

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Subject: **A Review of Ofsted School Inspections in Kent 2012-2013**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: This report provides an overview of Ofsted Inspections in Kent overall and provides a detailed overview of the Ofsted Inspections in Kent for the school year 2012-13. This paper also indicates the improvement rate for Kent overall in terms of Ofsted outcomes and in particular the improvement and progress achieved in improving the quality of education in Kent schools in 2012-13.

Recommendation:

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the positive outcomes and improved progress for Kent schools in Ofsted inspection outcomes in the 2012-13

1. Introduction

1.1 All schools are subject to regular Ofsted Inspections. Schools are judged to be outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. The expectation is that all schools will be at least good. Schools that are judged to require improvement now receive regular Ofsted HMI monitoring visits with the expectation that they will be re-inspected and judged Good within two years. Schools that are judged to be Good or Outstanding are normally re-inspected within a three to five year schedule, depending on Ofsted's risk assessments. Following the risk assessment in the third year following inspection, some schools that are Good or Outstanding are informed by Ofsted that their inspection has been deferred for a further twelve months. Schools that are judged inadequate in their Ofsted inspection are expected to convert to academy status and be managed by another school or chain under the government's sponsored academy programme.

2. School Breakdown

2.1 Following inspections in the last school year, 54% of schools are now judged by Ofsted to be good schools and 16% of schools are judged outstanding. A total of 70% of schools are good or outstanding overall in Kent. The national average is 78%. The south east region average is 77% and Kent is ranked 15 out of 18 south east local authorities. The range is 64% to 88% for good and outstanding schools in these local authorities. In comparable counties such as Hampshire and Surrey the figure is 80% or more good and outstanding schools. We have more to do, therefore, to bring about the necessary improvement in the quality of schools in Kent to achieve our target figure of 85%.

2.2 The progress in Kent during the past year, however, represents significant improvement compared to September 2012 when 59% of schools were judged

good or outstanding, and 2011 when the figure was 56%. Nationally there has been a nine point increase and in Kent an eleven point increase in the number of good and outstanding schools in the past year. This is significant.

- 2.2 In addition there are 139 (23.5%) schools that still require improvement. This figure includes 114 Primary schools, 17 Secondary schools, and 8 Special Schools and PRUs and is a significant improvement on September 2012 when there were 210 schools (36%) requiring improvement. 22 schools (3.7%) are inadequate. A small number of schools do not have an Ofsted judgement following recent amalgamation or conversion to academy status.
- 2.3 There has been significant improvement in the number of 'good' schools (54%) compared to September 2012 when 40% of schools were rated good. While there is a small decrease the number of outstanding schools from 98 to 93, in the same period to September 2013, overall there has been a significant rise in good and outstanding provision in Kent. This is very welcome.
- 2.4 There are 22 schools currently in an Ofsted category of concern. This number is an increase of 2 schools from September 2012. However, during the course of the year 12 schools came out of category following re-inspection and were judged good or requiring improvement.
- 2.6 From September 2013, there are 29 schools currently without an Ofsted judgement because they are considered to be new schools (16 Primary academies, 3 Maintained Primary schools, 2 Primary Free schools, 5 Secondary academies and 3 Secondary Free schools).

3. Primary Schools Overall

- 3.1 As of September 2013 there are 297 (66%) good or outstanding Primary schools in Kent. This is a significant improvement on 2012 when there were 246 (55%) good or outstanding Primary schools. Our Bold Steps target for this year was 64%.
- 3.2 Similarly between 2012 and September 2013 there has been a significant reduction in the number of schools requiring improvement. This has decreased from 177 (40%) in 2012 to 114 (25%) in September 2013.
- 3.3 There are 18 Primary Schools currently in an Ofsted category of concern, having been judged inadequate.
- 3.4 As of September 2013 out of the 450 Primary schools, there are 21 schools that do not have a current Ofsted judgement.

