



**Department for Children and Young People  
Cotswold Education Centre**

Head of Service Report 2008 / 2009

**OfSTED Inspection – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

*“Cotswold Education Centre is a good PRU. Given the complexity of the centre, this reflects good leadership and management..... Each individual unit is well managed and the quality of provision is consistently good throughout the centre..... The quality of support and guidance given to pupils in each of the units is outstanding. This is leading to many students, who were previously not engaged in learning, now enjoying being in school, behaving very well and making good progress.”*

Our OfSTED Inspection in April demonstrates clearly that we are a Good PRU with outstanding features where the young people make at least satisfactory progress compared to their peers in mainstream schools. For many of our pupils their achievement measured against the cross section of assessment on entry is good.

The Inspection report predominantly evaluates what would normally be in the annual Head's Report. The following sub headings are therefore in addition to and compliment the report

**Annual SIP Report**

Our School Improvement Partner felt it unnecessary to write the usual annual report in addition to such a recent inspection. However it is important to highlight that our SIP, carries out his duties in supporting all aspects of the PRU to a very high standard. His regular visits present healthy challenge that has enabled us to move forward and be ready and prepared for the depth of scrutiny that OfSTED bring. In particular this past academic year has been focussed upon the following:-

- 1 Severnside Unit, Band 3 Support Plan. This has focussed on 3 areas  
**PRIORITY 1: To improve pupil outcomes and progress through improvements in the curriculum and quality of teaching for students in KS3 and KS4.**  
**PRIORITY 2: Review the arrangements for the management of behaviour, attendance and learning**  
**PRIORITY 3: To improve the quality and consistency of Leadership and Management at all levels in order to secure sustained improvement in student outcomes**

The Support Plan has been in place for just under a year now. The objectives within Priority 2 and 3 have been met. This is evidenced by OfSTED, a reduction in exclusions (zero exclusions in 2008/2009), improved attendance (average just over 80%) and a general improvement trend in relation to achievement. Priority 1 is still a work in progress and whilst huge strides have been made there are still some areas within teaching and learning where further support and development will enhance teacher skills in increasing the engagement of pupils and effectiveness of tracking small steps of progress

made. This will be reviewed in December with the intention of ceasing the Band 3 support and moving the PRU back to Band 2.

The Priority Support Plan has brought with it access to professional support from within The Learning and School Effectiveness Team. This has offered individual teachers, as well as teams, some very valuable professional development.

2. Interrogating the well developed systems and monitoring data, evaluating and making judgments in relation to outcomes, so that the data collected can be used to demonstrate and compare students' rates of progress. What does "Good" look like within EOTAS / PRU? This is the question the Lead Inspector left with us. This is the question and challenge that our SIP has helped us to address.

### **Pupil Attendance**

2008/2009 has seen considerable improvement in attendance across EOTAS /PRU. The previous year saw us struggling to get an average attendance across the PRU units of under 80%. This year we have successfully crossed this threshold. Encouraging good attendance is a priority throughout the units and a very good range of strategies are used to do this. This has resulted in a high percentage of students improving their attendance considerably from their pre-PRU days. However, the attendance of a very small number reduces the overall figures for the centre. (pupil data is available for each unit on request)

### **Pupil Exclusions**

In 2007/2008 the number of days lost to fixed term exclusions was 357. In 2008/2009 this has been reduced to 104. This is a huge improvement. These days were accumulated by 36 students over the academic year. 313 students came through the PRU settings therefore only 11.5% of the students received a FTX. Only 3 students accumulated 10-12 days, 2 students 7 to 8 days, the remainder were 3 days or less. It is important to note that the majority of these exclusions relate to the "hard to place" students with Statements of SEN for BESD awaiting placements in specialist provision. Their needs range across the whole spectrum of BESD including Autism and complex mental health.

### **Standards of Achievement**

Accreditation outcomes are reported separately and each unit will have referred to progress within their unit reports. We are still in the process of evaluating last year's pupil progress to assess the standard for each unit in OfSTED terms. We will be able to report on this at the next full meeting. Each unit manager is currently making a judgement for every student that passed through the PRU last year in order to obtain this final judgement based on the full spectrum of data and assessments. We will have a judgement by the beginning of December.

### **Curriculum Provision**

The Inspection Report offers a sound overview of the curriculum which ..... *"is effective because it addresses the needs of students."* .... Each individual unit report offers more specific information and demonstrates the breadth of opportunity and the creativity developed through extra curricula activities, visits and college links to enhance the core and key skills.

### **Accommodation and Resources**

The Mangotsfield site and Severnside site are both old buildings. Maintaining them is a constant challenge, especially now our Devolved Capital has been halved. Year on

year as the demands on EOTAS change and develop we have constantly reviewed the internal structures and decor to maintain the “the best fit” and a pleasant environment. Last academic year saw yet again some creative changes! In September 2008, the Primary Pathways PRU had increased staffing. This has been subsidised from the CYP SEN section to address the increased numbers of primary pupils with SEN requiring support from the PRU. In order to accommodate this and ensure the efficient use of space, the original primary classrooms were subdivided. This gave us an extra classroom, an office for the Assistant Head and a better use of storage space. Half way through the year we also had to develop a nurture class within the recreational space in order to better meet the needs of “Early Years” referrals. (Reference individual report).

