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IDG on Protestant Working Class Areas

Presentation on
Education in the Greater Shankill Area

4 JANUARY 2005

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For the purposes of this presentation, Greater Shankill has been taken to comprise the following wards:

Glencairn
Highfield
Shankill
Woodvale
Crumlin
Ballysillan

Shankill Primary Schools:

Forthriver PS
Springfield PS
Springhill PS
Edenbrooke PS
Ligoniel PS
Blackmountain PS
Ballysillan PS
Glenwood PS
Malvern PS
Harmony PS

Shankill Post-Primary Schools:

Belfast Model School for Girls
Belfast Boys' Model School
Mount Gilbert Community College

For comparison purposes, in a number of cases data is also provided for Catholic West Belfast schools (controlled, Catholic maintained and other maintained). These are:

West Belfast Primary Schools

Vere Foster PS
St Catherine's PS
St Gall's Monastery PS
St John's Girls' PS
St Aidan's Christian Brothers PS
St Bernadette's PS
St John the Baptist Girls' PS
St John the Baptist Boys' PS
St Mary's PS
St Kevin's PS
Holy Child PS
St Theresa's PS
St Oliver Plunkett PS
St Peter's PS
St Joseph's PS
Holy Trinity PS
St Paul's PS
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
Gaelscoil na Bhfal
Bunscoil An Tsleibhe Dhuibh

West Belfast Post-Primary Schools

St Louise's Comprehensive College
St Rose's High School
Christian Brothers' Secondary School
St Genevieve's High School
La Salle Boys' School
Corpus Christi College
Meanscoil Feirste

DATA SUMMARY

1. PRE- SCHOOL

In 2003/04 the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme provided funding for 464 pre-school places.

349 were taken up by children in their immediate pre-school year, and 112 by children not in their immediate pre-school year. (This represents 29% of funded places, compared to the NI average of 9%.)

2. ENROLMENTS

Primary

School Census data indicates a decline in enrolment figures for primary schools in the Shankill from 2,217 pupils in 1999/00 to 1,870 pupils in 2003/04, ie 347 pupils or by 15.65%. West Belfast primary schools have also had falling enrolments – from 7,660 pupils in 1999/00 to 6,432 pupils in 2003/04, ie 1,228 pupils or by 16.03%. These percentages are significantly higher than the all NI enrolment drop of 5.84% over the same period.

Secondary

Enrolments for secondary schools in the Shankill have dropped from 2,555 pupils in 1999/00 to 2,325 pupils in 2003/04, ie 230 pupils or by 9%. West Belfast have had less significant drop over this period - 6,856 pupils in 1999/00 dropping to 6,725 pupils in 2003/04, ie 131 pupils or by 1.91%. Both the Shankill and West Belfast percentage decrease over this period are somewhat high against the all NI (non-grammar) decrease of 556 pupils or 0.6%.

3. ALL NI PROJECTIONS

Pupil projections indicate a sharp fall in NI overall enrolments from 336,948 pupils in 2004/05 to 316,734 by 2009/10, ie 20,214 pupils or a drop of 5.99%.

4. FREE SCHOOL MEALS ENTITLEMENT (FSME)

Primary

The average FSME % figure for primary schools in the Shankill has dropped from 55.93% in 1999/00 to 50.64% in 2003/04. Shankill averages have continued to be slightly higher than West Belfast and approx. 30% above the NI average of 24.52% in 1999/00 and 20.87% in 2003/04. West Belfast averages have continued to be approx. 24% above the NI average over this period.

Secondary

The average FSME% figure for secondary schools in the Shankill has dropped slightly from 42.50% in 1999/00 to 39.96% in 2003/04. Shankill averages over this period have continued to be approx. 19-20% above the NI average of 23.23

in 1999/00 and 19.85 in 2003/04. West Belfast averages have seen a drop from 46.83% in 1999/00 to 39.20% in 2003/04.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED (SEN)

Primary

In 2002/03, 27% or 531 primary pupils in the Shankill schools were involved in the 5-Stage SEN Code of Practice process. This rose to 35% in 2003/04. Comparative figures for primary school pupils in the West Belfast schools were 21% in 2002/03 and 24% in 2003/04.

Secondary

In 2002/03, 7.1% or 167 secondary school pupils in the Shankill schools were involved in the SEN Code of Practice process. This figure reduced by 1.1% to 6% (142 pupils) in 2003/04. Comparative figures for West Belfast secondary school pupils are 21% in 2002/03, increasing to 22% in 2003/04.

NB SEN data below are broken down into Stages 1-3 (the in-school stages, with external professional help at Stage 3) and Stages 4-5, which involve assessment for statementing and the statement itself.

6. KEY STAGES RESULTS - Key Stages 1 and 2

Over the period 1998/99 to 2002/03 Key Stage 1 and 2 results in English and Mathematics show the Shankill to be well below both the NI average and West Belfast averages.

