

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Education in Norfolk – Partnership into the Millenium

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SUMMARY:

This leaflet describes the background to the changing relationship between the Education Department and schools and how it is expected to develop over the next few years.

ACTION REQUIRED: none

DATE DOCUMENT OBSOLETE:

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

RELEVANT ASPECT OF EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR OFSTED LEA ACTION PLAN: EDP priorities 1 to 8

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We will achieve our aims by:

making changes to the structure of the Education Department to build on the quality already present and to provide more co-ordinated services to support schools. There will also be a re-emphasis on whole-school management and the training which supports it for governors and senior teaching staff

supporting schools to work in partnership with each other by encouraging cluster groups across the county and by promoting collaboration between willing schools. The overall needs of children must be the overriding principle

- ▶ improving the way that we consult with all partners in education so that we can have a shared view of effectiveness and improvement
- The Advancing Norfolk Education Improvement Partnership Groups will have a key role to play here in making sure that all mechanisms that support school and LEA continuous improvement are in place and operating

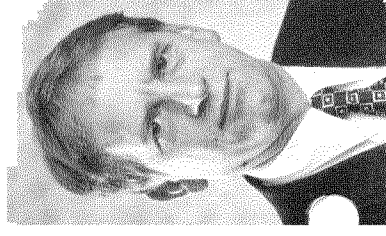
improving the way we communicate with and listen to schools, whether through regular meetings, in writing or using Information and Communications Technology.

Education in Norfolk

Partnership into the Millennium

Dear Colleagues

This leaflet describes the background to the changing relationship between the Education Department and schools and how I expect it to develop over the next few years.



As I said in the foreword to our Education Development Plan, the LEA is committed to the principle that every child in Norfolk is entitled to an education which allows them to realise fully their potential in life. I believe that it is through a constructive partnership that schools and LEAs together can achieve that goal for our children and young people.

I hope you will find it helpful to have this brief statement of the LEA's thinking.

Bryan Slater
Director of Education

Autumn, 1999

The background

The School Standards and Framework Act of 1998 gave a new focus for the role of LEAs. The Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations, which was published earlier this year, sets out the principles which should underpin the relationship between LEAs and schools and explains how the role of LEAs in supporting schools is expected to work in practice. National government expects LEAs to provide leadership, support and, where necessary, intervention which is sensitive to each school's circumstances and does not undermine the responsibility of schools for their own performance.

LEAs themselves are now subject to inspection by OFSTED. Norfolk was inspected during the autumn of 1998 and the report was published earlier this year. We are currently making good progress in addressing the issues raised by OFSTED and detailed in the Action Plan.

The Education Development Plan for Norfolk has been agreed by the DfEE. The plan sets out the LEA's proposals to promote and support school improvement.

There are eight priorities which provide the framework for LEA action over the next three years

- 1** to improve standards of achievement in literacy in Norfolk
- 2** to improve standards of numeracy in Norfolk
- 3** to improve standards of achievement for all students at the end of Key Stage 4
- 4** to improve the standards achieved in Information and Communications Technology across all phases of schooling
- 5** to develop positive attitudes to learning amongst all learners
- 6** to improve levels of attendance in Norfolk schools and reduce the level of exclusions from school
- 7** to improve the quality of staff development in Norfolk schools
- 8** to increase the capacity of school governors and managers to provide leadership and effective management in Norfolk's schools

The changing role of the LEA has meant that we need to re-examine our relationship with schools, focussing more on building a partnership for the benefit of children and young people and less on selling services to customers.

The way ahead

The LEA has four key aims

- ▶ achieving continuous improvement in educational standards across the Education Service
- ▶ improving access to educational opportunities for all learners
- ▶ providing support and challenge for self reviewing schools and other providers
- ▶ securing structures and resourcing which maximise effectiveness throughout the Education Service.

In order to achieve these aims the LEA needs to change the way it works.

We will

- ▶ be in touch with our schools and know them better than we have in the past
- ▶ work with schools to establish a shared view of what an effective school is and of how schools and the Education Department can improve
- ▶ provide support and advice in an integrated way, with services that meet the needs of schools
- ▶ target our support and resources where they are needed most
- ▶ provide challenge where it is needed
- ▶ encourage collaboration between schools