

NEXT STEPS AND SOME EARLY CONSIDERATIONS

Comments are sought on these principles. Once agreed, by the Council the ability of current provision to deliver the vision at a time of falling rolls will be assessed. The traditional model that schools educate children between the ages of 5 – 16, with some to 18 between 9.00 and 3.30 on 190 days in a year, following a standard curriculum is rapidly changing to reflect the national transformational agenda. At this stage it is envisaged that schools in the future will offer more flexible services with schools offering places or provision for children and young people of all ages as well as adults in the local community.

Possible ways forward include

1. more diverse provision in terms of status of school (aided, trust, academy, federated) and age-range. This will be supported where it can be reasonably demonstrated that standards of teaching and learning will improve, or that resources can be used more effectively;
2. in the primary sector all schools will be expected to have at least 3.5 F.T.E. teachers, including a headteacher with no more than 0.5 teaching workload. (This would require all schools to have at least 55-60 pupils on roll);
3. in the secondary sector all schools must be able to demonstrate that they are able to offer either independently or working in partnership with another school, the learning entitlement for academic and vocational subjects
4. no Sixth Forms should be created with fewer than 120 students;
5. any school where the per pupil funding for children without SEN exceeds the DfCFS unit DSG funding (currently £3,400) will be subject to more detailed review;
6. school transport will be organised where practical, and where geography allows, to reduce the journey time for students to less than 45 minutes;
7. all accommodation used for the core teaching and learning will be in permanent accommodation, that meets the current standards expressed in DfCFS Building Bulletins. Future capital investment programmes of the Council should be formulated to make good those areas which are below standards;
8. parental choice will be supported through ensuring that there is diversity of provision, and that schools are provided in strategic locations throughout the County, (and not necessarily through expanding schools which only the more mobile parents can access).

Again comments are sought on these ideas. As part of the process to develop proposals

for individual schools, the following information is being collected on the circumstances of each school;

- quality of education as assessed by Ofsted;
- funding level in terms of per pupil amount ;
- number of children under the age of 5 living in catchment area as at August 31st 2007 ;
- projection of future numbers of children on roll;
- current and future surplus space;
- distance to alternative schools;
- quality of accommodation;
- number of temporary classrooms;
- number of children on excessive journeys;
- volume of services offered to community under extended schools;
- potential for all through school or alternative organisation.

This will be used alongside other information which maybe brought to our attention to shape proposals that will emerge in the next stage.