

# **Leader Decision**

**26 March 2020**

## **Relationships and Sex Education Support Services in Warwickshire.**

### **Recommendations**

- 1) That the Leader notes the outcome of the independent review of the All About Me Relationships and Sex Education programme for primary schools in Warwickshire and approves the replacement of it with an information and signposting offer to schools. The offer will be in line with the Department of Education's national materials and resources to support schools to meet their statutory requirements under the new Relationships & Sex Education regulations.
- 2) That Leader awaits the outcome of the ongoing external independent expert review of the Respect Yourself website and receives a further paper with recommendations.
- 3) In line with recommendation 1, it is further recommended that the Leader approves the replacement of Relationships and Sex Education programme delivery in secondary schools with an information and signposting offer to schools.

## **1. Executive Summary**

### **1.1 Background and Context**

1.2 Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has prioritised investment in the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programmes to support young people's understanding of healthy relationships and to enable them to build positive and safe relationships as they grow and develop into adults. These programmes were first developed in Warwickshire a decade ago, aligned to recommendations in the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Unesco guidance on sex education (see background papers 1 and 2). At the time of commencing delivery of the RSE programme in Warwickshire RSE was not a statutory requirement in schools.

1.3 In 2019, new Government regulations and guidance were published placing statutory requirements on schools for the delivery of RSE programmes in primary and secondary schools (Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019). The new requirements come into effect in September 2020, although schools have

been encouraged to adopt the guidance early from September 2019. The programmes currently being delivered in Warwickshire were developed before the new regulations and guidance were published, and as such, may not take account of the full RSE requirements, and additional requirements included in the regulations covering the teaching of health education.

#### **1.4 RSE Programme Review**

1.5 Two elements of the current RSE programme in Warwickshire, the primary school programme and the information and signposting website for young people were placed into review in October 2019. An independent expert review was commissioned and delivered by the Sex Education Forum, part of the National Children's Bureau.

1.6 Phase 1 of the independent expert review focused on the RSE programme for primary school pupils in Warwickshire, known as All About Me (AAM), with the supplier asked to provide expert review and opinion on:

- the complete content of the AAM programme for RSE in primary schools
- the overall delivery approach of the AAM programme
- how closely aligned the AAM Programme is to relevant guidance, legislation and the evidence base of best practice
- whether any aspect of the All About Me programme would not meet requirements for compulsory primary school level relationships education for children as stated in the Department of Education RSE statutory guidance due to come into effect in schools in September 2020.

1.7 Phase 2 of the independent review focused on the Respect Yourself RSE website for children and young people, with the supplier asked to provide independent review and opinion on:

- the complete content of the Respect Yourself website for young people aged 13 years and older
- the overall approach to the production of the website
- how closely aligned the Respect Yourself web-site content and approach is to relevant guidance, legislation and the evidence base of best practice for young people aged 13 years and older.

1.8 Phase 1 of the review into the AAM programme is now complete and a summary of the key findings with recommendations for the Leader's consideration and endorsement are presented below.

1.9 Phase 2 of the review into the Respect Yourself website is ongoing and recommendations regarding this will be presented to Cabinet in a further paper.

## **1.10 RSE Review – Progress, Outcomes and Recommendations**

### **1.11 Phase 1 All About Me Programme Review**

1.12 The independent expert review of the AAM programme was undertaken by the Sex Education Forum, part of the National Children’s Bureau, with a detailed investigation and review undertaken of the whole programme. The review process has concluded, and the review report is available at Appendix 1.

1.13 The report notes that AAM “is a comprehensive primary school programme, informed by international evidence” and “the programme of lessons is admirable in spanning all primary years”. The report notes that AAM predates the new Government guidance and regulations, and notes areas where the programme would need to be developed further to ensure full adherence to the regulations.

1.14 Recommendations have been made to the Council in relation to 7 key areas of the AAM programme, including:

- revising and developing the AAM curriculum content
- AAM coverage in relation to guidance, other subjects and initiatives
- involvement of teachers and school staff
- involvement of children and young people
- involvement of parents and carers
- gaps in national information and advice
- flexibility, sustainability and roles of school and local authority.

1.15 In view of the findings of the independent expert review into the All About Me programme, and the introduction of Government regulations and guidance placing statutory requirements for the delivery of RSE programmes to schools, it is recommended that the Leader approves the replacement of AAM with an information and signposting offer to schools that will support them in meeting their statutory requirements.

