

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE:	7 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	DEVELOPING READING RECOVERY IN HEREFORDSHIRE
GENERAL INSPECTOR PRIMARY STRATEGY	JANE CHURCHILL

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide – All Schools

Purpose

To request one-off funding allocation to enable Herefordshire Children's Services to set up and run a Reading Recovery Training Centre, to be based at Ledbury Primary School, in order for nominated teachers to be trained to deliver this intervention to the lowest attaining 5% Y1 pupils in Herefordshire.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT School Forum is asked to:

Approve the funding request of £50,000 from DSG underspend 08/09 as one off funding to contribute to the setting up of Reading Recovery Training Centre to enable the delivery of Reading Recovery from September 2010 as outlined below.

Key Points Summary

- To enable Herefordshire Children's Services to set up and run a Reading Recovery Training Centre in order for nominated teachers to be trained to deliver this intervention to the lowest attaining 5% Y1 pupils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire via a Consortium arrangement :
- To raise standards in literacy by specialist early intervention for the pupils with the greatest need:
- To improve the life chances of the lowest attaining pupils and to reduce the need for later SEN support, costs of truancy, exclusions and costs associated with unemployment, crime and poor health in adulthood.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Jane Churchill, General Inspector Primary Strategy on 01432 260826

Alternative Options

1. This is a one off request to be set against DSG underspend in order to establish provision to deliver training for Reading Recovery.
2. Reading Recovery training can only be delivered in premises that meet specifications. Training for teachers to deliver this intervention would require weekly travel to established centre (nearest currently Bristol or Birmingham) which would be costly.
3. A centre in Herefordshire will reduce long term costs, and potentially generate income towards cost of training by charges to Worcestershire schools (to be agreed), or by reciprocal arrangement to train Herefordshire 'Every Child Counts' teachers in Worcestershire. Additional income to cover running costs and administrative support after set up year to be sought from lettings out of school time for organisations needing specialist facilities with observational mirror for training purposes (e.g. interviewing techniques, counselling, interrogation).

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Performance in Communication, Language and Literacy at Early Years Foundation Stage shows average scores below both national levels and that of statistical neighbours. Data from the PCT on speech and language referrals in Herefordshire indicates a sharp rise in transient speech and language difficulties in 2008-2009. National data (I CAN) indicates an increase in numbers of children starting reception with speech and language difficulties.
5. Analysis of performance of KS1 pupils shows a three year decline in literacy standards (both reading and writing), and results continue to be below the national average. Although standards are broadly in line with national results currently by the end of KS2, the increase of pupils with significant literacy needs will impact on later performance, and the cost of interventions throughout the education system, unless significant action is taken.
6. Reading Recovery is a proven intervention for the lowest attaining six year olds, to enable the majority of targeted pupils to reach age related levels. The training to deliver Reading Recovery is highly specialised and requires premises that meet standards set out by the European Centre for Reading Recovery at the Institute of Education.

Introduction and Background

6. Every Child a Reader (ECaR) is part of the government's Early Reading Strategy and is a key commitment in the Children's Plan. Early intervention and specialist provision for children with literacy difficulties is a key policy within the Every Child Matters and Personalisation agenda in the 2009 White Paper.
7. Herefordshire is the lead authority in a consortium arrangement with Worcestershire County Council for this initiative.
8. The programme would deliver the well evidenced Reading Recovery Programme to the lowest attaining 5% of Year 1 pupils. The programme has a proven track record of effectiveness for early intervention. Investment in Reading Recovery would help meet aims of CYP plan, reduce the cost of later interventions and most importantly improve the life chances of children and young people.
9. KS1 standards in reading and writing are on a downward trend, reflecting a growing need for intervention. Failure to intervene at this stage will impact on outcomes for children and young people throughout their school years and beyond.

10. Herefordshire LA already has a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader (RRTL) in training, part funded by Standards Fund grant. Worcestershire will have a second RRTL in training from September 2010.
11. The Reading Recovery Teacher Leader trains with the institute of Education to Masters Level, who then trains and coaches Reading Recovery teachers, initially in 20 schools across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, from September 2010. These teachers then deliver daily teaching for children with the most severe difficulties (30 minutes daily, over 4 months), and provide coaching, training and support to teaching assistants and other adults who deliver lighter touch interventions. The RRTL will have a local authority wide brief to improve provision for wave 2 and 3 interventions.
12. Worcestershire is a lead funded authority for a dual programme 'Every Child Counts' (ECC) and would thus train ECC teachers for Herefordshire in a reciprocal manner. This programme also funded from 2009, to prepare for implementation in September 2010. A steering group is to be set up across the two LAs to plan the strategic role out and implement the ECaR and ECC initiatives.

Key Considerations

Benefits of Reading Recovery

13. *Every Child a Reader: The results of the third year (2008) Pilot 2005-2008* indicate:
 - Rate of progress for children on programme averaged four times higher than average (21 months in 4 or 5 months). Gains maintained. 80% of targeted children with severe difficulties went on to achieve L2 at end of KS1. 54% attained L4 at end of KS2.
 - The programme shown to be effective in narrowing social class and gender gaps in attainment: children in the pilot were predominantly boys (63%) and poor (59% FSM)
 - KS1 standards (both reading and writing) rose in schools in other local authorities with ECaR, because of influence of skilled expert across schools.
 - Research suggests that each £1 spent on ECaR, has potential to save £15 on money that would otherwise be spent on SEN support, costs of truancy exclusions, costs associated with unemployment, crime and poor health in adulthood. (*The Long term Costs of Literacy Difficulties, Every Child a Chance Trust 2009*)

Community Impact

14. Improving outcomes for individuals with literacy difficulties will have a long term impact on communities. Research indicates that there is a significant link between poor literacy levels, antisocial behaviour, reduced work prospects and ill health. (*The Long term Costs of Literacy Difficulties, Every Child a Chance Trust 2009*)

Financial Implications

SETTING UP A READING RECOVERY TRAINING CENTRE:

15. Contribution to the building costs of a new build training and practice room, to the specification set by the European Centre for Reading Recovery at the Institute of Education. New build to be included in building work at Ledbury Primary School. Location of training centre chosen for geographical reasons, to be accessible to teachers in both Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

16. Costings:

CENTRE

Specialist one way mirror, including fitting	£11,000
Specialist furniture	£15,000
Interactive whiteboard, data projector, PC, sound system	£3,500
Books and resources	£ 5,000
Contribution to capital build costs for toilet / kitchen facilities for Centre	£10,000

Equipping the Training Centre for 2010/11 will put in the infrastructure for the long term development for Reading Recovery, and allow the training of teachers to begin. The building would remain part of Ledbury Primary School with the resources remaining the property of Herefordshire Council. Should the training centre prove not be economically viable in the long term, the resources / or value from sale would need to be re-distributed to schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Administrative Assistant – 12.5 hours per week, HC4 (term time only) x 38 weeks (for academic year 2010-11) 1 year fixed term contract	£5216
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Additional income to cover running costs and administrative support from 2011 to be sought from consortium partner and from lettings for out of school time use for this specialist training facility

TOTAL	£49,716. 00
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Funding request : £50,000

Risk Management

17. None

Legal Implications

18. No legal implications as yet but early intervention and specialist provision for children with literacy difficulties is part of the Pupil Guarantee, a key policy within the Children, Schools and Families Bill.

Consultees

19. In compiling this report the Local Authority consulted representatives from the National Strategies, the institute of Education and Worcestershire County Council.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None