

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Education Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	19 th October, 2004
3.	Title:	Schools in Ofsted or DfES Categories
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary:

The report *Performance Indicators – ECaLS 2004/05 – 1st Quarter Report*, presented to the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Education, Culture and Leisure Services, on 21st September 2004, highlighted concerns about the Local Performance Indicator (LPI) relating to the percentage of schools with Serious Weakness (SW). This indicator was reflecting an increase in the percentage of schools being placed in this Ofsted category.

The Cabinet Member for ECaLS requested a full report be prepared to provide more detail about each of these schools and the overall picture relating to Schools of Concern.

This report has been prepared in response to this request and covers all those schools having this designation together with any other schools in either an Ofsted category or identified by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) as being of concern.

6. Recommendations:

That the report be received

7. Proposals and Details

At the end of March 2004 there were two secondary schools, designated by Ofsted, as having Serious Weaknesses (1.4% of the total number of schools). No school was in Special Measures (SM).

By the end of July, the 1st Quarter, two primary schools had been designated as having SW and one of the SW secondary schools had been placed in SM. This meant that 3 schools (2.1%) had SW and 1 school (0.7%) had SM giving a total of 4 schools (2.8%) in these two Ofsted categories.

On 31st August 2004 one of the secondary SW schools closed. The end of the 2nd Quarter reporting, November 2004 will show that there will be 2 primary schools (1.4%) in SW and 1 secondary school (0.7%) in SM. This gives a total of 3 schools (2.1%) in any Ofsted category.

Additionally, there is a Government (DfES) "floor target" relating to secondary schools. This floor target is, that by 2004 no secondary school should have fewer than 20% of its pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A* - C.. On the basis of the 2003 GCSE results, one secondary school was identified as at risk of not meeting this floor target. The school was the focus of intensive support and, in 2004 the school's figure for 5+ A*-C was 29%, well in excess of the 2004 target and above the floor target for 2006.

8. Finance

All the above schools have received additional support to facilitate the implementation of their improvement action plans. This support would take the form of additional finance and/or additional, targeted support from a variety of central services and other schools.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure the quality of education for all children. Schools identified by Ofsted as having concerns and those at risk of not meeting the DfES floor targets are schools that are at risk of not meeting this requirement. These schools require significant, rapid and effective intervention to ensure that the identified difficulties are addressed.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Intervention in schools of concern is consistent with the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Best Value performance indicators. The improvement actions specifically address the Corporate Priorities for:

Regeneration: - improving the image of Rotherham.

- providing sustainable neighbourhoods of quality, choice and aspiration.
- Equalities: - promoting equality.
- promoting good community relations.
- Sustainability: - improving the quality of life.
- increasing employment opportunities for local people.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- *Performance Indicators – ECaLS 2004/05 – 1st Quarter Report*
Cabinet Member and Advisers for ECaLS - 21st September 2004.
- *Ofsted Inspections of Rotherham Schools, Spring Term 2004.*
Cabinet 23rd June 2004.

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