



## Intervention in Schools Causing Concern

Where schools in Northamptonshire are underperforming and viewed as a cause for concern, we propose to:

- make our expectations clear to all maintained schools<sup>1</sup>, that we expect them to achieve standards that meet the Local Authority's category 1 (Outstanding) and be at least 'Good' as defined and judged by Ofsted;
- for Local Authority maintained schools we shall:
  - take robust and decisive action where a school does not demonstrate its progress towards achieving excellence and is underperforming; where there is little or no evidence that effective action has been taken or is having an impact;
  - take action consistent with the powers of intervention set out in the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities – Schools Causing Concern, in accordance with Section 60 of the 2006 Education Act;
- Where a local authority has a concern about safeguarding at a maintained school, the authority will use the intervention powers set out in the statutory guidance<sup>2</sup>.
- for Academies and Free Schools we shall:
  - ensure that the Regional School Commissioner (RSC) and Education Funding Agency (EFA) are notified at the earliest opportunity of our concerns.
- Where a local authority has concerns about an academy's safeguarding arrangements or procedures (arising as a result of investigations about individual children or otherwise), these concerns will be reported to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) who have responsibility to take any necessary improvement action and to monitor the situation.

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<sup>1</sup>for Academies/Free Schools read all state- funded educational establishments that are not LA maintained

<sup>2</sup>'Schools Causing Concern' guidance, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance

## **Information Sharing:**

- We will keep the RSC, Ofsted, the EFA and the DfE updated on actions we are taking where we have significant concerns as outlined below. The RSC will share information about interventions he is taking to secure rapid and sustained improvement in Academies/Free Schools.

## **Process:**

- We will use the process outlined below to monitor, support, challenge and intervene with LA maintained schools (as appropriate and in line with the statutory guidance).
- For maintained schools we will issue a Performance, Standards and Safety Warning Notice where we have significant concerns, i.e.
  - the standards of performance of pupils are unacceptably low and are likely to remain so;
  - there has been a serious breakdown in the way the school is managed or governed which is prejudicing standards of performance;
  - the safety of pupils or staff is threatened;
  - the school has not responded robustly or rapidly enough to a recommendation by Ofsted to commission an external review of use and impact of the Pupil Premium;
  - there is a failure of the board of governors and/or Trustees to deliver on their strategic functions and the board of governors or Trustees have not responded robustly or rapidly enough to a recommendation by Ofsted to commission an external review of governance;
  - there are concerns about a school's safeguarding arrangements.
- Where the response to the first Performance, Standards and Safety Warning Notice is not acceptable we will issue a second notice outlining the actions including exercising the LA powers under the 2006 Act to suspend the delegated budget of the school; appoint an Interim Executive Board (IEB); appoint additional governors; or require the governing body to enter into specified arrangements with a view to improving the performance of the school.

- For Academies and Free Schools we will inform the Regional Schools Commissioner at the earliest opportunity that we have significant concerns, i.e.
  - the standards of performance of pupils are unacceptably low and are likely to remain so;
  - the safety of pupils or staff is threatened;
  - the school has not responded robustly or rapidly enough to a recommendation by Ofsted to commission an external review of use and impact of the Pupil Premium;
  - there is a failure of the board of governors and/or Trustees to deliver on their strategic functions and the board of governors or Trustees have not responded robustly or rapidly enough to a recommendation by Ofsted to commission an external review of governance;
  - there are concerns about a school's safeguarding arrangements.
  
- We will expect that, where there is insufficient progress to address the identified concerns, the RSC will consider appropriate action including replacing the existing governance arrangements and seeking a new sponsor.

