



Derby Opportunity Area: developing emotionally healthy schools

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) announced the Opportunity Areas (OA) programme on 4 October 2016. Initially six areas were announced, namely: Derby, Scarborough, Blackpool, Norwich, West Somerset and Oldham. The areas have been highlighted due to their relatively low levels of social mobility as described in the Social Mobility Index published in January 2016. Within this index, Derby was placed 22nd from the bottom out of 324 areas nationally. In total, Derby will receive up to £6 million of funding over three years. In addition to this, the Department for Education (DfE) is now supporting this work in Opportunity Areas by developing an 'Essential Life Skills' programme over two years to enable children and young people aged 5 -18 years old to participate in regular extra-curricular activities. In Derby, this amounts to a two year grant of up to £800,000 in 2017-18 and up to £1.6 million in 2018-19.
- 1.2 This report is recommending to award a grant of up to £598,000 to Redwood Primary School to lead and co-ordinate a programme across the city to develop emotionally healthy schools. The funding for this will be provided from the Derby Opportunity Area grant.
- 1.3 The emotionally healthy schools programme will include:
 - a) open procurement of a provider for leadership training for school senior leaders as Designated Leads for Mental Health (DLMH)
 - b) For the development of the Schools Mental Health Portal (Local Offer).
 - c) Funding for schools to develop and implement their own emotional healthy schools action plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To give in principle approval to award a grant of up to £598,000 to Redwood Primary School to lead and co-ordinate a city wide emotionally healthy schools strategy in line with the proposals to the Derby Opportunity Area Board.

- 2.2 To delegate authority to negotiate and agree the final terms of the grant agreement between Derby City Council and Redwood Primary School to the Strategic Director for People Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director for Resources.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To comply with the Council's Contract and Financial Procedure rules.
- 3.2 To help build capacity within the school system whereby schools act as system leaders.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The impact of mental health problems on children and young people's lives is significant. Evidence shows that children and young people with mental health problems are more likely to have negative life experiences early on that can then damage their life chances as they grow towards adulthood. These challenges include the facts that:
- children and young people with mental health problems are more likely to experience increased disruption to their education, via time off school and exclusions, than children with no mental health problems;
 - young people with mental health problems are more likely to experience problems in their future employment, with various longitudinal studies suggesting long-term impact on economic activity such as receipt of welfare benefits, income, and continuous employment;
 - one quarter of boys in Young Offender Institutions reported emotional or mental health problems;
 - young people with conduct disorder are more likely to engage in criminal activity, with research suggesting they are 20 times more likely to end up in prison, and four times more likely to become dependent on drugs, compared to the general population.
- 4.2 The Government's national ambition, as described in the Green Paper: 'Transforming children and young people's mental health provision', is to roll out a new approach to around 20-25% of the country by the end of 2022/23 that incorporates three pillars:
- a) Designated Senior Leads for mental health in schools
- The Green Paper proposes that every school and college be incentivised to identify a Designated Senior Lead for Mental Health to oversee the approach to mental health and wellbeing.

4.2 b) Creating Mental Health Support Teams

The Green Paper proposes funding for new Mental Health Support Teams, supervised by NHS children and young people's mental health staff, to provide specific extra capacity for early intervention and ongoing help. Their work will be managed jointly by schools, colleges and the NHS. These teams will be linked to groups of primary and secondary schools and to colleges, providing interventions to support those with mild to moderate needs and supporting the promotion of good mental health and wellbeing.

c) Reducing waiting times

The government will trial a four week waiting time for access to specialist NHS children and young people's mental health services.

4.3 Because schools are central to the daily experience of (almost) all children and often provide a safe environment in which first expressions are seen of personal concerns, anxieties and the early signals or more significant mental ill-health, this proposal looks to strengthen the role that Derby schools play, by:

- ensuring that all of them have access to the training to become emotionally healthy schools. This will be ahead of the Green Paper announcements and ensure that Derby's children do not miss out if Derby was not to be identified as a priority area within government plans;
- providing them with training for a designated member of staff to lead the strategic thinking and action plans in every school that means that mental health is suitably well-understood and planned for;
- bringing together into one place, a Derby Mental Health Local Offer, the range of services, support organisations and networks that exist to support schools and families.

- 4.4 This strategy looks to complement existing work that is underway in the city. Much of this is organised as part of Future in Mind (FiM), and this strategy will establish a Derby Mental Health Local Offer to mobilise the FiM and other work to bring it to schools' attention in one place.

The last year of Future in Mind has seen considerable progress including:

- a 40% reduction in admissions to Derby Royal Hospital due to the CAMHS RISE service liaison provision;
- the establishment of a dedicated Children in Care Service (called The Keep) in Derby City;
- the launch of a Anti-stigma campaign;
- delivering on the targets for the eating disorder services;
- on track to achieve a significant increase in access to meet the national target of 35% of children with a diagnosable mental health need receiving support by March 2018.

- 4.4 Children and young people told Derby Future in Mind (FiM) that:

- they feel worried about “being different”, family circumstances, adjusting to adult life, and school/extra-curricular performance;
- 1 in 2 do not feel able to turn to parents or a trusted adult for support;
- bullying about appearance, race, culture and religion is reported by 17%;
- they want opportunities to speak openly about mental health during the school day.

- 4.5 Therefore, this strategy is intended to complement the work of FiM and to develop the capacity of schools to intervene earlier and prevent some children and young people from escalating to higher tier services.

