

EDUCATION SERVICE REVIEW 2003-2004

SUMMARY

Background

In 2002 the Education Service agreed a new four-year strategy document, which set the direction for many of the other Education plans and strategies. The Education Service Strategy focused on four Strategic Priorities:

- Continuing to Raise Pupil Achievement
- Targeting Services for Individual Children and Families
- Regenerating and Empowering the Community through Learning
- Making Effective Use of Resources

It also included seventeen Strategic Targets to evaluate the progress of the Strategy. These are set out at the end of this summary. This review measures progress made against each of the seventeen targets during 2003-04, showing the latest position, evidence of progress, any current shortfall on the target and the priority tasks for 2004-05.

The period 2003-04 has been a significant time for Education Services in Harrow. The implementation of the New Harrow Project has progressed and this will be the last year in which the Education Service Review takes its current form.

The Government's '5 year Strategy for Children and Learning' and the Children's Bill have now been published and will have implications for the way in which we structure services. From next April we expect the Education Development Plan to be replaced with a 'Children & Young People Plan', which will also incorporate a number of other existing statutory plans.

The People First Directorate is now established and the remaining structural reviews will soon be complete with newly configured departments focused on achieving high quality and better integration of services for communities and especially their children and young people.

Developments in 2003-04

Areas of progress in 2003-04 extend across all aspects of education and cultural provision: the range and quality of provision in the Foundation Stage; the continuing emphasis on raising achievement for all throughout Key Stages 1 to 4; extending family learning; work with young people through youth settings; adult education; and opportunities in the Arts, in Leisure and Sports activities.

Harrow pupils continue to record overall high levels of attainment at all key stages and in GCSE. The Authority maintains its reputation for particularly strong value-added results and progress continues in the local implementation of the national strategies both in Primary and Key Stage 3. The Harrow 14-19 pathfinder has helped to stimulate developments across high schools to widen the range of vocational and alternative

curriculum opportunities for young people and introducing some AS level study for higher attaining pupils in some schools. Harrow took part in the pilot for teacher assessments at Key Stage 1 and an ambitious series of whole-school learning projects were established during the year with over 30 schools across all phases involved.

The newly refurbished Hillview Centre will be formally opened in early October, providing upgraded facilities for high quality childcare and education for 2-5 year olds and a whole new range of services to support families and their young children. Tyneholme nursery moved into purpose built new buildings in Stanmore in September and will be developing additional services in the coming year. Harrow's first education PFI programme, providing two new special schools and upgraded facilities at Little Stanmore, is now well underway and in September 04 the first phase has been realised; it has been remarked that the experience of walking through the new building is "inspirational". A new state of the art library alongside a youth centre, healthy living and medical centre will be opening as part of the Wealdstone Centre this autumn. Another exciting first is the provision of broadband connection to the London Grid for Learning; Harrow has achieved this in all schools two years ahead of national targets. Together with the provision of interactive whiteboards, this is accelerating developments in e-learning. Harrow is now at the leading edge nationally in the provision of interactive whiteboards across all its schools.

Budgetary pressures have been a significant concern for schools during 2003-04, reflecting a national situation triggered in the 2003 schools' budget. Headteachers and officers have worked together to understand the underlying issues to inform the 2004 budgetary process. The situation has eased in the 2004 budget and work with schools is on-going. Work on school organisation has been centred on preparing funding bids in the context of the national programme: Building Schools for the Future; Harrow is awaiting news on the outcome of these later this year. In partnership with the Learning and Skills Council, work has been on-going through-out the year with high schools, colleges and other stakeholders on developing models for 16-19 from which a vision for the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate is proposed.

The three Local Public Service Agreement area school groups have continued to develop focused support for learners and extended community activities. Two of the areas are now aligned as Community Pilots within the New Harrow Project to develop extended and community schools. This is supported by the People First Area Directorate and a programme has been developed to rollout extended and community school provision across all areas.

There have been many significant developments across Harrow, centrally and in schools and other settings throughout 2003-04.

Key Messages from the Strategic Targets Data

The attached review of each of the 17 Strategic Targets show progress over the past year. When evaluating the outcomes below and in the main document, it should be recognised that the targets are intended to represent progress over the four-year period and would not in several instances have been expected to have been achieved at the end of one year. In summary the main messages are as follows.