We are still awaiting the outcome of the full inspection of the buildings by CYP Asset Management and Capital Planning Department. This is being pursued and will be followed up by the Finance and Buildings sub group.

### **ICT Infrastructure**

As EOTAS /PRU has grown and expanded and the initiatives for “Smarter Working” within CYP have been rolled out, the ICT demands have continued to increase both for curriculum and Service administration and delivery. This has now reached crisis point within our Service. The reasons for this are many and predominantly technically challenging. During last year it became increasingly evident that these issues would need to be addressed and the process was begun, albeit with a “reluctance” from the CYP to prioritise this. There are cost implications. This term we have initiated an urgent review of our needs and requirements which is being coordinated by Andy Brown. We will continue to report on this through the year.

### **Review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

This will be reported upon at the next full meeting. Regrettably it is not quite ready for this meeting. Each PRU section has reviewed their individual work plan linked into the SIP and prepared a draft work plan for this current Academic Year as an outcome. The review cycle is currently out of sync with the meeting dates and will be rectified for next year. A report summarising the effectiveness of the SIP will be sent to the Management Committee by the close of Term 2. Current review processes both internally and within the CYP (relating to the Leadership Structure from September 2010) will need to be incorporated in the SIP which has prompted the delay in finalising the review and preparing a new overarching work plan.

### **Self Evaluation Form (SEF)**

An update of the SEF will begin in term 4 using the new framework. INSET is being delivered in January to support this process.

### **Finance / Budgets**

The subcommittee will report briefly at this meeting. A full report will be delivered at the end of the financial year.

### **Performance Management and Professional Development Reviews**

The process of Performance Management for all teaching staff across EOTAS has been delivered in line with the statutory guidance and the PRU Performance Management Policy and procedures.

The annual PDPR (Professional Development Performance Review) for non teachers is monitored to ensure all staff have their entitlement of support.

Continued Professional Development opportunities are offered to all staff linked to individual objectives associated with the School Improvement Plan and the Children and Young People Plan.

Two Senior Leaders are accessing the National College for School Leadership this current academic year for the Leadership Pathways and NPQH accreditations.

### **Outreach support**

The Behaviour Support team continue to offer excellent partnership working within mainstream schools. This is reported by John Kelly in his individual annual summary report. The team are highly respected by our colleagues within the CYP. The joint working with our PRU sites link closely with well developed and regularly evaluated procedures to support all Government strategies, in particular partnership working related to behaviour, attendance, SEAL and achievement.

### **Supporting the education of Children in Care to South Gloucestershire.**

Steve Claypoole has had another successful year with his mini team supporting 'Designated Teachers'. Whilst this falls under the EOTAS umbrella and Steve and his team are line managed by the Head of Service, it is not the responsibility of our Management Committee in relation to outcomes. Performance Indicators for this area are reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

### **Other exciting developments 2008/2009 crossing into 2009/2010**

- Lottery Funding and a grant from Medloc Trust for ICT. Matt Cave (Ass Head Pri Pathways) was successful in bidding for Lottery Funding. A new state of the Art Playground Trail was purchased and installed with the £8,000.00. Matt also received a grant for the PRU worth £8,400.00 to develop ICT for pupils across the PRU
- DCSF grants (2 x £3,000.00). The Severnside PRU and The Learning Centre were successful in bidding for funding to further develop SEAL within their sections. Both units had to formulate a suitable project and put together an Action Plan which will culminate in disseminating the outcome to all secondary school representatives during May 2010. The good practice will be placed on the DCSF SEAL website.
  - **Severnside Unit** – To resource a radio station that can be used to address SEAL, literacy and PSHEE. To develop a 'passport for learning', this helps pupils to show their achievements.
  - **The Mangotsfield Learning Centre** – To run a Parent Group based on the SEAL principles that will empower parent/carers with confidence to better facilitate their child's transition back to school.
- **National Children's Bureau research project.** The DCSF have commissioned the NCB, funded by the Innovation Grant, to research into the mental health needs of young people within PRUs in six Local Authorities in the country over a 3 year period. The purpose being to develop a framework of integrated support to better meet the needs of such pupils, which will be offered as good practice to all LAs. The Mangotsfield site PRU is to be used for this, incorporating the 3 sections that are based here. The research takes place over 3 days this November. If we are chosen as one of 2 LAs in phase two of this project, experienced consultants will support our development needs which will evidence good practice across the country.

- **Links with John Lewis.** Severnside PRU have sort charitable support from John Lewis. This is in the process of development. The Bristol Branch has supplied a Nintendo Wii to the unit and other link ups are planned, including a visit by a representative from the Catering Team to talk about Healthy Eating. A full page article is in the October addition of “Chronicle”

### **Head's comments!**

On a personal note I feel extremely proud of this large provision and the achievements made through 2008/ 2009. I wish to thank in particular, The Deputy Head and Assistant Heads, together with the SMT who work tirelessly to improve delivery at all times and are a very strong team. This current academic year will be my last working year and whilst I look forward to my retirement, I fear the ‘gaping hole’ this will bring, the laughter and tears and the camaraderie that has built over the years.

There are many changes ahead and I intend to work hard during this year to ensure that all personnel feel confident to continue the good practice established within EOTAS and to leave a service fit for purpose.

Thank you all for making my job the happiest years of my career in Eduaction.

Gill Beech – November 12<sup>th</sup> 2009