

# Aspiration and equality of opportunity

Education and Skills

# A brief introduction

A little bit about who I am, what I do and how I got here

**“Too many schools in the sub-region are no more than satisfactory and fail to inject aspiration into students from poor backgrounds”**

# Where schools are weak

- Teachers who teach the curriculum and the curriculum only
- Where time is not taken to assess the strengths and weaknesses of individuals
- Schools who teach to standards that have been the norm for years and fail to push students further

# Where schools thrive

- Schools which offer a broad range of courses and subjects
- Schools which split classes into ability and aptitude groups earlier on
- Schools who teach outside the curriculum and find new ways to teach
- Teachers who seek to tailor educational needs to each student for complete fulfilment

# Other areas where aspiration can come from

- Inspirational people
  - Celebrities
  - Historical figures
  - Community figures
- Family and friends
  - Peer groups
  - Siblings and cousins
  - Parents and distant family

## A final thought (or two)

- We're not all born with the same package of aptitudes and abilities and we never will be. However, a good teacher should seek to discover the route to fulfilment for each and every student.
- There are many benefits of *equality of opportunity* in education and offering dozens of courses, but unless young people are steered into their strengths as they develop them, these opportunities are often wasted.