

Item 5: OSCSOC200406

Members will recall that Nick Capron came to the November meeting of this Committee to outline the kind of work the school improvement team was undertaking in West Cumbria with a view to raising standards.

At that meeting he issued briefing material – attached – giving the current picture and made the following points:

- There had been a big difference in the effectiveness of the School Improvement Team with the introduction of a local office for West Cumbria.
- The remit was to secure the best possible educational outcomes for pupils attending schools in West Cumbria.
- Their strategy was to adopt a light touch with schools performing well, concentrating their efforts on schools which were either badly performing or where there was an identified need (for example if there had recently been a change in head teacher). This was in line with Government policy.
- With reference to the briefing material supplied, the first table shows the percentage of schools in each category. To the left of the table are the schools requiring little help. To the right of the table, are the schools close to or in special measures.
- Mr Capron pointed out that their effectiveness was dependent on a school's co-operation with the improvement team. He felt that good relationships had been forged.
- With respect to the following table, Gross Value Added was the measure by which they judged a school's performance. The lower the gross value added the greater the intervention in that school.
- Mr Capron felt that in four years time, a significant improvement in education standards would be seen. However, he recognised the challenge of improving local performance against nationally improving performance.

Members are reminded of this information in order that they can compare these statistics with those to be supplied by Mr Capron.