7. TRANSFER RESULTS

Grade 'A'

Of those taking the tests, the percentage of pupils achieving Grade A in the Shankill schools has seen a steady increase from 9.7% in 1998/99 peaking at 18.5% in 2000/01, and dropping to 12.7% in 2002/03. The proportion of West Belfast pupils achieving Grade A has remained higher than Shankill schools and increased fairly steadily across the years from 19.7% in 1998/99 to 23% in 2002/03.

The All NI Average over this period has increased from 37.2% in 1998/99 to 38.5% in 2002/03, peaking at 38.9% in 2001/02.

NB The test results reflect a standard outcome of 25% of the full cohort achieving a Grade A, so that, broadly speaking, an increase in the proportion of those taking the test gaining a Grade A in any year will reflect a proportionate increase in 'opt-outs' for that year – see below.

Opt Outs

There has been a continual rise in pupils opting out from taking the transfer test. The All NI Average in 1998/99 was 32.4% rising to 35.1% in 2002/03. Schools in the Shankill area tend to have a larger 'opt-out' population than West Belfast schools. In 1998/99, 58.8% of pupils opted out compared to West Belfast where only 36.6% opted out (4.2% above the NI average compared to Shankill schools - 26.5% above the average). In 2002/03 Shankill schools had a 59.3% opt rate, 24.2% above the NI average, while West Belfast had a 46% opt out rate, 10.9% above the NI average.

8. PUPILS RESIDENT IN THE GREATER SHANKILL AND WEST BELFAST AREAS ATTENDING GRAMMAR SCHOOLS 2001/02-2003/04

Statistics show that the percentage of pupils resident in the Greater Shankill area attending Grammar schools has increased from 12.5% (140 pupils) in 2001/02 to 13.7% (157 pupils) in 2003/04. Comparative data for pupils resident in West Belfast indicates a higher % of pupils attend Grammar schools. In 2001/02, 19.6% (1,490 pupils) attended grammar schools. This dropped slightly to 19.5% in 2003/04.

9. KEY STAGE RESULTS - Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 English results – Secondary Schools in the Shankill area have seen a gradual improvement in this subject, although they are still below the NI and West Belfast averages.

Key Stage 3 Mathematics results – In the last two years the Shankill and West Belfast secondary schools are on a par with each other, although still well below the NI average.

Key Stage 3 Science results – Over the five year period there has been a considerable variance in results for both Shankill and West Belfast secondary schools, although both are still well below the NI average.

10. GCSE AND GCE 'A' LEVEL RESULTS

5+ Grades A* - C

Results for secondary schools in the Shankill over the period 1998/99- 2002/02 have varied; however, West Belfast secondary schools have maintained a steady performance and are only slightly below the NI average.

5+ Grades A* - G

Similar pattern as for 5+ Grades A* - C.

Achieving No Results

The proportion of pupils achieving no GCSEs or comparable qualifications is greater in the Shankill secondary schools than in West Belfast or the NI non-grammar average.

1+ Grades A-E

West Belfast schools are 1% above the NI Average with the Shankill schools 6% below in 2002/03.

11. FUNDING

Financial data included in this booklet have been taken from the Belfast Education and Library Board's published Outturn statements for the period 1998/99 – 2002/03.

The financial information for individual schools includes the schools' 'Total Resources' allocated for each year, together with the census enrolment figures (used to generate the major part of schools' budgets, which are LMS formula-based)

Total Resources – this includes:

- **LMS formula allocation**
- **Contingency Funds**
- **Curriculum Reserve**
- **DE Initiatives**
- **Key Stage 1 Class Size**
- **Code of Practice**
- **Centre Funds**

Centre Funds – These are centrally held resources, which when allocated by the Board are included in individual schools budgets eg. SIP, Long Term sick absences. These funds differ from other centrally held funds, such as Home to School Transport, CASS, Music Service, which are not costed to individual schools.

12. SURPLUS/DEFICIT

Primary

The overall outturn figure for primary schools in the Shankill area has remained in a deficit position for both 2001/02 and 2002/03. The deficit has increased from -£102,339 to -£164,252. West Belfast primary schools have remained in a surplus position for both 2002/02 and 2002/03, although their surplus had reduced by £66k or 9.23% in 2002/03.

Secondary

Shankill secondary schools have gone from a surplus position (+£52k) in 2001/02 to a deficit position of -£174k in 2002/03. There has been a significant increase in West Belfast secondary deficit position over these 2 years, going from -£288k in 2001/02 to -£827k in 2002/03.

13. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING (SIP)

Since 1998/99 SIP resources overall have increased by 81% from £7,583k to £13,735k in 2004/05.

