



## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2007

### POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

#### Meeting with Lord Adonis

- The Director of Children and Young People's Service and I attended a meeting with Lord Andrew Adonis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, on 22 February 2007, along with 6 other local authorities' Directors and Lead Members. Lord Adonis wanted the Director to inform him about how we are improving pupil attainment, and for me to tell him what the barriers are to further improvement. He was very appreciative of the work we are undertaking in Leicestershire.
- I am pleased to report that the Children and Young People's Service is attracting additional funding from Central Government:

#### Funding from Government Office East Midlands, (GOEM), and the National College for Leadership and Skills, (NCLS)

- The GOEM element of the funding is £14000. The Director has agreed with (GOEM) that part of this will be used to do an audit of the skills of our existing headteachers, (HT's). He is meeting with a group of HT's to discuss effective approaches to school leadership, how these can be used as examples of good practice and ways of developing leadership skills. We are also accessing information from NCSL on those HT's with LPSH qualification to compare skills training /performance.
- Our current NCSL funding is £26000 (06/07) budget. We have been promised another "substantial amount" when our action plan is agreed in May. This is from the considerable funding being made available by the government for "succession planning" in the next year. We intend to spend some of this on building skills of "aspiring HT's" in a different context – e.g. school swaps for Deputy Headteachers, and Assistant Headteachers. It is hoped that an agreement can be made with most schools to use a match fund basis so that funding can be spread as far as possible

#### Funding for Making Good Progress

- Leicestershire is one of 10 pilot authorities to develop attainment levels at Key Stages 2 and 3, and to trial new "when ready" tests.

- This is funding from DfES for a Pilot Study that runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.
- Our pilot will involve approximately 45 schools of which nine will be High Schools. Nearly 9000 pupils will be part of the pilot.
- The DfES will fund £60k per annum for a Pilot Project Manager, including on costs, and each participating school will receive approximately £10 per pupil in KS2 and KS3 for taking part, for each year of the Pilot. This will off set the costs of staff time on aspects of the pilot.
- In Leicestershire this should amount to nearly £90,000 per year which will go directly to the schools involved.
- Additional tuition costs for targeted pupils will be met by the DfES. This may include up to 10 hours extra tuition in English and/or Maths. The figures for this area have not yet been finalised and I will provide further detail as it becomes available.
- Schools that reach their targets within the pilot will be awarded a progression premium, the amount of which is yet to be decided by the DfES. This reward will be proportionately earned.

**The Invest to Save bid for the Restorative Justice and Mentoring in Children's Homes project**

- I am also pleased to announce additional funding for the Restorative Justice and Mentoring in Children's Homes project.
- The Youth Offending Service, with partners, made a bid to the Treasury's Invest to Save budget round 9. Our bid was one of 24 successful bids (out of 140 bids in total). The bid was for £45,000 per year over a 3 year period, (with matched funding of £7,500 per year each from Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service (Social Care) and from Leicestershire Constabulary).
- The funding will provide for a champion of looked after children to be appointed within the Leicestershire Youth Offending Service. The postholder will be responsible for training and supporting volunteer mentors, working with partners to develop local protocols to reduce offending by looked after children and training care home staff in restorative justice approaches to challenging behaviour.
- The key objective is to reduce offending in looked after children. The project will contribute to the Local Area Agreement outcome (shared between the Children and Young People's Block and the Safer Communities Block) to provide improved life chances and better opportunities for young people in order to prevent offending and re-

offending by children and young people. A secondary objective is to reduce police call outs to children's homes.

- Because only one bid per local authority is allowed, the bid was submitted by Harborough District Council, with partners to the project being Leicestershire Youth Offending Service, Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service, Leicestershire Constabulary and Leicester YMCA.

The **Schools Funding Forum** has also allocated the following specific funding from schools budget to develop and support 'The Good to Great' campaign:

### **Funding for Targeted Services**

- School Forum agreed nearly £700,000 additional funding to support a range of vulnerable groups of children. A new post will be created to lead and co-ordinate educational support for Children in Care of the Local Authority. The behaviour support service for primary schools will be expanded, as will the range of alternative programmes for older pupils in danger of permanent exclusion. Provision for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder is being expanded, and special schools will be encouraged to develop innovative new provision with partner mainstream schools.

### **Funding for KS4 from School Funding Forum**

- Key Stage 4 - Contribution to Combined Budgets £750,000 – The challenge of raising attainment at Key Stage 4 and the issues associated with it are well rehearsed. It is a priority for CYPS, County Council and schools. We requested £750,000 in order to carry out a range of actions and support with schools. It is intended to work with both High and Upper Schools and a strategy will be developed with the respective head teachers in order to tackle the issue.

### **Other Funding and Performance Issues**

- This has been a particularly successful time to seek additional resources to develop the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. It should substantially aid our Good To Great campaign and develop the ethos of excellence that all children and young people are entitled to receive.
- Yesterday evening I received a telephone call from the Chair of Governors of Little Hill Primary School in Wigston. He was elated that their recent OFSTED inspection had resulted in the overall grade of 'OUTSTANDING'. Little Hill is the first of our schools this year to achieve this grade and I am sure you will want to join with me a congratulating the staff, governors, parents, and children for their achievement.

- Furthermore, I am pleased to report that as a result of recent OFSTED inspections, William Bradford Community College in Barwell is now out of special measures, and Burleigh Community College, Loughborough, has moved out of the 'Notice to Improve' and is now judged to have significant capacity for further improvement. This is really excellent news.
- Around 4% of schools nationally are placed in special measures or given a notice to improve. Currently there are only 2 primary schools in Leicestershire in such a category, and no secondary schools, so we are well below the national average.
- Members will wish to note that improving performance has become the key feature for Leicestershire schools.
- Last week, with Jenny Lawrence, (Schools Finance Officer), and John Herbet, (Chair of the School Funding Forum), I attended a consultation meeting in Leeds regarding the 3 year settlement for schools organised by the DfES. For the first time there was open discussion on the need to reduce the differentials between funding Local Authorities. Our membership of the F40 Pressure Group has almost certainly contributed to this. This Saturday I attend the F40 Annual Conference in Gloucester, at which the principal speaker will be Dougal Sandeman from the DfES. He is responsible for school funding.
- Next week the LGA is organising a conference on the 14-19 Diploma that I shall be attending. The implementation of these Diplomas in rural areas will be a challenge but one that I am sure we have the capacity to meet.