

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **13 July 2016**

#### **School Churn**

1. The Local Authority data team have been able to produce some very detailed analysis of the school churn in many schools in Middlesbrough, especially in the centre of town.
2. Schools are struggling with the rate of new entries and exits, with meeting the physical and emotional needs of International new arrivals and their families whilst maintaining the upward improvement in attainment of all resident children and supporting the early learning needs of new arrivals.
3. The analysis has been included in a Migration Funding bid which has received an initial positive response from the DfE.
4. Nick Hudson (Ofsted Regional Director) and Joan Hewitt (Ofsted HMI) attended a meeting in June with the LA and Head teachers to discuss the challenges for Middlesbrough schools in coping with this increased mobility.

#### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

5. The new Ofsted framework was published in April 2016. The framework will focus on local area inspections and these will last for 5 days.
6. Inspections will look at effective identification of need; effectiveness in meeting needs and local arrangements to achieve better identification and outcomes.
7. The Head of SEN and Vulnerable Learners organised a number of briefing sessions during April which have been very well attended with more to follow from June to October.
8. Service leaders have organised a range of evidence to show impact of Special Educational Needs and disability provision. Plans are in place to minimise any deficits using the new criteria. Preparations are underway to ensure that evidence collection, in preparation for an inspection, is organised and maintained.

#### **Educational Excellence Everywhere**

9. The White Paper was published in April 2016 and sets out the expectation that school-led improvement systems are the expectation of central Government. Although the Government issued further guidance in May 2016, suggesting that it may not be necessary for all schools to become part of multi-academy trusts immediately, the expectation is still for all schools to convert.

10. The LA held meetings to facilitate discussions of the paper with Head teachers, Chairs of Governors, Governors and Middlesbrough Leaders. These meetings have focused on the nature of the groupings which schools may choose to form, changes to funding streams and the quality and source of school improvement.
11. The feeling of uncertainty that the paper has created has been a pressure for all concerned, but discussions have been well-received. Further meetings will take place in the coming months as we gain more information and support schools in their decision making.
12. The intention is that the Local Authority will still maintain a significant role in ensuring that every child has the very best education possible and that we manage the changing nature of the service to schools in a proactive and supportive manner and in collaboration with our partners (e.g. Teaching schools, MAP and Transforming Tees).
13. Some of the many proposals included in the original document include changes to: initial teacher training, professional development, governance, the use of evidence-based practice and changes to funding mechanisms.

### **Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership (MAP)**

14. MAP has now developed a number of delivery groups to lead the work of the key priority areas identified through consultation with Head Teachers. These areas include: Leadership, Teaching Learning and Assessment, Outcomes for Pupils, Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare and Transition and Transfer and work is well underway to take forward key actions. All phases and school types are represented in the membership of the groups along with the Local Authority and strategic partners. Each group has developed an action plan to take forward key work areas identified through the group. The role of the delivery groups is to provide school to school support, offer research and development opportunities and provide professional development in order to raise standards of achievement and challenge underperformance.
15. In addition MAP continues to organise regular Leadership Events and Conferences which contribute to keeping leaders at all levels up to date with current thinking and new developments. The most recent events include a Middlesbrough Leaders Event with the Regional Schools Commissioner, Jan Renou and a Conference: Building Resilience of Vulnerable Learners – feedback from both events were really positive and follow up work is planned.
16. MAP is working closely with Public Health and Supporting Communities to tackle the challenges for schools and families in Middlesbrough. The MAP Board has close links to the work of Transforming Tees to support joined up working and support for our schools across the local area.

### **Ofsted inspections**

17. Since the last report, 2 schools have been inspected taking the percentage of good and outstanding school to 88% primary and 71% secondary schools i.e. 85% overall.

## **Safeguarding in Schools**

18. Some of the most recent support given to schools by the LA has included advice and guidance on action to be taken in the event of bomb scares ( 1 has occurred in recent months and the school was evacuated successfully), offers of further support from the road safety team for best practice for families travelling to and from school, support for the implementation of the new Safeguarding guidance to schools which will take effect from September 2016, support for the delivery of teaching on Sex and Relationships, and further support in the use of CPOMS which will include further training to ensure that schools use this web-based recording system to best effect for vulnerable children.

**Councillor Janice Brunton**  
**Executive Member for Education & Skills**