

Council “spins” success of targeted schools support

Cllr John McGhee, Leader of the Opposition, expressed his delight today that twelve of the County schools that had been in special measures or given notice to improve have now improved.

Cllr McGhee was, however, less than happy with the political spin put on this good news and with the fact that the County still has too many schools that are not doing as well as they should be.

Cllr McGhee said:-

“Congratulations to all of those involved with the improvements.”

“However, what the Tories have failed to come clean on is that the County as a whole is still on probation as far as its schools service is concerned. It was only on February 12 that the Government told the Council to improve within six months or the Government might have to consider using its statutory powers of intervention. The way this story is spun you’d think that had never happened.”

“The public deserve to know that there has been **no clean bill of health from Ofsted**. The Ofsted Inspectors remarks are taken from reports on individual schools that have shown improvement. The next overall assessment of the Council is not due until the end of the year.”

“Before that, the next stage in the Government’s programme of rehabilitating our failing schools is the six month report to the Minister – that will be the crucial test.”

“In the meantime, the Tories at County Hall are desperately spinning every glimmer of good news. In this case it does no service whatsoever to the children in our failing schools and you have to question what is behind this story”

“Less spin, more investment – as Labour proposed in its budget. A further £1.5m to improve the performance of failing schools – that’s what Labour promised and that’s what Labour will deliver if elected in June.”

“No spin – no hedging – no patting ourselves on the back - simple straightforward investment in our teaching staff and our children – because they all deserve better .”

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