

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 May 2010

STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER (Schools, 16-19 years education, and early years provision)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JIM CLARK

Scalby School

Scalby School in Scarborough has become one of the very few schools in the country to come out of Special Measures and be given a top Ofsted rating. As a result of its recent inspection Scalby is now officially rated as "Good" and is set to break even financially at the end of this year – a remarkable achievement in just four terms.

The County Council has worked in partnership with Outwood Grange School in Wakefield, a National Leader in Education to develop an intensive care package for the school and monitor progress – which was described as Ofsted as a "striking transformation" in their report.

The school's transformation from special measures to "good" is even more notable given that a new tougher inspection framework is seeing many schools downgraded across the country.

The progress made is a tribute to all the hard work over the last year by staff, students, the wider school community and Local Authority staff. The input provided by Paul Tarn (Acting Headteacher) and his colleagues from Outwood Grange, under the National Leader in Education programme, was invaluable in turning the school around and this achievement demonstrates that the Local Authority's approach to working in partnership with NLE colleagues has been highly effective in building leadership capacity within the County. A number of North Yorkshire Headteachers have now become National Leaders in Education and the County Council is developing other highly effective partnerships across the region.

Scalby School is now in a strong position to move forward in the next academic year under its new Headteacher, David Read.

Merger of two schools in Harrogate

Wedderburn Infant & Nursery School and Woodlands Community Junior School will become one school from Easter 2011 following a request from the governing bodies of both schools. All parties felt that a single combined school offers benefits to children, their families and staff and helps pupils move on from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 without having to change school. The single primary school will offer places for 3-11 year olds from Easter 2011 and will make use of the existing school buildings. The new school will initially have around 500 pupils on roll, including the nursery, and will receive some short term additional funding from the County Council in order to ease the transition period. The current headteacher of Wedderburn Infant and Nursery School will become the headteacher of the new school whilst the Headteacher of Woodlands Community Junior School will be retiring at that time.

Strategy for 14-19/Machinery of Government

Along with all other Local Authorities, the County Council has now taken over responsibility, with effect from 1 April, for funding and commissioning education and training for all young people aged 16-19 (and for people with learning difficulties up to the age of 25) in schools and colleges across the County. This follows the dissolution of the national Learning and Skills Council.

The County Council has been fortunate in its new role to secure the services of Liz Burdett, the former Director of the LSC in North Yorkshire, along with seven of her colleagues who, along with

staff already working for the County Council, will develop this major new area of responsibility at a time when the participation age is being raised from 16 to 17 by 2013 and to 18 from 2015.

The County Council will be widening and developing the County's provision in coming years with new diplomas becoming available year on year and with a more flexible, creative and focused approach to education and training.

Schools Capital – 14-19 developments

We have now entered the final year of the 2008/2011 School's Capital Programme with large numbers of projects being tendered and under construction. Programmes of work relating to fire safety and legionella are also commencing. Four major primary school redevelopment projects funded through Primary Capital Programme at a value of almost £13M will start on site this summer for completion in Autumn 2011. The four schools are Barrowcliff Infant and Junior, Friarage, Hinderwell and Norton Community Primary Schools. A site has recently been acquired and feasibility work has started in relation to the proposed development of a new school to serve the Bentham area. Five new Children's Centre projects are currently on site and due for completion by November 2011.

Capital projects associated with the SEN and Behaviour Review are progressing with a number of enhanced provisions in mainstream primary and secondary schools now complete and the remainder in planning stages for completion by summer 2011. A site has been acquired at Forest Moor for the development of a new BESD school to serve the West of the County. Work will commence on a major refurbishment of this site in October 2010.

Detailed work is currently being undertaken to review the requirements for facilities to support the roll out of 14-19 diplomas. Feasibility work has been completed in relation to proposals for a £2M Skills Centre to serve the Hambleton and Richmondshire area and a £1.6M 14-19 Pathways Centre on the site of Raincliffe School to serve the Coast area.

After a detailed consideration of the financial implications, the Executive decided to defer entry of an application to enter the Building Schools for the Future until the economic and financial situation is clearer. This decision will be reviewed in Autumn 2010 after the Comprehensive Spending Review.

County Councillor Jim Clark
Executive Member for Education