4. Secondary Schools Overall

- 4.1 As of September 2013 there are 74 Secondary schools (74%) that are judged good or outstanding compared to 68% last year. Our Bold Steps target for this year was 77%.
- 4.2 17 Secondary schools (16%) require improvement and 3 schools (2.9%) have been judged inadequate. There are 8 schools without an Ofsted inspection

judgement as a result of being a new school, a recently converted academy or an amalgamated school.

- 4.3 This is a significantly improved position on 2012 when there were 68 (68%) good and outstanding Secondary schools, 23 schools (23%) requiring improvement and 5 schools (5%) judged inadequate, in an Ofsted category of concern.

5. Special Schools Overall

- 5.1 As of September 2013, among the 24 Special schools there are 18 schools (75%) judged good or outstanding. Our Bold Steps target for this year was 85%. Five schools (21%) require improvement and one school is inadequate.

- 5.2 This is a slightly reduced position on September 2012 when there were 19 (80%) good and outstanding Special schools and 4 schools (17%) requiring improvement. One school (3%) was inadequate. This small decline is disappointing.

6. Pupil Referral Units Overall

- 6.1 In the past year before the PRU Review there were 16 Pupil Referral Units in Kent and 12 (75%) were judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. Three Pupil Referral Units (19%) require improvement and one is inadequate.

- 6.2 This is an improved position on 2012 when there were 11 Pupil Referral Units (69%) judged good and outstanding and 3 (19%) requiring improvement and one (6%) inadequate. (Please note that the 2012 data includes one PRU that had not had its first inspection due to an amalgamation)

7. Inspections during 2012 – 2013

- 7.1` During the 2012-13 school year, there were 202 Ofsted inspections in Kent Primary and Secondary schools. 58% of Primary and Secondary schools that were inspected during 2012 – 2013 achieved a good or outstanding judgement. 35% of the schools inspected were judged to require improvement and 7% were found to be inadequate. These latter figures are too high, and although we are seeing an improving trend we cannot achieve our goal of every child attending a good school if 35% of schools most recently inspected are no better than 'requires improvement' or 7% are rated inadequate.

- 7.2 83% of Special schools and 100% of PRUs inspected during 2012-2013 achieved a good or outstanding judgement by Ofsted. No Special schools or PRUs were judged to be inadequate.

8. Direction of Travel

- 8.1. The overall position for all Kent schools is that on their latest inspection judgements 196 schools improved compared to their previous inspection judgement, 196 schools maintained the same level of performance and 78 schools declined.

8.2 During the 2012-2013 school year, of the 202 Primary and Secondary school inspections that took place, 88 schools (44%) improved compared to 39% nationally, 74 schools (37%) maintained their performance compared to 41% nationally, and 40 schools (19%) declined compared to 18% nationally. Six schools had no previous inspection history on which to determine their direction of travel. Overall 71 schools inspected improved from Satisfactory to Good.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The improving trend and increase in the number of good schools is positive. A greater proportion of schools inspected in 2012-13 improved compared to the national figure. The rate of improvement in the schools that have moved from satisfactory to good is more or less in line with the national trend in the past year.

9.2 However too many schools declined in 2012-13 and too many (35%) were judged to require improvement. There is still much to do to ensure we achieve our target of 85% of Secondary and Primary schools achieving a good inspection outcome, and all Special schools being at least good. The rate of improvement has to gather more pace in the coming school year and the focus will be on ensuring the 114 Primary Schools and the 17 Secondary Schools that require improvement become good schools within the next two years. In addition we need to ensure that all schools that are good or outstanding retain their judgements and that more good schools move to outstanding. As we move forward no school should go into an Ofsted category of concern.

9.2 The School Improvement Service is clearly focused on the support and challenge required to drive this improvement and working with individual schools, with collaborations, Teaching Schools and other partners, we intend to see no schools in category after a further nine months and all schools requiring improvement will be good within two years.

10. Recommendation(s)

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the positive outcomes and improved direction of travel for Ofsted inspection outcomes in Kent schools both overall and in particular the improvements achieved in the 2012-13 school year.

10. Contact details

Report Author

- Sue Rogers
- Director Quality and Standards
- 01622 694983
- Sue.rogers@kent.gov.uk