



Derby City Council

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**11 September 2103**

**ITEM 17**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and  
Young People

**Education Improvement Report August 2013**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Education improvement is judged in terms of pupil outcomes, (progress and attainment), and in terms of Ofsted judgements. In addition, Senior School Improvement Officers categorise all schools on a termly basis based on the criteria and triggers outlined in the Derby Winners Strategy. This provides a clear overview of the performance of all Derby schools and academies and enables early intervention where schools are at risk of failure.
- 1.2 Trends in terms of pupil outcomes show a steadily improving picture in Derby since 2011. Early indications from invalidated 2013 data suggest that this trend is set to continue. Comparisons with 2012 figures are not possible for all measures due to changes introduced this year. Overall school performance as judged by Ofsted inspection findings demonstrates rapid improvement across the City, particularly in terms of the percentage of schools now judged as good (see paragraph 4.6).
- 1.3 Comparative regional and national data showing the numbers of schools and academies in each Ofsted category is published quarterly. The latest statistics available represent inspections up to March 2013. Statistics including summer term inspections and showing national comparisons will be available from September 2013. Schools which have become **sponsored** academies are not included in the published figures. Internal data on schools inspected in Derby is updated as each report is sent out to the school. (Appendix 2).
- 1.4 Following the outcome of focused inspections in Derby, the establishment of an Education Development Board has been agreed. This Board met at the start of the Summer term. At this meeting, terms of reference were drawn up and a set of actions agreed in relation to school performance and improvement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To support the continued implementation of the Derby Winners policy.
- 2.2 To note the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections.

- 2.3 To note changes to 2013 assessment arrangements which impact on pupil outcome data.

<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
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- 3.1 To secure further improvements in pupil outcomes.
- 3.2 To ensure that the percentage of schools judged good or better continues to increase.



## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **4.1 Early Years**

New arrangements for assessing children at the end of Foundation Stage (pupils aged 5) were introduced this year. All schools and settings received LA training to enable effective implementation of the new system. Historical comparisons for foundation stage assessments will not be possible in 2013, however the publication of national and regional data early in the Autumn term will enable the performance of Derby schools to be evaluated.

### **4.2 KS1**

The systems for assessing pupils at the end of KS1 remain unchanged. Results are based on a combination of test results and teacher assessments. The Local Authority is responsible for checking the accuracy of schools' assessments and this moderation is carried out in a sample of 25% of schools each year.

Provisional Results for KS1 show significant improvements compared with 2012. In Derby, the percentage of pupils attaining the expected level for seven year olds has increased by 2 percentage points in reading, 5 percentage points in writing and 1 percentage point in maths. The percentage of pupils exceeding expected levels has increased in writing; 2012 increases have been maintained in maths and reading.

### **4.3 KS2**

Provisional results for KS2 show improvements in a number of areas compared with previous years, particularly when taking into account the proportion pupils exceeding expected levels. In Derby, the percentage of pupils attaining the expected level for eleven year olds has increased by 2 percentage points in writing and 2012 gains in maths have been maintained. The percentage of pupils exceeding expected levels has increased in writing and in maths.

A further increase in KS2 levels is predicted once validated results are issued. This is because a significant number of pupils in Derby will **not** be included in the final figures, (ie pupils new to learning English who have entered the UK within the last 2 years).

This year changes have been made to the way in which the combined English and maths score is calculated. In order to meet the expected level this year, pupils are required to obtain L4+ in all three subjects: reading, writing and maths, (in previous years, reading and writing scores were combined to calculate an overall English level). The national floor standard remains unchanged this year at 60% L4+ but the percentage of pupils attaining this minimum standard will be affected by the changes outlined above.

#### 4.4 **GCSE**

Provisional GCSE results indicate that they will be slightly lower than 2012 which were the best ever for Derby. This matches the national pattern following the raising of threshold levels for each grade. All schools have some notable successes and there have been significant improvements in terms of 5 A\*-C (including English and Maths) at da Vinci and Allestree Woodlands. All the schools graded as Requiring Improvement by Ofsted have seen an improvement in their results. These schools have been receiving additional support from the SSIO team.

