

Norfolk Headteachers and Governors

NCC general enquiries: 0344 800 8020
Textphone: 0344 800 8011Your Ref:
Date: 14 November 2013My Ref: SL/MAH
Tel No.: 01603 222600
Email: sheila.lock@norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Colleagues

Review of our arrangements for supporting school improvement

I wanted to draw your attention to an external review undertaken by the ISOS partnership of our arrangements for supporting school improvement, 'A Good School for Every Norfolk Learner'. The review will be made public later this week and I attach a pre-publication copy for your interest.

We want all of Norfolk's children and young people to benefit from attending a school that is at least good. This is so important if young people are to have the chance to excel and if they are to contribute to building a strong economy in Norfolk and beyond.

I am pleased that the review highlights the County Council's ambition and "unwavering determination" to see through changes in intervention and support.

The review notes strong signals of intent in the strategy including:

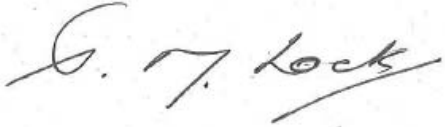
- The focus on increasing local authority intervention through the use of formal powers (such as taking control of a school's budget or changing its governing body).
- The emphasis on school-to-school support and on the governing body's responsibility for school improvement.
- The recognition that the council needed to look beyond Norfolk for evidence of effective practice.
- The new leadership's "unwavering determination" to see through change, backed by new resources and the acknowledgment of past weaknesses.

The review helpfully focuses on the continuing need to highlight that the approach is led by schools for schools. It also recommends greater clarity in the proposed role of Cluster Education Partners and in building capacity amongst strong schools to support others. All of these areas are already being addressed.

continued../

The success of Norfolk's schools is of central concern for us all and I know that we are all keen to play our part in ensuring that this success is consistent across all of our schools. Please do let me know if you'd like to discuss the review - or indeed other matters regarding our support for school improvement – in further detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Lock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sheila Lock
Interim Director of Children's Services

Enc