



Improving Attainment in West Norfolk

Becky Box,
Policy, Performance and Personnel Manager



Context

In West Norfolk there are:

- 70 primary schools – for approx. 11,000 pupils
- 8 secondary schools – for approx. 9,500 students
- The College of West Anglia

(source ONS mid 2013)



Background

- Active interest in educational attainment for around 6 years
- Co-ordinate the 'Improving Attainment Steering Group'
- Remains one of our corporate priorities
- Very 'West Norfolk' focused
- Funded via second homes money



Previous Initiatives

- Research and developing a cohesive approach to tackling attainment
- Establishment of the Steering Group, priority issues:
 - Best practice and leadership development (e.g. middle & senior leaders, visits, coaching & mentoring)
 - Raising aspirations/knowledge of options
 - 'Achievement for all' project (£100k funding)
- General focus on Secondary schools



Current Focus – 2016/17

- Engagement with a wider range of schools (including primaries)
- Attainment in Maths and English
- Small projects which target specific areas of need, linked to identified priorities
- Support for mental health related initiatives
- Transition



Performance Data

Neil Groves

Adviser, Education Achievement Service,
Norfolk County Council



Achievements in 2016/17

- Establishment of a primary heads network
- Support for a range of small projects which have delivered real improvement in schools
- Supported schools to develop a response to mental health issues
- WN University Challenge conference and mock GCSE's



Examples – Our Norfolk Adventure

Heacham Juniors

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le8g2K6EqZM>



Example 2 – The Windmill Warbler



Happy Birthday Ma'am

Archie (TSL) and Thomas (WW)

Friday the 10th June was the Queen's official 90th birthday. To celebrate, The Windmill Primary Federation held street parties – to mark the occasion.

At Walpole Highway, the dining room was set up with long tables and the hall was decorated with bunting made by the children. At the start of lunch, the children sang the National Anthem. Following this, the children enjoyed an afternoon of regal activities, including a bouncy Windsor Castle!

At the West Walton street party, the weather was glorious. Food was provided by the School Association for the whole community to enjoy. The

children got into the spirit by painting their faces and wearing crowns. At the end of the afternoon, in honour of Her Majesty, the children sang the National Anthem.

At Terrington St John, one big table was set up in the playground for the children to eat at. The playground was decorated with bunting and the children enjoyed playing with their friends. Following this, the children sang the National Anthem before bowing or curtsying to Princess Pursglove.

At Tilney St Lawrence, tables were set up on the field; there was lots of different food to enjoy, including cucumber sandwiches and cupcakes topped with royal icing. All of the children had a fantastic time and they are already looking forward to celebrating the Queen's 100th Birthday.



Example 3 – Changing Attitudes to Maths

Heacham Infant & Nursery School

‘Pupils ‘mathematical skills have improved further as a result of the work focussed on the new curriculum and involved maths diaries and workshops for parents and staff. Standards remain above the national average for reading, writing and mathematics at the end of year 2.’

Ofsted 2016



Mental Health Project

In an average class of 30 15 year old pupils:

- 3 could have a mental illness
- 10 are likely to have witnessed their parents separate
- 1 could have experienced the death of a parent
- 7 are likely to have been bullied
- 6 may be self harming

Public Health England, 2015



Mental Health Project

- September 2015 – Ofsted inspection framework revised to include judgement on ‘personal development, behaviour and welfare’
- January 2016, Department of Education: Every school should have a teacher trained in Mental Health First Aid to ensure that teachers and support staff are aware of the issues and have the knowledge, skills and support to address mental health issues in their pupils.



Mental Health Project

- ‘Mental Health First Aid Light’ courses
- ‘Mental Health in Young People’ courses
- Analysing feedback from training
- Supporting small projects within specific schools



University Challenge - Conference



Looking Forward to 2017/18

- Projects which support Maths and English
- Development of mental health project
- Support for transition
- Targeted projects to support areas of need identified by schools (individually or collectively)



Closing Remarks

- Education is not our statutory duty – but we have a responsibility for young people in West Norfolk
- Educational attainment will help secure the long term economic future of the borough
- Very unusual – in fact unheard of! – for a district Council to participate in education in this way



- Opportunity to ask questions.....

