

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 23 May 2019 at 10.00 am

Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester



AGENDA

4	<p>Academy Schools in Gloucestershire - The Role of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) (Pages 1 - 10)</p> <p>The Deputy Director Regional Schools Commissioners – South West will be in attendance to discuss the role of the RSC and to discuss what the RSC is doing to support improvement in Gloucestershire’s Academy Schools.</p> <p>Information on Regional Schools Commissioners is available at this link https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/schools-commissioners-group/about.</p>	Cllr Brian Robinson
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Membership – *Cllr Chris Coleman, Cllr Stephen Davies, Cllr Bernard Fisher, Cllr Colin Hay, Cllr Dr Andrew Miller, Cllr Shaun Parsons, Cllr Loraine Patrick, Cllr Brian Robinson (Chairman) and Cllr Lesley Williams MBE*

Added Members - *Charlotte Blanch (Clifton Diocese) and Dr Richard Castle (Primary Sector Parent Governor Representative)*

Co-Opted Member - *Ambassador for Vulnerable Children and Young People*

- (a) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Please declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests that you may have relating to specific matters which may be discussed at this meeting, by signing the form that will be available in the Cabinet Suite. Completing this list is acceptable as a declaration, but does not, of course, prevent members from declaring an interest orally in relation to individual agenda items. The list will be available for public inspection.

Members requiring advice or clarification about whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer (Jane Burns Tel: 01452 328472 /fax: 01452 425149 e-mail: jane.burns@gloucestershire.gov.uk) prior to the start of the meeting.



(b) **INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL QUERIES** - If you wish to inspect Minutes or Reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact:
Andrea Clarke, Senior Democratic Services Adviser
☎:01452 324203/e-mail: andrea.clarke@gloucestershire.gov.uk

(c) **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 1 Will Members please sign the attendance list.
- 2 Please note that substitution arrangements are in place for Scrutiny (see p88 of the Constitution).

EVACUATION PROCEDURE - in the event of the fire alarms sounding during the meeting please leave as directed in a calm and orderly manner and go to the assembly point which is **outside the main entrance to Shire Hall in Westgate Street**. Please remain there and await further instructions.



Children and Families Overview Scrutiny Committee (CFOSC)

