

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM
YORK HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 5PM**

21 September 2015

Present: Councillors Bicknell (Chairman), Mills and E. Wilson.

Alison Alexander and David Scott.

Officers: Wendy Binmore.

PART I

1/15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

2/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bicknell – Declared a personal interest in item four as he had one child at Clewer Green First School, one child at Trevelyan Middle School and his grandson also attended Clewer Green First School.

3/15 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

David Scott, Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning stated the Terms of Reference required revising as the forum had not met since 2007. Section 19.1 of the Constitution set out the purposes of the forum with Ofsted judgements being regularly reported to the public to consider how schools were supported and what support schools should be offered to help secure 100% of the Boroughs to be judged as good or outstanding.

The forum was to look at work carried out in Education Services; with the focus being the forum receiving updates on what was happening in schools to improve them. The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning had appointed a new Head of Schools and Education Support who would be key in the forum moving forward.

The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning stated a dashboard was published monthly on schools in the Borough to enable trends to be seen on performance. The education team monitored the dashboard to try and identify schools improving and to better identify those that were underperforming. So far, 13 schools had been identified correctly.

With the introduction of the new Education and Adoption Bill, focus on coasting schools would be looked at to see if more support was needed. With the new Common Assessment Framework, there was a single assessment for all school phases with the ethos to move to single assessment.

Cllr Wilson commented the forum should look at self-evaluation of schools and break them into themes; teaching of particular subjects, for example which could be broken down into key stages for analysis. The Chairman stated that made sense. They needed to work out a work programme and how often the forum should meet. He

wanted the forum to be proactive with head teachers coming together; it had to be a partnership. Head teachers knew what they needed and direction they wanted their schools to head in. He added that he knew there was a free school meals and attainment gap and he wanted all children to be worked towards their strengths. He did not know what the Borough did for gifted and talented children.

The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning stated there were Ofsted themes that looked at students who were more vulnerable and at risk of not doing so well. There was also an Ofsted theme to stretch gifted and talented children so that they do as well as non-free school meal children. Work groups involving schools were working with children who received free school meals; the Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning suggested bringing a paper on that work to the School Improvement Forum.

The Chairman commented a paper was going to Cabinet on school expansion. Churchmead School was not in the paper for expansion as the school was not full; he had been to visit Churchmead School and was interested to see what the new head teacher had done to improve the school and how it had worked. He added attainment versus popularity was out of kilter and it was important to keep those schools in touch so they did not get left behind. Both Desborough College and Churchmead were doing well and the results were now looking good. Cllr Wilson suggested inviting the head teacher to attend the School Improvement Forum so they could share their experiences on how they turned their school around. Alison Alexander, Strategic Director of Children's Services confirmed she supported the idea that schools tell the Borough what was working well for them and was not working so well; that would enable a positive dialogue and they could share what they had done well and what they might need help with.

The Chairman stated he had spoken to the head teacher at Oakfield First School as the school had been rated as outstanding by Ofsted. The Chairman wanted to know what it was that made the school outstanding. Other head teachers might want to hear how an outstanding Ofsted was achieved. The Strategic Director of Children's Services stated she was picking up from schools the way they wanted to expand. The paper going to Cabinet was not saying the schools that were not listed for expansion were not good enough, but the council had to choose a number of them to expand. Most schools were on the right trajectory but only six could be selected as the Borough was not in a position to expand all schools. Many schools had good parts and the borough wanted to expand on that. The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning confirmed numbers for Desborough College had increased following a better Ofsted report. The Chairman said he had heard comments from Desborough College and Churchmead School worrying that because they were not in the top six, they were not doing well enough to expand. He wanted to make it clear that that was not the case.

The Chairman commented the terms of reference were quite open and it would be good to hear what head teachers would do. He added when Ofsted results came in, he wrote to schools along with the Strategic Director of Children's Services to congratulate schools when they had done well. The Chairman felt it would be a good thing to also write to them from the School Improvement Forum. Councillor Mills stated that was a good idea not to just invite the head teachers from the top six schools, but to also invite head teachers from schools that may require improvement and ask them what they wanted. The Strategic Director of Children's Services suggested that a list of schools that had been assessed by Ofsted should be an agenda item and the forum could

choose a school that had moved up, a school that had recently expanded, a senior school and a primary school and invite them to the meeting to discuss their progress and how they had achieved their Ofsted results; that would show up themes and trends and could help decide the work programme for the following meeting. The Strategic Director of Children's Services then proposed an agenda item where the new Head of Schools with three teaching schools attended the Panel in January 2016 to discuss how they intend to work on school improvement. The forum could then look at members of teaching schools to be co-opted onto the panel. The Chairman also requested a Member of the Opposition be invited to join the forum. Councillor Wilson suggested the new Head of Schools should have their work programme reviewed at the School Improvement Forum. The Chairman agreed and confirmed it would also be reviewed at overview and scrutiny panel.

