

Putting the Community First



LONDON BOROUGH

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICE MEETING WITH CHAIRMEN
AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF GOVERNORS
NOTES OF THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2013
AT NORTH LONDON BUSINESS PARK**

In attendance

Sacha Alter	Queenswell Inf & Junior
Beverley Anderson	St John's N11
Laura Bier	Brookland Junior & Infant
Brenda Barrett	Queen Elizabeth Girls'
John Bowra	Christ's College
Christopher Berrell	Brookhill Nursery
Helen Burns	Deansbrook Junior
Juliette Castang	Foulds Primary
Christine Chamberlain	Whitefield School
Hilary Chamberlain	Queen Elizabeth's Girls'
Matthew Chow	Fairway Primary
G Costello	St Theresa RC Primary
Catrin Dillon	Martin Primary
Ibrahim Dustagheer	Broadfields Primary
Jon Epstein	Akiva
Patricia French	St Mary's CE High
Francis Giacon	Sacred Heart
Sally Gentle	Livingstone Primary
Michael Grabiner	JCOSS
Helen Graham	Parkfield Primary
Keith Hill	Woodridge Primary
Joseph Holder	Menorah Foundation
Vicky Hobart	Holly Park Primary
Paul Hoskins	Childs Hill
Barbara Hotz	Rosh Pinah
Raymond Hubbard	Colindale Primary
Barbara Hughes	Moss Hall Junior
Gerry Kirby	Oak Lodge
Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh
Annette Koslover	Rosh Pinah
Mark Leibling	Brookland Junior & Inf
Tim Longman	All Saints' N20
Andrew Macalpine	Hendon School
Bruce McGill	Coppetts Wood Primary
Peter McNamara	Blessed Dominic RC Primary
Samia Nelson	Childs Hill
Daniel Neumann	Woodridge Primary

Helen Newman	St Johns N11
Francis Giacon	The Sacred Heart RC Primary
Colin Page	Northway
Nicholas Panayiotou	Hollickwood Primary
Liz Pearson	Hampden Way
Kim Politzer	Moss Hall Junior School
Lia Pottinger	Courtland
Cllr Barry Rawlings	Hollickwood Primary
Chris Rosser	St Vincent RC Primary
Neil Ruckman	Grasvenor Avenue Infant
Tracy Simmons	Sunnyfields Primary
Jill Summers	Wessex Gardens
Nigel Taylor	Wessex Gardens
Bronwen Tumani	Foulds
Clare Viccars	Parkfield Primary
Marc Wetherill	Church Hill
Ros White	Sunnyfields Primary
Sue White	Copthall
Jonathan Wolinsky	Menorah
Philip Wright	Courtland
Trevor Young	Edgware Junior & Infant

Sarah Beaumont (Governor Services Manager) Sheila Bennett (Clerk), Janet Robinson (Clerk), Keith Golding (Clerk), Caroline Winston (Clerk), Kam Varma (Clerk).

1. INTRODUCTION, WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Kate Kennally, Director of Adult Social Care and Interim Director of Children's Service, welcomed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded on behalf of: Andrew Ballam-Davies (Holly Park Primary), Liz Court (Woodcroft Primary), Martin Dannell (Mill Hill High School), Caroline Korniczky (Northway), June Last (Brookhill Nursery), John Living (Dollis Infant), Beryl Maltby (St Margaret's Nursery & Children's Centre), Cllr Alison Moore (Tudor), Nick Mottershead (East Barnet), Cllr Graham Old (Coppetts Wood Primary), Kevin Omar (St Theresa RC Primary), Ann Robinson (Whitefield), Tony Scott (Copthall), S Smus (Pardes House Primary), Andrew Sprung (Pardes House Primary), Edwin Strauss (Barnfield Primary), Bill Webster (Cromer Road), Denise White (Hampden Way Nursery), Peter White (Brunswick Park Primary).

2. END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS 2012 – John Paxton, Simon Crosby-Charles and Amelia Whitehouse, Narrowing the Gap Team.

Foundation Stage

Amelia Whitehouse, Narrowing the Gap, Early Years Leader, gave an overview of results in the Foundation Stage (presentation attached).

