

National and Local Landscape – presentation to seminar by Dr. Phil Norrey

White Paper October 2005

- Every school will be able to acquire a self-governing Trust. Trusts may cover more than one school allowing the creation of school 'brands'
- Academies will remain as the flagships of reform
- Independent schools will find it easier to enter the maintained system
- New national post of Schools Commissioner
- 'The least well-off' parents will have access to choice advisers to help them select secondary schools

White Paper Headlines

- Free transport for children from poorer families to their three nearest secondary schools (2-6 miles)
- Encouragement for schools to adopt 'banded' admissions policies
- Parents to have the chance to form Parents Councils to influence certain school decisions
- Better local complaints procedures and a national complaints service provided by Ofsted
- Parents to be supported to set up new schools through a dedicated capital pot
- A series of reforms to support 'tailored learning'
- A greater range of information and support services to parents
- Competitions to be held for the replacement of persistently failing schools
- Competitions required for all new or replacement schools. All new or replacement schools will have self-governing Foundation, Trust, VA or Academy status
- Parents will be able to request Ofsted to take action if they are dissatisfied with a school
- 'Good' schools will be able to federate or expand more easily
- Further development of off-site provision for disruptive pupils run by school collaboratives
- A school nurse in every school cluster
- The legal right for schools to discipline pupils
- Parents to take responsibility for their children's bad behaviour and for excluded pupils in the first 5 days

White Paper: the role of Local Authorities

- The term Local Education Authority will be replaced by Local Authority – not Children's Services Authority
- LAs will be expected to be champions of parents and pupils, 'commissioning rather than providing education'
- New statutory duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school places and school transport
- New and much sharper powers to act where schools are failing or under-performing
- School Organisation Committees will be abolished and school planning decisions will be made by LAs
- LAs will work with the Schools Commissioner to promote choice and diversity
- Very little on governors – just 6 out of 364 paragraphs
- LAs and Local Learning and Skills Councils will work together more closely to ensure real choice and higher standards 14-19
- New requirement on LAs to identify children missing from school
- Statutory requirement to consult schools on the Children and Young People's Plan
- Greater expectation on LAs to 'find out' parents' views

The White Paper: the truth behind the headlines

- 'All schools, even Trust schools, will remain as part of the Local Authority family of schools'
- 'The outdated Code of Practice will be removed to allow more decisive intervention in schools'
- LAs will have the responsibility for planning the number and sizes of schools in an area
- LAs will continue to co-ordinate admissions to school
- The LA role in relation to pupils with Special Educational Needs will remain largely unchanged
- Funding for schools will continue to be routed through LAs and formulae will continue to be determined locally
- The role of Children's Trusts is affirmed
- 'we recognise that for many schools traditional catchment areas will be the most appropriate option'

But enough of all that! Devon's Vision for Learning

- High expectations for every child
- In supporting this only excellence is good enough
- All children must have the best possible start
- A child's development is best supported through a rounded vision
- We can maximise educational benefit by building capacity across groups of schools
- We must prepare children to be healthy adults
- We should invest time in discussion of and planning for new patterns of education in Devon
- Devon County Council should establish a role which clearly supports and values learning

The Five Outcomes in Devon

1. Being Healthy

Strengths

- participation in school sport and effective promoting healthy lifestyles
- low teenage pregnancy rates
- improved co-ordination and planning between partners

Areas for Improvement/further development

- health of children in public care
- full implementation of CAMHS strategy

2. Staying Safe

Strengths

- planning for safeguarding boards
- safe and supportive environment in schools
- good progress following service inspections

Areas for Improvement/further development

- performance in child protection reviews/assessments
- recruitment processes in residential settings
- access to child protection training for key staff

3. Enjoying and Achieving

Strengths

- strong partnerships supporting early years education
- good improvement at GCSE and steady improvement at other Key Stages
- positive action to reduce school exclusions and effective work with schools to reinstate those excluded
- effective support and early intervention for schools in difficulty

Areas for improvement/development

- education outcomes for children in public care
- the range of accessible leisure opportunities, particularly in more remote areas
- further development of community wide approaches to raising aspirations, particularly in the primary phase

4. Making a Positive Contribution

Strengths

- good examples of children and young people participating in decision making, including citizenship programmes
- development of the use of direct payments
- proportion of care leavers in education employment and training

Areas for improvement/further development

- development of an overall strategy for participation and involvement including vulnerable groups
- re-offending rates
- implementation of strategy to increase the proportion of children in public care involved in their reviews

5. Achieving Economic Well-being

Strengths

- high proportion of 16-18 year olds in learning
- good 14-19 strategy
- high proportion of young people in public care in education employment and training
- expansion of early years provision

Areas for Improvement/further development

- need to continue to improve achievement post 16
- co-ordination of services for transition into education, employment and training for vulnerable groups