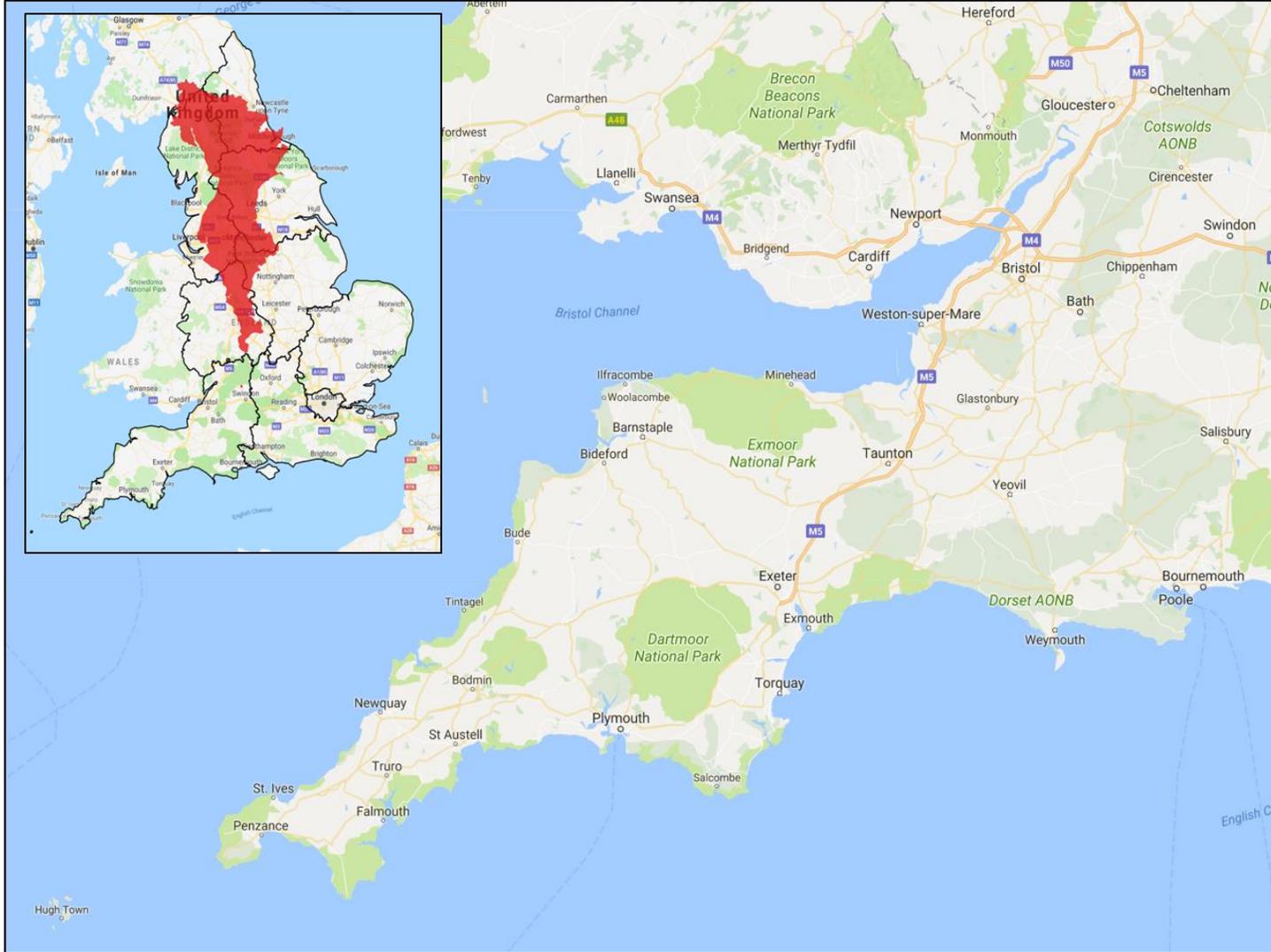
Hannah Woodhouse

**Deputy Director for the Office of the
Regional Schools Commissioner for the
South West**



Department
for Education

South West overview



2,341 state-funded schools in the SW

Approx 62% of SW pupils are in academies

158 SW MATs and 208 SW SATs

1,231 SW academies (> 53% of state-funded schools) – the most academised region

> 83% of academies are in MATs

Vision 2018/19

Our vision is for all children in the South West, regardless of background, to receive the high quality education that they deserve. We are committed to working collaboratively across the sector to achieve this shared purpose by tackling robustly underperformance at trust level; by providing support and challenge to trusts on their school improvement strategy, leadership and financial management; and by making evidence-based decisions that are in the best interests of the children in our schools.



The Schools Picture in Gloucestershire

308 (non-independent) schools

- 246 primary
- 40 secondary
- 3 sixth form colleges
- 16 PRU / special schools

94 academies (31%)

- 55 primary academies
- 35 secondary academies
- 4 special schools

11 multi-academy trusts (MATs) in Gloucestershire

- 48 academies are in MATs (just over 50% of the open academies)

Gloucestershire has 46 standalone, single academy trusts (SATs)

- This is the largest number of SATs within the SW region (nearly a quarter of SW SATs are in Gloucestershire LA alone)

7 schools in Gloucestershire are selective (grammar) schools

7 schools in Gloucestershire are in Special Measures (3 are academies, of the 4 LA maintained schools, 3 have been approved to join MATs). 20 maintained schools have an RI judgement

Positives – and some challenges

Good news

- Gloucestershire Learning Alliance school showing strong central school improvement
- DGAT schools moving forward
- Greenshaw Learning Trust making good, early progress
- Robinswood, Balcarras, SAND and Corinium as examples of locally led MATs developing capacity
- Progress – and more to do – in the Forest of Dean

Challenges

- Some academies in Gloucester City
- Small number of sponsoring MATs
- Vulnerable maintained schools

What do MATs bring to school improvement?

Vision, culture and ethos

- Clarity of purpose
- Understanding of needs
- Leading a culture of improvement

People and Partners

- Building capacity for improvement
- Recruiting, developing and retaining talent

Teaching and Learning

- Approach to pedagogy
- Leadership of teaching
- Evidence based professional learning models

Curriculum and assessment

- Curriculum alignment
- Intentional use of assessment

High Quality Governance

- Knowing schools quantitatively
- Knowing schools qualitatively

Support for academies

Making sure every academy is in a strong and effective MAT is key to making sure they are both financially sustainable and able to effect rapid and effective improvement in outcomes

Support/challenge for Trusts includes:

- MAT reviews with Chairs and CEOs
- MAT- MAT development including networks, leadership programmes, Chairs networks, support for growing Trusts and brokered partnerships
- Rapid action for vulnerable Trusts including deploying Education and Financial Advisers
- Some school improvement support if RI and above from Teaching schools and others

But... RSCs are NOT able to remove schools, or issue formal challenge to a Trust, unless their school is judged inadequate

Issues we're working on in Gloucestershire

- Monitoring those MATs with academies in a category
- Developing the locally led MATs that we have. Multi academy trusts will be able to provide more school improvement support if they are able to grow their capacity through Good schools joining them.
- Challenging the decision making of the large number of financially (and educationally) vulnerable SATs
- Encouraging the development of new MATs in Gloucestershire, or from further afield...drawing on local collaboration. There remains some concern about fear of losing identity by joining a MAT and we are working with LA to encourage schools to see benefits (financially, CPD etc) of joining or forming a MAT.
- Work with the LA team and Diocese to prevent maintained schools dropping into inadequate category by supporting long term collaborative models

Questions

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