

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**The Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**Report Title**

**Extended Schools**

**Summary**

Following consideration of the half-year composite report 2005/06 at the meeting of Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> November, a report was requested summarising the latest developments in the DfES strategy for Extended Schools and progress made in developing Warwickshire’s strategy.

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]**

No

**Background papers**

- ‘Extended Schools: Access to Opportunities and Services for All’ Prospectus, DfES June 2005
- Warwickshire’s Extended Schools Planning Guidance, Cabinet report 24.6.04
- Warwickshire Extended Schools Strategy, June 2005
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children, DfES October 2004

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

.....

Local Member(s)

.....

- Other Elected Members  Spokespersons for information:  
 Cllr Helen McCarthy  
 Cllr Richard Grant – *“supports the recommendations”*  
 Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – *“no comments”*
  
- Cabinet Member  Cllr John Burton  
 Cllr Izzi Seccombe – *“commend the report to Cabinet”*
  
- Chief Executive  .....
  
- Legal  Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – comments incorporated in the report
  
- Finance  Virginia Rennie, County Treasurer’s – comments incorporated in the report
  
- Other Chief Officers  .....
  
- District Councils  .....
  
- Health Authority  .....
  
- Police  .....
  
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Consultation with schools, stakeholders and other potential partners during production of Warwickshire’s strategy, May 2005

**FINAL DECISION** **NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:** Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
  
- To Council  .....
  
- To Cabinet  Revised and updated strategy to a future meeting
  
- To an O & S Committee  .....
  
- To an Area Committee  .....
  
- Further Consultation  .....

## The Cabinet – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005

### Extended Schools

#### Report of the County Education Officer

##### Recommendations:

- (1) That Cabinet notes:
  - (a) the emergent national framework and targets for extended school provision
  - (b) the further development of a Warwickshire strategy for Extended Schools
  - (c) the underlying issues revealed by this developing agenda.
- (2) That Cabinet supports the general direction of travel for the development of schools with extended services in Warwickshire.

#### 1. The national agenda

- 1.1 The development and delivery of extended school provision is a key element in the Every Child Matters agenda and in promoting the five outcomes for children:
  - Being Healthy
  - Staying Safe
  - Enjoying and achieving
  - Making a positive contribution
  - Enabling economic wellbeing.
- 1.2 In June 2005 the DfES published its prospectus 'Extended Schools: Access to Opportunities and Services for All'. The prospectus confirms that *'The Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme is a shared national programme of system-wide reform designed to ensure that children's services work better together and with parents and carers to help give more opportunities and better support. Bringing services together makes it easier for universal services like schools to work with the specialist or targeted service that some children need so that problems are spotted early and handled effectively.'*

- 1.3 Developing extended services in or through schools provides the opportunity to embed strategically the integration and co-location of services to better meet the needs of children, parents, carers and communities and so enhance lives. 'An Extended School is a school that recognises that it cannot work alone in helping children and young people to achieve their potential, and therefore decides to work in partnership with other agencies that have an interest in outcomes for children, young people and the local community'. (DfES 2004)
- 1.4 To become an Extended School is not to achieve a 'badge' or specialist status. It is a status which all schools must achieve by 2010 if they are to meet the Government's ambitious target set out in the 2005 Prospectus. (The interim target is for half of all primary schools and one-third of all secondary schools to offer access to the full range of extended school provision by 2008.) The previous concept of a 'full service school' has been dropped in favour of universally available provision to be delivered by a variety of means.
- 1.5 The Prospectus – for the first time – identifies the concept of a 'core offer' of extended services that all children (and their families) should be able to access by 2010:
- High quality 'wraparound' childcare provided on school sites or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements where appropriate, available 8am – 6pm throughout the year.
  - A varied menu of activities to be on offer such as homework clubs and study support, sport (at least two hours per 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 museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering, business and enterprise activities.
  - Parenting support including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parent.
  - Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech and language 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.
  - Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.
- 1.6 In order to ensure that the Extended Schools strategy is delivered across the country, the DfES has commissioned the National Remodelling Team (NRT) to help Local Authorities and their schools to plan and develop extended services and monitor progress. This is to be achieved by adapting the change management process used by NRT over the past two years in helping Local Authorities and schools implement the National Agreement on Raising Standards and Tackling Workload.

- 1.7 NRT now operates through a structure of regional advisers for Extended Schools and are able to offer additional specialist advice through ContinYou and 4Children (formerly the Kids Club Network). It is envisaged that all schools and partner organisations will have the opportunity to engage in a programme of advice, support and training in order to plan, develop and ensure the delivery of extended services in ways which best support the work of the school and the needs of pupils and communities. Partnership and coherence with other initiatives is key to the success of the Extended Schools strategy.
- 1.8 For an initial three-year period (2005/08) some additional funding is being made available to Local Authorities through the Standards Fund and direct to schools through the Schools Standards Grant. This is intended principally as start-up funding to help co-ordinate the strategy at a local level and assist schools establish and embed new provision. In the longer term schools will need to develop sustainable provision funded possibly from a range of sources including charging (for example childcare), grant income, commissioned income, etc., or by tapping in to existing funding streams. Some extended services may be available at no cost to the school where this is delivered by a partner agency (e.g. Primary Care Trust) as part of its core purpose. Other elements of provision may be accessed at the school by making better community use of specialist resources such as ICT, sport and arts facilities, beyond the school day. Schools will not be expected themselves to provide all aspects of the 'core offer'. Many will choose to work in clusters or provide a sign-posting service so that children and parents can access services locally in a way that best suits the community need.

