

Children and Families Consultative Committee with Parents

Director's Report: May 2010

This is the first of a new style Director's report to the Consultative Committee with Parents. It summarises some of the achievements of the Department over the year, together with areas for development.

Achievements

Satisfaction with Schools

Satisfaction with schools has improved significantly. In the annual neighbourhood survey, excluding "don't knows" the percentage of residents satisfied with schools improved from 2007-2009 as follows:

- Primary from 73% to 90%
- Secondary from 65% to 87%
- Nursery from 68% to 88%

Primary Attainment

There have been significant improvements in attainment in primary schools. The percentage of pupils attaining expected levels at Primary 7 have improved from:

- 78.4% to 80.7% in reading
- 64.3% to 69% in writing
- 74% to 75% in maths

Secondary Attainment

Attainment at secondary school has improved, particularly for average and above average attaining pupils:

- % pupils achieving 1+ Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7) improved from 14% to 18% and is 4 percentage points above the national average by the end of S6
- % pupils achieving 3+ Highers or equivalent (SCQF Level 6) improved from 32% to 35% and is 4 percentage points above the national average by the end of S6
- % pupils attaining 5+ Standard Grades or equivalent (SCQF Level 5 or above) improved from 48% to 50% and is 2 percentage points above the national average by the end of S6

Exclusions

Permanent exclusions from school have reduced significantly and are lower than the national average from:

- 13 to 3 at primary
- 37 to 19 at secondary
- 4 to 0 at special

Children Looked After

The percentage of children leaving care achieving SCQF level 3 in English and Maths has improved from 38.9% to 47.2%.

Positive Destination

The percentage of young people who left school to a positive destination has increased slightly from 82.1% to 82.3%.

The breakdown of destinations is as follows:

- Higher education from 29.4% to 35.1%
- Further education from 22.1% to 25.2%
- Training from 3.2% to 3.6%
- Employment from 28.8% to 17.9%

The pupils staying on at school (S4 to S5) has increased from 67% to 68% (1% higher than national).

Wider Achievement

Number of young people achieving Duke of Edinburgh awards has increased from 201 to 399. The percentage of accredited healthy promoting establishments has increased from 81% to 93%.

Growing Confidence Programme

An extremely successful national conference highlighted the progress of our Growing Confidence work since its inception three years ago. Growing Confidence offers a programme of support and training to schools to promote positive mental health and emotional well-being amongst staff, pupils and families. It has now engaged with over 600 staff, 200 parents and carers and pupils from 28 primary and nursery settings.

On-line newsletter Award

The Communications Service and Children and Families team won the best Ezine award at the British Association of Communicators in Business Awards for, *Face* the Children and Families Department on-line newsletter.
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/face

Glow

We are on track for all secondary schools and 14 primary schools to be on GLOW by June 2010.

Child Protection

The HMle inspection of Child Protection Services noted that managers have worked hard together to make significant improvements to protect children. The service has clear aims, there is improved leadership of social work and improved performance.

Curriculum for Excellence

Edinburgh is well placed to implement Curriculum for Excellence. All schools have developed Curriculum Plans for August 2010.

We have developed on-line support for parents and carers entitled *Curriculum for Excellence Explained* and have also produced a paper version which has been sent to Chairs of Parent Councils.

The Edinburgh Learning Festival is on Saturday 29th May for parents and carers. Details can be found at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/curriculumforexcellence

Class Sizes

6.5% P1 and P3 pupils are in class sizes of 16 or less. This will increase to 20% in August 2010.

Getting it Right for Every Child

Getting it right for every child is the national programme to help co-ordinate children's services across Scotland. In Edinburgh we have developed this approach by joining up our children's services so that we can give the right help to children, young people and families, when they need it. We are calling this *Getting it right for every child* in Edinburgh. We have worked with all partner agencies to develop a shared system for assessing and addressing the needs of all children and young people, when required. This is being implemented gradually across the city, and should be fully in place by August 2011.

New Schools

The following new schools have opened over the year:

- St Augustine's RC High School
- Forrester High School
- Holyrood RC High School
- Tynecastle High School
- Craigroyston Community High School

Funding has been approved for two new schools:

- Portobello High School

- James Gillespie's High School (subject to Scottish Government confirmation)

Early Years

A new early years strategy was launched in March 2010.

The percentage of early years workers who meet Scottish Social Service Council requirements has increased from 69% to 70%.

94% local authority pre school provision and 89% partner pre school provision achieved positive inspection reports for meeting learners needs. This compares favourably with other authorities.

Free School Meals

2,162 (20.10%) P1-P3 pupils are entitled to receive free school meals. In addition the authority operates 30 breakfast clubs for approximately 750 pupils.

Areas for further Development

The following areas have been identified as priorities for further improvement in the coming year:

1. Improving support in early years so that problems are identified and addressed early
2. Improving educational outcomes for the lowest achieving 20% of pupils
3. Improving children's health outcomes with a particular focus on healthy weight, emotional & mental health & drug and alcohol misuse
4. Increasing the number of young people in positive destinations
5. Tackling youth crime and reducing anti social behaviour
6. Improving outcomes and life chances for looked after children
7. Continuing to improve outcomes for children in need of protection

These priorities will be taken forward through the implementation of the following initiatives:

1. Curriculum for Excellence
2. Early Years Strategy
3. Getting it Right for Every Child
4. More Choices, More Chances

Gillian Tee
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7 May 2010