

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 02/13

Date: January 2013

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: To update committee members on outcomes of Ofsted inspections in schools and academy conversions.

MEDWAY OFSTED INSPECTIONS SEPT – DECEMBER 2012 AND UPDATE ON ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

OFSTED INSPECTIONS

The Ofsted framework for inspections was revised from 1 September 2012. The revised criteria include the removal of 'satisfactory' as a judgement and its replacement with 'requires Improvement'. Schools are judged on four key aspects: pupil achievement; teaching; behaviour and leadership and management, plus an overall judgement is then made. If a school is graded as 'requires improvement' for any one of the four aspects, then the overall effectiveness is 'requires improvement'. Where overall effectiveness is graded as 'requires improvement' and the grade for leadership and management is also graded as 'requires improvement' then the school will receive a monitoring visit from HMI six - eight weeks after the section 5 inspection.

Similarly, if any aspect is graded 'inadequate' then the school will be placed in an Ofsted category of concern: either serious weaknesses or special measures. If a school is placed in an Ofsted category of concern, then Medway is required to submit an action plan to Ofsted within ten working days of the publication of the report.

During the period between 1 September 2012 and 21 December 2012, 16 Medway schools received section 5 inspections.

- Two special schools – both graded as outstanding
- Three secondary academies – all graded as good
- One primary academy – graded as requires improvement
- 10 Medway LA maintained primaries – five graded as good, three require improvement, one placed in special measures, one has serious weaknesses.
- Of the 16 schools with published reports; 10 have been judged as good or better, i.e. 63%

Three schools were placed in an Ofsted category of concern before July 2012, three have had HMI monitoring visits during the same period. All have been published and all have made at least satisfactory progress since inspection.

Schools with published reports inspected between September - December 2012:

School	Overall Grade	Grade change
Brompton Westbrook	good	increase
Deanwood	good	no change
Maundene	good	no change
Twydall Primary	good	new school
High Halstow	requires improvement	no change
Sherwin Knight Infant	requires improvement	no change
Temple Mill	requires improvement	no change
St Marys Island	special measures	drop
Brompton Academy	good	increase
Abbey Court	outstanding	no change
Danecourt	outstanding	Increase
Riverside	good	Increase
Sherwin Knight Junior	serious weaknesses	Drop
St William of Perth	requires improvement	no change
Chatham Grammar Girls	good	no change
Hundred of Hoo	Good	increase

The increase in inspection grade for some schools inspected between September and December has increased the percentage of good or better schools compared to the position in August 2012, information which was used in the Ofsted HCMI Annual Report. The table below shows the figures for August 2012 and end of December 2012.

Ofsted Descriptor	Percentage of Medway schools graded good or better	
	August 2012	December 2012
Overall Effectiveness	56%	60%
Leadership and Management	62%	64%
Teaching	58%	61%

UPDATE ON ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

The Academies Act 2010 allows for the Secretary of State for Education (SoS) to make an academy order for a school to convert from a Local Authority maintained school to an academy, which is publicly funded but operates outside of Local Authority control. This essentially gives the school more freedom in a number of

areas including their finances, curriculum, teacher's pay and conditions, the school day, and term and holiday dates.

This can be applied in two ways:

- 1) Independent Conversion; whereby a school rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by OfSTED can make an application to the SoS to become an academy on its own, although some do join up with other academies to form partnerships or clusters.
- 2) Sponsored Conversions; sponsored academies were created to raise aspirations and academic results by using the expertise of the sponsors along with experienced and successful school leaders. Where a school has a record of poor performance the SoS can direct that an 'outstanding' rated sponsor be identified to operate the school under its Academy Trust umbrella in an effort to drive up standards. So far in Medway five schools have become 'sponsored' academies, three sponsored by The Williamson Trust and two by The Fort Pitt Academy Trust.

