

Report to :	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Date :	28 July 2016
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry, Interim Assistant Executive Director, Learning
Subject :	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS UNIT – PRIMARY TEAM 2013 – 2016
Report Summary :	This report will outline the work of the School Performance and Standards Unit (SPSU) in relation to the performance of the 74 Primary Schools in Tameside.
Recommendations :	It is recommended that Members note the report including the many successes of the team since 2013 and receive further updates as appropriate.
Links to Sustainable Community Strategy :	The report supports three elements of the Community Strategy - Prosperous, Learning and Supportive Tameside.
Policy Implications :	There are none arising from this report.
Financial Implications : (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	It is important that Members understand the national framework and its changes together with the performance of Tameside schools so that there is appropriate resource and challenge.
Risk Management :	There are significant reputational risks to the Council if it does not monitor and challenge schools' performance and standards effectively, and intervene where appropriate.
Access to Information :	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Garry White, Lead Primary School Performance and Standards Officer:



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report will outline the work of the School Performance and Standards Unit (SPSU) in relation to the performance of the 74 Primary Schools in Tameside.

2. OFSTED

- 2.1 Between 2013 and 2016 the performance of Tameside Primary Schools has improved dramatically. In August 2013 76% of Primary Schools were judged to be good. In July 2016 92% of Primary Schools are now judged to be good. This means that more children in Tameside are now attending a good school than ever before. (91% of primary age children now attend a good or outstanding school compared to 72% three years ago). The following schools have moved from RI to Good:

- Poplar Street Primary School;
- Leigh Primary School;
- Dowson Primary School;
- Lyndhurst Primary School;
- St. James' Catholic Primary School;
- Corrie Primary School;
- St. James' CofE Primary School;
- St. Raphael's Primary School;
- Dane Bank Primary School;
- St. Stephen's CE Primary School;
- Buckton Vale Primary School.

- 2.2 The following school moved from Special measures to Good in June 2016:

- St Paul's CE Primary School, Stalybridge.

- 2.3 In terms of secondary schools, the percentage of "good" or "outstanding" schools in Tameside currently stands at 53%. In September 2013 this figure was 47% meaning that there has only been one secondary school improve between then and now. This picture does however look different when broken down into Local Authority schools and Academies.

- 2.4 In September 2013, out of the 15 secondary schools and academies in Tameside 7 were good or outstanding. This split into 2 out of 8 Local Authority schools and 5 out of 7 Academies. Six out of 8 Local Authority schools were either Satisfactory or Required Improvement. Since then, only one Local Authority School is now not good or outstanding. At the same time there is now only one secondary Academy that is either good or outstanding.

- 2.5 The 5 LA Schools which are now rated good are:

- Alder Community High School;
- Denton Community College;
- Hyde Community College;
- Longdendale High School;
- St Damian's RC Science College.

- 2.6 The Academies which are no longer rated good or outstanding are:

- All Saints Catholic College;
- Audenshaw School;
- Copley Academy;
- West Hill School.

3. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The team's strategy for improving the performance of primary Schools in Tameside is based around prioritising support. The School Performance and Standards Policy underpins the work of the team. This policy is updated annually in consultation with Head Teachers and in light of national changes and local circumstances. Transparency of approach is key. Schools know how they will be categorised and receive this categorisation in a formal letter. The level of support that they can expect to receive from the LA is made clear. This year the policy outlines how it will raise its concerns about the performance of Primary Academies in Tameside.
- 3.2 School's requiring improvement or in an Ofsted category have had intensive support. This support has often been weekly. Support and challenge has continued until the school has been graded as good. As a result of this intensive approach 12 schools have moved from either RI/Inadequate to good. In August 2013 18 schools were requiring Improvement. We currently have 6 schools that still require improvement. Only one school in that time period has been judged as making unsatisfactory progress at a section 8 inspection. That same school went on to be judged as good after 11 months.
- 3.3 The Local Authority has issued a number of warning notices to schools when concern about the school's performance has continued.
- 3.4 The Local Authority has used its powers of intervention in Governance when concern about governance has continued. We currently have two schools with Interim Strategic Governance arrangements.
- 3.5 The focus of the team is clearly on helping vulnerable schools to identify strengths and areas of weakness. Officers help school leaders plan for improvement, monitor and evaluate effectiveness of any interventions. Stability in the team over the last three years has ensured that relationships have grown between officers and Head Teachers. There is a high level of trust between officers and Head Teachers.
- 3.6 The School Improvement Fund (formerly known as the Schools Causing Concern fund) has enabled targeted support to be deployed quickly. We have access to a very highly skilled group of consultants who are constantly quality assured. Since changes were made to the regulations surrounding the use of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2013 onwards, the School Improvement Fund has been funded annually through contributions from Primary Schools across Tameside.
- 3.7 The team has access to high quality information about schools' performance which enables officers to challenge schools around their performance and ultimately identify key areas of improvement.
- 3.8 The split in the workload of the team has ensured that we can both provide intensive support and challenge to those schools that require it but also fulfil our other statutory obligations.
- 3.9 Associate Head Teacher roles within Tameside are carried out by senior staff at Schools across the borough and the ten colleagues involved have provided invaluable support to a number of schools. This has meant that the team's capacity to support and challenge schools has increased tremendously. The Local Authority has been able to draw upon this resource to support its most vulnerable schools. The size of the Associate Head Teacher group will reduce in the near future due to retirement, executive opportunities and promotions. The service now needs to plan as to whether or not to expand the group of Associate Head Teachers in order to add further capacity to our school improvement approach. This is currently under review.

3.10 Good working relationships have been made with the Church of England and Roman Catholic diocesan authorities. Collaboration at school level varies.

4. PRIORITIES FOR 2016

4.1 This year 36 schools contributed to the School Improvement Fund. There has been a three year reduction in the number of schools contributing to the fund. This means that effectively there are two groups of schools. One group can access the support from the fund, the other can't. We are currently in talks with the Tameside Primary Consortium of Head Teachers about this fund and how it can best be used to support schools.

4.2 As well as the 6 remaining Requires Improvement Schools there are currently 4 schools in the inspection window that would be at risk of either Requires Improvement or an OFSTED category because of current performance. There is also one academy where we have significant concerns about its performance this year.

4.3 Schools still judged to Require Improvement:

- Waterloo Primary School, Ashton;
- The Heys Primary School, Ashton;
- Greenfield Primary School, Hyde;
- Yew Tree Primary School, Dukinfield;
- Gee Cross Holy Trinity Primary School – Hyde;
- St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Hyde.

4.4 Schools at risk of RI and currently in the OFSTED window:

- St Stephen's RC Primary School;
- Broadoak Primary School;
- St Anne's RC Primary School;
- Parochial CE Primary School.

4.5 Clearly the inspection judgements of these four schools could significantly impact on the current performance indicators relating to the percentage of good schools and the percentage of children attending a good or outstanding school in Tameside.

4.6 In September 2016 the number of officers will be reduced to 1.2 FTE. The primary lead officer and one officer (one day per week) will remain. This will significantly impact on both the intensive support and challenge that we can provide to the six schools that remain in RI and our other statutory responsibilities. The service will need to plan how to support these schools from either within the resources available or by attracting additional income into the Council.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is our aim that every child in Tameside should be attending a Primary School that is judged to be good. We have gone some way to achieving this aim but there is still work to be done.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 As set out at the front of the report.