Division(s): All

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 OCTOBER 2015

Update Report and Changes to the LA Risk Register for the Local Authority Arrangements to Support School Improvement (LAASSI) Inspection Framework

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. Education Scrutiny Committee was initially briefed in April 2015 about the inspection framework and implications for the local authority. A subsequent meeting took place between officers from the Education and Learning service and the chair and vice chair of Education Scrutiny to ensure that the forward plan covered the full range of scrutiny areas expected of an effective local authority.

2. This second update report provides an overview of the progress to date by officers in the LAASSI. It highlights changes to the risk assessment triggers.

Preparatory Actions taken by Officers

3. The LAASSI Forum, chaired by the Deputy Director for Education and Learning, meets regularly and oversees the preparation and evidence collection. Its work and that of other officers since the July update has included :

    a. Publication of the **Autumn Term Position Statements** for all primary schools to help keep all schools under review, ensuring that Headteachers and Governing Bodies are alerted to any issues requiring improvement action in a timely manner.

    b. The new **traded service for performance data** has been started for schools. Take up remains low especially from schools causing concern.

    c. The initial **short term action plan for LAASSI** was completed at the September meeting of the LAASSI Forum. Of the 45 actions 56% have been rated green and signed off as complete, 8% remain red and 34% remain amber and these residual actions will roll forward into the longer term action plan for the academic year 2015-16.

    d. The **Self Evaluation Position Statement (SEPS)** has been completed but will need regular review and updating to keep it fresh and current.

    e. The **storyboard of key strengths and areas for development** against each of the four inspection reporting areas has been further refined. There is still further work to be done on this, and as the SEPS is refreshed so the Storyboard will need to correspondingly updated.

    f. The **Directory of Evidence** has now been finalised and provides a comprehensive evidence base to support the information provided in the SEPS. It is tightly cross referenced to the inspection framework criteria and

an additional section of strategic overarching documents has been organised.

g. A range of **Case Studies** to exemplify specific aspects of the inspection Framework and Oxfordshire's strengths have been drafted. These are being prioritised to provide an optimal number that reflects the range of strengths we wish to promote. They will be published in a Case Study Directory during this term. Steps now need to be taken to ensure that future case study material is collated so that current process and outcome evidence is always to hand.

h. The **website for sharing effective practice between schools** has been designed and is now registered as *'The KEEP'* (**K**nowledge and **E**ffective **E**ducational **P**ractice). A focus group of headteachers from a range of partnerships (Area Partnerships, Aspiration Networks and Collaborative Companies) has been involved as a user reference group and submitted draft material of effective practice in September. It is anticipated that the website will go live for all schools before the October half-term. Funding for the website has been approved from the Strategic Schools Partnership Commissioning Fund, however a schools based part-time coordinator for the website has yet to be secured.

i. The **Strategic Schools Partnership Board** has launched its Operational Group for school to school support. The new manager for School Quality Assurance will be instrumental in working in partnership with schools to ensure that the right support packages are designed and available to schools and governing bodies as part of their school improvement planning.

j. The interim manager for **Leadership Development and Governance** started in September and will be driving forward the Leadership Development Framework that embodies the Ofsted requirements of Theme 7 in the inspection framework.

Risk Assessment

4. There are eight main triggers which form the basis of regional identification of LAs for school improvement inspections. These will change on a termly basis as schools are inspected and their outcomes may improve the LA's position - or alternatively increase the risk level. The table below reflects Oxfordshire's position at September 2015.

Criteria/Triggers for Inspection April 2015	LA Evaluation (RAG)	Trend	Comment	Data
1. % CYP in Good/Outstanding Schools/Pupil Referral Units/ Alternative Provision is lower than nationally	**Green**	⇧	Primary : Slightly above national Secondary: Significantly above	Interim data: **Primary 85%** *National 84%* **(Ranked 88th)** **Secondary 89%** *National 77%* **(Ranked 34th)**

