

Scrutiny of attainment of disadvantaged children at Key Stage 4

Simon Newland – Operations Director, Education

Outline of programme

- Responsibilities and role of the Council
- Broad approach
- Partnerships
- Definitions and data on Attainment and Disadvantage
- Specific approaches by HfL, and in schools

Session 1:

Context and the Council's role?

- Location of disadvantaged pupils
- Our roles in relation to these

Location of disadvantaged pupils

- Academies: 71%
- Maintained Schools: 29%

- Academies grade 1&2: 57%
- Academies grade 3&4: 14%
- Maintained grade 1&2: 17%
- Maintained grade 3&4: 12%

HCC's Role

- A local authority “must exercise its education functions with a view to promoting high standards”.
- For maintained schools, oversight of standards, monitoring, challenge, support and intervention
- For Academies, *“Local authorities should focus their activity on the schools they maintain rather than academies which are accountable to the Secretary of State. However, should a local authority have any concerns about an academy’s standards, leadership or governance, they should raise these directly with the relevant RSC”.*

A new approach?

- Consultation in the Autumn, government “will be clear on which actor is playing which role”
- New thresholds for “underperformance” and for support
- School leaders above (this threshold) will know that they have full freedom to get on with their job – without interference

Where are we now?

- Funding already almost wholly removed from LAs
- Government funding for school improvement through SSIF, allocated via DfE/RSCs
- Funding at school level through the Pupil Premium, allocated direct to schools
- Our ability to make a difference is almost wholly through partnerships and influence

Pupil Premium

- £36m in Hertfordshire
- Allocated to schools and managed by them
- Targeted at disadvantaged pupils
- Accountability through transparency and via Ofsted.

Major challenges

- Effective engagement with schools with most of the disadvantaged pupils
- Effective engagement with broad range of 1&2 academies
- Support for schools with major financial challenges

Diversity and themes

Very great diversity:

- 2 grade 1 academies, one w. 14 pupils, one w. 15, and p8 scores of +0.69 and -0.77

But some common themes:

- Schools with a higher proportion of FSM generally struggle
- Schools with greater pressure on their budgets generally struggle

Session 2: Partnerships

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Culture

- Long history of devolved/decentralised approach with high degree of school autonomy
- Strong structure of local partnerships
- Key priority to maintain and develop this – the “Family of Schools”

Partnerships

- Schools Forum – major role in resource allocation and policy formulation, active schools engagement
- SEND executive and local groups for SEN issues
- HASSH and local groups
- PHF and local groups
- Special school heads

Herts for Learning -- HfL

- Schools company, 80% owned by schools
- 99% of schools are shareholders
- £20m+ turnover
- 80% traded, 20% contract

HfL Contract

- Covers school improvement and range of other activities
- £2.4m of funding de-delegated by maintained schools for school improvement and related activities,
- Managed by HCC
- Funded, owned and overseen by schools

Other HfL activity

- Substantial and growing
- School improvement strategy
- Rachel MacFarlane and Andrew de Csillery will elaborate later

Other partners

- RSC – North/central ... commissioning
- Ofsted – East ... inspection, esp. disadvantaged pupils
- Primary TSAs (2 active, plus a EYs one)
- Secondary TSAs (5)
- Lead TSAs, Herts & Essex, St Clement Danes

Strategic School Improvement Fund

- Three substantial bids submitted
- Appears to be main feature of future support to school improvement
- LA involvement welcomed, to a degree

Major local MATs

- HfL MAT – the largest, 9 schools and growing, no secondaries
- David Meller – 5, facing challenges
- Scholars -- Sir John Lawes, 4 schools, 3 being secondary
- Alban – Sandringham, 3 schools
- Several more with 2-3 schools and growing, incl. Herts & Essex, St Clement Danes