

## **Education Improvement Programme Update May 2012**

### **Progress is being made**

Positive progress continues to be made across most project areas with some projects now drawing to a close and delivering the projected benefits described in project initiation documents.

For example, the Learning & Curriculum project has closed having delivered to time and plan.

A business case is being produced for a new area of work to be called Sharing Best Practice. This involves the development of a portal which will allow schools and other partner organisations to easily access, share, collaborate and comment on a wide range of educational resources and provide social media tools that enable the development of existing and new online networks.

The draft Education Improvement Strategy was considered and approved by the Programme Group and the Strategic Board.

### **The review of Governor Services**

The review of Governor Services continues in line with the project plan. Tasks completed to date include:

- Completion and analysis of responses to a governor survey carried out in the Autumn Term 2011. Over 150 responses were received from governors, proportionately spread across the district.
- Feedback from meetings with Local Authority (LA) governors and chairs of governor held during the Autumn Term 2011.
- Exploration of identified proposals with governors at the Spring Term 2012 Governor briefings.

As a result of feedback received, five areas were identified that could enhance how the School Governor Service can strengthen the effectiveness of governance and accountability in schools. They include sending information to governors electronically, a single termly meeting for all governors, more flexible governor training provision such as e-learning and twilight sessions, greater support for school based clerks and the development of clerking standards, and the revival of a governors' focus group.

These five recommendations will be taken to the Education Improvement Programme Board later in the Summer Term 2012 for approval and implementation in the new academic year 2012/13.

Pat Elcock is leading this project and can be contacted on 01274 385629 or [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk)

### **The review of Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMA) Service**

We have now reached a stage that HR matters have all been addressed and SLAs with schools are in production. New service and structure will be in place from 3 September 2012.

### **The Outdoor Learning Strategy**

The project team continues to work closely with schools and Centre Managers to look at how the Council can optimize the use of outdoor provision and opportunities for children, young people and adults in Bradford.

We are currently working with schools to develop and explore options for the residential centres which addresses the need to make them more attractive to school staff, offering the flexibility to make them more widely available to schools throughout the year, with enhanced scope to support individualised and personalised learning, thus making an even stronger contribution to the drive to raise attainment in Bradford.

We are also working with schools to review how the centres can complement and enhance curriculum support to schools.

A corporate website has now been created with links to each of the individual centres.

Jim Hughes is leading on this project and can be contacted on 01274 385585 or by email [jim.hughes@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:jim.hughes@bradford.gov.uk)

### **The review of the Bradford Learning Network (BLN)**

The BLN Project is progressing to a conclusion with intense negotiation between the prospective supplier and the School Reference Group. Significant savings, when compared with the current solution, will be realised and at the same time a significant technological uplift will be secured.

### **The Reading Strategy**

Following the Headteacher Conference in March 2012 and through continued consultation with key stakeholders, including the Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership, there continues to be strong support for the development of a more district-wide strategy to support and develop reading. The following actions have been prioritised for action over the next 12 months.

1. Support the annual Summer Reading Challenge in schools in partnership with public libraries during the summer term in order to minimise the summer "reading dip" and to engage parents in reading with their children over the summer break.
2. Provide twilight training sessions for Year 1 teachers to exemplify best practice in administering the phonics screening test.
3. Design a Bradford-based Volunteer Reading Programme to support schools by using Council employees. Provide appropriate training week beginning 16 July, 2012.
4. Local Authority (LA) officers were involved in delivering workshops in partnership with schools at the Governor conference in May and the BPIP Headteacher conference in September.

The project team is working in close partnership with schools to identify and collate good practice whilst the development of a new web-based platform is underway. In the interim, key resources are now readily available to all schools through the Edmodo website hosted on one of the Council's Curriculum ICT websites to support them in ensuring that all those capable of reading at age six have achieved that outcome.

Jane Arundale and Chris Clark are leading this project and can be contacted direct on [jane.arundale@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:jane.arundale@bradford.gov.uk) and [chris.clark@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:chris.clark@bradford.gov.uk)

## **The Early Learning Strategy**

The draft strategy document has been produced and was presented to the Education Improvement Board on 20 April 2012.

The Early Learning Steering Group began the consultation process on 2 May 2012 with a Headteachers' briefing. Further briefing sessions took place during May for leaders and managers of registered settings, children's centres and Local Authority staff.

Responses to the consultation are through SurveyMonkey, an online survey facility, until 22 June

The idea is to form a number of working groups on key focus areas within the strategy and representatives for these groups are being sought from the breadth of early education providers

Anne Manns and Dulcie Leach are leading on this project. Anne can be contacted on 01274 431812 or by email [anne.manns@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:anne.manns@bradford.gov.uk) and Dulcie can be contacted on 01274 385728 or by email [dulcie.leach@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:dulcie.leach@bradford.gov.uk)

## **School Prioritisation Process**

On Friday 20 April Bradford Council's Education Improvement Strategy Board agreed and signed off the revised Prioritisation Process. An important part of producing this revised process has been the comments, advice and direct input received from schools, Headteachers and governors through the consultation process that closed on 16 March 2012. A summary of the consultation responses has been placed on Bradford Schools Online in a short 2-page document. The final version of the Prioritisation document has benefited from these changes and a copy has been sent to all schools.

The Prioritisation Process is one of the means by which the Local Authority (LA) carries out its statutory duties to ensure that all its maintained schools and educational establishments, provide a high quality educational experience for pupils. Bradford Council operates a system of School Prioritisation which allows the Local Authority to assess the performance of schools, judge the degree of risk where children are not receiving a satisfactory education, and respond where necessary.

Once fully up and running, the revised process will operate on an annual cycle with schools proposing their Priority Level during the Autumn Term and the Local Authority (LA) agreeing those through a moderation process in January of the

following year. However as a final 'test' for the revised process it will run during the Summer Term 2012.

The timeline is as follows:

- Schools were requested to provide a 'proposed Priority Level' by Monday 21 May 2012
- The extended School Improvement Group (SIG) meeting will be convened on 11 June 2012 to discuss Priority Levels (membership of this group is included in the Prioritisation document and includes representation from Headteachers and governors)
- All schools will receive notification (email and letter) of their reviewed Priority Level by Friday 22 June 2012

**Phil Weston** is leading on this project and can be contacted on 01274 385871.

### **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. Case studies will be disseminated in September 2012. The project is linked to and will build on the Early Learning Strategy and the Reading 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.

In relation to Free School Meal gaps, primary schools have been identified for case studies and these will be carried out by the end of May. Two meetings involving Local Authority (LA) teams and school leaders have taken place in relation to Key Stage 4 New Arrivals and curriculum planning for September is on track. Work on the Behaviour Change model is beginning later this term.

Ros Garside is leading on this project and can be contacted on 01274 385796 or by email [ros.garside@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:ros.garside@bradford.gov.uk)

### **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](mailto:EducationServicesReviewPMO@bradford.gov.uk). if you require further information about the programme.