



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 16 July 2008

SUBJECT: The National Challenge : Schools achieving less than 30% of 5 GCSEs including English And Maths

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report outlines the response of Education Leeds to the government's 'National Challenge' that every school should have more than 30% of its students achieving five good grades at GCSE including English and Maths. The report informs Executive Board of the assessment Education Leeds has made of each school's prospects of achieving the floor targets and of the type of support and actions needed to achieve them.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The government has set a new floor target for secondary schools at Key Stage 4 of 30% 5 (A*-C) including English and Maths. The 'National Challenge' is based on a requirement for all schools to exceed the floor target by 2011. The government has introduced changes to the legislative framework to allow them to intervene where schools fail to meet the floor targets by 2011. In turn, this introduces a new expectation on when local authorities must consider using their powers of intervention. Local Authorities must consider changes to the status and governance of schools if they are unlikely to meet the target.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

Education Leeds is preparing a plan for the DCSF by the end of July 2008 showing how the Local Authority will respond to the National Challenge. A plan for each school is required by the end of September.

There are fourteen secondary schools which were below this floor target in 2007. They include some of the most improved schools in Leeds. Education Leeds is confident that the great majority of these fourteen schools will achieve 30% or more 5(A*-C) GCSEs by 2011

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Agree that the risk assessment set out in paragraph 3.4 of this report should form the basis of the Council's response to the DCSF and the requested action plan.
- b) support the continued exploration of a range of options for those schools at risk of not achieving the floor target by 2011
- c) support plans that will ensure that the majority of schools continue to make good progress towards and past the floor target

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 16 July 2008

SUBJECT: THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE. SCHOOLS BELOW THE KEY STAGE FOUR FLOOR TARGET OF 5A*-C INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

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

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2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The government has set a new floor target for secondary schools at Key Stage 4 of 30% 5 (A*-C) including English and Maths. The 'National Challenge' is based on a requirement for all schools to exceed the floor target by 2011. The government has introduced changes to the legislative framework to allow them to intervene where schools fail to meet the floor targets by 2011. In turn, this introduces a new expectation on when local authorities must consider using their powers of intervention.
- 2.2 Additional resource will be provided to improve schools, and trained advisers will take on and extend the school improvement partner function. Local Authorities

must consider changes to the status and governance of schools which are unlikely to meet the target. Local Authorities are required to submit a plan by the end of July 2008 showing in broad terms how they will respond to the national challenge. A plan from each school is required by the end of September.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 There are fourteen schools in Leeds which were below the floor target in 2007. They include some of the most improved and highest achieving schools in terms of the progress made by young people. One school is in the top one percent of schools nationally for value added from Key Stage Two to Four.

3.2 The fourteen schools fall into three broad groups and the DCSF has asked local authorities to categorise each school according to whether they are:

- **Low risk schools:** those that are already making good progress and with a relatively modest amount of support (for example just the additional time from the National Challenge Adviser) and are likely to make it above the floor sooner than 2011;
- **Medium risk schools:** those that are currently not on course to reach the floor target by 2011, but where, with additional support, will rise above the floor by 2011; and
- **High risk schools:** are those where, even with additional support, there is still a significant risk of not reaching the floor by 2011.

3.3 A summary of school performance and prospects can be found in the following table. The assessment of risk is based on the school's developing capacity to improve and on any trends in the prior attainment of children entering the school.

3.4

School	30%5A*-C including English and maths			Expected to reach target Year	Risk of not achieving the floor target by 2011
	2005	2006	2007		
Bruntcliffe	22	32	28	2008	Low
Carr Manor	25	24	24	2009	Low
Cockburn	20	17	29	2009	Low
City of Leeds	12	15	14	2011	High
Farnley Park	29	24	27	2009	Low
Intake	23	19	23	2010	High
John Smeaton	8	21	28	2009	Low
Parklands	22	16	23	2011	High
Primrose	11	17	22	2011	Medium
Rodillian	28	25	19	2009	Low
South Leeds	9	11	7	2011	High
West Leeds	24	26	25	2008	Low
Wortley	18	26	23	2009	Medium
David Young Academy	-	-	21		Low

3.5 It is the high risk schools for which the local authority needs to consider 'structural' options for the future of schools. This could include closure, academy status, establishing a trust, federation or amalgamation. Through the application of the

Local Authorities School Improvement Policy, options for some of these schools have already been presented for consideration by the Education Leeds Board and Executive Board of the Council. A decision to explore the potential of Academy status for Intake High School has already been taken, and a proposal for South Leeds High is under consideration by Executive Board today. Executive Board can expect options papers for City of Leeds, Primrose and Parklands early next term.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

4.1 Local Authorities must consider immediately, changes to the status and governance of schools which are unlikely to meet the Key Stage 4 floor target by 2011. In Leeds this includes up to five schools.

5.0 **LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Additional resource is to be provided through the national strategies to increase support for the national challenge schools. Structural options which might involve change of status, relocation or rebuilding will have implications for capital programmes.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The Executive Board is asked to:

- a) agree that the risk assessment set out in paragraph 3.4 of this report should form the basis of the Council's response to the DCSF and the requested action plan.
- b) support the continued exploration of a range of options for those schools at risk of not achieving the floor target by 2011
- c) support plans that will ensure that the majority of schools continue to make good progress towards and past the floor target