- ❖ **Action:** The forum administrator and the Democratic Services Manager to look at how to co-opt members from teaching schools and to amend the Terms of Reference accordingly.

4/15 EDUCATION IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH

The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning gave a brief presentation on the education in the Royal Borough which included the following main points:

- 75% of schools in the borough were rated good or better at July 2015.
 - 78% for primary phase schools
 - 54% for secondary phase schools
- There had been a decline since July 2014 – 77%
- Fewer schools in the borough were rated good or better than the national figure of 81%, published in August 2014.
- 13 School Ofsted inspections during the academic year 2014-15:
 - 2 schools improved
 - 8 stayed the same
 - 3 were downgraded
- Needed to look at how to organise leadership for schools to improve.
- The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning's team were working with schools to develop a toolkit to assess pupils in a consistent and collaborative way.
- Looking forward:
 - 84% of schools were expected to be at good or better by July 2016
 - DfE identified five good schools at risk of 'coasting'
 - RBWM believe at least one of those schools were not at risk
 - RBWM had identified three good schools at risk of 'requires improvement' judgements.
 - Ofsted Dashboard RBWM – refreshed after each inspection was published.
- New Ofsted framework, September 2015:
 - Increased focus on the impact of leadership. Leaders recognised for accurately identifying weaknesses, having a firm grip on strategies to address them.
 - Focus on pupil progress: all learners – particularly the most disadvantaged – are expected to make strong progress from their different starting points. Inspectors give most weight to progress of pupils

- currently in the school rather than attainment and nationally published data.
- During a full inspection, graded judgements will be made on:
 - The effectiveness of leadership and management
 - Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
 - Personal development, behaviour and welfare.
 - Outcomes for children and learners.
 - There was some concern around the difference between the reporting of state maintained schools and academies. The Borough should be pushing for results and information as they are educating the Borough's children.
- Forthcoming cabinet reports:
- Expansion of Secondary Sector Schools including satellite grammar and Post 16 options.
 - Annual consultation on schools admissions arrangements.
 - Standards and Quality in Education in RBWM Schools – a review of the academic year 2014/15.

The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning confirmed the borough had examples of multi-academy trusts at secondary and primary level. Windsor Girls and Windsor Boys were the only multi-academy trust at secondary school level. There were two MATs at primary level which had started as single academies but were now with multi-academy trusts. Desborough College was part of a sponsored academy with educational fellowship that had two primary centres in Northampton and Swindon.

The Head of Education, Strategy & Commissioning stated he had discussions the previous week to find out if Windsor schools were interested now that the Windsor Learning Partnership had been developed as a learning community with ambition to improve education for ages three to 18 years. The team were looking at how they can support their interests in widening their range of learning and also how they can support those wanting to become multi-academy trusts.

The Strategic Director of Children's Services confirmed she had meetings with three schools to see if they wanted to join an existing multi-academy trust which would have made five in a multi-academy trust. However, sometimes schools wanted to be in sole control of their destiny and if they were part of a multi-academy trust, they were unsure if they would still be in charge of their own destiny. The Borough was trying to get them to look above their head or structure and see where they wanted to be in the next ten years. People were watching to look at the here and now. The Strategic Director of Children's Services added she felt schools would benefit from being in groupings; when in a multi-academy trust, the trust has to take a percentage of the budget to run the trust, she was not happy about trusts trying to run a trust outside of the Borough but using the Borough's money to do that.

Councillor Mills commented the April meeting of the School Improvement Forum would be a good time to get the Windsor Girls and Windsor Boys Schools multi-academy trust to attend and discuss the pro's and con's of being part of a multi-academy trust. The Strategic Director of Children's Services confirmed the schools would be written to inviting them to attend.

The Chairman stated that as a council, it wanted all of the borough's children to achieve the best that they could. The council needed to supply the best education for all the children in all schools and that was the main aim.

5/15 FUTURE FORUM AGENDA/WORK PROGRAMME

THE Chairman confirmed that the work programme had been covered and discussed in full earlier on in the meeting.

55/14 MEETING

The meeting, which began at 5.00pm, ended at 6.19pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE