

# ACADEMIES AND TRUSTS UPDATE

Support Services OSP – 6 August 2012

People Directorate



## Academy Schools

Two types of Academy Schools

**Converter Academies:** the Governing Body of the school are able to make the decision to convert to an Academy, under OFSTED they will have received a Good or Outstanding judgement.

**Sponsored Academies:** where a school is felt to be under performing (below floor standards) in the opinion of the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC), it is their role to turn around such under-performance and champion the growth of academies through academy sponsors.

From experience the OSC will visit the LA and the schools concerned and make suggestions about who the sponsors might be and the urgency of the conversion.

In all cases the Academy becomes Independent to the LA is funded through the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The Governing Body will be responsible for establishing an Academy Trust (a charitable company limited by guarantee) and they will then enter into the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for running the academy. They will assume new responsibilities for health and safety; all employee related issues including payroll and pensions, admissions and the buildings and site will be leased to the Trust for between 99 and 125 years.

In terms of the relationship the schools are still treated as part of the Plymouth family and they can still purchase services from the LA and the level of buyback has been maintained in many cases. The impact on services longer term is being evaluated currently.

## Trust Schools

A Foundation School with a trust still operates as a Local Authority maintained school and continues to teach the national curriculum and be inspected by OFSTED. The Governing Body would assume new responsibilities for health and safety, the employment of staff and would be able to administer their own Admissions but still have to adhere to the Admissions Code. In addition the ownership of the land, buildings and assets would transfer from the Local Authority to the school. Funding is still through the Dedicated Schools Grant and through the local formula.

In terms of the relationship the schools are still part of the Plymouth family and experience to date is that they still look to the LA for support and for the services they require.

## Co – operative Trusts

The Co – operative College has worked with the Co – operative Group and schools. Their work has enabled them to develop a distinct co – operative trust model, which enables schools to embed co –operative values into the long term ethos of the school.

Co – operative trust schools combine long term institutional partnerships with a membership structure that enables parents, learners, staff and community organisations to be directly involved in the trust. Stakeholders drawn from these groups are elected to a Forum which holds the Trust to account, helps shape its policies and elects a proportion of trustees.

The stake holding model puts the community at the hearty of education provision, based on the belief that it is only through active engagement of communities that the aspirations and expectations of educational achievement can be transformed.

The co – operative trust model is being adapted and adopted by trusts throughout the country, from single school trusts to large community based clusters.

An updated list of the current status of academies and Trusts is attached as Appendix A.

Jayne Gorton

School Organisation, Access and Services to Schools Manager

25 July 2012