



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## Extended Services

### RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the CYP commissions findings and recommendations on a recent visit to Dale Primary School.

### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Response to a recent visit by the CYP commission to Dale Primary School to see extended services in action in a small cluster of schools. Dale Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic School, St Chad's Infant School, Stonehill Nursery School and Castle Nursery School

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Extended Services/Locality Planning Officer

- 3.1 The role of Extended Schools Development Officer was introduced to the Local Authority in September 2005 to deliver the extended schools strategy in the city. Five officers were appointed to work across the five localities in the city. The initial recruitment and selection process was rigorous and involved a number of head teachers and Local Authority officers.
- 3.2 The team's prime role was to deliver the TDA (Training and Development Agency) Extended Schools remodelling training to all schools in the city and to work with the clusters in their own localities. It is acknowledged that for one member of the team there were some challenges in fulfilling his role which ultimately resulted in evoking the Local Authority IEP procedure (improving employee performance). Steps were taken to minimise the impact of the poor performance, including the employment of an additional 0.5 officer to support the delivery of services in the area.

#### Recruitment

- 3.3 All subsequent recruitment processes to fill the Extended Services Officers/Locality Planning Officers vacancies that have arisen have involved Head Teachers. There has been a Head Teacher presence both at presentations, focus groups and final interviews and they have always been part of the decision making process. In all cases there has been a representative from locality 3-4. The Extended Services Strategic Co-ordinator has always included Heads on interview panels and will continue to do so in the future.

## **Funding**

- 3.4 Extended schools/locality planning funding comes from a range of budget streams including the Early Years and Sure Start Grant which is ring fenced to Sure Start/ extended services activity only, the Standards Fund and the Area based Grant. All streams bring different allocation criteria and accounting systems.
- 3.5 This year's (08/09) allocation criteria was approved through Schools Forum and the Children and Young People's partnership. Whereas previously each school had received the same allocation, the new criteria addressed the need to work towards narrowing the attainment gap and took account of a number of factors. The allocation formula addressed the local population of 0-5's and 14-19 year olds and the index of multiple deprivation.
- 3.6 The Locality Planning Team has been working to support locality planning groups to administer the funding allocations through a partnership approach. It did take longer this financial year to allocate funds as new processes needed to be set up through Locality Planning Groups. Locality Planning Groups are made up of representatives from children's organisations, Head Teachers and other CYP officers as well as partnership organisations. Terms of reference for these groups are in place.
- 3.7 The focus has been for each group to identify key priorities for the locality and schools and to determine how the fund should be allocated. Individual schools, groups of schools and other organisations were invited to make applications to the group. The applications were assessed in relation to the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, local needs and priorities. The decisions were made by an executive group drawn from the Locality Planning Group.
- 3.8 This year planning is already underway to support the timely allocation of funding. A report outlining the above process and progress to date will be discussed at the City for Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board on 4 March. The service is aiming to complete the consultation process in order to allocate funding in principle by April. The final amounts available will be dependent on agreement of allocation through the Area Based Grant for the next financial year.
- 3.9 Extended services are all funded through grants. Information has been received from the Department for Children, Schools and Families on indicative allocations for 09/10 and 10/11. No information has been received about funding beyond 10/11. It is not possible therefore to agree longer term funding.

## **Disadvantage Pathfinder Subsidy**

- 3.10 This is the most recent allocation of funding for extended services. The grant has clear objectives and criteria associated with it. Monitoring and accountability systems are rigorous. Two small clusters were identified to work on the pathfinder and two head teachers attended the launch with officers from the Children and Young People's Department. The grant must be spent on children who are economically disadvantaged.
- 3.11 Access to funding is determined by free school meals entitlement and tax credits. All of the children who access this scheme have to be identified individually by name

and address. A small team of Locality Planning Officers have administered the grant and the current forecast is that all the funding allocated will be spent.

- 3.12 The time frame for allocating and spending the money has meant that it has not been possible to be as creative as the Head Teachers and officers involved with the project would have liked. Initiatives like swipe cards for access to leisure services and such activities as bowling and swimming take more time to develop than has been available within the conditions of the pathfinder.
- 3.13 There is no doubt that the project has caused additional burden to schools and officers alike as a result of the monitoring and administration requirements. This has been fed back to both the Training and Development Agency (TDA) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The TDA has recognised this and are looking at changing the original guidance and simplifying the processes. This is good news.
- 3.14 On a more positive note there have been lots of additional activities that disadvantaged children have taken part in that would not have been available without this additional funding. For example a whole school has been ice skating. The cost of the trip for children not eligible for the grant was met by parents and school PTA funds.

#### **Recommendation**

- 4.1 To note the report by the Children and Young People's Commission on the visit to the Extended Services.
- 4.2 To note that the Children and Young People's Department already has plans in place that will meet with the recommendations of the scrutiny exercise.
- 4.3 To acknowledge the success of Extended Services in Derby.

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**Background papers:**  
**List of appendices:**