

**CURRENT SCHOOL ISSUES****Report By: Director of Children's Services****Wards Affected**

County-wide.

**Purpose**

1. To inform the Committee of recent developments on some key issues for schools and to receive questions as appropriate.

**Financial Implications**

2. None

**Report**Healthy Schools

3. The team has relocated to accommodation in the Berrows Business Centre which provides a more reasonable space for the team and their many resources.
4. 54% of Herefordshire schools are already fully accredited for National Healthy Schools Status (NHSS) so Herefordshire has achieved the national target well ahead of time. The status of Healthy Schools Accreditation is therefore green in the Red-Amber-Green rating (RAG) and Herefordshire is one of only a handful of West Midlands authorities to achieve this ahead of schedule. The team has progressed from a red to a green in the space of 18 months.
5. Additionally, there are a further 34% of schools working towards the status this year. This involves the team in planning days, training, individual support meetings and work with partner agencies but it is rewarding to see so many schools enthusiastic about achieving healthy schools status. It is anticipated that these schools will have reached the target by June 2007.
6. Pencombe, Eardisley, Brilley, Much Birch, Almeley, Lea and Clehonger are working towards Gold standard as they have already gained National Healthy Schools Status. This will be done by the children applying for the status through a presentation, video, scrap book or whatever medium they choose. This will show that they are working as a Healthy School and beyond.
5. The recent teenage lifestyles survey data is being used to develop a new Crucial Crew programme including;
  - Road safety in rural areas
  - The effects of alcohol on decision making
  - Safety in the home

- Personal safety

These themes, as identified as a priority from the survey, will be the focus of work with primary schools.

7. The new accommodation contains a resource and work room which is available for teachers to use. It has the facilities of a computer with internet access and varied resources so that schools can work on individual programmes or work with the team.
8. The Herefordshire Healthy Schools website is up and running ([www.healthyschools.gov.uk](http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk)) with excellent access to links to training, resources and advice.
9. Following local demand, nutritional training (Phunky Food) has been piloted in a group of primary schools. This has been successfully completed and a further ten schools will receive the training. Schools can develop this into accredited courses through Worcester College.
10. Seventeen teachers and nurses are completing continuous professional development (CPD) in Personal, Social and Healthy Education (PSHE) this year. This is a nationally accredited course that takes a year to complete. The team has run the course and mentored the participants.
11. Traveller forums have been initiated at Wyebridge Sports College and Weobley High School. Parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers and participate in activities such as interviewing for a teaching assistant (TA).
12. The racial incident guidelines have been updated this month to reflect local and national changes and new requirements for monitoring.
13. The team have participated in training days for the Marches Consortium on the four themes within national healthy schools status which are Healthy Eating, PSHE, Physical Activity, Emotional Health and Wellbeing with particular focus on Sex and Relationships Education, Self Esteem and Drugs Education.

### School Performance

#### Secondary Schools

14. Herefordshire Schools continue their year on year improvement for pupils at KS3. The SATs results for 2006 that have just been published show that the local authority average point score of 35.6 has risen for the fourth year in succession and remains above the national average of 35. The local authority average's for English, Maths and Science at both Level 5 and Level 6 are again above the national average.
15. Pupils in Herefordshire maintained schools have achieved the best results ever in GCSE passes this year.

61.8% of all pupils achieved five or more A\* - C passes. 48.2% achieved 5+ A\* - C including English and Maths. This year 93.1% of pupils gained at least five passes at A\* - G. There have been outstanding performances by boys and girls in all schools but some schools have recorded outstanding overall improvements.

Weobley High School has put a period of uncertainty emphatically behind it with 67.7% of pupils gaining five A\* - C passes, an improvement of 14.7% on last year. Lady Hawkins School's results have improved by 19.8% to 77.5%. St Mary's R C High School by 18.1% to 83.5%. John Masefield High School by 14.4% to 65% and Wigmore High School was once again the highest performing school on 85.8%.

#### Primary Schools

16. Herefordshire Primary Schools' inspections demonstrate that we are in line with the performance outcomes of inspections nationally. Out of those schools inspected under the Revised Schedule since September 2005, 60% are judged as being good or better, with 4% of those being outstanding (St Michael's, Bodenham, Orleton and Stoke Prior). 40% have been judged as satisfactory or below, with 4% being given a Notice To Improve (Eywas Harold, Llangrove and Wellington).

17. Standards: Key Stage 1

Standards are judged by the DFES to be good overall.

Results remain above the national in reading, writing and mathematics.

However, there was an overall drop in performance at Level 2b+ and Level 3, particularly in reading and writing. This drop was larger than the national.

18. Standards: Key Stage 2

Standards are judged by the DFES to be good overall.

The following information details Herefordshire results for each of the three subjects tested by SATs, compared to the national average:

English	Level 4+	L.A. Average: 80% (a drop by 1% from 2005) England Average: 79% Level 5L.A. Average: 31% England Average: 32%
Mathematics	Level 4+	L.A. Average: 75% (no change from 2005) England Average: 76% Level 5L.A. Average: 30% England Average: 33%
Science	Level 4+	L.A. Average: 88% England Average: 87% Level 5L.A. Average: 43% England Average: 46%

#### School Meals

19. In response to recent government initiatives to improve the quality of school meals and to offer universal hot meal provision by September 2008, Herefordshire has taken the following steps:

- Set out a policy framework for Healthy School Meals in Herefordshire, approved by the Cabinet member for Children & Young People.
- Established a School Meals Steering Group with representatives from catering contractors, schools, dieticians, local purchasing groups and local authority officers.
- Adopted the strategy of supplying hot school meals from secondary schools to local primary schools
- Investing in secondary school kitchens to ensure there is sufficient capacity and flexibility to be able to meet the demand for hot meals from primary schools by September 2008 to comply with the universal provision requirements.
- Consulting heads and local primary schools for the refurbishment of three further secondary school kitchens in Summer 2007 to provide the most flexibility and ease of access to meal provision.
- Revising school meal contracts when re-tendered to ensure that local primary schools are "bundled in" with the local high school as far as practicable.
- Assisting primary and special schools with the costs of meal transportation wherever the supply of meals is at risk of cessation through difficult to replace contractors withdrawing from the market.
- Increased the free school meal allowance within the schools budget from £1.05 in 04/05 to a proposed £1.70 in 07/08 achieving parity of rates with neighbouring authorities.
- Providing the school cooks with nutrition training courses in 2007 to meet the New Food Based Requirements for School Lunches introduced in September 2006.

## Recommendations

**THAT the Committee endorse the report and consider any comments or recommendations it may wish to refer to the Cabinet Member about further development.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.