

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - RECOMMENDATION/RESPONSE PROFORMA

TITLE/PROJECT NAME: KEY STAGE 4 EDUCATION

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE/CHIEF OFFICER/PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	COMMENT/OS REVIEW PERIOD
<p>1. The County Council should maintain its commitment to supporting school improvement and pupil attainment by continuing to invest in approaches that make a difference.</p> <p>The BETT has been an excellent example of raising standards and pupil attainment. The County Council should consider investing in this approach in meeting the needs of young people into Post 16 education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Williams • Clare Vasey 	<p>BETT to continue to support our schools and departments with targeted support. Strong focus on supporting English and Maths.</p> <p>Funding not yet forthcoming although some of the funding from current BETT 14-16 has been devolved to post 16 to meet immediate needs.</p>	<p>John Deller</p> <p>John Deller</p>	<p>September 2007 – August 2008</p> <p>September 2007 – August 2008</p>	<p>2007 results 5A*-C 60.2% (best ever results in Durham). CVA 2-4 1006.9 (40th out of 150 LAs). CVA3-4 1012.5 (8th out of 150),</p>

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<p>The County Council should publicise the work of the BETT as a valuable resource to our schools. The Beacon Award presents the County Council with an opportunity to do this locally, regionally and nationally.</p> <p>The County Council should monitor the effectiveness of such initiatives through regular evaluation. The outcome of such evaluative study should support the long-term viability and mainstreaming of such initiatives.</p>		<p>Addressing SW English strategy co-ordinators (21 counties) on our practice. Using independent consultant Rennie May to broker contracts with other LAs.</p> <p>Use BETT conferences to share our practice and success with other LAs.</p> <p>Undertaking a contract with South Gloucestershire LA to address their cabinet and headteachers (separately).</p> <p>Deliver workshops at national beacon conferences (e.g. Manchester in June 2007)</p>	John Deller	September 2007 – August 2008	<p>Beacon contracts in other LAs will be evaluated by those in receipt of the BETT input (e.g. South West England strategy co-ordinators).</p>

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<p>2. The County Council has a fundamental role to play in supporting educational attainment and raised standards, by providing leadership, influence, challenge, co-ordination and support.</p> <p>The County Council should revisit the approach developed through funding made available by the Leadership Incentive Grant (LIG) in supporting capacity for sustained improvement, to strengthen leadership at all levels and build the school's leadership capacity for sustained improvement.</p> <p>The County Council should consider this approach with schools that may be deemed as failing because of poor performance and capability issues. Members of the working group note that, in some cases, the LIG supported an exit strategy for less than effective leaders/managers.</p>					

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<p>3. The County Council should continue to support and invest in approaches that focus on personalised learning through, for example, alternative curricula that target both under-achievers and children who are 'gifted and talented'.</p> <p>The County Council should ensure coverage across all of our schools with 'parent support advisors'. This is an important role as it supports the 'family' to realise its potential.</p> <p>Parent Support Advisors should be subject to an evaluation within the context of a family support strategy looking to demonstrate the effectiveness of the role.</p>		<p>Barbara Powell to continue to champion and advise our schools on appropriate curriculum for less able until her retirement (December 2007). This role is to be continued by contracting independent consultant (Gina Koscina) who was upskilled by Barbara Powell. Workshops are planned for teachers of more able across several curriculum subjects to share best practice.</p> <p>DCSF recommend nation roll out of PSA role, funding for this will be through Standards fund Sustainability Funding.</p> <p>PSA Pilot contributing to nation evaluation of the pilot through data collection, case studies of good practice and interviews with Head Teachers, PSA and parents by Warwick University. Examples of good practice have also been collated by Training and Development Agency</p>	John Deller	September 2007 – August 2008	CVA of Durham schools is 1012.5 (KS3-KS4) which is 9th out of 150 LAs (2007). This is a reflection of the achievement of all pupils and not just the more able. CVA is on line to be as positive in current academic year.

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		<p>and published in PSA Resource Kit in which County Durham has many examples.</p> <p>Data collection locally has been collated using ONE which highlights numbers of referrals to PSA, type of referral, reason for referral, type of support offered, attendance rates, objectives met or not.</p> <p>Qualitative data is collected by end of contact evaluations and feedback from schools involved on impact of role.</p>			
<p>4. The County Council should give a firm commitment to the principle of a 'family of schools' approach which are networked and able to support each other in specialist areas, sharing expertise and contributing to educational attainment and school improvement.</p>		<p>To ensure a co-ordinated approach to the planning, development and delivery of extended services across the County, schools have been organised into geographical clusters based around comprehensive schools and their partner primary schools. Funding to support extended services was devolved to schools in line with DCSF guidance, each school received an allocation of funding, this</p>			

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<p>5. The County Council, through the County Durham Local Area Agreement Interim Board and Children's Trust arrangements, should ensure that the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan identify opportunities to improve educational attainment through regeneration initiatives to enable improved quality of life outcomes. This should reflect the importance of early years' intervention and parental support (family support strategies).</p> <p>The County Council should ensure that, as part of its partnership approach to regeneration, adequate opportunities are put in place for</p>		<p>was aggregated together by the number of schools in the cluster and paid into a 'nominated' fund holding school. The expenditure of this funding was to be agreed by all schools within the cluster. This provides an opportunity for collaboration between schools and to ensure that across the cluster the core offer of extended services is met</p> <p>LAA being negotiated currently. Improving attainment and narrowing the gap between highest and lowest attainers is a key priority. Children and Young People's plan sets out priorities and targets in this area. Family support services commission sets out intentions from early years onwards, at universal, targeted and specialist levels.</p> <p>Healthy Schools standard being rolled out across schools. Corporate</p>			

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<p>children and young people to access healthy and nutritious food. For example, schools who do not have breakfast clubs should be encouraged to do so as part of a healthy schools initiative.</p> <p>The County Council should support local schools, engage more closely with their communities so that they (schools) become an important part of community life.</p> <p>6. The County Council should ensure that, at the very minimum, all of the seven IMPACT centres have appropriate IT facilities that contribute to a supportive learning environment.</p> <p>The County Council should increase its investment in the academic mentor programme for Looked after Children. The programme aims to support pupils overcome learning and behavioural problems. The County Council should undertake a review of the programme to assess</p>		<p>procurement strategy will feed to healthier foods through the schools meals contract</p> <p>Schools are being engaged in the development of integrated services delivery through the creation of Local Child Resource Groups at the role out of the Common Assessment Framework.</p> <p>Finance from County Council was recommended following scrutiny process. No finance for IMPACT has been forthcoming. As a result the improvement in facilities at IMPACT has not yet happened.</p>	<p>John Deller</p>	<p>September 2007 – August 2008</p>	

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<p>what outcomes have been achieved before any investment options are considered.</p> <p>The County Council should consider commissioning a pilot project looking at 'e-learning' focused on IMPACT centres, Looked After Children and other vulnerable children, i.e. sick children. The purpose of this pilot would be to increase capacity for out-of-hours learning using on line teaching.</p> <p>7. The County Councils Overview and Scrutiny function will systematic review progress on recommendations.</p> <p>That the first review for all working group reports is completed in 6 months time (December 07).</p>		<p>Recommended funding not yet forthcoming.</p>			