

EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE
22 SEPTEMBER 1997

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman)
Councillors Barnard, Mrs Doyle, Harrison, Mrs Hirst,
Taylor, Ward and Wheaton

Also Present: Councillor M Thompson

Apologies for Absence:
Councillor Mrs Shillcock
County Councillor M Tomkinson

3. Minutes - 13 May 1997

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 13 May 1997 were received as a correct record.

4. Baseline Assessment

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education outlining issues associated with the need for a scheme of Baseline Assessment for all children entering primary school. Currently, most schools in the Borough were using the Surrey Scheme. A new Surrey Scheme would be available and other schemes could be expected to be launched in the coming months. These would be evaluated, but it would be important that all the Borough's primary schools were operating the same system.

There was concern about the time the tests really took to administer to children. The target time was 20 minutes, but fieldwork had suggested 30 minutes to be more realistic.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the report be noted; and
- (ii) that the principle of a single Baseline Assessment Scheme for Bracknell Forest LEA be endorsed.

5. Excellence in Schools: The Government's White Paper

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education outlining the main provisions of the white paper aimed at raising achievement in schools. The Director tabled a summary document from the DfEE of the paper's content. The Sub Committee received a detailed presentation on the proposals.

The Director of Education invited the Sub Committee to make any comments on the contents of the paper.

Views coming forward from members of the Sub Committee were as follows:

- The Government should not be dogmatic about achieving the maximum class size of 30.
- There should be clarification of the meaning of high quality education for four year olds. The schooling for younger children should be distinct from reception classes.
- Would measures designed to encourage parents to become more involved in children's education be effective if arrangements were purely voluntary?

The Director of Education undertook to provide a draft letter to the meeting of the Education Transition Committee for it to consider.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that a detailed response be considered by the Education Transition Committee.

6. **Targets/Lifelong Learning Task Force**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education outlining proposals for a Targets/Lifelong Learning Task Force. The initiative was being jointly sponsored by the Training and Enterprise and the LEA to provide an umbrella body to look at all types of provision for lifelong learning. Further Government proposals on lifelong learning were expected.

The Sub Committee discussed the detail of the proposed composition of the Task Force as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED that the approach outlined in the report to establish a joint Targets/Lifelong Task Force be endorsed.

7. **School Inspection Reports**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education enclosing two specimen summary inspection reports. Copies of the two schools' action plans were tabled at the meeting.

Under the current OFSTED scheme, all schools would be inspected every six years and under-performing schools more frequently.

The Sub Committee agreed that after vesting day it would wish to see copies of summary inspection reports when they become available for schools in the Borough, followed up by the school's action plan which under present regulations had to be produced within 40 school days of the publication of the inspection report.

The Director of Education undertook to provide an interim service in respect of inspection reports received in the remainder of the shadow year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Director of Education be requested to report OFSTED reports in summary form to the Sub Committee.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub Committee would take place on Wednesday 12 November 1997 at 7.30pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN