

# Education Improvement Programme Update **January 2013**

## Focus on Innovations Fund Projects

Twelve projects were set up in the Summer Term 2012. These are led by a range of partners, including Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership, headteachers, consultants and Children's Services staff. They originally sat outside the Education Improvement Programme and were funded by the Innovations Fund (IF). Four of the Education Improvement projects, Closing the Gap, Early Years Strategy, Reading Strategy and Outdoor Learning have also received funding from the Innovations Fund.

Milestones for these projects have now been incorporated into the Education Improvement Programme plan and monthly project reviews start in January 2013. Progress, successes, achievements and ultimately, impact, will be reported regularly to the Education Improvement Programme Group and the Education Strategic Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council.

Here is a brief description of these projects and an overview of progress to date.

- **Early Years Teaching Centre Consortium** ("Chattering Nineteen to the Dozen") – research project to develop expressive language in children from birth to age 5. Manchester Metropolitan University started the research project in January with children from Midland Road Nursery, Westbourne Primary, Canterbury Children's Centre, Horton Park Primary, Strong Close Nursery and Parkwood Primary School. Findings will be presented at a training day in October 2013.
- **Support for learning and language development in early years through music** – supporting teachers to deliver music activities that develop language skills. Eight training sessions were held for schools between September and December 2012 led by an early years' music specialist. Positive feedback about impact has been received. Two class observations have been carried out at Victoria Primary and Miriam Lord Primary schools.
- **Language for Learning** – making a difference to children's language opportunities earlier in their lives. A steering group has been set up; information booklets created and distributed to all schools in September 2012, headteacher conference and workshop delivered in September 2012 was attended by 28 headteachers. A Drop Box facility has been created for bespoke training programmes developed and delivered during the Autumn Term 2012; partnership working initiated in two inter-school triads, Talking School audits supported with 13 schools; first manager network session held for 12 schools in November 2012.
- **Powerful Learning** - incorporating three strands:
  1. **Outstanding provision for Literacy and English as an additional language** – developing a professional learning community of active educationalists committed to all students reaching their full potential.

**2. Effective transitions across the District** – building stronger transitions between primary and secondary settings through a digital leadership scheme for Key Stage 2/3 students.

**3. Innovative teaching and learning** – introducing more creative aspects to the learning experience.

- **Media Literacy** – in partnership with Bradford UNESCO City of Film to raise children's levels of attainment in writing through film literacy activities in targeted schools. Nine schools have enrolled on the programme working with 12 year groups; follow-up sessions have been completed and initial feedback is positive. Schools are now using the training with targeted groups of children.
- **Sharing Effective Practice** – developing a shared platform to showcase local best practice. This project is currently being re-planned.
- **Aspiring Leaders** – developing a team of 18 aspiring assistant and deputy headteachers to work in schools promoting school to school leadership partnerships. The programme is over-subscribed, 14 schools have been identified and 18 leaders will be trained to become aspiring leaders. Five days of intensive leadership development will be delivered between January and June 2013.
- **Aiming High** – challenging potentially higher achieving children to achieve appropriate levels, particularly level 6 by targeting level 6 children in schools by securing sustainable infrastructure to support on line learning.
- **Bradford Leadership Development** - incorporating 7 strands: developing a culture for growth; developing deputy and assistant headteachers; developing school business managers; creating a diverse leaders' programme; developing an aspirant headteacher programme; developing a Bradford leader of governance scheme; LLE (Local Leaders of Education) and NLE (National Leaders of Education) deployment and development of a Bradford Leader of Education – inspiring innovative, highly skilled leaders to lead learning in Bradford. An action plan has been produced. Groups have been set up and action plans are being worked through. A co-ordinator to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the action plan has been appointed. Auditing activities has taken place to establish base-line data.
- **Outdoor Learning Strategy** - incorporating 3 strands: promoting outdoor education; engaging Bradford families in outdoor learning; innovative curriculum. A marketing manager has been appointed and a working group established and they are currently developing a marketing strategy and planning to produce a film to promote outdoor learning to schools and parents. A teaching and learning group has been established and on-line provision will be created to provide innovative curriculum resources for schools. Develop the outdoor learning activity centre at Nell Bank to support learning for children with additional needs. Detailed refurbishments at the 3 Outdoor Education Centres, Buckden House, Ingleborough Hall and Nell Bank, have been identified.
- **Pscals Moderation** – establishing a sample of moderated examples of work across attainment levels P1 to P8 in English, Maths and Personal and Social Development. A website and resource library is being developed with over 60 video clips of

moderated evidence to be uploaded during the Spring Term 2013. Key ways of working have been agreed and assessment skills developed to support staff in schools.

- **School support staff workforce development** – assisting school improvement through targeted workforce development. A new 5 day induction programme for pastoral staff in schools commences in March 2013. A category 1 school has been supported in piloting a programme to establish effective performance management linked to school improvement.

## Closing the Gap

This project has identified priorities for closing attainment gaps of specific groups of children. The strategy focuses on the identification and sharing of good practice and the development of new practice. The project is linked to and is building on the Early Learning Strategy, the Reading Strategy and Powerful Learning. It is also a strand of the Council's overall Poverty Strategy.

Three strands of work have been identified: closing the gap for Free School Meal pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 through dissemination of existing good practice and development of further successful practice; producing curriculum guidance for New Arrivals in Key Stage 4; and reducing health inequalities through working with a group of schools to implement a behaviour change programme which will be shared with all schools.

## Progress to date

Details of case studies of good practice in Bradford primary schools in closing gaps between children on free school meals and others have been completed and have been launched accompanied by summaries of national research and links to other relevant resources. They are located on Bradford Schools Online (BSO) within the section on Equality, Diversity and Achievement and can be accessed directly from [Closing the Gap blog](#). The site has had 123+ hits so far.

The primary schools in Central Keighley, Keighley First Local Achievement Partnership (LAP), have begun an action research project to close gaps drawing on the resources which have been developed.

Resources to support the development of outstanding practice for new arrivals with English as an Additional Language (EAL) in Key Stage 4 are now available. [They are located on BSO within the section on Equality, Diversity and Achievement](#). Many of these resources are also relevant to Key Stage 3 and some are applicable across the whole age range. A group of secondary school senior leaders is working with the project team to identify successful strategies in schools which will be shared with all secondary schools. In addition, six secondary schools are piloting the use of innovative technology through learning tools to support students in the early stages of language acquisition.

Schools have been selected for the Behaviour Change model. A website has been developed for these schools to audit current provision and to identify a developmental focus. The lifestyle survey of all schools has now started and will be completed by June 2013. This is aimed at all settings, including those in the private sector.

Ros is particularly interested to hear from more schools with good practice in closing FSM/non-FSM gaps.

**[Ros Garside](#)** is leading on this project and can be contacted on 01274 385796.

### **Future Updates**

The Education Improvement Strategic Board meets on a bi-monthly basis. Regular updates will be issued to staff following these meetings. Information will also be provided to staff through team briefings and staff one-to-ones.

### **Programme Team Information**

The Programme Team is based in City Hall. Call on 01274 431020/434010 or email **[Education Services Review PMO](#)** if you require further information about the programme.