1. Harrow's results at Key Stages 2,3 and 4 are above the national average and are continuing to improve overall at each Key Stage. Targets for 2004 were challenging and schools have made good progress towards them.
 - The majority of Pupil Guarantees are being met.
 - The proportion of good and better teaching is sustained from the previous year and in line with national averages.
 - There continue to be concerns about the attainment of under-achieving groups, those on free school meals, children looked after, certain ethnic groups and boys.
 - The number of exclusions remain too high although there has been a reduction in the percentage of recurring exclusions for individual pupils.
 - Good leadership and management in schools continues to improve.
 - Attendance rates have continued to increase and there is a significant reduction in the unauthorised rate in both primary and secondary schools.
2. The three Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) area projects have initiated a range of activities across schools and within the community that are supporting progress in pupils' learning and attendance.
3. The Education Service is making good progress in contributing towards the Council's target for the national Equalities Standard, achieving the Level 2 target for 2004.
4. The key education target for Harrow's Drug Action Team plan is met. The number of fully accredited Healthy Schools is below target, however a high number of schools are working towards achieving accreditation, which will take Harrow forward to the 2005 target.
5. The targets for childcare places have been exceeded again this year and places are established in all of Harrow's areas of disadvantage. An Early Excellence Centre has been established at Hillview.
6. Ofsted reports show that overall schools continue to make good provision for special educational needs. Following consultation with schools, plans to delegate SEN resources have been extended to 2005, which this will enable further refinement of the scheme. A group of schools have been working with officers to develop and pilot criteria for self evaluation and moderation of inclusion and SEN.
7. The number of students staying in post-16 remains at a steady rate and above the national average. There is a small improvement in 2003 in the numbers of local high school students transferring to Harrow colleges and enrolment for 2004 suggests that this trend will continue.
8. Targets in the previous youth plan were met. A new Youth and Connexions Service Plan has been produced in line with new national youth work requirements. National guidance on benchmarks for the strategy was published in late summer and new targets will be set.
9. Adult Learning targets for widening participation have been met or exceeded. There has been a shift towards more targeted groups including mental health service users, students with learning disabilities and basic ICT/ESOL provision.

10. Visits to libraries continue to increase with significant improvement in the figures for libraries in the more disadvantaged areas. 24 of the 29 Public Library Standards have been met.
11. The Cultural Strategy Action Plan is now being implemented, consultative processes are stronger and specific plans and programmes are being developed to respond to identified areas of development.
12. Increasing numbers are engaged in family learning, overall on target, with a big rise in joint adult/child participation. The proportion of males is lower than target and programmes such as 'Dads and Lads' will be introduced in 2004/5.
13. The secondary school surplus place capacity is well below the maximum targeted. In primary it is just above the target of 10%; this masks variation between areas.
14. The London Grid for learning is now fully implemented and all schools have broadband connection to the grid from September 2004, well in advance of the DfES target of 2006.
15. Harrow fully met the DfES target to ensure full passporting to schools of the percentage increase in funding to the LEA.
16. Although there is a reduction in the number of staff vacancies in schools, there remain concerns about the quality and match of applicants to posts, particularly in shortage subjects and for senior posts.
17. Investors in People status for the Education Service was re-affirmed in 2003.

Priorities for 2004-5

Over the next year the current strategic priorities will continue to inform the main focus of education priorities within People First. The specific activities will include the tasks set out in the 'What Next for 2004-05' section of each of the Strategic Targets on the following pages. Some of the main themes include the following.

- Implementing actions set out in existing plans, including The Education Development Plan, the SEN Strategy, the Cultural Strategy, the Youth and Connexions Service Plan, the Library Position Statement, Early Years and Childcare Strategy and Workforce Remodelling plans.
- Moving forward on the national strategies at Primary and Key Stage 3.
- A tireless focus on meeting the needs and raising the achievement of children, young people and adults who are disadvantaged, underachieving or at risk of exclusion.
- Developing the Community and Extended Schools Programme linked to area developments within New Harrow Project.

- Progressing the 14 - 19 Strategy including the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate and a Skills Centre within a wider vocational skills network.
- Extending delegation of SEN funding to support early intervention and introduce monitoring and evaluation of schools' use of delegated expenditure.
- Work in partnerships to address the recommendations in the Climbie Enquiry and the Bichard Report, alongside social care, Health and the Police.
- Creating new childcare places in the remaining areas where there is low provision and increased child care for children in the 10 - 14 age group.
- Develop a Children's Centre in South Harrow.
- Progressing priorities with the DfES on 'Building Schools for the Future' and addressing surplus places in Harrow through the 'Shaping Schools for the Future Working Group'.
- Ensuring that children and young people, as well as adult service users and the community are involved in determining local practice and provision in area-based initiatives and more widely across Harrow.