



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 17 October 2007

SUBJECT: Progress of South Leeds High School, October 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report gives a brief summary of the progress made by South Leeds High School

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 South Leeds High School was placed in special measures following an Ofsted inspection at the beginning of June 2007.

3.0 MAIN FINDINGS

3.1 Key Stage 3 results for 2007 are very low and show little improvement from 2006. GCSE 5A*-C showed some improvement in 2007, partly related to school curriculum changes. However there is an urgent need to improve achievement at levels one and two (A*-C and A*-G), particularly in the core subjects.

3.2 The school is calmer and more settled this term. There is a better foundation for further improvement.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 South Leeds has made progress and there is a better foundation for improvement than existed previously.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Board should note the urgent need for continued support for South Leeds High School.

Agenda Item:

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Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston and Holbeck; and
MiddletonPark.

Ward Members consulted

Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in
(Details contained in the Report)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report summarise the recent progress of South Leeds High School

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 South Leeds High School was placed in special measures following an Ofsted inspection at the beginning of June 2007. The five key issues for action include: to improve teaching and learning, raise standards of achievement, improve behaviour, attitudes to learning and attendance. Leadership and management needs to be improved in the sixth form and throughout the school in order to rapidly improve outcomes for all pupils. Leadership and management was found to be inadequate at all levels

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Key Stage Three : Percentage of Pupils Achieving Level 5+

	2005	2006	2007 (target)
English	34.0	42.0	31.8 (66)
Maths	38.0	40.0	38.0 (65)
Science	27.0	30.0	29.8 (64)

3.1.1 Achievement at Key Stage 3 remained very low in 2007 and a long way short of the school targets. The maths and science results are the lowest in the city. Only 24% of pupils achieved a level 5 in both English and maths, well below the new floor target of 50%.

3.2 Key Stage Four

	2006 %	2007 % (target)
5A*-C	28	32.9 (39)
5A*-C Eng and maths	11	6.5 (26)
5A*-G	67	62.7
5A*-G Eng and maths		56.8 (84)
1A*-G	87	83.9

3.2.1 There was a slight improvement in the proportion of students gaining 5A*-C in 2007 although below the school target. The very weak performance in maths (only 9% with a C grade or better) and English (only 16% with a C grade or better) reduces the 5A*-C including English and maths figure to below 10%, the lowest in Leeds.

3.3 The other priority for urgent improvement is to increase the number of pupils gaining qualifications at level one. The 5A*-G rate is extremely low.

3.4 The school has made a more settled start to the term. Despite the fact that staff did not receive timetables until September, teaching started promptly. Advisers and consultants confirm that the school is quieter and calmer than in previous terms. Teaching is starting to improve with, for example, more consistent use of lesson objectives, although these are not yet always properly understood or used correctly.

3.5 Attendance has improved. The 2006-07 target was 85.45% and the school data shows a figure of 85.57%, with a decrease in the numbers of persistent absentees. Strategies to improve attendance are being led more systematically but figures are still not recorded consistently and accurately.

3.6 Aspects of leadership and management are improved with preparatory work established for revising strategic planning. Advisers have discussed the current arrangements with the Chair of the Trust engaged to support the leadership of the school, and are confident that the achievement of the students can be improved this year. The first monitoring visit by HMI, due this term, will see satisfactory progress if the steps described in the Local Authority statement of action continue to be taken.

3.7 The finance officer is monitoring the progress of the school in reducing the very large deficit.

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

A programme of support and development is beginning to impact on the school to address the underachievement of young people in this part of Leeds.

5 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The intervention programme will need considerable investment.

6 CONCLUSIONS

South Leeds has made progress and there is a better foundation for improvement than existed previously.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board should note the urgent need for continued support for South Leeds High School.