

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To update Cabinet on the outcomes of Ofsted Inspections of North Lincolnshire Schools in both the primary and secondary phase, during the first half of the Academic Year 2012/13

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Education Act (1996) places a legal responsibility on local authorities for education performance in the area as a whole.
- 2.2 Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector published his annual report in November 2012, introducing a new performance measure ranking local authority areas on the proportion of pupils in each phase attending schools and academies judged to be good or outstanding. The reporting period for this measure is the academic year ending on 31 August. Sponsor led academies are not included in the performance measure until the date of their first inspection

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 None – this report is for information only.
- 3.2 Table 1: Proportion of North Lincolnshire pupils attending schools and academies judged to be good or outstanding using the Ofsted methodology

	31 August 2012 baseline	15 February 2013	In-year variance	Proportion of NL children in methodology
Primary age	64%	76%	+12ppt - improving	91%
Secondary age	44%	70%	+26ppt - improving	92%

In the first half of the current academic year thirteen primary schools (all maintained) and two secondary schools (one maintained and one academy) were subject to a full inspection as defined by section 5 of the 2005 Education Act. Two secondary schools and one primary school have had section 8 monitoring visits.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is a strengthening picture of inspection outcomes across North Lincolnshire in both the primary and secondary phase.
- 4.2 At primary age, 76% of children now attend a good or outstanding primary school – an improvement of 12ppt since the start of the academic year.
- 4.3 In secondary, the improvement has been 26ppt – with 70% of pupils now attending a good secondary school.
- 4.4 These improvements have been gained in the context of the revised Ofsted inspection framework (September 2012) which once again raised the expectations on the quality of provision, leadership and outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.5 Inspection reports now routinely comment on the quality of local authority support to schools. These comments have been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating that North Lincolnshire Council not only knows the schools in the area well, but has the capacity to work in partnership with school leaders and governors to effect timely improvements (detailed quotes on LA Support attached).
- 4.6 North Lincolnshire Council is well placed to make a sustained contribution to education outcomes in the local authority area. There is a strengthening partnership with schools and academies and an increasingly systematic approach to addressing underperformance and disseminating effective practices between schools. Ofsted inspections in the first half of this year demonstrate that as a result of improvement across North Lincolnshire schools, many more children and young people are now experiencing a good standard of education.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The introduction of this new performance measure reaffirms the public accountability of Local Authorities for the education outcomes for all children and young people of school age within the area. North Lincolnshire has already taken an approach that is consistent with this duty. Consultation was undertaken in summer 2012 with headteachers and governors of all maintained schools and academies on a refreshed universal school improvement offer and a revised, graduated approach to challenge and intervention. On the basis of consultation outcomes, Schools Forum supported the new approaches by pooling resources alongside those of the Council. Consequently all schools and academies now have access to a School Improvement Partner and nine out of ten schools and academies have formed up into Learning Networks. The new arrangements were introduced in September 2012 and while embedding is required, the early evidence from inspection and feedback from schools is that this school improvement partnership with the Council is both welcome and effective.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable – for information only

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 Not applicable – for information only

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet notes the outcomes of Ofsted Inspections of North Lincolnshire Schools in both the primary and secondary phase (for the first half of the Academic Year 2012/13); and

8.2 That Cabinet notes the strong partnership working between North Lincolnshire Schools and North Lincolnshire Council which has contributed to improvements in inspection outcomes.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:Nil

Appendix 1: Comments on the quality of North Lincolnshire's support to schools and academies from inspection reports during the first half of the academic year 2012/13

School	What OFSTED has said about North Lincolnshire Council's support:
Primary School Requires Improvement	The local authority monitors the school's performance and supports it with an accurate annual evaluation of its effectiveness. An officer is attached to the school who maintains a regular dialogue with school leaders on school effectiveness. The local authority's dialogue and reports contributed significantly to leaders' evaluations and priorities for improvement.
Secondary School Good	The local authority provides effective support through a school improvement partner and has been helpful in boosting recently the quality of teaching in English and mathematics.
Primary School Good	The local authority has provided appropriate support in helping the school achieve its targets for improvement and development.
Infant School Good	The local authority has provided the new headteacher with effective support, for example, to help improve the systems for tracking pupils' progress.
Junior School Requires Improvement	<p>The governing body, working with the effective guidance of the local authority, has done much to reduce the effect of disruptions to leadership and management. Extensive and effective local authority support has helped leaders improve some aspects of teaching.</p> <p>Staffing difficulties have led to some problems in school leadership. These disruptions have been reduced by the effective work of the governing body, working in close partnership with the local authority.</p> <p>The governing body knows what is working well in the school and what is less effective. It has played an important part in minimizing disruption caused by staffing difficulties and has worked well with the local authority to keep the school on an even keel.</p>
Primary School Good	The local authority provides appropriate light touch support for this good school to enable it to develop further through raising pupils' attainment in English and mathematics.
Secondary School Special measures monitoring inspection	Support from the local authority is increasingly effective and has made a considerable contribution to improving the quality of governance. The local authority has also provided funding for literacy development and underwritten the cost of new uniforms.
Primary School Good	The local authority recognises the strengths of the school and provides light touch support. The authority uses the headteacher's skills in supporting a small school in a nearby village.

School	What OFSTED has said about North Lincolnshire Council's support:
Secondary School Special measures monitoring inspection	The local authority has continued to fund the work of the School Improvement Partner and consultants to work with the learning leaders for English, mathematics and science. The School Improvement Partner provides helpful and clearly evidenced reports for the Principal and also for the governors. Reports from the progress board meetings show that information is provided to them from a number of sources and that senior and learning leaders are held to account rigorously. Consequently, members of the progress board have a thorough understanding of the college and the challenges still to be faced when they report to all members of the governing body.
Primary School Requires Improvement	The school helps to decide how the local authority supports it. A range of activities are planned for this year, including lesson observations to be carried out jointly with senior leaders. The school currently feels well supported'.
Primary School Good	The school is working well with the local authority and regular support and advice are assisting in promoting improvements in attainment and rates of progress, particularly in writing.
Primary School Good	The local authority provides effective support, for example, for staff training and reviewing the school's performance.
Primary School Requires improvement monitoring inspection	The local authority has provided valuable support to the headteacher both before and after the previous inspection. The school improvement officer has worked with the head teacher to develop classroom observation skills and support the development planning process. Additional support for subject leaders was discussed with a representative of the local authority during the visit.
Primary School Requires Improvement	Subject leaders are given good support and clear guidance to carry out their roles and they are having a good effect on raising standards in their subjects. For example, the subject leader for English has worked well with local authority consultants to improve the teaching of reading and standards are rising well.
Primary School Good	Through the local authority, the school's partner, who supports improvement, has made a positive contribution to the rigour of the school's self-evaluation.
Primary School Good	The local authority provides good support, for example, for reviewing the school's performance and staff training.
Secondary Academy Good	The local authority provides effective support through a school improvement consultant, and has been helpful in supporting general improvements in teaching.
Primary School Inadequate – serious weaknesses	Since the appointment of the headteacher and deputy headteacher, the local authority has provided support to help them develop into their new roles. The School Improvement Partner is giving clear guidance to senior leaders in using data analysis and self-evaluation to drive school improvement.