

TITLE OF REPORT: De-Delegation – Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Schools Forum an update on the work delivered from September 2015 as part of the de-delegated funding in place for Support to Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups and Bilingual Learners.

Background

2. The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) aims to enhance the quality of educational opportunity, and support the educational achievement of all ethnic minority and Traveller pupils by offering a range of services to Gateshead schools.
3. It works in partnership with schools and other partners in providing a challenging and exciting learning environment which celebrates cultural diversity, promotes equal opportunities and raises the level of achievement of pupils from all ethnic minority groups including travellers.
4. From September 2016 the service consists of 7 members of staff equating to 5.2 full time equivalents (including manager).
5. In the last year Gateshead has seen a steady rise in the number of Ethnic Minority (EM) and Gypsy Roma and Traveller (GRT) children attending our schools.
6. Some of these are asylum seekers entering the country through the Home Office Resettlement programme others directly crossing borders and claiming asylum.
7. We are also still seeing children from other EU countries joining our schools; these pupils are particularly from Romania, Slovakia and Poland. Alongside this there is a rise in the number of children coming from Afghanistan and Iran. We are expecting a further increase once Clause 50 is implemented by the government.
8. The EMTAS team have assessed all the new arrivals and in some schools supported them to access the school curriculum.
9. The percentage of Ethnic Minority children recorded in our schools in January 2016 was 9.06%. This is a significant increase over last year's figure of 7.30%. This does not however take into account the continuing arrival of refugee children from Syria over the last year. In fact, there has been an increase of 3.5% over the past five years, and it is likely that the figures for January 2017 will exceed 11%.

10. It is worth noting that schools indicated that data had not yet been obtained for 50 pupils and that the ethnicity question was not completed at all for 280 pupils. There is also a lack of consistency in the way that schools use ethnicity codes, which makes it difficult to accurately identify trends. This was identified when EMTAS staff supported schools in completing the October census.
11. EMTAS plans to issue guidance to all schools ahead of the January 2017 census return.
12. Overall many of our schools have seen an increase in the number of new arrivals who speak no English and in many cases have never had any schooling. They bring with them a number of other complex problems.
13. The number of languages in our schools has also increased to over 80.

September 2015 – October 2016

14. EMTAS have assessed, provided advice, guidance and support to almost 300 pupils in 25 schools. In addition to this EMTAS staff have assessed and monitored the progress of all English as an Additional Language (EAL) children.
15. Alongside this EMTAS staff carry out initial assessments on all new EAL admissions including all the Syrian children joining our schools prior to the allocation of support.
16. 85% of pupils supported by EMTAS in primary schools have moved up at least one or more level (some of the pupils may have arrived mid-term).
17. 89% of pupils supported by EMTAS in secondary schools/academies moved up at least one or more levels (some of the pupils may have arrived mid-term).
18. EMTAS staff has also worked with teachers and non - teaching staff, guiding, advising and supporting them as required.
19. They have also facilitated all parent/home school liaison, arrangement of interpreters for meetings, attending parents evening and other meetings as requested.
20. In some schools EMTAS has worked in an advisory capacity to the EAL Co-ordinator providing them with information, strategies, and resources to help them meet the needs of EAL and GRT pupils. In other schools they have worked with pupils either 1:1 or as part of a group.
21. EMTAS attends the Multi agency Hate Crime meetings and has regularly provided phone advice and guidance to schools on issues around hate crime/racism and other issues. They follow up all hate crime reported in our schools and support schools as required.
22. EMTAS has delivered Multicultural, faith awareness and hate crime activities/training in over 70 classes as well as whole school / Key stage assemblies. We have also delivered CPD training in over 15 schools.

23. EMTAS staff have delivered training at the Universities of Newcastle, Durham and , Northumbria, Gateshead School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT), Shotton College SCITT, Carmel College and Schools Direct. We have also delivered training to services within Gateshead Council who work with Ethnic Minority pupils.
24. EMTAS has worked with 6 secondary schools to identify and support pupils, through the Heritage Language GCSE examination process. We have also identified the tutors and organised the timetables for the examinations. All the pupils passed with excellent results.
25. Gateshead schools have 61 Gipsy, Roma & Traveller (GRT) pupils on roll. The EMTAS service supports the GRT pupils in five primary schools and 4 pupils in secondary schools. There are another 5 pupils who have elected to home educate their children. EMTAS has worked with the Fair Access officer to identify appropriate tutors for them.
26. EMTAS is also working in partnership with the Learning Skills to educate a number of children who do not attend secondary schools.
27. Site visits have regularly been carried out which have helped in developing good parent /school relationships. They have also encouraged parents to send their children to school regularly and to enrol in nursery/ school and secondary school. This can often be a very long and difficult task.
28. We also try to find out when Cluster meetings are taking place so that we can attend them with regular updates. This can at times be very challenging.
29. The service has produced a number of Assessment tools to help assess the growing number of EAL pupils joining our schools.
30. To support our new delivery model we have produced primary and secondary resources which can be used in schools to advise, support and sign post teachers working with EAL pupils.
31. The designated EAL leads forum which was set up last year has proved to be very successful, drawing in a large audience of teachers. The forum meets each half term and has explored a number of topics which have been very relevant to schools. Feedback from the meetings has been very good.
32. EMTAS staff have delivered training on the Talking Partners - EAL Intervention programme training to a number of schools. The delegates received training and resources which will help them in delivering the intervention programme in their schools. A number of schools have already started delivering the intervention programme.
33. The EMTAS service has updated its website and you will find forms for referring children for assessment/support or for booking an interpreter as well as downloads such as the Hate Incident Reporting Form and the Gateshead Multi-faith Calendar as well as links to many resources.
<http://educationgateshead.org/ethnic-minority-and-traveller-achievement/>

34. The EMTAS service has organised and hosted a number of British Council courses for its schools. These courses are free and give schools an opportunity to look at a diversity of topics such as Citizenship, Critical Thinking and Creativity and Imagination. All of the courses have been well attended and have given schools an opportunity to explore these topics in their curriculum. They have also helped schools to develop International links and apply for funding to visit their partner schools.

Proposal

35. In order to enable EMTAS to continue to provide these services to the schools and children in Gateshead it is proposed that schools de-delegate funding. The service is due to undergo a review, and as such the proposed funding rate has been amended from £14.78 per pupil to £13.42.

Recommendations

36. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the work undertaken by EMTAS to support the educational achievement of all ethnic minority and Traveller pupils in Gateshead schools, and approves the de-delegation of funding for EMTAS at the rate of £13.42 per pupil.

For the following reasons:

- To note the work undertaken by EMTAS to support the educational achievement of all ethnic minority and Traveller pupils in Gateshead schools
- To provide funding for the service to enable them to support children and schools in Gateshead.

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