Key points were that, overall, 2012 performance was in line with 2011 but the gap between Barnet and their statistical neighbours was narrowing. She also highlighted that the gap between the lowest achieving 20% of pupils and the rest had increased, after five years of continuous closing of the gap. Governors heard that Barnet's top quartile position had been maintained but Amelia Whitehouse said that the LA was always asking for more, and that progress of some children needed to be accelerated.

Key Stage 1

Amelia Whitehouse, Early Years Leader, gave an overview of results at Key Stage 1 (presentation attached).

Key points were that, for all pupils, there had been year-on-year improvement at 2+ in all subjects, and variable outcomes at 2B+ and Level 3. It was also highlighted that the improvements were in line with national results and those of statistical neighbours.

It was noted that the phonics testing data had proved useful, especially the achievement of FSM pupils who had achieved a pass rate of 64% compared to the national pass rate of 44%.

Some data graphs were displayed and Amelia reported that particular areas for development were Writing for all groups highlighted, boys' Literacy at all levels, FSM pupils' performance at L2B+ and L3 and English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners' Literacy at L2+.

Key Stage 2

Simon Crosby-Charles, Narrowing the Gap Advisor – Primary, gave an overview of results at Key Stage 2 (presentation attached).

Key points were that there were year-on-year improvements for all groups, improvements in Writing and that the non-free school meals and FSM data gap had narrowed year-on-year.

Key Stage 4: GCSE

John Paxton, Narrowing the Gap Advisor – Secondary, gave an overview of results at GCSE level (presentation attached).

It was reported that Barnet was doing well compared to their statistical neighbours; other London authorities and nationally. He highlighted in the data that there had been a slight dip in results that year and Barnet had followed that trend.

It was noted that for FSM pupils, Barnet's results had improved that year. It was highlighted that progress from KS2-KS4 had declined for the first time in English, but that this pattern had not followed in Maths.

Governors noted that, nationally, Barnet had come 7th for the English results, 15th for Maths, 42nd for Sciences, 11th for History or Geography and 6th for Languages which placed them 4th nationally for results in these subjects overall.

John Paxton reported that the key areas for improvement at GCSE level were:

- Girls – Maths
- Boys – English
- Black Pupils (especially BCRB) – Maths
- EAL learners – English
- FSM pupils – progress from L4 and L5 in both English and Maths

A Levels

John Paxton, Narrowing the Gap Advisor – Secondary, gave an overview of the results at A level (presentation attached).

It was noted that the Barnet average point score per entry was ABB and congratulations were recorded to staff and pupils for this achievement.

Kate Kennally, Interim Director of Children's Service, rounded up and suggested that Governors should consider how some of the graphs displayed would look for their individual schools. She said that Excel templates would be made available for them to use should they wish to do so.

A Governor asked about the possibility of inconsistency in assessment results, particularly between Infant and Junior Schools and said how this made it difficult for junior schools to raise pupils' levels' scores. Simon Crosby-Charles responded that at the end of Year 2 all results were fully moderated. He said that there was a national pattern of results changing when pupils entered Year 3, sometimes due to the long summer break and the types of evidence used to assess pupils. Amelia Whitehouse added that junior schools should be moderating assessment with their feeder infant schools to prevent this type of problem occurring. She said that standardization of moderation was the key.

A Governor asked why a lot of the data being examined was focused on FSM pupil achievement and in response Neil Marlow, Learning Network Inspector, explained that this shift was due to the introduction of the Pupil Premium as schools had to

prove that the funding was being correctly spent to raise achievement for these pupils.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE IN THE NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK – Mike Horton, Learning Network Inspector West.

Mike Horton gave a presentation and copies of the slides were circulated to all attendees.

He explained that the importance of good governance and the role of governors in the strategic drive for school improvement had been given even more emphasis than previously under the new Ofsted framework.

Chairman and Vice Chairman were directed to the new inspection handbook and also some subsidiary guidance.

It was noted that there had been a parliamentary debate on governance on 24 October 2012. The debate had focused on how the role and recruitment of governors could be adapted for the challenges ahead in the education system. Governors were required to challenge the performance of the Headteacher, be able and willing to take tough and rigorous decisions and who were also capable of understanding, analysing and drawing appropriate conclusions from the vast amount of data and information that was circulated.

