

Meeting at Hanson School 9th June 2015 re Ofsted report, and ARC provision

<p>Attended by; David Maxwell, Consultant Headteacher, Oakbank School; Dean Watkin, Vice Principal, Hanson School; Bill Turner, SEN Strategy Manager. Bradford Council; Anne Lomas, head of Sensory Service, and Karen Turner, Assistant Head of Sensory Service, Bradford Council 2 parents of VI pupils; 9 parents of HI pupils</p>	
<p>DM introduced himself, and outlined the support being made available by himself, and Paul Morrissey, Headteacher of Guiseley School, who are supporting the leadership of the school. The school is in Special Measures, which was an accurate judgement in February; there is very little that was positive, apart from support for VI pupils. HI pupils are not doing well, and there needs to be improvement.</p>	
Questions from parents	Responses
<p>Why did the report take so long to be published?</p>	<p>DM. Usually when a school goes into Special Measures it takes 6 weeks for the publication of the report. There were some objections to some phrases. The law says that a school can't tell parents the outcome until the report is published; the report was available to school from Monday 1st June, and it was decided to share with parents and students on 4th June.</p>
<p>Who made the objections?</p>	<p>DM. Both the school and the Local Authority (LA) found some phrases were inaccurate. DM and PM were aware of the content from march, and were able to start improvement work, but were not allowed to tell anyone the outcome. HI parents saw DM two weeks ago. The LA makes the provision, but the school is responsible for the progress of all the children. The ARC children are on the roll of the school, therefore the school has the responsibility. There is now partnership working between the school and the LA, but the Head is responsible for progress.</p>
<p>Are you the Head of the school now?</p>	<p>A structure diagram of the leadership team was shared with the group; Ms Churton remains the Principal, David and Paul are supporting.</p>
<p>Where is the Principal?</p>	<p>DM. She is absent due to illness. Paul Morrissey is the Acting Principal; Guiseley school has outstanding for Leadership, Oakbank is good. Both taught at Hanson years ago and have a connection to the school.</p>
<p>Have you implemented all the changes?</p>	<p>DM. Actions so far. A new leadership team, with 3 Vice Principals, and 4 Assistant Principals. The ARC is no longer separate; it is now part of the SEND in the school. Pupil premium is ring fenced to those pupils who are eligible. For HI, the new structure is being implemented, including additional staff. Travel training is being bought in. The minibus is being made available for youth work. There is a new behaviour system, with a greater staff presence around school,, and emphasis on uniform and behaviour. There is a new SEN structure, with a new SENCo, and different focus, and the ARC is part of this. There is a fresh start to Teaching and Learning, and marking and feedback, and new planners. There are new seating plans. From Monday, the school is going back to year groupings. We have made an agreement for Bradford Deaf Children's Society to use the minibus; an SLA has been drawn up today.</p>

Are Amey still here?	DM. Yes, Amey still have control of the building, as it is a PFI school, and in effect the school pay a mortgage on the building.
Have all the new posts been filled within school?	DM. Yes, they have appointed from within existing staff.
Are the inadequate teachers still in post?	DM. Yes; training is being put in place. Immanuel School staff are providing additional support. Moving forward, we are where we are.
When the children came here, this was supposed to be the best place for our children.	DM. Yes, the LA put the provision into this school
Is it an Academy?	DM. no; the School Partnership Trust (SPT) came in 2011 to take over the school, but it never became an Academy. It has always been an LA school.
Will that change? The uniform has the Academy logo.	DM. SPT has withdrawn.
Who do we blame? All the senior people ignored us. How will our children get a better deal? What guarantees are there?	DM. We have moved things on already. We are having open conversations. David and Paul will be here until at least Christmas, and will ensure the ARC is improved. I want the school to be good enough for my child, and for yours. The new EHC plans will give more power to parents.
A parent commented that her child, and other children had been let down; what could we say to a parent whose son has struggled, and whose second son is starting in September?	AL. There are many reasons why the children who moved from Thorn Park have not done well, largely because of the expectations of staff and parents when the children moved. Hanson is not a special school. For the first time, we are now working with the school, and we will be able to make changes.
Are you temporary?	DM. We are here to support the Principal.
A parent commented that she was worried about her child, and how he was doing.	DM / KT. Some children are doing very well, some children are doing well, and others are not.
Who is taking responsibility, who is to blame?	DM. The ARC is not an add-on now; it is part of the school.
What do we do when you've gone?	DM. We will ensure that all the information is passed onto whoever comes next, and they understand the ARC is now part of the school.
Why have you got a teacher from Girlington primary School?	DM. I have two primary teachers in Oakbank who teach maths, and they are among the best teachers.
A parent raised individual points about his child; someone must take responsibility for what has happened.	DM. You must find out how your child is doing, and if it is not good, how is it going to improve? We will pass on everything to the people who come next, and tell them we have told ARC parents what we will do.
Some parents commented that they would like to move their child to another school, with transport.	AL. We are not responsible for transport, and have no influence over it.
Will OfSted come again?	DM. We expect an HMI visit before the end of the summer term, when they will be looking for improvement. The report should be on the school website within 2 weeks.
Is there any other school for my child?	DM. St John's in Boston spa, but they do not provide BSL.
A parent commented that it would be Ok for a child with a cochlear implant. Who will support us to look for another school?	AL. The ARC will. BT. Parents can request a place in another school; the LA has already had one request. The LA will support a place out of Hanson if there is evidence that the child has not made progress. If a child is not making progress, can another school meet the needs? The LA is asking itself why we would

	place children in a school in Special Measures. DM. The HMI will visit the ARC and look at progress.
Will there be notice of this inspection?	DM. Probably 3 days.
So you will have 3 days to get it right.	DM. Not really; they will see the school as it is, and they are looking for improvement.
A parent commented that she wants the children to come to Hanson, to do well, and to leave with good results.	If you have real concerns, talk to the ARC staff.
A parent commented that there is nothing for deaf children in employment. Not a single one of the children in the youth group is employed. This is the education route; it has gone wrong, how do they go further. We need contact with connexions, and Careers, and Morley Street only start from 18.	BT. EHC plans now go to 25 for young people in education. There are discussions going on with the adult team around Sensory Impairment; Anne Lomas could follow this up. The adult team could make contact with the parent group.
What is available for post 16 at Hanson? Transitions are poor, students just go to college.	DM. This needs to be looked at. DW. The school is looking again at 6 th form and level 2 courses. There is a need to plan for post 16. DM. Transitions have been discussed in the Tuesday morning meetings with HI parents; other parents can attend.
Is there support for Careers / options? You should be looking at functional skills.	DW. Yes there is. School has just appointed a PHSE co-ordinator; this could be looked at.
A parent asked about an individual timetable for his son.	AL. This can be looked at the Annual Review, in partnership with school staff.
If the teaching is inadequate, are those teachers still going to be here? The school needs to ensure the teachers are right. Children have to take GCSE's if they are ready or not.	DM. Thanked the parents for attending.