

Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1LH

PROTECT-INSPECTION

T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0121 683 3259
Direct email: lisa.parkes@serco.com



17 December 2012

Philomena Cozens
Executive Headteacher
Css NE Quadrant Pupil Referral Unit
The Mile End Centre
Turner Road
Colchester
CO4 5LB

Dear Philomena Cozens

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Css Ne Quadrant PRU

Following my visit to your pupil referral unit (PRU) on 14 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the PRU since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the PRU was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in 10 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the executive headteacher, a new member of the management committee and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, two local secondary school headteachers have joined the management committee. The executive headteacher continues to share her time between this PRU and another effective local PRU, on a temporary basis.

Main findings

The PRU accepts that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones, and has begun to take action to resolve them by focusing on improving the Mile End centre, the weakest of the PRU's three centres. This includes:

- implementing new plans to make pupils' behaviour, their attitudes towards learning, and attendance more consistent
- reviewing lesson planning on a weekly basis and visiting lessons to gauge the quality of all teaching
- clarifying the roles and responsibilities of leaders and managers and scheduling departmental meetings for all staff to develop new schemes of work to improve their teaching
- formulating a new timetable for the start of next term to give all pupils their full entitlement to learning, and to measure which staff are capable of delivering it well enough
- meeting with the local authority to discuss a new strategic direction for the PRU, and strengthening the management committee to steer this process

Senior leaders have begun to take effective action to tackle some of the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The executive headteacher has rightly prioritised a review of the curriculum. She has not had time to fully evaluate the quality of teaching and its impact on pupils learning, or assess the quality of leadership and management. Following the visit to the PRU, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- fully implement the new curriculum from January 2013 and thoroughly evaluate how well staff teach it, and the impact this has on pupils' learning and progress based on an accurate assessment of pupils' starting points.
- liaise with the local authority and the management committee to determine the long term future of the PRU and agree how this will be resourced.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the PRU until its next section 5 inspection as significant changes are planned for next year. HMI will meet with the local authority in the summer term 2013 to review the development of the PRU and assess the progress it has made towards becoming good.

External support

The local authority has brokered the services of an experienced headteacher and a member of staff from another local PRU to benefit from their good practice. Local authority advisers are working alongside senior leaders to gain an accurate overview of the quality of teaching.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the management committee and the Director of Children's Services for Essex.

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector