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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

3 November 2023

Chairman: Councillor Trevor Foster

Venue: Conference Room,
f01e, Church Square
House

Time: 11.00 am

E-Mail Address:
dean.gillon@northlincs.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Substitutions
2. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests and declarations of whipping arrangements (if any).
3. To take the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2023 as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign (Pages 1 - 2)
4. Public speaking requests, if any.
5. Teacher Training (SCITT) - Ofsted Inspection of North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership (Pages 3 - 14)
6. Added item, if any.
7. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances that must be specified.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

13 September 2023

PRESENT: - Cllr T Foster (Chairman)

Cllr L Yeadon (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Armiger, Cllr P Clark, Cllr C Patterson and Cllr D Wells.

The meeting was held in S01e, Church Square House.

8 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Cllr Clark substituted for Cllr Ross.

9 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY).**

Cllr Wells declared a personal interest as a school governor.

No whip was declared.

10 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN.**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this panel held on 27 July 2023, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chairman.

11 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY.**

There were no public speaking requests.

12 **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-24 - DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AND KEY OFFICERS.**

The Chairman welcomed Paul Cowling, Assistant Director Children's Standards and Regulations, Tom Hewis, Head of Provision for Children, and Emma Young, Lead Officer Youth Justice Partnership, to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that Paul, Tom and Emma had been invited to present the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

Paul and Emma led on the delivery of a detailed presentation on the Plan, including discussion of local context and background, vision and values, progress on the plan's delivery, and areas for further development.

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL
13 September 2023

The presentation also covered local performance, highlighting that North Lincolnshire has a low, and reducing, number of children as 'first entrants' into the criminal justice system. Other performance measures were highlighted, along with governance structures, and priorities for the year.

The Chairman led a discussion on the presentation, with the panel asking questions about county lines criminality, innovation, working with schools and colleges, and links with mental health. Officers responded accordingly.

Resolved – (a) That Paul Cowling, Emma Young and Tom Hewis be thanked for the presentation and for responding to the panel's questions; and (b) that the situation be noted.

13 **ADDED ITEM, IF ANY.**

There was no added item for consideration at the meeting.

14 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED.**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership

Church Square House, 30-40 High Street, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN15 6NL

Inspection dates

12 to 15 June 2023

Inspection judgements

Primary and secondary age-phase combined

Overall effectiveness

Good

The quality of education and training

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to be a trainee at this ITE provider?

Trainees benefit from an experience that is attuned to their local context. Leaders develop teachers who are strong, successful and committed to the local area. There is a shared vision to grow a workforce which will transform lives both in the local area and further afield. Trainees feel well supported. They say that leaders' commitment to them shines through.

Trainees appreciate working in a network of local schools. All stakeholders are passionately committed to the success of the SCITT and recognise its importance in the local educational landscape. These close working relationships enable trainees to benefit from effective partnerships at all levels.

The programme is well organised and coherent. Leaders and school-based staff work together well to help trainees apply what they learn in theory to their classroom practice. Trainees understand the evidence underpinning the pedagogies that they learn about. This prepares them well for their early careers as teachers.

Trainees have a clear understanding of the safeguarding risks that pupils may face. They develop a comprehensive knowledge of the barriers that pupils might experience. This includes support in adapting their teaching to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Trainees are exceptionally well prepared to support pupils who may speak English as an additional language. Trainees learn how to look after their own well-being and how to manage their own workload. They work collaboratively with fellow trainees, trainers and mentors to develop practical ways to make planning and preparation more manageable.

Information about this ITE provider

- North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership provides teacher training for the primary phase (five to 11) and secondary phase (11 to 16).
- There are 14 trainees enrolled in the 2022/23 academic year. One of these is following the primary phase assessment-only route.
- There are 79 schools in the partnership. Not all of these schools host a trainee every year.
- The partnership offers the following routes: school-centred initial teacher training and assessment-only. Trainees also complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). At the time of inspection, there was one trainee following the assessment-only route.
- Trainees are awarded their PGCE through Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln.

Information about this inspection

- The inspection was carried out by two of His Majesty's Inspectors.
- Inspectors met with senior leaders from the SCITT. They also held meetings with members of the management board, headteachers from partnership schools, subject leaders, trainers and school-based mentors.
- Inspectors carried out focused reviews in early reading and phonics, geography, history and music. Inspectors visited six partnership schools in person to conduct focused review activities.
- They met with all primary and secondary trainees and five early career teachers (ECTs).
- Inspectors reviewed the responses to Ofsted's surveys for staff, wider staff and trainees.

