

## Draft Scoping Report

### **Proposed Topic Review: What is being done to encourage schools to open their facilities, out of school hours, to the public for community use?**

#### **Background**

At its meeting on 14 September 2010 the Children and Young People Commission agreed to ask their OSCer to produce a scoping report for a review into what is being done to encourage schools to open school facilities out of hours to the public for sport and community use.

#### **The Review**

##### **Aims and Objectives of the Review**

###### **Aim of the review**

1. To establish the extent of schools opening out of hours across the City and to identify
  - potential gaps in services to local communities that could be met through access to school resources and
  - the restrictions which schools give as the reasons that prevent them from offering their facilities to local communities and
2. Assess and identify possible solutions to overcome the stated obstacles

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###### **The objectives of the review**

1. To establish the current use of school facilities out of hours by local people across Derby and where there are gaps in provision.
2. To identify the types of out of hour provision available in Derby and whether a greater diversity of services could be encouraged in schools.
3. To establish the advantages and disadvantages of opening out of hours for schools and their local communities.
4. To review National and Council Policies, plus funding and operational issues, that impact upon schools opening outside of school hours.
5. To produce detailed recommendations to Council Cabinet on whether and how more local schools should be encouraged to open out of hours including any potential cost implications of this.

## **Proposed methodology**

The Commission will use evidence gathered from witnesses and site visits as the basis for the evidence gathering for the review, good practice identified in other local authorities, supported by commercial and academic research

## **Witnesses**

A series of witnesses can be called to give evidence to the Commission on this issue.

These include;

- Local Head Teachers/Chair of Governors who do and do not open their schools out of hours
- Council officers from
  - Community Support Team
  - Extended Schools Team
  - Adult Education Service
- Community groups who currently use out of hour facilities
- Residents who live near local schools
- City-wide third sector organisations able to offer comparisons of good and less good practice and practical solutions to stated obstacles

## **What evidence do we need to gather?**

Evidence needs to be gathered regarding:

- **Policies and Strategies**  
What are Derby's current policies relating to out of hours opening?
- **Schools currently opening out of hours**  
How effective is it to open out of hours?  
What are the benefits?  
What are the disadvantages?  
How could it be done better?  
What are the costs?
- **Schools who do not open out of hours**  
What are the barriers to out of hours opening?  
What would encourage a school to consider opening out of hours?  
What would the potential benefits to the school be?

- **Policies and practices in other local authorities**  
Identify through agencies like CfPS, IDeA (new name???), Children's Services Network examples of good practice in other local authorities
- **Visits**  
Members could visit a local school that opens out of hours to see the facilities available to the local community if they wish and/or visit an exemplar local authority.

### **Timing and Timescales for the Review**

- 6 October
  - Draft Scoping Review amended and discussed by Commission Members
  - Commission decide whether to proceed with review
- November/December
  - Conduct interviews
  - Carry out visits (as necessary)
  - Desk top research into practice in local authorities and identification of exemplars
  - Complete any other evidence gathering as required
  - Receive commercial and academic research
  - Discussion of evidence and agreeing of outline recommendations
- January
  - Draft report brought to Commission meeting for comments and amendments
  - Discussion of evidence and agreeing of outline recommendations
- February/March
  - Recommendations to Council Cabinet drafted
  - Report Submitted to Council Cabinet

### **Demands on Overview and Scrutiny Members**

Interviews – 2 days

Visit – 1 or 2 evening (if considered necessary)

Evaluation of evidence and agreeing of outline recommendations