- 4.6 The key components of this strategy are:
- every school to receive training for a senior Designated Lead for Mental Health (DLMH) that leads the strategic planning in their school for mental health and to become an emotionally healthy school;
 - create a mental health local offer whereby schools and parents / carers can access a single website to help determine which services are on offer. This will go through a procurement process;
 - grants to schools to help them participate in training and to develop and implement their own improvement plan;
 - offer additional training to schools once DLMHs have been trained and the school is underway with their improvement plan. This may include training on attachment and family support etc.;
 - the development of mental health support materials for schools to work with families;
 - to develop an organised scheme of school placements for university final year undergraduates to provide creative therapies and student support in schools.
- 4.7 The programme will be led and co-ordinated by Redwood Primary School on behalf of the city. This enables the school sector to develop their own capacity to lead strategic developments across an area and is in line with national developments. This should also lead to greater sustainability of strategies going forward.
- 4.8 In order to ensure that the programme has the capacity to deliver this work, the programme lead will be based at Redwood Primary School and will co-ordinate all elements of the programme and lead the delivery of many of them, such as a DLMH termly network. While included in their role will be the co-ordination of the DLMH leadership training, the direct delivery of this will be put out to tender to a provider. Their role will be entirely linked to the project which, by design, will not require significant on-going finance beyond the second year of the programme. Indeed, part of this co-ordinator's role in year 2 will be to develop a sustainability plan for the maintenance of the portal, most likely making it a sold service to schools.
- 4.9 Intrinsic to the programme is awarding grants to schools of £500 to complete the DLMH leadership training programme with the appointed provider, and for a further grant of £1,000 if, on completing the DLMH leadership training programme, the appointed training provider 'signs off' an improvement plan for the next phase of their development work in school, as an exit strategy from the programme. This plan might include further in-school development work, wider staff training, creating facilities and environments for students, etc. Once DLMHs have been trained and the school is underway with their improvement plan, it is expected that there will be significant immediate on-going needs for additional training in specialist areas, e.g. attachment or family support.

4.10 An important element of this strategy is the development of a emotional health and well-being web based Emotionally Healthy Schools Portal. This name describes the core purpose to provide schools with a one-stop shop for all aspects of mental health support, including:

- local support organisations.
- Descriptions of pathways of support and available services, including access thresholds.
- Signposts to mental health resources and facilities for schools.
- Good practice signposts and case studies.

This would be procured via a tendering process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 This could be commissioned by Derby City Council, however to do so would require additional commissioning capacity. Therefore, this has not been progressed. Similarly, the city council commissioning this project would not be in line with the national policy direction of developing school system leadership.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Emily Feenan, Principal Lawyer Alison Parkin, Head of Finance (CYP) Gurmail Nizzer, (Acting) Service Director for Commissioning
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Iain Peel 01332 642663 Iain.Peel@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 These recommendations are in line with the terms of the Opportunity Area grant. The Opportunity Area grant is approximately £6m over three years.

Legal

- 2.1 The Legal Service will support Officers with the negotiation and drafting of the grant agreement, which will be based on the Council's standard form grant agreement.
- 2.2 The grant agreement (and the Council's Scheme for Funding Schools) require that the school comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in awarding contracts to deliver the emotionally healthy schools offer.
- 2.3 The grant agreement will be between the Council and the Governing Body of Redwood Primary School. Legally it is not possible to bind organisations which are not party to the original agreement; therefore in the event that the school converts to an academy during the grant period the Council will not be able to guarantee future continued delivery of the emotionally healthy schools offer (see Risk Management section below).

Personnel

- 3.1 No comments

IT

- 4.1 No comments

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 This initiative will have a positive impact on children with mental health issues. Equality will be monitored through the grant monitoring procedures

Health and Safety

- 6.1 No comments

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 No comments

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 No comments

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 Grant funding is an inherently risky process, which has the potential for benefit as well as harm. The risks take different forms and their nature depends on what the aims and objectives of the grant funding are. The grant funding arrangements will be assessed to identify what risks could present themselves and these will be monitored over the term of the funding.

- 9.2 Academy conversion poses a risk to this funding award:
Redwood Primary School is currently a local authority maintained community school. The grant agreement will be made between the Council and the Governing Body of Redwood Primary School. Legally it is not possible to bind parties who are not currently party to a legal agreement; therefore the Council has no ability to bind any future academy trust to continue delivery of the emotionally healthy school programme in the event that the school converts to an academy during the term of the grant agreement.

In the event that the school converts to an academy during the term of the grant agreement, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to claw-back monies already grant funded as the Governing Body of Redwood Primary School will have no financial assets following conversion and no way of compelling the new academy trust to continue delivery.

The Council has had discussions with the Department for Education in relation to this risk and has received the following reassurance by email from the Regional Schools Commissioner:

I can assure you that we will encourage trusts to take on Opportunity Area contracts should a maintained school acting as fundholding lead school be joining a trust, and we will share information on schools we understand to be in the pipeline for academisation if they have been identified as OA 'lead' schools.

This email does provide some comfort to the Council and the OA Board regarding the risks associated with conversion, however, it does not eradicate the risk which will need to be monitored throughout the Grant Period.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 This meets the council's priorities of:
- Ambitious - a place where we support our children and young people to achieve their full potential.
 - Strong - a place where people work together, can enjoy good health and wellbeing throughout their life and feel that they belong to a thriving community.

