

EXTENDED SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to update Committee Members about the work taking place in schools around Extended Services.

Summary

2. The report provides information about what is happening both nationally and across Darlington to promote and support the delivery of and signposting to extended services. The report provides a summary of statistics that influence work around this agenda both nationally and in Darlington.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Members of the scrutiny are asked to note the content of the report.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools (DCSF 2008)

Extended Schools, Building on Experience (DCSF 2008)

Gill Walker Assistant Director Partnerships Extension 2878

S17 Crime and Disorder	Diversions activities provided by extended schools may reduce incidences of crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	Extended schools activities should promote both positive health and wellbeing
Sustainability	There are no direct implications arising from this report
Diversity	All groups are covered with an emphasis on inclusion of children with disabilities
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	All groups
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no direct implications arising from this report
Efficiency	There are no direct implications arising from this report
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report cuts across most One Darlington themes, including Safer, Healthier, Aspiring and Prosperous

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

What is the national context?

4. The Children Act 2004 and other significant documentation requires the Local Authority, with its partners, to improve the outcomes for children and young people by reviewing their services and how they are provided, including the integrating of services. The Children's Plan: building brighter futures (DCSF 2007) and Building Brighter Futures: next steps for the Children's Workforce (DCSF 2008) describe a vision that every Children's Trust is expected to understand and be able to deliver integrated working by 2010.

Over the last 3 years Darlington has been developing the concept of extended services not just extended schools as key means of lifting children out of poverty and improving their outcomes and life chances later in life. 'Children entitled to free school meals are less than half as likely to get 5 or more good GCSEs (including English and maths) as children who are not entitled to free school meals' (*Breaking the link between disadvantage and low attainment* DCSF 2009). Providing easier access to all types of services around the places where children and young people spend most of their time is key to the Every Child Matters objectives of ensuring that children stay safe, are healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being.

Developing extended services means developing a multi-agency approach to children's services through closer collaboration between schools, social services, healthcare professionals and the police (*Extended Schools, Building on Experience* DCSF, 2008). This work is now well underway in Darlington with the recent appointments of Integrated Service Managers and Team Leaders. Extended services are a key part of the Government's vision for 21st century schools and the White Paper '*Building a 21st Century Schools System*' sets out an entitlement for every child to go to a school where they take part in a wide range of out of school activities and childcare is available for every primary school pupil.

5. **The Government has set out a core offer of services that they would like all schools to offer** access to (in partnership with local authorities and local providers) by 2010:
 - (a) **A varied menu of activities** (including study support, play/recreation, sport, music, arts and crafts and other special interest clubs, volunteering and business and enterprise activities), in a safe place, for primary and secondary schools
 - (b) **Childcare** 8:00 am — 6:00 pm, 48 weeks a year for primary schools
 - (c) **Parenting Support** including family learning
 - (d) **Swift and Easy Access** to targeted and specialist services such as speech and language therapy
 - (e) **Community Access** to facilities including adult learning, ICT and sports facilities.

These services need to be shaped to meet the needs of pupils, parents and the community; this core offer ensures that there is a minimum level of service provision and activities for families. Services will not necessarily be provided on the school site or by teachers. Good quality signposting is an integral part of the extended services core offer. For most schools, delivering the core offer involves a mix of clear, effective signposting to other services and 'in-house' provision.

6. Independent research from the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle, and from Ofsted and others, points to the considerable benefits of extended services for improving the motivation, behaviour, attendance and achievement of pupils. In addition to their educational benefits, extended schools can lead to better mental and physical health and better social outcomes for children and young people (*Extended Schools, Building on Experience, DCSF 2008*). Ofsted's report *How well are they doing?* found that the extended services in the schools visited were having a positive impact on children's achievement and personal development.

What is happening in Darlington?

7. 33 schools (84%) in Darlington are providing full access to the core offer of extended services through a mix of services provided on school site and signposting families to services across the town. All schools are working towards developing their extended services provision to achieve full core offer status by September 2010.
8. In order to provide families with access to a range of services that meet their needs, and to make the best use of resources, schools are working in partnership on a cluster and locality basis to deliver extended services. Locality forums support closer collaboration between schools and partner services that work with children, young people and families (e.g. Health, Children's Centres, Sports Development). Partners at forums use the locality data profile to identify areas of need and plan how they can work together to address these needs. As a result of the forum process a range of extended services are taking place at both school and community venues across the town, please see examples below:
 - a) Through the Locality forum process 4 of the 5 localities in Darlington identified that providing more positive activities for children and young people outside of school hours should be a priority for development in 2008. Due to the success of the programme in 2008/9, and continued support from schools and locality forum partners, positive activities work will continue into 2009 /10 across all 5 localities.
 - b) School Home Support (SHS) is a national charity, which provides practical and emotional support for disadvantaged and disaffected children and young people and for their families and carers. The SHS service in Darlington was established in January 2008 to target schools in Locality A, which includes Alderman Leach, Cockerton, Holy Family and Mount Pleasant Primaries and Branksome Secondary School.
9. The DCSF (Department of Children, Schools and Families) has allocated ring fenced funding through the Standards Fund to enable one cluster of schools to subsidise access to extended services for economically disadvantaged children and young people this financial year. The Extended Services Disadvantage Subsidy aims to improve well being and narrow the attainment gap. Schools in cluster B (Longfield School, Northwood Primary, Corporation Road Primary and Harrowgate Hill Primary) are trialling the subsidy fund this year (2009-2010) by targeting children using an agreed set of direct (e.g. free school meal entitlement) and indirect (e.g. young carer) indicators of economic disadvantage. The schools are consulting with students and will be providing access to existing activities that they would otherwise not be able to afford as well as commissioning new activities based on the needs of the group. From April 2010, further funding will be available to all schools.

10. The Extended Services team for Darlington are working with the Families Information Service to both promote the extended services that schools are providing and to enable schools to better signpost their families to services on a locality and town wide basis.
11. By providing extended services, schools are also supporting the Healthy Schools programme. The Healthy Schools programme is a joint initiative between the DoH (Department of Health) and DSCF, which supports schools to develop a whole school approach to strengthen the links between health, behaviour and learning. Examples of extended services that schools are providing which also support them to achieve Healthy School Status include:
 - a) Breakfast clubs before school and after school cookery clubs. This includes 9 School Food Trust funded 'Lets Get Cooking' clubs which aim to help children, young people and the wider community learn new cooking skills and enjoy healthy eating.
 - b) CAF (Common Assessment Framework) processes embedded in schools that support the identification of vulnerable families and provide swift access to specialist support services (including health services).

Outcome of Consultation

12. Consultation is ongoing with children, young people and families to inform Extended Services developments.
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