#### 4.5 **A level**

A level results improved once again in 2013. This year, the vast majority of schools are reporting an increase in terms of the average points per student and the average points per subject.

#### 4.6 **Ofsted judgements**

**The percentage of pupils attending a good or better school has improved from 43% as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to 71% as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.**

**The percentage of primary schools judged to be good or better has increased from 46% to 69% and the percentage of all schools judged to be good or better has increased from 50% to 72%.**

**The percentage of schools judged to be outstanding has increased from 13% to 14% and the percentage of schools judged to be good has increased from 37% to 58%.**

**Three per cent of schools are now judged to require Special Measures compared to 6% as at 31 August 2012.**

Over half the schools inspected in the current framework have improved by at least one grade since their previous inspection. The most recent national data from Ofsted inspections was based on inspections up to March 2013. This shows that Derby's ranking against other Local Authorities has improved based on increases in the percentage of schools judged good or outstanding and a decrease in the percentage of schools judged inadequate. Data showing Derby's ranking compared to other LAs based on inspections up to August 2013 will be available from late September 2013.

All schools judged as Requires Improvement have been allocated 3 days of HMI support over the next 1-2 years. The team of regional HMIs are working in partnership with SSIOs to ensure that these schools move to good as swiftly as possible. HMI have reported positively on LA support for these schools following their visits. (Appendix 3)

#### 4.7 **Ofsted Categories of Concern**

Three schools are currently subject to Special Measures: Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary; Pear Tree Junior; Shelton Junior. At the three schools for which LA Statements of Action have been submitted to Ofsted, HMI have judged these plans as 'fit for purpose.'

- 4.8 Pear Tree Junior was placed in Special Measures in November 2012. An IEB (Interim Executive Board) has replaced the governing body at this school and the school receives intensive support from LA teams. Partnership Board meetings held monthly enable the LA to hold the leadership team and the IEB to account and to monitor the impact of LA support. A new head teacher has been appointed from September 2013, rapid progress is anticipated once the new head takes up post.

Shelton Junior School was placed in Special Measures in February 2013. The school receives intensive support from the Senior School Improvement Officer and through partnership work with a successful junior school in the City. The first HMI monitoring visit took place in June under the leadership of the acting head.

Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary School was placed in Special Measures following an inspection in May 2013. The LA and CE Diocese are working in partnership with the head teacher to secure the necessary improvements. The school is also receiving support from a National Leader in Education.

Noel Baker and Osmaston schools were subject to the former Ofsted category of concern known as 'Notice to Improve'. Following a full inspection, Noel Baker was removed from this category in March 2013. Osmaston Primary was removed from this category in June 2013. Sinfin Community School (previously designated as Special Measures) has now closed and reopened as a sponsored academy with Greenwood Dale as the agreed sponsor. Ravensdale Junior was inspected in July. This school was removed from Special Measures and judged to be good.

Comments by Ofsted teams on LA support for schools have been overwhelmingly positive. (Appendix 3)

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Lynda Poole      01332 642665 <a href="mailto:lynda.poole@derby.gov.uk">lynda.poole@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Christine Tarpey    01332 640358 <a href="mailto:christine.tarpey@derby.gov.uk">christine.tarpey@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Ofsted summary data to date Appendix 3 – Ofsted extracts from reports

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The national focus on LAs' role in school improvement carries implications for the resource needed by LAs to deliver that role.

**Legal**

- 2.1 None

**Personnel**

- 3.1 Advice in line with relevant policies, employment legislation and good practice would be given on any personnel implications arising from the need to make the improvement in schools.

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 The council's interest in equalities can be best delivered in this case through the recommendations

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None

**Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 An effective School Improvement function in Derby will support maintained schools in particular, militating against moves to convert them to academies. One effect of this would be to retain capital assets and revenue resource within the LA.

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 School performance can be volatile, for example in the context of turnover of key posts. Risk management is the responsibility of Derby's School Improvement team; it is vital that the team has full and updated information on all DCC schools.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Achieving their learning potential  
Good quality services that meet local needs

