

10 January 2019

New Leaf Inclusion Centre

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Access & Achievement

1. Report

- 1.1 New Leaf Inclusion Centre is intended to be a short stay provision, catering for pupils aged between 5 and 16 years. All of the pupils on the School roll have encountered serious difficulties earlier in their education. Most pupils have been excluded from their previous school setting. An above-average proportion of pupils have identified SEN and/or disabilities. An above-average proportion of pupils are eligible to be supported by pupil premium funding. Most pupils are of white British origin.
- 1.2 The Centre was subject to an Ofsted inspection 18-19 April 2018. The outcome of the inspection was that the school was graded 'Inadequate in all areas' and therefore judged to be requiring Special Measures. A Direct Academy Order was received by the centre on 3 July 2018. The Statement of Action was submitted to the DfE and deemed fit for purpose on the 25 July 2018.
- 1.3 'Team Around the School' meetings have operated from the inspection date. These meetings are focussed action meetings involving the Head teacher at the school and the relevant Local Authority officers. The meetings are designed to monitor the progress of the school, towards achieving the actions identified in the School's 'Statement of Action'. The Management Board of the School operate independently of the 'Team Around the School' group but governance matters are discussed at these meetings as they are responsible for the strategic development of the School alongside senior leaders at the School.
- 1.4 2 October 2018 saw the first of the HMI monitoring visits since the School went into special Measures. Senior HMIs, Susan Morris-King and Peter Humphries conducted a one-day inspection. The inspection was positive and highlighted the many actions taken by the senior leaders in regards to ensuring the safety and well-being of the pupils. The Local Authority's support of the Centre was also mentioned as having a positive impact. The monitoring report states:
- Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of Special Measures.
 - The Local Authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.
 - The School's improvement plan is fit for purpose.
- Further actions for attention were identified as:
- Improving attendance which is very low
 - Securing stable staffing
 - Ensuring quality first teaching
 - Monitoring of and quality assurance of alternative provision

- 1.5 Since the monitoring visit, a substantive Deputy Head teacher has been appointed to the School and will take up post in January 2019. The roles and responsibilities for this post holder are focussed on the quality of teaching and learning and the curriculum offer, qualifications and pathways for learners. The Deputy Head teacher will provide much needed senior leadership capacity for the School enabling the Head teacher and the SENDCO to focus on their areas of responsibility. The Management Board are starting the process of formal recruitment for the substantive Head teacher post, which will also secure the leadership.
- 1.6 To date the School has not yet moved sites/premises. There are on-going discussions within the Local Authority to secure a new or interim site for the school.
- 1.7 At the next monitoring visit scheduled for Spring 2019, the HMI has stated that they will have a particular focus on alternative provision. Unusually, it will be a two-day inspection enabling the HMI to go out and visit all providers. At present the alternative provision for the New Leaf Centre, is commissioned by the Local Authority which has oversight and responsibility for all the quality assurance checks. The Head teacher at the New Leaf Centre has oversight and responsibility for the pupils from the Centre attending the alternative provision.
- 1.8 To date a potential sponsor for the Centre has yet to be identified.

2. Reason for scrutiny

- 2.1 Committee Members have a role in assuring themselves, on behalf of the community that the Council is taking appropriate action in addressing the concerns previously expressed and subsequently confirmed by Ofsted.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 4 September 2018, the Committee requested that a progress report be made to the meeting scheduled for 10 January 2018

3. Recommendations:

That:

- 3.1 The Committee note the report and the actions taken to address the inadequacies highlighted in the Ofsted inspection report.

Background papers:

Report on New Leaf Inclusion Centre presented to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2018.

Inspection Report April 2018

Monitoring Visit Report October 2018

Resource and legal considerations:

The New Leaf Centre will need to be relocated and this has a cost implication. The Local Authority are reviewing their Alternative Provision Protocol and quality assuring processes.

Council Corporate Plan Priorities:

Ch2 Measure 26
Ch5 Measure 29

Citizen impact:

Vulnerable learners are well catered for and their needs are assessed and the right provision is provided for them when they need to access it.

Environmental impact:

N/A

Performance management:

Ensuring that the Local Authority makes good educational provision for learners who have been excluded from their school in order that their needs are met and that they are able to return to full time education.


Reducing inequalities:

Ensuring those learners excluded from their school receive a good education.

Consultation:

N/A

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