

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

---

### REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 24 MAY 2000

---

**NOTE:** A copy of the report mentioned below has been sent to all members of the Education Committee and other members who had requested it. Further copies are available from Julia Harries, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Telephone: 01992 555563)

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Committee have received a report on Education Performance Indicators. This incorporated a range of indicators previously reported, indicators required by the Audit Commission and all of the targets included in the Authority's Education Development Plan, "Achievement for All 1999", providing an opportunity to analyse the progress being made against EDP targets and on those indicators which fall outside of the EDP.

The indicators related to either the 1998/99 financial year or the 1999/2000 financial year.

The report concluded that the majority of the EDP targets had been met, and that even in those cases where performance had fallen marginally short of targets in 1999/2000, targets over the three year period of the plan looked likely to be achieved.

The following were some of the key issues and trends which emerged:

#### 1. Staffing and Training

Generally the performance within this area met the targets within the EDP with the following exceptions:

- (i) The percentage of LEA governor posts which are vacant has not been reduced. A number of new and revised initiatives will be undertaken in the coming year to improve performance in relation to this indicator including:
  - Additional recruitment campaign run in local press
  - Encouragement of existing governors to enlist other governors

- Close collaboration with MECSS and community groups to attempt to recruit more governors from ethnic minority groups
- Contact with local business
- Use of HCC website as a possible contact point

(ii) The percentage of staff recruited from Minority Ethnic Groups increased significantly to 1.7%, but did not meet the EDP target of 2%. However, the improvement trend in 1999/2000 and procedures introduced subsequently will ensure this target is met next year.

## **2. School Management and Organisation**

Performance against all of these EDP indicators is in line with targets, reflecting the positive impact of EDP strategies.

Criteria used to define whether a school has serious weaknesses were revised in the spring term 2000 and the implications of those changes will be considered in more detail by the Pupil Achievement and School Improvement Panel. It is intended that the EDP targets will be revised to incorporate those schools in special measures.

## **3. Community Education**

The EDP target (63%) which was not met was the percentage of the workforce achieving NVQ Level 3. Hertfordshire's figure for 1999/2000 was 51% whereas the comparable figures for the Eastern Region and the UK are 40% and 46% respectively.

## **4. Budget and Assets**

Surplus places in schools were reduced during 1999/2000, as a result of reductions in capacity following reorganisations.

The level of external resources attracted in to increase the capital programme has exceeded the target by £5 million.

The percentage of pupils in excess of capacity decreased significantly in both the primary and secondary sector. At primary level, Key Stage 1 legislation is starting to impact on appeal decisions and at secondary level, more parents are gaining a ranked school place.

## **5. Management Information and Communications**

The performance against this set of EDP targets was generally positive, with the percentage of schools using comparative data and information exceeding the target.

**6. New Technology**

All EDP targets were met in this area. The baseline data used for primary schools was not reliable; therefore figures for 1999/2000 were based on an extensive survey. The EDP target for 2000/01 will be revised to reflect the need for continuous improvement.

**7. Special Education Needs**

Performance on all of the EDP indicators was positive, including another marked increase in the percentage of statements processed within 18 weeks. In terms of the other SEN indicators (non-EDP), performance also reflected a positive trend.

**8. Early Years**

The most significant issue within the Early Years indicators was the revision of the Herts Quality Standard during 1999/2000; this will be launched in 2000/01 with a target of 75 pre-five settings to achieve the standard.

Keith Emsall  
Chairman  
County Hall  
Hertford

24 May 2000