

EXTENDED SCHOOLS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Early Years and Extended Services Manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the progress towards the implementation of extended services in and around schools within Herefordshire

Financial Implications

2. Capital funding for Extended Services within the General SureStart Grant is available until 2011 and is one of three interlocking strands along with funding for Children's Centres and the creation of childcare places. It will be important to focus on synergies with Children's Centres and childcare developments to add value in relation to delivery of the 'core offer' for Extended Schools. Revenue funding is available for the same period and is devolved to school cluster groups via the high schools. Guidance is given via DCSF on spend and high school bursers collate and audit data.
3. Grant funding for 09-10 onwards has yet to be announced by Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Funding for 08/09 is as follows

Revenue – 2008/09 - £349,011 General Sure Start Grant

Capital - 2008/09 - £303,368

Background

4. The Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities and their relevant partners to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing and to ensure support for the five outcomes:
 - To be healthy
 - To stay safe
 - To enjoy and achieve
 - To make a positive contribution
 - To achieve economic wellbeing
5. The core principles and strategy which are key to establishing extended services closely align to a raft of parallel activity which includes:

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Ros Hatherill 01432 261681

- the development of Children's Centres
 - the Herefordshire Early Years Action Plan
 - the proposed Children's Trust
 - the Youth Matters agenda and the formal Youth Offer.
6. All are charged with bringing coherence and delivering greater quality assurance to service provision. All promote the active involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in shaping services strategically and operationally. Schools at the heart of their communities are well placed to promote multi-agency working to improve outcomes for children.
7. Extended Schools and Children's Centres will help facilitate Herefordshire's delivery of the Every Child Matters Agenda improving outcomes for all children.
8. The intention is to:
- Bring together services for children from conception onwards at neighbourhood level
 - Provide support to parents and carers
 - Enable all families to have access to the services of a centre by 2010
 - A centre in every community but with services delivered as locally as possible
 - Respond to local needs by building on existing services
9. The DCSF recognises that whilst there is no blueprint for how services are to be organised there is a **CORE OFFER**, which schools and partners will need to work towards. By 2010 every primary and secondary school will be expected to offer access to:
- high quality **childcare** provided on the school site or through clusters or other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements, available 8.00am-6.00pm all year round where appropriate
 - a varied **menu of activities** to be on offer, such as homework clubs and study support, sport (at least two hours a week beyond the school day for those who want it), music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and first aid courses, visits to libraries, museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering, business and enterprise activities
 - **parenting support** including information sessions for parents and carers at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children and young people to learn with their parents
 - **swift, easy and effective referral** to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, intensive behaviour support, and (for young people) sexual health services. Some may be delivered on school sites. This will need to link into the CAF arrangements

- providing wider **community access** to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.
10. In Herefordshire we are working with all schools as partners to deliver this agenda. Whilst the partnership of schools is likely to be used to define a cluster, other networks may be appropriate in order to recognise local factors, for example a smaller group of schools serving a discreet satellite community. This model also offers the kind of flexibility required to respond to the needs of the community, where services are shared rather than duplicated. This approach could be used to improve access to transport and accommodation and provides opportunities for pooling budgets and sharing resources, including personnel. The LA, with support from partner agencies, will work with schools in locality partnerships assisting them to meet together with local service providers, community representatives and voluntary agencies as appropriate. There are 7 patch-based Integrated Children's Services Development Co-ordinators who can help with this and partnerships of schools are encouraged to appoint Extended Schools Co-ordinators locally.
 11. Under the new Ofsted inspection framework introduced in September 2005, the effectiveness of extended schools services and educational and support programmes for parents, families and members of the community will be evaluated and reported on by Ofsted.
 12. Schools must evidence the extent to which they understand local needs and opinions, and are able to capitalise on this understanding to improve what they provide, both for their own pupils and the community as a whole.
 13. By Sept 2008 the DCSF expected 50% of Primary schools and 33% of High Schools to be delivering the Full Core Offer. Herefordshire Council achieved this target:
 14. **SEPT 2008 status of delivery of extended schools full core offer.**

TYPE AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PERCENTAGE DELIVERING	ACTUAL NUMBER DELIVERING
Primary / special 81 + 4 = 85	64%	63
Secondary / High Schools 14	100%	14

15. Against individual areas of the Core Offer Herefordshire's progress exceeds the regional figures and offers an encouraging picture for development over the coming 2 years.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Scrutiny Committee note the progress made within Herefordshire towards the full core offer of extended services in and around schools by Sept 2010.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Extended Schools Strategy
- Financial breakdown on monies available through Extended Schools to LA and schools 2008-2010.
- Current TDA (Training Development Agency) Matrix of Extended Schools Cluster Report.