

# **THE SINGLE EDUCATION PLAN**

**A**

**VISION  
FOR**

**DEVON**

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# **CONTEXT - NATIONAL**

## ***A CHANGING BALANCE***

- **Central Prescription**  
v  
**Local Innovation**
- **DfES willing to support LEAs which have determined a clear local direction underpinned by a convincing rationale**

# CONTEXT - NATIONAL

## *KEY POLICIES*

- ◆ National Primary Strategy
- ◆ Transformation of Secondary Schools - 14-19
- ◆ Workforce Remodelling
- ◆ Extended Schools
- ◆ 'Every Child Matters'
- ◆ Transforming Youth Work
- ◆ Framework for the Future

A hugely complex agenda, much of it predicated on urban/suburban communities - at the very least a need to make sense of it locally.

# **CONTEXT - NATIONAL**

## ***ENVIRONMENT - WHERE DO LEAs FIT?***

- **Specialist Schools**
- **National College for School Leadership**
- **General Teaching Council**
- **Higher Education**
- **Partner Agencies**
- **Private Sector**
- **Children's Trusts**

# **CONTEXT - LOCAL**

- \* Third largest county in area  
Twentieth largest by population**
- \* One large urban centre now seeing  
rapid economic growth related to  
'knowledge' industries**
- \* Scattered market and coastal towns**
- \* High employment / low wage economy  
(17% self employed)**
- \* Industries 'in transition' - agriculture,  
tourism, defence**
- \* Absence of major employers**
- \* High quality Higher Education  
opportunities available locally**

- **Rising population, based on in-migration**
- **High proportion of elderly residents**
- **Very high proportion of 18-24 year olds leaving the county**
- **High house prices relative to average salaries**
- **Primary school age population in decline, Secondary age population set to decline from 2006/7**
- **High quality environment**
- **Low crime rate**
- **Health indicators generally good**
- **Low representation of ethnic minority groups**
- **Access to services in rural areas a major issue**
- **Strong brand image**

# **COUNTY COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- **Achieving a prosperous Devon**
- **Creating stronger, safer communities**
- **Promoting a healthy and caring Devon**
- **Promoting achievement through learning**
- **Improving travel and communication in Devon**
- **Looking after Devon's environment, culture and heritage**
- **Ensuring the County Council is a well run authority**

# **EDUCATION IN DEVON**

## ***WE ARE DISTINCTLY AVERAGE!***

- **Quality of Foundation stage in Devon schools below national average**
- **KS2 slightly above national average but one of only five shire counties below 75% level 4s for English**
- **KS3 - significant recent improvement but behind statistical neighbours**
- **KS4 - reasonable improvement in 2003 but behind other S W counties**
- **Participation in Education and Training at 17 above average but still 15%+ disengaged and a significant loss at 18**
- **Attainment at 17/18 at national average**
- **Overall progress 1998-2002 significantly below the national average - particularly marked at KS2 and KS4**

- **Attendance about average**
- **Exclusions above average**
- **Culture of low aspirations in some areas**

# **SCHOOLS**

- **Schools graded good or very good  
2.5% above national average (OfSTED)**
- **Few outstanding features in Devon  
Secondary schools (OfSTED)**
- **Management and Leadership graded  
above the national average (OfSTED)**
- **High proportion of schools in which  
pupils make well below expected  
progress serving deprived communities**

# **LEA**

- **LEA OfSTED 2000 - A balance of  
strengths and weaknesses - Average**

# PROVISION

- ◆ Recently expanded Early Years sector with higher than average provision in the voluntary and private sector
- ◆ Large number of small rural primary schools - many with falling rolls
- ◆ Larger than average Secondary schools
- ◆ Comprehensive Secondary schools almost universal
- ◆ Funding - among bottom 10% of LEAs for Secondary school funding
- ◆ Primary class sizes below national average (2003)
- ◆ Poor but rapidly improving building stock (especially Secondary)

- ◆ **Major reorganisation of schooling in Exeter (2005)**
- ◆ **c. 50% of Secondary schools with Specialist status**
- ◆ **Adult Education service re-positioned to reflect national changes**
- ◆ **Youth Service capacity increasing but well short of national expectations**
- ◆ **Great Moor House**

# CHARACTERISTICS

- Relationships between schools generally good
- Little competition between Secondary schools (outside Exeter) and strong feeder pyramids - Academic Councils
- Headteachers' view of the LEA improving but worse than nationally
- Schools in much of the County feel isolated
- Strong Governor network
- Positive relationship between schools and elected Members
- Specialist support services with good expertise but heavily stretched (eg SEN)

- **Particular strengths in areas related to the broader curriculum**
  - **Healthy Schools**
  - **Environmental Education**
  - **School Travel Plans**
  - **Sports Development**
  
- **Children's Trust Pathfinder - strengthening arrangements with partner agencies**
  
- **60% of teachers will retire in the next 15 years**
  
- **Schools/Education Services not engaged in the Local Strategic Planning process**
  
- **Inclusion proving challenging in a rural context**
  
- **Indistinct focus for innovation**
  
- **Some positive links with Higher Education but are we exploiting the full potential for collaboration?**
  
- **More of the same is not working!**