Primary Schools

The level of SIP funding for primary schools in the Shankill area has risen concomitantly, from £62k in 1998/99 to £115k in 2004/05. Funding peaked in 1999/00 at £155k. SIP funding for primary schools in West Belfast has risen from £219k in 1998/99 to £266k in 2004/05. In terms of the percentage of SIP funding going to the Shankill and West Belfast schools, the 2004/05 figures represent 0.84% and 1.94% of the total SIP budget respectively. (NB in enrolment terms Shankill primaries = approx 30% of West Belfast primaries.)

Secondary Schools

SIP funding in secondary schools in the Shankill has increased from £25k in 1998/99 to £254k in 2004/05. Comparative figures for West Belfast secondary schools are £176k in 1998/99 and £370k in 2004/05. (2004/05 figures = 1.85% and 2.69% respectively of total SIP funding; in enrolment terms Shankill secondaries = approx 35% of West Belfast secondaries.)).

Most of this funding has been through the School Support Programme, which brings professional help and some additional funding to help schools bring about the improvements they have identified, but SIP funding also includes Dissemination of Good Practice funding (for which schools have to bid), and funding for summer literacy and numeracy schemes. Details can be found elsewhere in the booklet.

14. INTERFACE FUNDING

The Department has allocated a total of £374k Interface Funding for 5 primary schools in the Shankill area over the period 2001/02 – 2004/05. This is funding specifically committed by Minister Jane Kennedy to schools facing particular difficulties due to the UDA/UFF feuds and North Belfast unrest.

15. YOUTH PROVISION

The BELB has a statutory responsibility to provide Youth Services within the Greater Shankill Area; this it does, providing a range of opportunities through activities of controlled units and supporting activity within both the voluntary and community sectors. The area of Greater Shankill has a distinctive character and associated challenges, many of which are already within the public domain.

These challenges directly impinge upon the lives of young people resident within the area. These challenges include such issues as:

- Perceived unimportance of formal education by both adults and young people
- High rates of unemployment and under employment
- High levels of health problems, particularly heart disease and rising levels of obesity, also including within the youth population sexual health, suicide, pregnancy, misuse of alcohol and drugs
- Community based tension based upon perceived and real 'paramilitary' conflict between rival loyalist paramilitary organisations.
- Impact of both paramilitary and criminal activities on young people
- Anti social behaviour by young people

The Youth Service strives to provide a service to young people living in the Greater Shankill Area through the provision of Youth Centres and through the activities of the board's 'Upper Shankill Area Project'. The work of these units is based upon the 'Model for Effective Practise' and provide a broad range of creative, stimulating and challenging activities for young people based upon principles of informal education espoused within the Model.

The Department has allocated a total of £1.4m for Youth Service provision in the Greater Shankill area for the period 1999/00-2004/05. This includes £146k of Executive Programme funds.

16. FUNDING FROM DE PUPIL SUPPORT UNIT (PSU)

The Department's Pupil Support Unit (PSU) allocates £1.5m to the BELB. This funding is required to support initiatives such as EOTAS (Education Otherwise Than at School) and School Age Mothers/Fathers. In the absence of definitive figures, it is estimated that approximately £300k went to schools in the Shankill area.

17. CURRICULUM ADVISORY SUPPORT SERVICE (CASS)

The CASS Service is an arm of each ELB, which is committed to responding to the specific curricular, behavioural and management needs of schools. The support is primarily targeted at governors, principals and teachers in schools.

There are a number of key service elements including;

- In-service training (centre- and school-based)
- Advice and Support – Advisory staff are available to be contacted on a range of curricular/management issues for advice and support e.g. school visits, on-line conferencing, email, telephone or fax.
- Specialist support for pupils and materials for teacher/pupil use.

The schools in the Shankill area have all received CASS support in various ways eg attendance at courses, direct professional help in-school, or involvement in Board-wide or NI-wide initiatives such as the Enriched Curriculum, Dissemination of Good Practice or pre-school projects, or those promulgated under the Numeracy or Literacy Strategies, eg Reading Partnership, Flying Start, Reading Recovery, COMET project, Phono-Graphix, NFER Project etc.

Particular professional help and funding has been brought to schools in the Group 1 Schools initiative.

18. DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS – 2001/02

From the latest information available about school leavers resident in the Shankill area (2001/02 School Leavers Survey), 55.8% went on to Employment and Training, with 30.1% going onto Further and Higher Education. West Belfast data unavailable.

19. PUPIL TEACHER RATIO (PTRS)

Primary

The average PTR for primary schools in the Shankill area has gone down from 16.6 in 2001/02 to 15.8 in 2003/04. Comparative figures for West Belfast schools are 19.5 in 2001/02 down to 17.6 in 2003/04. PTRs for both areas are significantly lower than the primary NI average of 19.9 in 2001/02 and 19.4 in 2003/04.

Secondary

The average PTR for secondary schools in the Shankill area has gone down from 13.8 in 2001/02 to 12.7 in 2003/04. Comparative figures for West Belfast schools are 13.5 in 2001/02 and 13.6 in 2003/04. The secondary school NI average over this 3 year period has remained at 13.8.