**Subject:**

**Subject: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015-16**

**Summary statement:**

This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2015-16

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Cllr Malcolm Sykes  
Chair – Children's Services O&S Committee

**Portfolio:**  
**Education, Skills and Culture**  
**Health & Social Care**

Report Contact: Licia Woodhead  
Overview and Scrutiny Lead  
Phone: (01274) 432119  
E-mail: [licia.woodhead@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:licia.woodhead@bradford.gov.uk)



## 1. **Summary**

1.1 This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2015-16

## 2. **Background**

2.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Constitution of the Council to prepare a work programme (Part 3E – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Para 1.1).

## 3. **Report issues**

3.1 **Appendix 1** of this report presents the Work Programme 2015-16.

### 3.2 **Work planning cycle**

3.2.1 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that 'work programming should be a continuous process'. It is important to regularly review work programmes so that important or urgent issues that come up during the year are able to be scrutinised. In addition, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove projects which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by Members throughout the municipal year.

## 4. **Options**

4.1 Members may wish to amend the current work programme (Appendix 1) and / or comment on the proposed work planning cycle set out in Paragraph 3.2.1.

## 5. **Contribution to corporate priorities**

5.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015-16 reflects the Council's priority outcomes:-

- *Transforming educational outcomes by improving attainment*
- *Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable adults, children and families*

## 6. **Recommendations**

6.1 That the Work Programme 2015-16 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.



7. **Background documents**

7.1 Constitution of the Council

8. **Not for publication documents**

None

9. **Appendix**

9.1 **Appendix 1** – Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015-16



# Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Licia Woodhead tel - 43 2119

### Work Programme 2015/16

#### Description

#### Report

#### Agenda

##### Wednesday, 27th January 2016 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 11/01/2016. Secretariat deadline 14/01/2016.

- 1) Better Start Bradford Programme
- 2) Bradford and District Learning Hub
- 3) The Children's Trust
- 4) Children's Services O&S Committee Work Programme

The Committee will receive an update on the activity and impact of the work associated with the Better Start Programme.

The Committee will receive a progress report which includes the result of the external evaluation, the work being undertaken in other Wards in the district and how the initiative would roll out to Children's Centres.

The Committee will receive an update report highlighting the changes made to the governance arrangements as a result of the review of the Children's Trust.

The Committee will consider its work programme and make changes as necessary.

Michaela Howell / Shirley Brierley  
Judith Kirk

Linda Mason

Licia Woodhead

##### Wednesday, 10th February 2016 at St. Edmunds Childrens Centre.

Chair's briefing 25/01/2016. Secretariat deadline 28/01/2016.

- 1) Engagement, Resilience and Well being of Teaching Staff in the Bradford District
- 2) Teaching Schools
- 3) Children's Services O&S Committee Work Programme

The Committee will receive a presentation from Dr George Madine.

The Committee will receive a report on Bradford Teaching Schools

The Committee will consider its work programme and make changes as necessary.

Dr George Madine

Judith Kirk  
Licia Woodhead

##### Thursday, 10th March 2016 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 22/02/2016. Secretariat deadline 25/02/2016.

- 1) Workloads of Children's Social Care Services
- 2) Partnerships update
- 3) Governance Arrangements
- 4) Standards Report
- 5) Educational Attainment Update

The Committee will receive a report on the workloads of Children's Social Care Services.

The Committee will receive an update report on the schools partnerships.

The Committee will receive an update on the developments and impact of the Bradford Education Improvement Commissioning Board

The Committee will receive a report on the validated GCSE data

The Committee will receive an updates on Educational Attainment in the district

Gani Martins

Judith Kirk

Michael Jameson

Judith Kirk  
Judith Kirk



## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Licia Woodhead tel - 43 2119

### Work Programme 2015/16

#### Description

#### Report

#### Agenda

##### Thursday, 10th March 2016 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 22/02/2016. Secretariat deadline 25/02/2016.

- 6) Children's Services O&S Committee Work Programme

The Committee will consider its work programme and make changes as necessary.

Licia Woodhead

##### Wednesday, 30th March 2016 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 14/03/2016. Secretariat deadline 16/03/2016.

- 1) Schools Forum update
- 2) Outdoor Education Centres
- 3) Development of Two year old early education Places
- 4) Cultural Education
- 5) Post 16 Review

The Committee will receive an update on the work of the Schools Forum.

Andrew Redding

The Committee will receive a progress report on the Outdoor education Centres

Linda Mason / Graham Hutton

The Committee will receive a progress report on the development of two year old early education places.

Linda Mason

The Committee will receive a report on how cultural and creative education can lead to improved outcomes for young people.

Judith Kirk

The Committee will receive a report on the Post 16 review

Terry Davis

##### Thursday, 12th April 2016 at City Hall, Bradford.

Chair's briefing 24/03/2016. Secretariat deadline 31/03/2016.

- 1) School Expansion
- 2) Youth Service - Youth Offer Review
- 3) Equalities Act - Education
- 4) Resolution Tracking

The Committee will receive an update report on school expansion projects.

Ian Smart

The Committee will receive a report on the action plan following the youth offer review.

Ian Day

Referral from Corporate O&S

The Committee will receive a report detailing progress against the resolutions made during the 2015-16 municipal year.

Licia Woodhead

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