



Report of the Chief Executive of Education Leeds

North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 27th October 2008

Subject: The National Challenge and Structural Change to Secondary Provision

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report addresses the implication for schools of the Government's National Challenge, Building Schools for the Future Strategies, the Leeds 14-19 Strategy and our Every Child Matters Agenda.

In particular there is a focus on five schools, two of which serve wards of the Outer North East area.

The Executive Board report on this subject forms part of this document.

Purpose Of This Report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the Area Committee's attention the situation in Boston Spa High and Wetherby High Schools, the position regarding two further High Schools in the East/North East area of the city and how this may affect their future.

Main Issues

2. As part of the National Challenge, the government has set a new floor target for secondary schools at Key Stage 4 of 30% of its young people achieving 5 (A*-C) including English and Mathematics at GCSE. Local Authorities are required to consider structural options for schools at high risk of not achieving the floor targets by 2011. The options include closure, mergers, federation, academy or trust status.
3. Two High Schools in the east/north east area of the city are considered at high risk. These are Parklands Girls High School and Primrose High School.
4. Substantial numbers of young people travel from East Leeds to Boston Spa School and Wetherby High School. For Boston Spa this represents approximately 60% of the school population. The average travelling to learn distance for Wetherby and Boston Spa is 4.0 miles and 5.3 miles respectively.
5. Both schools are scheduled for refurbishment as part of Wave 13 of BSF and there has been some consideration as to whether this investment might be better used to develop new build provision of higher quality and which would better reflect the local need. Any such option would increase demand for provision in East Leeds.
6. The attached Executive Board (appendix A) sets out what that means and a suggested way forward.
7. Executive Board agreed to commission a review of provision in East and North East Leeds consulting with schools, ward members, young people and communities and bring forward an options paper to Executive Board later this year.
8. Education Leeds is therefore developing options for these schools, and three others falling outside the Outer North East Committee area (Parklands Girls High School, Primrose High and City of Leeds High School).

Recommendations

9. The Committee notes the Executive Boards Report and its implications.
10. The Committee provides feedback to Education Leeds to inform the early stages of this review.