



Education Scrutiny Board

The Board has focused its attention in two key areas this year. Firstly in reviewing the progress of recommendations of the two earlier topics of Early Years Education and Post 16 Inclusion. Secondly the Board undertook the new topic of Extended Schools provision in York.

I feel it is important to undertake reviews of previous topics in order for the Board to learn from the process. It is key to understand the outcome of the work and that the recommendations of previous topics were practical and had made a difference to people and learning in the City.

A review of the progress of its recommendations made in the **Early Years Education** and the **Post 16 Inclusion** topics was undertaken, the Board had made recommendations for improvements in this vital area. I am pleased to report that great progress had been made on the recommendations and the Board were very satisfied with the outcomes.

During 2005/6 the majority of the Board's time was spent on the new **Extended Schools** topic. Extended schools are those that provide a wider range of services and activities, often beyond the traditional school day to help meet the needs of pupils, families and the community.

Extended schools are high on the agenda both nationally and across the City. There is an ever growing need for extended schools. York has set itself challenging targets to ensure every school is an extended school by 2010.

The topic had clear objectives on how well York is performing in the provision and if it is meeting the needs of the pupils, families and the community. It was carefully scoped to consider Primary schools because this was considered the most vital area in terms of need and was generally the school nearest to the communities.

The Board undertook a significant amount of evidence gathering from a wide range of sources including; Officers' reports and presentations, considering

extended schools research papers, attendance of the York Extended Schools Conference and visiting seven different Primary schools including one from another Authority. It was a great pleasure to meet all those involved with extended schools.

At the end of the 2005/6 Municipal year, the Board was considering its draft recommendations as an example the Board are likely to recommend supporting the policy that all schools are extended schools by 2010 and that a local clustering approach be taken where appropriate. I would like to recognise that York has made great progress on extended schools to date and thank all those who have worked so well together.

I trust that the recommendations will help make a difference across the City. I would finally like to give thanks to the people on the Board and those who helped with our evidence gathering for their commitment and hard work.

Cllr Glen Bradley
Chair, Education Scrutiny Board

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