2. Higher than average number of schools in an Ofsted category and/or where progress of schools in a category is not rapidly improving	**Green**	⇧	Primary: Slightly below national Secondary: Significantly below national No secondary schools are inadequate. The number of inadequate primary schools has increased to 4 (including 3 academies)	Ofsted category refers to Inadequate & Requires Improvement. End July data: **Primary 13%** *National 15%* **Secondary 11%** (4 schools) *National 26%*
3. % of Good and Outstanding schools is lower than national average	**Green**	⇧	Primary: Slightly above national Secondary: Significantly above national	**Primary 88%.** *National 85%* **Secondary 89%** *National 74%* However the % of Outstanding schools is lower than nationally.
4. Attainment Levels are lower than national average and/or improvement trends are weak	**Amber**	Mixed ⇔	EYFSP likely to be in line with national (data expected Nov) KS1 – likely to be slightly above national (data expected end Sep) KS2 : In line with national. KS4 : *Data due October*	**EYFSP – 66%** Provisional KS1: **R 92%** **W 88%** **M 94%** Provisional. KS2: **80%** *In line with National*
5. Rates of Progress, relative to starting points, are lower than national average and/or improvement trends are weak	**Green**	⇧	KS 1-2 : Above national KS 2-4 : 2015 nya but 2014 strongly above national	KS1-2: **Reading 92%** *National 91%* **Writing 95%** *National 94%* **Maths 90%** *National 90%* KS2-4 data expected late October
6. Pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium achieve less well than pupils not eligible for the PP nationally	**Red**	?	National data not yet available for comparison KS2 data available Dec. KS4 data available Jan	Pupil premium gaps (within LA) at KS2 narrowed slightly.
7. Qualifying complaints to Ofsted about schools in LA	**Green**	⇔	None that the LA is aware of	
8. Where the SoS requires an inspection of LA SI functions	**Amber**	⇔	The latest termly meeting with the HMI for Ofsted was positive in that the OCC gap data for vulnerable groups has closed slightly but our confirmed risk status is unknown until national comparative data is available.	

Conclusion

5. The Council is on track in terms of its preparation for a potential Ofsted inspection and has completed the bulk of the detailed preparation subject to a process for regular review and refresh of the evidence and data. The focus now needs to be on :
   - Refining the evidence base to demonstrate a coherent story of our progress and our future priorities within the resource envelope.
   - Consolidating partnership relationships with schools during a period of diminishing school and local authority budgets.
   - Maintaining high aspirations for pupil outcomes.
   - Reinforcing the responsibility of the schools to drive forward and fund their own improvement.

RECOMMENDATION

6. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note this Update Report and continue to ensure that their forward work plan contains appropriate Scrutiny coverage of the nine inspection themes**

JIM LEIVERS
Director for Children's Services

Contact Officer: Rebecca Matthews, Interim Deputy Director Education & Learning, Tel: (01865) 815125

September 2015

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Scrutiny Committee Annual/Biannual Plan re. School Improvement

Period	Topic	Comments
Summer	**Ofsted views of Oxfordshire Schools** (including statistical neighbour comparatives of schools in each category and programmes to shift more schools from RI to Good and Good to Outstanding and the impact of those programmes).	
	Update of the LAASSI Self-Evaluation Position Statement re. Inspection Readiness (including summary of changes from previous version)	
	The quality of Governing Bodies in Oxfordshire and relevant issues	
	Traded Services to Support school improvements (Range/Budget And Income/Evaluations/Partnerships/Complement to Core Offer and Core Offer plus)	
	LA Statutory Assessment and Moderation Report : Key Findings & Issues	
	Early Years Annual Report OR **Phase Reports : Early Years/Primary/Special/Secondary/Post 16)** Performance/Strengths & issues/Priority Provision Focus Areas	
Autumn	**Schools Performance (Data) across key Indicators for <u>all</u> schools** (Split by maintained/academies and for disadvantaged groups/vulnerable learners PLUS Data Profile Sets for Area Partnerships)	*Local Member/Cllr Reports for Partnership Area – officer capacity*
	Education Strategies 1. Education Strategy 2015-18 2. Vulnerable Learners – excellence and equity 3. Closing the Gap 4. School Quality Assurance Framework 5. Leadership Development Framework	
	Post 16 Provision **(Performance data, Issues and Strategies for improvement)**	
	School to School Support 1. The picture for OCC in terms of accredited providers 2. Examples of effective school to school support 3. Input from the OTSA and an Area Partnership	
	Schools Status School Places/Position of academies/conversions/sponsored/ sponsors list	
Spring	**Schools Causing Concern and Underperforming Schools** Status Report & summary of provision/ thematic implications for LA/ S&LS	
	Schools Views on services from LA for under-performing schools Case Studies of Success/Issues. School Visits by scrutiny members	
	SEN issues inc. Special Schools Perspectives and Alternative Provision	
	Attendance (Performance Data, Issues and Strategies for Improvement)	
	Behaviour and Exclusions (Performance Data, Issues and Strategies for Improvement)	
	Admissions	