

HEREFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

Report By: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider the progress against the Education elements of the Herefordshire Local Public Service Agreement.

Financial Implications

2. For all projects combined, the Council intends to make 2.5% efficiency savings in order to support the initiatives outlined in the bid. A £920,000 pump priming grant has been awarded from central government. In addition, at the end of the period of the agreement, a further performance related award of up to 2.5% of a year's net budget is available to the extent that the targets are achieved. The pump priming available for Education targets has been set at £135,000, with an estimated total spend of £531,000.

Report

3. Herefordshire Council and the Government have made a Local Public Service Agreement (Local LPSA) with the intention of further improving the services to local people that Herefordshire Council provides. The agreement covers the period from 1st April 2002 to 30th September 2005. Four of the targets submitted have particular relevance to Education.

4. **Looked After Children and Young People (Target 6)
Improving the life chances for children/young people in care by improving their educational attainment.**

Under the LPSA, the stretched targets to be met were set as follows:

Target	Current Performance
72% of care leavers in education, training and employment at 19 by March 2005.	68.8% at the end of September 2004.
(17.25%) 5 looked after young people obtaining 5+ GCSE's at grades A* to C by March 2005.	4.3% (1 young person) at the end of September 2004. This cohort undergoes regular changes so it is possible that the target may still be met.
11(9%) looked after student absent from school by March 2005.	12.4% in the 2003/2004 academic year.

5. **GCSE Outcomes (Target 9) Improving attainment levels of students in Herefordshire**

Target	Current Performance
Increase from the current 54% to 62% in the percentage of students attaining 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE in summer 2004.	57.4% - target not achieved.

6. **High Ability Students (Target 10)**

Target	Current Performance
Increase from the current 28.5% to 31% in the percentage of students attaining 5 or more A*-B grades at GCSE in summer 2004.	Target achieved at 31.7% based on Education Directorate and DfES figures. The results yet to be officially confirmed.
Increase from the current 14.9% to 18% in the percentage of students attaining level 5 or above in all three subjects at the end of Key Stage 2 in summer 2004.	Target achieved at 18.4% based on Education Directorate and DfES figures. The results yet to be officially confirmed.

7. **Early Years (Target 11) Improving the care and development of young children by enhancing the quality of education and care provision in all childcare and early year settings in the County.**

Target	Current Performance
Reduce from the current 9% to 2% the percentage of settings on a 1-2 (i.e. deferred approval) year outcome following an Ofsted inspection on 31 st March 2004.	<p>3.7% of early years settings on a 1-2 year outcome - exceeding the national 2004 target of 6% settings on 1-2 year outcome but not meeting the LPSA target.</p> <p>Progress was impeded by staff turnover in pre-schools and a more demanding Ofsted Inspection process.</p> <p>An Early Years Advisory Teacher has been appointed from January 2005 to provide intensive support to settings on a 1-2 year outcome and/or having significant weaknesses in their practice.</p>
Ensure that no settings have a 1-2 year outcome following inspection in 3 consecutive years by March 2004.	<p>0.9% (one setting) – target not met.</p> <p>The Senior Ofsted Inspector - aware of all the extra mentor teacher support provided to the setting - acknowledged "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink."</p>

	An Early Years Advisory Teacher has been appointed from January 2005 to provide intensive support to those settings on a 1-2 year outcome and/or having significant weaknesses in their practice.
Increase from the current 5% to 45% the percentage of settings accredited on a Quality Assurance Scheme by March 2004.	45% target not met by March 2004 but achieved by September 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers the progress against the Education Directorate's elements in Herefordshire's Public Service Agreement.

Background Papers

- None identified