

Putting the Learner First

Northumberland schools
reorganisation newsletter

No.8 March 2006

Update on Progress with Putting the Learner First in Alnwick Partnership

In April 2005, the County Council voted to move forward with consultation on plans to reorganise the system of Education in Northumberland from a first, middle and high school structure to a primary/secondary structure, bringing us into line with the rest of the country and aligning our education with the National Curriculum. The overriding reason for this change is our aspiration to raise the standards of achievement of the pupils in Northumberland and to provide them with the best opportunity to reach their full potential. Additionally, we need to tackle the current poor school building stock and address the issue of surplus places in order to develop an education system fit for the 21st Century.

Stage 2 (Step Two) Consultation in Alnwick Partnership

As you may know, a bid for £12 million from the government to fund the reorganisation of Cramlington High School was not successful and therefore the County Council is funding the reorganisation of the Cramlington Partnership from its own resources. Any proposed reorganisation of Alnwick, Hirst, Ashington and Seaton Valley partnerships depends on the successful acquisition of additional funding and as a result, Stage 2 (Step Two) Consultation in these partnerships may be delayed. Stage 2 (Step Two) Consultation will widen to involve parents, staff, governors and Early Years Care and Education providers, and you will be informed as soon as firm dates for consultation have been agreed.

Market Testing of School Sites in Alnwick

A number of options are being explored for the financing of any proposed reorganisation of Alnwick Partnership. One of these is a market testing exercise in relation to those schools in Alnwick that are in the County Council's freehold ownership.

An advertisement is to be placed in the local and national press on 11th March 2006 inviting expressions of interest.

Other News

- Programme Director – Jackie Strong has now left the role of Programme Director for Putting the Learner First but is happily still involved with Northumberland County Council as Chair of the Education Partnership Board, whose role is to oversee the implementation of the OFSTED Recovery Plan.

As Executive Director of Children's Services, Trevor Doughty will continue to have ultimate responsibility for the Putting the Learner First Programme, however Robin Casson, Director of Schools and Family Support, will take on the strategic management of the programme.

Contact details:

Putting the Learner First Team,
Children's Services Directorate,
Northumberland County Council,
County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
email to: learnerfirst@northumberland.gov.uk
www2.northumberland.gov.uk/learning