

2003-2004



Norfolk County Council



Achieving Excellence 2003-2007

A summary of the priorities of the Education Service in Norfolk for the next four years and the work of the service in the year ahead

Vision Statement for the LEA

The LEA will promote high standards of achievement for all learners and will work with schools and other partners to encourage a culture in Norfolk which values learning.

- **We will help all children to benefit from and enjoy learning and we will celebrate their achievements.**
- **We will lift aspirations for learning in Norfolk and encourage everyone to continue learning throughout life.**

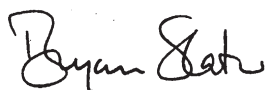
Introduction

This summary of Achieving Excellence is published at the end of a year which has seen the education service come through both an Ofsted inspection and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment with flying colours! Ofsted praised many aspects of the service and noted that the LEA's '**honesty and self-knowledge, coupled with its proven ability to tackle issues systematically, mean that it is well-placed to move forward**'.

Our new vision statement, printed on the front page, is a reminder of where we are trying to get to as we move forward. Achieving Excellence sets out the things we must do over the next 4 years to bring us closer to this vision for learning in Norfolk.

Ten service priorities remain, although there have been a few changes to the wording of some, and Small Schools has been replaced by ICT. This does not mean that small schools are any less important, but rather that they should be seen as an integral part of all our priorities.

Achieving Excellence continues to have the Education Development Plan at its core and expresses our commitment to working collaboratively to ensure the best service for all learners in the county.



Bryan Slater

June 2003

The five key aims of the Service

- 1 To improve schools and increase learning opportunities for all**
- 2 To help more people to be active learners and to feel included in society**
- 3 To provide an integrated education service with a culture of working in partnership with others**
- 4 To provide coherent support and challenge for schools**
- 5 To communicate well and develop use of new technology**

Work to be undertaken in 2003-2004

Key Aim 1: To improve schools and increase learning opportunities for all

We intend to:

- Continue and develop measures to recruit and retain teachers and other staff in Norfolk schools
- Develop, share and celebrate good practice in teaching and learning in all schools
- Develop excellence in Norfolk schools through the Norfolk supported self-review scheme
- Raise standards of achievement in all the key stages, from early years through to post 16
- Improve the quality of education in specific geographical areas as outlined in EDP2
- Improve the quality of education for specific groups of learners, including children in public care and gifted and talented young people
- Improve the quality of behaviour management in schools
- Establish a Countywide system of managed moves to minimise the rate of permanent exclusions
- Foster rapid development of new curriculum opportunities across 14-19 drawing on the work of the rural pathfinder project
- Implement the LEA's anti bullying strategy
- Reduce the number of schools in special measures and those "causing concern"
- Collect and maintain robust data on school premises which can be accessed and understood by schools
- Further improve and develop pupil place planning
- Identify factors which lead to schools in areas of high deprivation being successful
- Implement Private Finance Initiative projects for Great Yarmouth, Loddon, Long Stratton, Stalham and Swaffham; and for central Norfolk
- Develop models of good practice in study support in five clusters of schools
- Develop an Extended Schools Policy for the LEA using information from the 'pathfinder projects'
- Provide "universal" early education provision (85%) for all 3 year olds by 1 April 2004
- Continue to support the work of the two Education Action Zones through their transition to excellence clusters

Many of these activities are described more fully in EDP2 and in the full Education Service Plan, copies of which can be found on the schools internet site:

<http://www.norfolkesinet.org.uk>

Key Aim 2: To help more people to be active learners and to feel included in society

We intend to:

- Provide Family Learning activities involving 1,395 parents
- Provide financial and childcare support for Adult Education students
- Reduce unauthorised absence in schools
- Develop a range of youth work opportunities and meeting places accessible to all young people
- Continue to raise awareness of school staff of the needs of young carers
- Offer University of the First Age summer challenge programme to at least 700 young people
- Promote the inclusion of sensory impaired children
- Offer places to 360 young people at Norwich City Football Club Study Centre
- Provide learning opportunities for 32,000 adults
- Conduct a Best Value Review of Lifelong Learning
- Ensure the social and educational inclusion of asylum seekers

Key Aim 3: To provide an integrated education service with a culture of working in partnership with others:

We intend to:

- Deliver a fully co-ordinated secondary school admission system in Norfolk
- Develop a primary school admissions co-ordination scheme
- Support the development of 3236 new childcare places for children 0-14 years
- Establish an Early Years advisory teacher/family worker to work with Traveller families in the Sure Start Fen Border area
- Provide one Area SENCO to 20 non-maintained settings delivering funded education
- Reinforce the LEA's partnership working with other countries of the EU and world wide
- Provide a critical incident service
- Co-ordinate the production of a Business Continuity Plan for the Education Department
- Promote sustainability issues in the Education Service
- Identify ways in which school to school collaboration may be further developed
- Play a central role in developing preventative services for vulnerable children in collaboration with partner organisations

Key Aim 4: To provide coherent support and challenge for schools



We intend to:

- Raise awareness of the Asset Management Plan process for governors and headteachers
- Develop the Financial Alert System to ensure the early identification of schools at risk or of concern
- Improve the availability of school related data for officers and schools
- Raise the attainment of sensory impaired pupils through targeted support to individual pupils and schools
- Develop a programme of ICT training modules to improve schools' understanding of network infrastructure and system administration
- Trial a pilot purchasing card scheme in seven schools

Key Aim 5: To communicate well and develop use of new technology

We intend to:

- Develop a standardised secondary schools' ICT Network Infrastructure model
- Connect 150 schools via broadband to the BT managed county education network
- Ensure a common set of hardware and software is deployed across the education department for ease of exchanging information
- Install a Pupil Tracking System
- Ensure that up to date information on early years and childcare provision is easily accessible to parents
- Provide support to schools in readiness for the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act
- Develop the use of the electronic bulletin as a replacement for the paper based school courier service
- Encourage service improvement through the use of ICT and e-working

We would welcome feedback about this document.

Please email or post your comments to: alison.cunningham@norfolk.gov.uk

Education Department, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL

Names of teacher and headteacher representatives on the Improvement Partnership Group can be found on the schools internet site:

<http://www.norfolkesinet.org.uk>

Education Service Priorities 2003-2007

These priorities set out WHAT we intend to do in pursuit of our key aims over the next five years.

Raising Attainment

- To support all schools in raising educational attainment

Inclusion

- To increase inclusion and ensure that all learners have access to their entitlement

Schools Causing Concern

- To reduce the number of schools giving cause for concern

Improving School Buildings

- To improve the condition and suitability of school premises
- To improve pupil place planning and ensure the sufficiency of school places in areas of growth

ICT

- To develop and implement strategies to ensure ICT is an integral and essential part of education

Lifelong Learning

- To enhance learning, training and employment opportunities

Early Years and Childcare

- To ensure access to a high quality Early Years education and child care

Three further service priorities identify the processes which will determine HOW we deliver the challenges set out above:

Partnerships

- We will further develop ways of working in partnership with others to improve education services

Communication

- We will improve the quality and efficiency of communication

Service Improvement

- We will apply the principles of Best Value across the education service
- We will consider the well-being and training needs of all staff