



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MEETING
20th MARCH 2007**

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Field trial statement of intent submitted to the DfES Innovation Unit: Next Practice- Communities for Learning

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To approve retrospectively the application to the DfES Innovation Unit for a funded field trial for the Learning Advocate Project

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Department with support from a range of key partners representing schools, the voluntary sector, Derby University and integrated service teams has made an application to the Innovation unit to fund a field trial.
- 2.2 The field trial – or project – is aimed at raising community and family aspirations about attainment. The project will target children and young people from relatively poor economic backgrounds where low education attainment and unemployment is the norm.
- 2.3 The application is for a grant of £130,000, which if received will be used to fund staff, materials, consultation and roll out.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following a recommendation from the Training and Development Agency (TDA) the Extended Schools Strategy Manager and 3 colleagues were invited to take part in developing next practice at a creative event run by the DfES Innovation Unit at the end of January 2007.
- 3.2 This resulted in the development of an outline proposal for a field trial based on a Learning Advocate Project. At the end of February a working group met to develop the proposal into a statement of intent for a 12 month field trial based in Area 1. The timescale was very tight and this had to be submitted by 5pm on 2 March 2007.
- 3.3 The project that has been developed will contribute to the key actions and priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan and contributes to all the Every Child Matters outcomes.

- 3.4 The project will be integrated into and bring added value to the pilot programme of integrated children's services within area 1. This can be replicated across the city as the integrated children's services pilot programme is rolled out across Derby. It will target resources to young people providing further support and challenge. The partnership working with Hull LA will contribute to identifying key factors which influence learning and provide an excellent opportunity to compare, contrast and learn from each other through the use of common evaluative processes and collaborative enquiry.
- 3.5 The project will be steered by the Locality Services Steering Group and engage a range of local stakeholders including members of the community. A project lead will be appointed and three training advocates. The project will build on the role of the traditional training mentor to the child/young person's needs. Nearly developed family learning signature methodology will be used to develop a picture of the community's strengths and barriers to learning. The project will target a range of actions to build on strengths and overcome barriers. A detailed account of the project; key activities and benefits are set out in the attached applications (statement of intent).

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 If the application is successful the department will receive up to £130,000 to fund the project. A range of partners and the Children and Young Peoples Department will make in time contributions, this predominantly involves officer time.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 The grant will be used to employ a project lead and three training mentors

Equalities impact

- 4.1 This quality is aimed at raising aspirations and improving access to activities to support attainment. It will contribute to a range of activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Department and the City for Children and Young People to narrow the gaps that exist in outcomes for Derby's children and young people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal come under the Council's Objectives of job opportunities, strong and positive neighbourhoods, education and integrated cost effective services.
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of **tackling under achievement in schools and enhancing our community leadership role through partnership working and listening to, and communicating with, the public.**