What does the ITE provider do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders provide trainees with an ambitious curriculum. Subject-specific training builds on the pertinent research that trainees study. Trainees apply their learning to the subject that they are training to teach.

The curriculum meets the requirements of the Department for Education's core content framework. Trainees and mentors alike describe the training provision as being bespoke to individual needs. Leaders arrange the right placements for trainees to support their development. The curriculum has been carefully structured to meet trainees' emerging needs. For example, an early focus on building relationships and behaviour management helps trainees to secure good behaviour from pupils from the outset.

Staff who lead primary phase centre-based subject training are well chosen. They have the expertise they need. Many of them are subject pioneers in the local authority. They help trainees to develop wider pedagogical understanding and subject-specific knowledge well. In the secondary phases, centre-based training to build trainees' subject-specific knowledge is less developed. There is an overreliance on school-based mentors to develop this. Secondary trainees are not taught clearly enough about subject-specific debates or the wider aspects of their subjects. Leaders have put detailed action plans in place to address this.

Trainees' progression through the ITE curriculum is carefully checked. Ongoing assessment helps trainees to know exactly what they are working on and how this links to their overall development. Leaders provide training for school-based mentors. Trainees value the support of their mentors. However, there remains some variance in the quality of targets that mentors set to support trainees' progression.

Leaders check the quality of all aspects of the programme. They know their partner schools very well. They seek their views in reviewing their curriculum to ensure it is well aligned with local needs. Headteachers speak highly of the quality of the ECTs that the SCITT provides. They see it as an invaluable part of the educational landscape in North Lincolnshire.

There are strong relationships between centre-based staff and trainees. Trainees and mentors feel that the support provided by the SCITT leaders is a distinctive feature of their experience. Many trainees shared anecdotes of the support that they have received and their appreciation of that. Trainees feel able to raise any concerns they have with course leaders. Both centre- and school-based staff provide the professional and pastoral support that they need. School leaders report that trainees are well prepared for their future careers by being taught how to manage their workload.

What does the ITE provider need to do to improve the primary and secondary combined phase?

(Information for the provider and appropriate authority)

- For trainees in the secondary phase, the subject-specific aspect of their curriculum is not as efficiently designed or monitored as their core curriculum. This means that some trainees do not develop a deep awareness of current thinking and debate within their subjects. Leaders should further develop the subject-specific content of the secondary ITE curriculum.
- On occasions, mentors do not set targets for trainees that have the granular focus that course leaders expect. This can affect the progression of some trainees. Leaders should intensify actions to support all mentors in setting appropriate targets for trainees and in checking how well these support trainees' progression.

Does the ITE provider's primary and secondary combined phase comply with the ITE compliance criteria?

- The provider meets the DfE statutory compliance criteria.

ITE provider details

Unique reference number	70234
Inspection number	10281403

This inspection was carried out in accordance with the 'Initial teacher education inspection framework and handbook'.

This framework and handbook sets out the statutory basis and framework for initial teacher education (ITE) inspections in England from September 2020.

Type of ITE provider	School-centred initial teacher training
Phases provided	Primary and secondary combined
Date of previous inspection	22 June and 9 December 2015

Inspection team

Marcus Newby, Lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Katherine Spurr	His Majesty's Inspector

Annex: Placement schools

Inspectors visited the following schools as part of this inspection:

Name	URN	ITE phases
Frederick Gough School	118097	Secondary
Holme Valley Primary School	117811	Primary
Scunthorpe Church of England Primary School	118016	Primary
St Bede's Catholic (VA) Academy	138018	Secondary
St Peter St Paul Church of England Primary School	136058	Primary
Winterton Junior School	117787	Primary

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INFORMATION MARKING	OFFICIAL
MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL
TITLE OF REPORT:	BRIEFING NOTE: Ofsted Inspection - North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership

<p>1. PURPOSE OF AGENDA ITEM:</p> <p>To provide an overview of the headline strengths and areas for development following the Ofsted Inspection of the North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership.</p>
<p>2. KEY POINTS (BACKGROUND AND DETAIL):</p> <p>The North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership was inspected by Ofsted in the week commencing Monday 12 June, in a 4-day inspection. Due to suspension of inspections during the Covid period, it took place 2 years later than expected. As a result, programme leaders were well-prepared and able to provide very secure and robust evidence of impact of the high-quality ITE curriculum newly introduced in September 2020.</p> <p>The Inspection Team comprised a primary specialist HMI, and secondary specialist HMI. The inspection activity focused on a combined review of all phases offered by the SCITT, resulting in one overall judgement. The provision for the Assessment Only Route to QTS also came into the remit of the assessment Inspection.</p> <p>Under the current framework, the focus looked at the connectedness of the trainee curriculum in respect of the theoretical central training and the practical delivery in the school environment, the assessment of the impact of this experience on trainees' readiness to teach and their ability to ensure pupils make progress. The inspection team found this to be good overall and particularly strong, in relation to the primary age-phase provision.</p> <p>During the course of the Inspection, a variety of assessment activities took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Visits – this included visiting a sample of trainees to observe practical teaching, view trainees' files and evidence, meeting with the head teachers, mentors and trainees to confirm synergy between the central team and schools. • Seeking the views of stakeholders – this involved a variety of focus group meetings including, Board members, Mentors, Lead Mentors and trainers, employing Head Teachers, Early Career Teachers and ex-SCITT trainees. • Review of Evidence – desktop activities to scrutinise all programme documentation, policies, governance arrangements, safeguarding and compliance. <p>The Inspection outcome is based on the Overall Effectiveness of the provision comprised of two key elements: the Quality of Education and Training; Leadership and Management. The North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership programme was judged Good across all areas. A significant number of clear strengths have been identified which would suggest that there is much to be celebrated, inclusive of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very well-defined and effective relationships between all schools and key partners within the Partnership. • All partners share and have buy in to the vision and ethos of the Partnership and are ambitious for the future development of the provision. • An ambitious and well-defined ITE curriculum that places great emphasis on the context of North Lincolnshire which, as a result, meets the needs of the local education workforce with a supply of high-quality teachers.

- Effective communication channels between the central leadership team and school partners with very good support for trainees and mentors.
- The safeguarding offer is very strongly linked to the local context and is clearly high priority for all partners.
- Pastoral support for trainees is very robust, trainees commented on the personalised support they receive, including providing for their health and well-being, and as a result they develop resilience.
- The quality of teaching is very strong – the Lead Inspector commented that classroom practice observed was more befitting of experienced teachers.
- Senior leaders in employing schools are positive about the programme, seeing it as being highly bespoke to the context of North Lincolnshire and therefore producing high-quality teachers.

Whilst inspectors said the primary training programme was particularly strong, a key development area for the SCITT programme is improving the subject specific elements of the Secondary Phase programme to improve depth of knowledge and understanding for trainees and ensure trainees are able to discuss and reflect upon their specialist subjects.

The challenge for the Partnership in relation to the taught specialist subject development is directly linked to the size of cohort, which in any given year and subject, is often 1 or 2 trainees. Effective delivery of central training is hard to achieve in this context, i.e. for some subject areas the ratio of specialist trainer to trainee is 1:1, but Inspectors felt that it was too reliant upon school-based mentors to provide. Allied to the small cohort size is the intermittent involvement of experienced mentors, as this is dictated by the subject specialisms being studied each year and this leads to issues of continuity in the mentoring aspect of the programme. As a result, inspectors found some variability in the quality of mentoring across the programme.

3. IMPLICATIONS (RESOURCES, POLICY, RE-DESIGN)

Since the introduction of the new national standards for initial Teacher Education through the Core Content Framework, North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership is only one of three ITE providers sub-regionally accredited to deliver the new ITE programme. Whilst the North Lincs SCITT is small, it represents an important route into teaching for local people, and ensures a supply of strong, highly effective teachers entering into the profession who know the area and overwhelmingly work in local schools. This is an important element of the council priority to ensure highly skilled jobs for a highly skilled workforce. With the demise of large Providers in the area, including the closure of the Hull University ITE programme, there is real potential for growth across the Northern Lincolnshire Region that would help to strengthen the place of the SCITT Partnership as a strong sub-regional partner in the delivery of initial teacher education.

4. CONCLUSION:

During the period from July 2021, when the current Inspection Framework was introduced, to the April 2023, there was 96 Inspections of ITT Providers of which:

- 11% have been judged as outstanding
- 61% have been judged as good
- 20% have been judged Requires Improvement
- 6% judged as Inadequate.

The outstanding grade is a challenging and exacting judgement. In order to reach this standard, the provision must meet all the criteria for good under each heading, both securely and consistently with further criteria under the outstanding judgement that the provider will also need to meet. Whilst inspectors graded the North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership programme

as Good against all criteria, the ambition remains to achieve outstanding at the next inspection. Strategies for improvement have already been identified and form the main focus of the Improvement Plan moving forwards. The current Inspection Framework comes to an end in July 2023 with the introduction of the new Framework and schedule commencing in September 2024, in readiness for the introduction of the new ITE curriculum. The North Lincolnshire SCITT Partnership has successfully been re-accredited to deliver the new ITE programme and is work is currently underway, to design and develop the programme and related resources. The proposed improvements will be aligned to the new programme.

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