Governors heard that Ofsted were looking at how schools were spending their pupil premium (PP) and why it was being spent in this way. Schools needed to be able to show how the PP was making a difference for their disadvantaged pupils in narrowing the gap. Mike Horton informed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen that they should be ensuring that their school's website had full details of how the PP was being spent.

A Governor asked whether it was statutory to have pupil premium data on the school website and in response Mike Horton said that this had been the case since September 2012. He added that schools that had subscribed to the Barnet Partnership for School Improvement (BPSI) would have an automatic subscription to The Key, which had models on how to present pupil premium data on school websites. Schools who did not buy into BPSI could also purchase their own subscription to The Key.

A Governor asked how Barnet schools were doing in inspections under the new framework and in reply Mike Horton said that it had been more challenging. A brief discussion ensued about the inspection cycle.

Kate Kennally, Interim Director of Children's Service, rounded up by saying that the LA was looking at its changing role, the roles of Governing Bodies and parents' role in the new educational landscape.

4. EDUCATION STRATEGY: EMERGING THEMES AND LINKS WITH INCLUSION STRATEGY – Val White, Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Planning and Brian Davis, Principal Educational Psychologist.

Education Strategy

Val White explained that the LA was in the middle of a large project developing the new education strategy, which included the inclusion strategy (presentation attached).

It was noted that the local authority would facilitate support, monitor and challenge all publically-funded schools on their progress in raising educational standards both overall and for specific groups of pupils.

Chairmen and Vice Chairmen heard that the LA was supporting the maximum amount of delegation of resource and autonomy in terms of governance.

The strategy also included work with academy sponsors/chairs and the detail was highlighted. Val White reported that a third of Barnet pupils were now educated in academy schools.

Work was underway on the participation, progression and employability of young people. The LA would be working in partnership with schools, colleges, neighbouring boroughs, employers and other education and training providers to ensure there was a broad mix of provision.

Inclusion

Brian Davis, Principal Educational Psychologist, was introduced and said that the LA was taking a multi-agency partnership approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with additional needs (presentation attached). Key points of the inclusion strategy were:

- Personalised arrangements with personal and individual budget options and person-centred planning
- Adopt a pre-birth to young adulthood perspective – promoting a multi-agency collaborative model and single plan approach to meeting needs and ensuring smooth transition
- Early intervention and building independence and resilience
- Provision through partnerships
- Open channel and ongoing consultation approach
- Clarity of the offer available to children, young people and their parents

The emerging workstreams to deliver strategy were noted.

Val White concluded the presentation by informing Chairmen and Vice Chairmen that there was a **Governor Conference on Wednesday 6 February 2013**, which was entitled *An Education Strategy for Barnet*.

5. NEW SUPPORT AND CUSTOMER SERVICE ORGANISATION (NSCSO) PROJECT UPDATE – Kari Manovitch, Project Director, NSCSO Project.

Kari Manovitch was introduced and gave an overview of the project and its timescales (presentation attached).

Chairmen and Vice Chairmen heard that the Council was outsourcing 'back office' and customer services, including eight services purchased by schools, eg. building maintenance and ICT. Capita's bid had gained the highest score and Cabinet had approved, on 6 December 2012, the recommendation to proceed with Capita as the preferred bidder.

The Traded Services in scope were:

- Estates: Building Maintenance; Schools Bag Courier; Document centre
- Finance: Finance Support Service and Security Collections Service
- Human Resources: HR & Payroll; Safety, Health and Wellbeing
- ICT Support Service

The benefits to schools were highlighted. It was noted that the Traded Services brochure would be sent out the week commencing 11 February 2013.

A Governor asked how long the contract between the Council and Capita would last. In reply Jonathan Thomas, Capita, said that this was ten years.

A Governor asked what experience Capita had in working with schools and Jonathan Thomas said that they had multiple contracts with other local authorities and also directly with schools.

A Governor said that he felt it was very important that there continued to be a Barnet partnership with schools rather than a customer relationship.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1 May 2013 at North London Business Park