

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 17 February 2016

Schools Standards Monitoring Group

1. The Schools Standards Monitoring Group met last term with all secondary schools and primary schools where there are concerns about pupils outcomes in line with the Schools Effectiveness Strategy. The group focuses on strengths and areas for improvement and forms part of the plan to monitor schools over the coming year.
2. All schools have responded and any issues will be followed up this term.

Transition Conference

3. This was well attended and feedback was good. Follow up meetings to progress this further with an entitlement for every Middlesbrough child to a successful transition will take place this term.
4. The purpose of the Transition Conference was to ensure a seamless transition and transfer from KS2 to KS3 so that provision is continuous and progress is maintained from KS2 to KS4.
5. Speakers at the conference included John Tomsett, a headteacher from York, Simon White, headteacher from Egglecliffe School whose school was a model of good practice in the recent Ofsted publication 'KS3 : the wasted years' and Joe Tyldesley an education member from Solihull who demonstrated the success of 'passport to employment' on NEETs reduction in the LA.

Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership (MAP)

6. MAP priorities have been agreed for 2015/16 and delivery groups will lead each of the five key areas: Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Quality of Teaching; Learning and Assessment; Personal Development; Behaviour and Welfare; Outcomes for Pupils & Transition and Transfer. Each delivery group will develop, lead and deliver an agreed action plan in partnership with the LA, schools and other partners.
7. Schools and other partners have agreed to join each of the groups leading the work. New or existing groups leading the work include:
 - Leadership Group
 - Teaching Learning and Assessment
 - Raising Achievement of Disadvantaged Young People
 - Learning without Limits
 - A Reading Town
 - Attendance

- Children and Young People's Delivery Partnership
 - Youth Employment Group
 - Middlesbrough Behaviour Partnership
 - Transition Working Group
8. MAP is also linking to the Transforming Tees Programme and Teaching School Alliance to ensure that work is streamlined and linked to existing activity.
9. A MAP Director has been appointed for two terms initially to progress the priorities. Mrs Sue Picknett, who retired from her post as headteacher at Thorntree Primary school in December 2015 is now in post from 4 January 2016.

Bernadette Knill

10. We are delighted to report that Mrs Bernadette Knill who retired as Head Teacher of Priory Woods School in July has received an OBE in the New Years Honours list. Bernadette received her award for services to children with special educational needs, she became Head Teacher in 1997 and the last four Ofsted inspections have been judged as outstanding.

Community Learning Service

11. The main delivery location of the Community Learning Service building on the Acklam Grange School site was flooded on 26 December. The flood was a result of the high levels of rainfall and two collapsed drains within the site. Various members of Property Services and the Community Learning staff worked over the Christmas period to clear the water out of the building and make it safe.
12. The water has made the bottom floor of the building unusable until a comprehensive drying out period has been completed. All wooden furniture and fittings have been damaged along with a number of learning resources. A number of public classes have been relocated to rooms within the school or the Multi Media Exchange building. Staff members have been relocated to the first floor of the Community Learning building. It is expected to be at least a three month project to restore the building to its original state.

SEND and VL Strategic Review

13. The complementary legislation of the Children and Families Act and the Care Act provide a basis for ensuring we can identify, assess and plan for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from birth to 25 years. There are increased expectations on all education settings to be responsible for the progress of all their learners, to seek help and advice from the services ordinarily available to them, and to use the Local Offer as a source for exploring other support, before making a request to the LA for additional resources through an Education, Health and Care Plan. The introduction of a national funding formula for schools and colleges is closely linked to the assessment and planning processes for those with high needs.

14. As part of planning for the future and to meet the diverse needs of children, young people and families within Middlesbrough, the Council started a review of Special Educational Needs and Disability and Vulnerable Learners.
15. To support this review a SEND and Vulnerable Learners Commission was set up which has met twice with a final meeting planned for end January 2016. The commission have been overseeing the research that will provide the key information to support the development of a long-term SEND and Vulnerable Learners strategy for Middlesbrough Council, including short and medium term goals. The final report and action plan to implement this piece of work will be shared at the beginning of February 2016.

Pupil Referral Unit

16. The Pupil Referral Units applied for Academy Status in July 2015. The LA has been working with the Pupil Referral Units and the DfE to ensure all information and requirements are in place for transfer. The date for transfer is 1 March 2016.

Prince Bishop School International Art Award

17. Since 2002 Prince Bishop School has been one of only two in the UK that have been invited by the Japan National Organisation to submit children's art as part of the annual International Exchange Exhibition of Children's Art in Narita City, Japan.
18. Every year Prince Bishop join schools from around the world in submitting works on a different theme – the topic chosen for 2015 was 'Play'.
19. The latest collection features works from Prince Bishop School alongside pieces from 14 countries around the world including Uzbekistan, China, Croatia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nepal, Vietnam and Korea.
20. Special Friendship Awards (Gold, Silver and Bronze) are presented each year to individual students for the quality of their work.
21. Of 591 entries from countries outside of Japan, 443 were accepted and only 26 artworks received an award. A pupil at Prince Bishop School was one of those awarded a Gold Award for his entry (African Football). Other artists from Prince Bishop who had work accepted were presented with a certificate and a commemorative pen at a school assembly.

Councillor Janice Brunton
Executive Member for Education & Skills