



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
14 June 2005

Report of the Corporate Parenting Joint Sub Commission

The Education of Children Looked After (Gatsby Project)

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Council Cabinet should continue to improve the education of Children Looked After and explore other funding streams to meet the shortfall in the funding of the Gatsby Project when the grant from the Gatsby Foundation expires in October 2006.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 A joint report of the Directors of Education and Social Services was considered by the Corporate Parenting Joint Sub Commission on the education of Children Looked After, the Gatsby Project at its April meeting.
- 2.2 The Gatsby project provides support and assistance to improve the education of Children looked after. The report considered by the Sub Commission shows that the project makes a significant contribution in helping to improve the education of Children Looked After. By working with children, teachers and carers it has increased pupil access and attendance at school and is helping them to realise their potential. Local indicators show an increase in the proportion of children engaged in education when they leave care in Derby. The project has also assisted in improving the proportion of children leaving care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ.
- 2.3 The Sub Commission was informed that the Gatsby Charitable Foundation agreed to provide grant of £292,280 over three years in the second phase on the condition that the project would be mainstreamed and not seek a further renewal beyond its expiry in October 2006. The funding in the current second phase equates to approximately £97,000 per year.
- 2.4 The Commission is of the view that this project makes an important contribution to improving the education of Children Looked After and should continue to be supported. The Commission therefore recommends that the Council Cabinet explores other revenues streams and secures funding for the project to enable it continue at the current levels after the expiry of the grant.

For more information contact: Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail
mahroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk

Background papers: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The current grant of £292,280 from the Gatsby Foundation will expire in October 2006. Additional money will need to be found to provide similar levels of service and provide support for the education of children looked after.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities Impact

4. The Gatsby Project seeks to improve the education of Children Looked After who are amongst the most vulnerable people in the city.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. This report links to the corporate objectives of **stimulating and high quality learning environment** and priorities of **raising educational achievement**.