

REPORT OF GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO LAKESIDE SCHOOL

Governor's name: Di Chamberlain
Person(s) visited: Deirdre Blower, Business Manager
Date of visit: 11 April 2018 **Length of visit:** 1300 - 1430 hrs
Governors' area of interest: Finance

Purpose of visit: **MONITORING OF OUTREACH INCOME**
(planned visit per Schedule of Governors' Internal Control Checks)

Summary of experiences:

Outgoings for Outreach Programme totalled £105,850, made up of VM's actual costs of £103,200, travel costs of £2,150 (including ferry charges to Isle of Wight) and a token amount of £500 for stationery, photocopying, admin etc. No allowance included for GE's time spent on initial visits to head teacher discussions.

Income from Outreach Provision totalled £109,650, made up of HCC contribution of £77,920 and £31,730 for the 75 days paid for by the 7 schools buying into the programme this year.

On the face of it, the situation is £3,800 in credit but as already mentioned, no amount has been included for GE's time nor has any amount been included for any planning and preparation time spent by staff when a child from another school has been brought into Lakeside for a period of time before returning to their own school.

Last year we had 7 schools buying into the programme plus the Isle of Wight Council and the Jackie Box. The schools taking part this year are different schools leading to the conclusion that there is little potential for repeat business, presumably because once school leaders have learnt effective strategies their school will become self sustaining.

My concerns are:

(a) given the squeeze on school finances and the finite number of schools in our 'catchment' area how much longer will the programme be sustainable? Is this going to contribute to a potential budget problem? My understanding is that County are responsible for identifying the schools for possible inclusion in this programme and that County are also responsible for deploying VM should the programme not be sustained.

(b) if we are receiving payment for only 75 days from schools, when or will County be asking how the rest of their contribution is being spent and will they be asking for a refund on their contribution?

(c) there was no paperwork to show what had been agreed with each school so unable to check Lakeside had received all income due or met all its obligations.

ACTIONS:

1. We have a new LA Governor with accountancy skills who will join DC on financial monitoring.
2. Responses required to above concerns.
3. Clarification required on how the young female being supported by Lakeside is being funded.

Next meeting: Autumn 2018 – Monitoring Payroll and Expenses.

Di Chamberlain
11 April 2018