1.16 During the course of this review the Department of Education has announced it is developing a series of resources to support schools to deliver high quality RSE programmes, and these will be available Spring 2020 (see next page).

## Government response

### **Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education: FAQs**

Information from the Department for Education about the introduction of compulsory relationships education and RSE from September 2020.

Q: What support with schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

A: We are investing in a central support package to help teachers introduce subjects well and with confidence. This will include a new online service, featuring access to high quality resources, innovative training materials, case studies and an implementation guide, available from Spring 2020. There will also be training available for teachers through existing regional networks, offering opportunities to improve subject knowledge and build confidence. We're working with expert organisations, schools and teachers to develop this support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

- 1.17 The Council will focus on working with schools to help them to use and implement the national support package, alongside other relevant guidance such as the PSHE association ten-step guide to enable school leaders to provide high quality RSE as an identifiable part of PSHE education.
- 1.18 It is proposed that delivery of AAM in primary schools would cease with immediate effect and a stakeholder engagement and communications plan would be included as part of an exit strategy for the closure of AAM delivery.
- 1.19 Phase 2 Respect Yourself online resource review**
- 1.20 The independent review of the Respect Yourself website has commenced, also commissioned from the Sex Education Forum, part of the National Children's Bureau. Whilst the online resource review is ongoing, the website has been withdrawn, and a holding page is displayed stating that the website is currently under review.
- 1.21 It is recommended that the Leader awaits the outcome of the independent review and receives a further report with recommendations regarding this provision.
- 1.22 RSE Programmes delivery in secondary schools**
- 1.23 This report has recommended to the Leader a revised approach to delivery of RSE programmes in primary schools that moves from direct delivery of programmes to a proposed information and signposting offer to schools.
- 1.24 In alignment with the approach recommended for primary schools, it is also recommended that the Leader approves the replacement of direct delivery of RSE programmes in secondary schools with an information and signposting offer to schools as outlined previously for primary schools.

## **1.25 RSE Programme Governance**

- 1.26 The key decisions and recommendations presented in this report signal a change in focus and direction for the strategic delivery of RSE programmes in Warwickshire. The current programmes were established to support improvement of health and wellbeing outcomes and to enable children and young people to understand how to build and sustain healthy relationships to keep them safe from avoidable harm. These outcomes remain a priority for Warwickshire County Council, in line with the Council Plan 2025 and its priority outcome for Warwickshire's communities and individuals to be supported to be safe, healthy and independent.
- 1.27 To manage the revised approach to RSE Support Services proposed in this report a Programme Board will be established, co-chaired by the Assistant Director for People Strategy & Commissioning, and the Director of Public Health. This Board will have responsibility for managing the change of approach, working with key stakeholders including schools, and monitoring the impact of programme delivery changes on health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 1.28 The Programme Board will have responsibility for:
- an effective transition plan for managing agreed changes to the RSE programme delivery following endorsement of recommendations made to the Leader.
  - the development and implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan
  - monitoring the impact of programme delivery changes on health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 Funding for any agreed additional independent reviews would be made available from the sexual health services budget as required.
- 2.2 Funding released through de-commissioning aspects of the current commissioning portfolio of RSE programmes would be re-allocated to support provision of the information and signposting resources for schools.
- 2.3 Funding may also be re-allocated to support a revised public health approach to addressing relevant outcomes for children and young people relating to relationships and sex education, as work progresses and monitoring of key outcomes is undertaken.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 There are no environmental implications for this report. As programme developments are agreed and actioned, considerations will be given to

environmental implications.

#### **4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

March 2020	AAM Programme to cease delivery.
May 2020	Update report to Cabinet or the Leader on review Phase 2 and Phase 3
June 2020	Secondary school programme delivery ceases

## **Appendix**

All About Me review report.

## **Background Papers**

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2010

[https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/11277/1/4287\\_Teenage%20pregnancy%20strategy\\_aw8.pdf](https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/11277/1/4287_Teenage%20pregnancy%20strategy_aw8.pdf)

1. Unesco guidance on sexuality education  
2009 guidance

<http://recapp.etr.org/recapp/documents/programs/InterGuidanceSexualityEducation.pdf>

2018 updated guidance

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770>

2. RSE Regulations.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. It also makes Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Further information on the Regulations is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/805781/Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

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