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14 February 2013

Ms K Linden
Headteacher
Havering KS4 PRU
Arc PRU
Romford
Albert Road
RM1 2PS

Dear Ms Linden

Requires improvement monitoring inspection under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Havering KS4 Pupil Referral Unit

Following my visit to your school on 14 February 2013, 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 school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

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

Evidence

During the visit, I had meetings with you and with a representative of the local authority. A telephone conversation was held with the chair of the management committee. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A brief tour of the site was completed to observe the impact of any changes made since the inspection.

Context

There have been no significant changes in the school's context since the inspection which judged the school to require improvement.

Main findings

The school's improvement plan has sensible priorities and addresses all the areas for improvement identified in the recent inspection. The plan includes appropriate actions and has achievable timescales. There are clear success criteria but some of

these are not quantified. Staff who will lead the various initiatives are identified and the plan shows who will monitor the various actions. However, it does not explain how and when monitoring will take place or how those responsible for governance will check that the school's actions are making a difference to improving the quality of teaching and pupils' learning. The school has developed a network to support teachers and tutors who work in the various student placements. Staff from the school visit the placements regularly to judge the impact of improvements that are being made. A new attendance policy has been created and students have been set attendance improvement targets. A new electronic system is planned so that the different providers can record students' attendance quickly and in a way which enables the school's staff to have a timely picture of student attendance across the provision. The local authority has planned to restructure the provision so that there will be new governance arrangements operating from April 2013.

Senior leaders and the local authority are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- revise the action plan to include numerical targets, particularly for the actions intended to improve students' attendance and indicate how and when the various actions described in the plan will be monitored
- ensure that the school improvement plan specifies clearly how the responsible authority will judge the impact of the school's improvement plan, particularly in relation to improving teaching and the impact this has on improving students' achievement
- ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements for governance of the school.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority is working closely with the school to support the regular review of performance and advisers and consultants have been commissioned to assist leaders and managers in planning for improvement and to support the development of teaching and learning.

I am copying this letter to the Director of Children's Services for Havering.

Yours sincerely

Robert Ellis
Her Majesty's Inspector