

4 September 2018

## New Leaf Inclusion Centre

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

### 1. Report

- 1.1 New Leaf Inclusion Centre is a short stay provision, catering for pupils aged between 5 and 16. 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 last school improvement visit record for the centre, raised concerns about: the stability of the interim leadership, the recruitment and retention of teaching staff and financial management of the school.
- 1.3 On-going concerns were raised during the Autumn and Spring Terms of 2017-18 which saw further changes to the interim leadership and management, and staffing at the centre. The budget was withdrawn from the Centre and held centrally by the local authority. The centre had only one governor, who was Chair of Governors. The Centre saw an increase of pupils and further concerns were raised about the Fair Access Panels (FAP) at both primary level, but particularly at secondary level.
- 1.4 During the Spring Term 2018, a new Interim Head teacher and Deputy Head were appointed to the Centre.
- 1.5 The Centre was subject to an Ofsted inspection 18-19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The outcome of the inspection was that the school was graded 'Inadequate' in all areas. The previous inspection of the Centre had taken place in January 2015 where it had been judged 'Good'.
- 1.6 In the summary of the key findings from the inspection report, the following reasons for the inadequate judgement were given:
  - Ineffective leadership since the last inspection leading to the rapid decline in the quality of education provided by the school.
  - Governors failed to provide stable leadership and staffing.
  - Teaching, learning and assessment are inadequate. Lessons rarely led to sufficient learning.
  - Ineffective safeguarding. Governors have failed to provide a safe environment for pupils. Training records and risk assessments are disorganised and incomplete.
  - Very poor pupil conduct. Pupils are not given enough support or helped to manage their own behaviour. Attendance and punctuality are poor.

- Poor outcomes for pupils due to the curriculum not meeting the needs of the pupils.
  - Some pupils attended unregistered alternative full-time provision where no checks were made on the quality of teaching and learning.
  - Inadequate accommodation. The buildings were barely fit for purpose with the Primary site in a very poor condition.
  - Inadequate governance. The local authority has not provided effective support for the school. It has not ensured that pupils are cared for, or taught, sufficiently well enough. It has not held to account those who have been responsible for leading and governing the school.
- 1.7 An emergency Team Around the School meeting was convened post inspection, 26 April 2018. An interim action plan was created to look at the immediate actions to ensure the safety of the pupils. Key actions were:
- The move of all primary pupils from the primary site to the secondary site to ensure the safety of all pupils.
  - Allocation of the Interim School Improvement Team Manager to work on a weekly basis with the interim leadership team at the centre in the formulation of the Statement of Action (SoA), required post inspection and to support and challenge rapid improvement.
  - Establishment of a Management Committee to replace the governor at the centre to effectively hold senior leaders to account.
  - Address all immediate safeguarding concerns.
- 1.8 The Interim Head teacher was relieved of his post early May 2018 and the Interim Deputy Head was asked to act up in the absence of a substantive Head teacher.
- 1.9 'Team Around the School' meetings have been held regularly throughout the Summer Term 2018. The focus of these has been:
- Securing a staffing structure and recruitment of staff for September 2018 onwards.
  - Formulation of the Statement of Action and ensuring that all managers in Access & Achievement are aware of their roles and responsibilities in securing effective support and provision within the centre.
  - Ensuring that the Management Committee can exercise their duties effectively in the leadership and management of the centre, including the financial arrangements.
  - Forward planning to secure a suitable building/site for the provision.
  - Forward planning to ensure quality first teaching and learning including a curriculum fit for purpose for all pupils, based on a rigorous assessment of their needs.
- 1.10 The final inspection report was published on the 28 June 2018 and the local authority submitted a Statement of Action setting out how we intended to address issues raised in the report. Ofsted deemed this fit for purpose on the 25 July 2018.
- 1.11 The New Leaf Inclusion Centre received a Direct Academy Order 3 July 2018 which means that the authority is required to work with the Regional School commissioner (RSC) in identifying a suitable Academy sponsor and facilitating its transfer, including due diligence. Until a sponsor has been identified and

approved by the RSC, the local authority remains responsible for ensuring that the management committee is acting in a timely and appropriate manner to address the actions set out in the Statement of Action. The Executive Director for Children's Services and Portfolio Holder for Education & Skills have a duty to ensure that the children and young people who attend are: a) appropriately placed; b) are safe and their welfare/pastoral needs are addressed; c) a high quality, appropriate curriculum is offered to meet the pupils needs.

## **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 inadequacies highlighted in the Ofsted report.

## **3. Recommendations:**

### **That:**

- 3.1 Members receive and note the progress update following the Ofsted monitoring visit and the action being taken to address the inadequacies highlighted in the Ofsted report.
- 3.2 Members review the Council's strategy, processes, procedures and protocols for inclusion and the impact of this on the New Leaf Inclusion Centre.

### **Background papers:**

### **Resource and legal considerations:**

The local authority will continue to provide the resources by:

- Appointing the Executive Director for Adult Services as Chair of the management committee and a comprehensive training programme about roles and responsibility.
- On-going support for the Interim Head teacher.
- An officer group replacing the TAS to manage the arrangements required for transfer to Academy status.
- Identify and facilitate the move to more suitable accommodation.

### **Council Corporate Plan Priorities:**

- Outcome: Children will be ready for school  
Measure: Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception
- Outcome: The gaps in educational attainment between the least and most deprived communities will be narrowed for all under achieving groups  
Measure: The progress Free School Meals children make
- Outcome: Young people are prevented from entering the criminal justice system  
Measure: Reduction of first time entrants

**Citizen impact:**

None noted.

**Environmental impact:**

None noted.

**Performance management:**

The New Leaf Inclusion Centre is a critical part of the local authority's graduated response to meeting the needs of those at risk of exclusion. Until is operating effectively the Council's ability to reduce exclusions and provide appropriate intervention and support is limited.

**Reducing inequalities:**


Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? No

**Consultation:**

Portfolio Holder for Education & Skills and the Interim Head teacher, New Leaf Inclusion Centre.

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