

**To: Oxford Strategic Partnership**

**Date: 17 January 2013**

**Report of: Anna Wright**

**Title of Report: The Oxford Challenge: Achieving world class teaching in Oxford City School serving disadvantaged areas**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To update the Partnership on the take up of the city's Education Project – World Class Challenge

### **Introduction**

1. Oxford City Council under the aegis of the Oxford Strategic Partnership has committed significant funding alongside the County Council to raise attainment in primary schools in Oxford City. It has set ambitious targets to raise levels of attainment in city schools serving the most disadvantaged communities to 10% above the national average. This would mean:
  - 95% achieving level 2 in Reading at age 7 and
  - 84% achieving Level 4 in English and Maths at age 11 by 2016.
2. Following a tender process and interviews involving 4 of the head-teachers in the target group, the City Council has let contracts to two providers to implement programmes designed to raise attainment in the schools.
  - KRM - Psychological and Education Research Consultants programme to improve reading, writing, spelling and numeracy at ages 7 and 11;
  - The Oxford Schools and Universities Consortium to deliver a world class leadership programme for senior and middle leaders in the schools. This is a consortium of Oxford University Department of Education, Oxford Brookes University and Oxford secondary schools.
3. A range of engagement activities took place to familiarise schools with the offer which included:
  - A one day conference on 19 September to present the KRM programme

- Individual sessions in each school for a wider range of staff to hear about the programme and separate meetings with the Education Adviser to discuss the programme
  - A seminar at the Education Department to present the leadership programme on 10 October
  - A half day workshop on 7 November which included videos of lessons and video conferencing with a London school implementing KRM.
4. Schools were originally asked to respond with their decisions by 16 October but this was extended to 13 November following a request from a number of schools that they needed more time to find out more about the programme and discuss it with staff and governors.

### **Take up of the programme**

5. Nine schools have confirmed that they wish to participate in the KRM programme:
- Bayard's Hill starting with KRM Reading
  - John Henry Newman starting with KRM Reading
  - East Oxford starting with KRM Reading
  - Larkrise starting with KRM Numeracy
  - St Francis starting with KRM Numeracy
  - Pegasus, Orchard Meadow and Windale as part of new BBL Academy starting with KRM Reading
  - St John Fisher starting with KRM Reading
6. The following schools do not want to take up the offer of KRM support at this stage but may wish to take up KRM next academic year:
- Wood Farm
  - Church Cowley St James
7. The following schools have declined involvement in the KRM programme
- Cuttleslowe
  - St Nicholas
  - Rose Hill
8. The following 11 schools have indicated that they would like to participate in the World Class Leadership Programme
- Bayard's Hill
  - Larkrise
  - East Oxford
  - Cuttleslowe
  - Pegasus, Orchard Meadow and Windale as part of new BBL Academy
  - Church Cowley St James

- Wood Farm
- St Francis
- St John Fisher

### Next steps

9. Schools participating in the programme are agreeing start dates with the providers. Two schools, John Henry Newman Academy and Lark Rise Primary, have started implementing the programme, four more schools are starting in the next month and the three schools involved in the Blackbird Leys Academy are likely to start to coincide with the launch of the Academy in April.
10. The leadership programme is being launched by the two universities on 17 January with a day focusing on analysing performance with a keynote address by Professor Pam Sammonds.
11. Each school involved in the KRM programme is receiving £8000 worth of high quality children's books. This provides each year group in the schools with 200 books.
12. A steering group is being set up, chaired by Councillor Steve Curran, to take an overview of the leadership programme, and termly meetings are being held with the providers to monitor the progress on the contracts.

**Name and contact details of author:-**

Name: Anna Wright

Job title: Education Department

Service Area / Department: Policy, Culture and Communications

Tel: 07415 099245 e-mail: akwright@oxford.gov.uk