In all cases where LA maintained schools convert, a 125-year lease on the land and buildings is granted by the council to the academy trust. Where the school is Voluntary Aided, the lease only applies to the playing fields, as the buildings will already be in the ownership of the diocese. As a foundation school all of the land and buildings will already be out of LA control and therefore no lease is required.

Academies receive their funding directly from central government, and a proportion of the LA's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is taken from the LA and provided to the academy. As more schools convert to academy status, the DSG received by the LA to fund the provision of school services will reduce.

It remains the LA's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, and where a need for additional places is identified and an academy is the most appropriate school to expand, the project funding remains the responsibility of the LA from the basic need grant from central government. This includes the establishment of any new provision required, and as such relates to the new primary academy due to open on the former Chatham South site in September 2014.

When a school converts to become an academy, the opportunity arises for it to 'buy back' services from the LA in the form of Service Level Agreements (SLA's). There is however the chance that academies will choose to purchase services away from the LA, and as more schools convert the risk increases that the LA will receive progressively less revenue income from this source.

The following gives a breakdown of schools that have converted so far, with the table summarising the current position. The rate of applications from Medway schools has slowed with only one application ongoing, however it is possible that the SoS will direct further schools to become sponsored academies as the government tries to accelerate the programme.

- Currently seven of our 79 primary phase schools have converted to academy status (8.8%). Four have converted independently of which two have joined with other trusts. One (Woodlands Primary) is going through the legal process to convert independently in April 2013. Three primary schools have been sponsored by local academy trusts
- 15 out of 17 (88%) of our secondary schools are academies; three are new build (old style) academies, ten have converted independently and two have been sponsored.
- Only one of Medway's schools has joined an academy trust based outside of the LA's area, with Rainham School for Girls joining the Kemnal Trust.

Independent Converters	
Schools (Secondaries)	Status
Fort Pitt Grammar School	Converted 1/11/10- independent
The Rochester Grammar School	Converted 1/11/10- independent
Rainham School for Girls	Converted 1/2/11- independently with the Kemnal Trust
Chatham Grammar School For Boys	Converted 1/4/11- independent
Sir J Williamson Math School	Converted 1/4/11- Independent
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Converted 1/7/11- independent
Chatham Grammar School For Girls	Converted 1/9/11- independent
Thomas Aveling School	Converted 1/9/11- independent
Walderslade Girls	Converted 1/11/11- independent
Greenacre	Converted 1/4/12- independent
Schools (Primary)	Status
Cliffe Woods Primary	Converted 1/7/11- independent
High Halstow Primary School	Converted 1/4/12- independently joined the Williamson Trust
All Faiths Primary School	Converted 1/6/12- independently joined the Rochester Grammar/ All Faiths Thinking Schools Trust
Chattenden Primary	Converted 2/7/12- independent (The Peninsula Gateway Trust)
Woodlands Primary	Independent converter. Re-application, ministerial approval and academy order given. Target date 1/4/13
Sponsored Converters	
Schools (Secondaries)	Status
Hundred of Hoo School	Converted 1/9/11- sponsored by The Williamson Trust
The Robert Napier School	Converted 1/9/12- Sponsored by the Fort Pitt Academy Trust
Schools (Primary)	Status
Glencoe Junior School	Converted 1/9/12 as 'The Phoenix Junior Academy' - sponsored by the Fort Pitt Academy Trust
Elaine Primary School	Converted 1/9/12 as ' Elaine Primary Academy' - sponsored by the Williamson Trust
St James CEVA Primary School	Converted 1/12/12. Sponsored by the Rochester Diocese, with co-sponsor The Williamson Trust.
Skinner Street Primary	Temporarily on hold, await further advise from DfE.
Old Style Academies (New Builds)	
Strood Academy	Opened September 2009 - new build ready Sept 2012
Brompton Academy	Opened September 2010 - new build ready Sept 2013
Bishop of Rochester Academy	Opened September 2010 - new build ready Sept 2013

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