
Meeting: Central Bedfordshire Schools Forum
Date: 25 January 2010
Subject: **Position Statement on Central Bedfordshire Council FMSiS Assessments & Future Funding for Assessments**

Report of: Audit Manager- Internal Audit
Summary: To update the Schools Forum on the current position with regards to schools that have passed the FMSiS.

Contact Officer: Roger Willoughby, Audit Manager – Internal Audit
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To note the report.**

Background

1. The Forum was presented with position statements in June and September 2009 on the progress of the Authority in assessing schools against the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS). Since then, further work has been completed on the backlog of 2008-09 assessments, as well as commencement of the programmed assessments for 2009-10.

Current position

2. The summary table below indicates the current status of Central Bedfordshire Council's schools in terms of passing the FMSiS. Assessments are completed by Internal Audit and Schools Finance staff. Please note that Northfields Technology College is now an Academy and no longer subject to FMSiS compliance, hence the number of schools has been reduced from 139 to 138.

2008-09 Assessments

3. The backlog of 2008-09 assessments is almost cleared as indicated in the table below:

	Status at 4.1.10	As percentage of schools programmed for assessment	Status at 10.9.09 (previous update)	Comments
Pass	71	65%	57	This includes schools that have previously failed
Fail	18	17%	19	Due for reassessment in 2009-10
Assessments in progress	19	18%	32	This includes schools that have previously failed
Total assessments completed or in progress (pre- 2009-10)	108	100%	108	
Schools due for assessment in 2009-10	30		30	
Total CBC Schools	138		138	This excludes 2009-10 reassessments (8)

4. The 19 assessments showing as in progress above include a further 5 assessments awaiting review (which are substantially complete) and a Conditional Pass which is also substantially complete. This leaves a balance of 13 assessments from 2008-09 to be completed.

2009-10 Assessments

5. The schedule of 2009-10 assessments is as follows:

		Comments
Upper School Reassessments	8	Eight out the 9 Upper Schools are due for reassessment this year
Lower Schools & Nurseries	30	Remaining schools that have yet to be assessed for the first time
2008-09 Reassessments (Fails)	18	These are the schools that have failed the assessment from the table above
Total 2009-10 Assessments	56	

The progress on these is minimal as outlined below:

	Status at 4.1.09	As percentage of schools programmed for assessment	Comments
Pass	0	0%	No assessments completed
Fail	0	0%	No assessments completed
Assessments in progress	7	13%	
Assessments submitted but not started	6	11%	
Assessments not yet submitted	45	76%	
Schools due for assessment in 2009-10	56	100%	

Schedule for 2009-10- Slippage

6. Following comments from the Forum concerning the delays in the 2008-09 assessments, it was agreed that the schools to be assessed in 2009-10 would be scheduled. This was completed at the end of the Summer Term and start of the Autumn Term 2009. The agreed dates for submission of evidence for assessment were confirmed with the Headteacher of each school in writing.
7. At 31 December 2009 we would have expected 20 submissions for assessment as agreed with individual schools. We had received at that date 13 submissions, the majority of which were received in the last week of term. This highlights the historical problems with scheduling the assessments and completing them in a timely manner, and is likely to lead to a backlog of assessments at the end of the financial year.

Funding for Assessments 2010- 2013

8. The Forum will be aware that Internal Audit are developing a revised approach to the FMSiS assessments, and in addition are currently liaising with the School Improvement Team to develop a coordinated approach to school improvement including financial management. Once this approach has been determined, Internal Audit will discuss any proposals for changes to existing funding levels with the Schools Forum.

Summary and Conclusions

9. Further work continues to be made clearing the backlog of 2008-09 assessments.

10. Work on the scheduled 2009-10 assessments has commenced, despite some slippage on the part of schools scheduled for assessment this year.

Appendix:

Appendix A - Schedule of Central Bedfordshire Council Schools and FMSiS Status