

## Agenda Item No 7

**Brighton & Hove City Council**

**Meeting:** Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 13 June 2006

**Report of:** Director of Children & Young People's Trust

**Subject:** Summary of Ofsted Reports Spring Term 2006

**Ward(s) affected:** ALL

### **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To note the report on the outcome of the Ofsted inspections, which took place in the Spring Term 2006.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report on the outcome of the school Ofsted inspections.

### **3. Information/background**

- 3.1 The Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed (June 2000) that they would receive copies of all Ofsted reports that had taken place in the preceding quarter.

#### **3.1 Background**

In September 2005 a new framework for the inspection of schools was brought into force. This framework reflects the requirement in the Children Act 2004 for Ofsted to develop a framework for the integrated inspection of children's services. This means that schools with childcare provision on site which is overseen by the schools

governors' will have both the childcare and educational provision inspected at the same time.

Inspections are now short (two days), concentrating on close interaction with senior managers, taking the school's self-evaluation as a starting point. The interval between inspections will be halved with short notice of inspections (two to five days). These reviews will also evaluate the 'Every Child Matters' five outcomes for children:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic Well-Being

There will be two categories of schools causing concern, those deemed to require special measures and those requiring a notice to improve. The criteria for judgements has been reduced from 7 to 4. The highest being outstanding, the second good, the third satisfactory and the fourth inadequate.

Four inspections took place in the spring term 2006, these schools are Hertford Junior, Downs Park, Bevendean and Cottesmore St Mary's RC School. The reports for these schools are attached. Under the new framework, the reporting process also includes a letter to pupils at the school which gives them information about the results of the inspection

#### **4. Comment**

##### **4.1 Hertford Junior**

The inspection of Hertford Junior School took place on Wednesday 8 February 2006.

The school was judged to be a good school which is extremely caring and one which provides good value for money.

It was acknowledged that the school has made a good improvement since the last inspection and it is well placed to continue the improvement.

The school has made very good use of the Intensifying Support Programme which is a national initiative provided by the LA. As a result, the school now monitors progress carefully, sets challenging targets and takes effective action to address weaknesses with focused intervention and support.

Two aspects were judged to be outstanding:

- The way in which the school works in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being
- Leaders and managers are effective. At all levels they set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education

There were three areas identified for improvement:

- Raise the standards in writing to the same level as those in science
- Continue to fine tune the monitoring of pupil's progress and achievement
- Raise the profile of the school in the surrounding area

## **4.2 Downs Park School**

Downs Park was inspected on 6 - 7 March. The team inspected not only the work of the school, but also that of the two ASD units attached to local mainstream schools, and the ASD support service which Downs Park hosts on behalf of the LEA. The school was judged to be consistently good in almost all areas, with some outstanding features.

The following aspects were identified as outstanding:

- Quality of teaching and learning in Key Stage 1, which leads to pupils making extremely good progress and provides them with a good start to their schooling.
- The Learning and Inclusion Support Service, as the key to helping pupils to improve their behaviour
- Links with other agencies and the contribution that this makes to pupils making progress in both their academic and personal development.

Area for improvement were clarified as:

- The need for greater co-ordination in secondary maths, in order to improve teaching and learning and ensure better pupil progress

- The closer monitoring of the quality of provision of the ASD units attached to local mainstream schools

### **4.3 Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary**

HMI visited the school on 15 – 16 March 2006. They felt that the progress of the school had been so significant that they would turn the visit into an inspection. This is very unusual. The inspection found that the school 'now provides a satisfactory education for its pupils and gives satisfactory value for money'. This judgement is an outstanding achievement after Ofsted put the school in the category of 'requiring special measures' only six months ago in October 2005.

In particular, the school is praised for making very good use of what is described as 'excellent local authority support'. The headteacher is described as an 'outstanding leader' and she has inspired all those involved with the school to work exceptionally hard to achieve the required improvements. The Local

Authority was considered to have provided 'excellent support to the school'.

As a result the following aspects were judged to be good:

- The standards reached by learners
- The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage
- Partnership working with others to promote learners' well-being
- The overall personal development and well-being of the learners
- The extent to which governors discharge their responsibilities

All other aspects were judged to be satisfactory, the school is no longer in an Ofsted category, two areas were identified for further improvement:

- The quality and use of assessment
- The skills and effectiveness of middle managers

### **4.4 Bevendean Primary**

The inspection of Bevendean Primary School took place during the week of the 20 - 21 March 2006. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be satisfactory and the key priority is to raise standards, which are too low. As a result of measures already taken

improvements are being made and the school offers satisfactory value for money.

The school's involvement in the Extending Support for Success Programme, which is a Brighton & Hove LA initiative taking forward work on the Leadership Programme and using strategies such as the regular RAP reviews and layered targets from the Intensifying Support Programme, has enabled the school to provide evidence of improvements in pupil progress. This enabled the Leadership and Management to demonstrate a strong capacity to improve the school further.

- Teaching was judged to be best in the nursery and reception. This contributes to the good start children have to their education and the significant gains they make in developing their communication and social skills.

There were two areas identified for improvement:

- Improve standards in English, mathematics and science
- Raise the quality of teaching and the rigour and use of assessment

**COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX**



<b>Meeting/Date</b>	Education, Overview & Scrutiny Panel Tuesday 13 June 2006
<b>Report of</b>	Director of Children & Young People's Trust
<b>Subject</b>	Summary of Ofsted Reports Spring Term 2006
<b>Wards affected</b>	ALL

<p><b>Financial implications</b></p> <p>Schools are funded via a formula and any resource implications from the Ofsted inspections would have to be met from their formula allocation.</p> <p>We are working with schools in producing three year budget plans to ensure they can live within their budget in the long term. Some of the schools will have to make difficult decisions in the short to medium term in order to achieve their educational targets as well as living within their budgets.</p> <p>Support may be available from LEA funds to aid any of the action plans, however any support given will be from existing budgets.</p> <p>Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore <span style="float:right">Date: 30 March 2006</span></p>
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<p><b>Legal implications</b></p> <p>There are no direct legal implications arising from the report          Lawyer consulted: Naomi Sack <span style="float:right">Date: 4 April 2006</span></p>
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<b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>
<b>Sustainability implications</b>	<b>Equalities implications</b>
<b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b>	

<p><b>Background papers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hertford Junior School, Ofsted Inspection Report 8 February 2006</li> <li>2. Downs Park Special School, Ofsted Inspection Report 6 – 7 March 2006</li> <li>3. Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary, Ofsted Inspection Report 15 – 16 March 2006</li> <li>4. Bevendean Primary, Ofsted Inspection Report 20- 21 March 2006</li> </ol>
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**COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX**



**Contact Officer**

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