

Education Improvement Programme Update **January 2012**

Plans are now underway for the next phase of the Education Services Review Programme.

Phase 4 of the programme is focusing on education improvement. The programme is being led by Sue Colman, Assistant Director Education and School Improvement, and comprises eleven projects.

Approval for these projects was agreed at the programme's Strategic Board meeting in December. The project teams will be working with staff and stakeholders over the coming months to develop outcomes for the programme.

The first five of these projects are strategic priority projects established as part of the Council's Education Improvement strategy. These are to:

- develop a coherent strategy for early learning that will ensure that the children of Bradford begin their formal education ready to learn
- develop an agreed and implemented approach to prioritising schools in need of additional support and challenge
- agree the priorities for closing the attainment level gap of specific groups of children
- agree a strategy for ensuring that all those capable of reading at age six have achieved that outcome
- put in place strategies to raise aspirations and provide the children and young people of Bradford opportunities to achieve success

The first four of these are strategic priority projects established as part of the Council's Education Improvement strategy and supplement the priorities previously established through the Raising Achievement Strategy: Language for Learning, Powerful Learning and Leadership for Learning.

The remaining six projects are what are called 'task and finish' projects established in response to reductions in funding and/or other departmental transformational priorities. These include:

A review of Governor Services

The review is being undertaken through consultation with governors across the district. It will consider how governor support services can strengthen the effectiveness of governance and accountability in schools. A draft report for this project will go to the Education Improvement Programme Board on 31 January 2012.

A review of Ethnic Minority Achievement

In April 2011, the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMA) ceased to be a ring-fenced grant and became included within the Dedicated Schools Grant. Historically, a small amount was retained for key central support services with the majority being allocated out to schools.

Locally, the Schools' Forum agreed a continued ring-fence of the EMA up to the end of April 2012.

The Council is reviewing existing central services funded through the EMA before March 2012 so it can make recommendations for the service model for 1 April 2012 and beyond. In consultation with staff and head teachers, the project will look at how resources can be used most efficiently so that they align with the needs of the population and reflect best practice.

A review of School Organisation Planning

This project seeks to develop an Education Organisation Plan which gives a longer term view (5 – 10 years) across the whole 0-19 age range, and which aligns to the outcomes of the Local Development Framework proposals and non LA schools.

The plan would strengthen the Council's ability to engage with organisations such as the DfE and Free Schools on the allocation of capital resources, and would inform the Capital Investment Plan.

A review of Learning and Curriculum Services

This project is looking at how this team will deliver services to schools in the future. Consultation has already taken place, for a revised service. The project intends to offer options to the Senior Management team for its consideration and will make a recommendation regarding the preferred option for future provision.

A review of Outdoor Learning Strategy

The project team will work closely with schools to look at how the Council can optimize the use of outdoor provision and opportunities for children, young people and adults in Bradford. It will include a review of outdoor learning and the process of service delivery.

A review of the Bradford Learning Network (BLN)

This project will seek to establish the agreement of School Forum to provide the funds the BLN requires to continue the services to schools up to September 2012. It will also look to develop an agreement to start a procurement project for a learning network beyond September 2012.

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 EducationServicesReviewPMO@bradford.gov.uk. if you require further information about the programme.