## **2. The local position – the journey so far**

- 2.1 2003/04. The DfES recognised Warwickshire as a Pilot Pathfinder Authority for Extended Schools and eight 'early adopter' schools were given advice and support to explore different ways of extending school provision.
- 2.2 January 2005. Warwickshire's Extended Schools Planning Guidance was published to support schools wishing to assume direct management of extended services, principally Early Years and Childcare provision (Cabinet paper 24<sup>th</sup> June 2004). To date only a small number of schools have felt it necessary to submit to this process of Local Authority validation of their business practice.
- 2.3 April 2005. Warwickshire's Standards Fund allocation to develop Extended School provision confirmed at £805,000 for 2005/06 with an indication that a similar amount would be made available for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- 2.4 June 2005. Warwickshire's Extended Schools Strategy paper was published following a period of extensive consultation with schools, stakeholders and other potential partners. The strategy identified three key actions:

- Appointment of a County Co-ordinator for Extended Schools.
  - Audit of existing extended schools provision.
  - Award of Standards Fund to pump-prime school-based projects.
- 2.5 September 2005. Responsibility for the further development and implementation of an Extended Schools strategy in Warwickshire transferred from the Education Department Directorate to the Education Department Community Division (Partnership and Area Working Team).
- 2.6 October 2005. County Co-ordinator for Extended Schools takes up post. All schools invited to bid for Standards Fund grant to pump-prime extended school provision. Associated guidance identifies that, where appropriate, priority is to be given to schools serving disadvantaged areas or initiatives responding to clearly identified community need. Schools are encouraged to work in partnership and/or clusters, with emphasis on developing sustainable provision which will result in a discernable impact, not least in terms of school improvement and outcomes for children. Resource grants will be confirmed in early December for expenditure by August 2006.
- 2.7 October 2006. Engagement with NRT regional adviser and ContinYou resulting in stocktake of progress to date and confirmation of strategic objectives for the coming year.
- 2.8 November 2006. The Steering Group for Extended Schools reconvened and reconstituted to focus on achieving strategic objectives.

### **3. Immediate priorities**

The following are the immediate priorities with outcomes to be achieved by April 2006:

- 3.1 To confirm awards of pump-priming grant to foster the further development of extended school provision, in particular to promote and nurture cluster and network delivery mechanisms.
- 3.2 To develop a 'toolkit' of processes to support all schools in the pursuit of their individual extended school strategy based on local need in the context of existing local provision
- 3.3 To conduct a baseline audit of existing extended school provision across the County and construct a database for ongoing monitoring and reporting progress.
- 3.4 To produce a revised and updated Warwickshire Extended Schools Strategy and promote with schools, stakeholders and other partner agencies.

- 3.5 To commission a school-based training and support programme using NRT change management materials. To be delivered by certified Extended Schools Remodelling Consultants (ESRCs) drawn from a variety of service disciplines including headship, training, Early Years, Adult, Youth and Community, Inspectors, etc.
- 3.6 To explore and establish Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Children protocols for adoption by schools providing extended services.

## **4. Some underlying issues**

### **4.1 Coherence**

The Extended Schools initiative is an ambitious project which seeks to change the way schools operate, the way agencies work in partnership, and change for the better outcomes for children, young people and their families. If this is to succeed it cannot be done by a bolt-on approach. Congruence with existing planning structures such as those of Districts and Boroughs, the Primary Care Trusts, Local Strategic Partnerships. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) should offer a planning framework for the WCC Children's Department and all stakeholders to achieve this coherence.

An increased emphasis on locality planning and delivery will potentially enhance the role of Area Community Learning Partnerships and Area Children's Co-ordinating Groups in both planning and monitoring provision locally. Above all, there has to be coherence with existing and future programmes such as Sure Start Children's Centres, Specialist Schools, Schools for the Future, etc., in order to ensure a complementary approach to developing provision and the avoidance of duplicated effort. Collaboration with partner agencies will be essential. This coherence will need to be managed as a primary task for the new Children's Service Authority.

### **4.2 Communication**

The speed of recent developments, both nationally and locally, has overtaken the Warwickshire Extended Schools Strategy paper published in June 2005. A revised Warwickshire strategy and accompanying operational plan is currently being drafted. A comprehensive process of consultation and communication will be necessary in order to secure coherence and clarity in the direction of travel and ultimate destination.

### **4.3 Capacity**

The size and scope of the Extended Schools strategy will require a considerable investment not least in terms of time and creative energy on the part of all participants whether these be schools, services of the County Council or agencies beyond. Recognition and acknowledgement of the centrality of this agenda will be key to its success.

#### **4.4 VAT**

Within certain limits Local Authorities are able to reclaim all VAT incurred in the course of providing their services. However, there is a possibility that the Authority may breach its limit, with an immediate penalty of £1.4 million, if significant income is generated from the use of school premises by external organisations.

Clearly there is a potential conflict between the emerging Extended Schools strategy and the current VAT rules. Local Authorities, the DfES and Revenue & Customs are working to find an acceptable solution. However, in the meantime it is essential that close co-operation with, and involvement of, the County Treasurer's Department occurs at each stage to ensure the issues surrounding the Authority's potential VAT liability are managed.

### **5. The long-term vision?**

#### **5.1 A Warwickshire where:**

- Each child and family has access to the full range of extended support and provision through their local school.
- Each school is capable and confident in providing access to extended services to meet local need within its community.
- Each community is well served to meet the needs and aspirations of children, young people and their families.

5.2 While this presents the new Children's Department with a significant challenge in terms of outcomes for children, young people and families the Authority is well placed to deliver this programme as the major work in engaging partners through the Community Learning Partnerships provides a good basis from which to build.

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25<sup>th</sup> November 2005