

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

