

Standards Monitoring Group

Update January 2013

The Standards Monitoring Group comprises the Director of Lifelong Learning, School Improvement Officers and Members of LLOSC. The focus is to challenge Headteachers and Chairs of Governors on how they are improving standards within their schools and to ascertain they are receiving the appropriate levels of support from the LA. The target schools are those placed at Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the LA's Monitoring, Challenge and Support Policy.

LLOSC Members

Cllr C Bithell (Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning)

Cllr I Roberts (Chair, Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

Mr D Hytch (Vice-Chair, LLOSC)

Cllr C Thomas

Cllr D Mackie

Cllr N Matthews

Progress of Meetings

The work of the group under its new wider membership and remit began with consideration of roles and responsibilities in relation to school improvement, together with analysis of school profiles and performance analysis across the Flintshire system. The programme of school meetings then followed, with the first round of meetings now almost completed. After each meeting summary and follow up letters have been sent to HT, COG and members of the Monitoring Group minuting key discussion points and recommended actions. The final two meetings are to be scheduled in February 2013.

Next steps

Once all the meetings have been held, there will be a plenary session of the Standards Group with the purpose of:-

- reflecting on outcomes of the meetings, including the group's collective view on the quality of leadership demonstrated by the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the schools causing concern.
- considering system learning and interventions if there are concerns about leadership of Heads and/or Governing Bodies e.g. providing additional targeted governor support, use of warning notices etc.

Schools at Stage 3 and 4 will continue to be monitored through the Spring Term by School Improvement Officers (System Leaders), with those causing the most concern recalled for another meeting with the Standards Monitoring Group to provide an update on progress.

By the end of Summer Term all schools will be invited for another meeting where they will provide a report on how the actions have progressed and the impact on pupils' standards of achievement in the end of phase assessments at Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. This discussion and data analysis will form the basis of the stage the school is placed on for the beginning of the next academic year.

Reporting to Councillors

Supplementing regular quarterly performance reports, the annual school performance report and the annual self-evaluation, a formal report will be presented to LLOSC on the work of the group, its impact on challenging school leadership in order to achieve the highest standards for all learners and to consider lessons learned from the process to influence future actions and improvement strategies.

C Homard
Principal Primary Officer