

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

1 November 2012



## Academies and Trusts Update

### 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 Department for Education (DfE) and 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. Academy schools whilst being able to administer their own admissions they still have to adhere to the Admissions code.

### 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 all schools in the city are treated as part of the Plymouth family irrespective of their status.

### 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 heart 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.

A report has been taken through Cabinet to give Officers authorisation to consult with schools on becoming Trust schools and discussions are being held in November with Cllrs Williams and Penberthy on the format and content of the consultation.

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

### **Free Schools**

Two Free Schools have been approved by the Secretary of State for opening in the City from September 2013 both are subject to the Funding Agreement being signed by the Secretary of State prior to opening their doors.

Marine Academy Plymouth Primary School will open on the site of the Secondary Academy and the process to commence building the new provision is in place. The school will be 2FE (60 places in each year group) and will open in September 13 with 60 places in reception and 30 places available in Year 1

Plymouth School of Creative Arts will open with 60 places in reception and a number of potential places in Year 1 from September 2013. We are yet to be notified of the proposed site for the new school.

Both Free Schools will support the growth for primary places in the city.

### **University Technical College (UTC)**

The UTC will open in the former Parkside School premises in Devonport in September 2013. Initially they will open with 75 places in Year 10 and 75 places in Year 12. The school will specialise in marine engineering and advanced manufacturing. The Principal Mary Cox will take up her post at the UTC at the beginning of November 2012.

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