CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2010

PROGRESS ON THE DARLINGTON KEYSTAGE 2 TO 3 SCHOOLS TRANSITION PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report outlines the existing provision and planned developments for school pupil transition from Key Stage 2 to 3.

Summary

2. In Summer 2008, 11 Transition Action Groups (TAG) were initiated in order to improve the transition experiences for pupils in Darlington moving from their primary to secondary schools.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that:-

    (a) The Committee note the contents of the report.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

Transition Booklet

George McQueen : Extension 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Health and Well Being	This report supports emotional well being
Sustainability	N/A
Diversity	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All pupils in primary schools
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Transition work is a priority for the Aspiring Darlington Group
Efficiency	N/A

<div align="center">**MAIN REPORT**</div>

Information and Analysis

What is happening and what we plan to happen…

4. For this programme "transition" is about the transfer (movement of) and progress of pupils from Key Stage 2 to 3. The Y6 to Y7 transition is one of many important stages in the life of all young people in education. Transition can include the passing on of important information such as test data, and it also can include the kinds of things that can affect pupils emotionally and socially as they make the move into their secondary schools.

5. The main TAG development areas were :

    - Producing a Darlington transition booklet for all pupils;
    - Developing pupil-friendly anti-bullying information;
    - Improving e-communication for pupils and parents so that each has access to a transition website;
    - Developing the curriculum resource "One Book for Darlington";
    - Developing the use of Summer schools;
    - Developing the induction of Y6 pupils into secondary schools by having 2 days in June;
    - Holding an annual transition conference; and
    - Improving the link with parents.

6. The TAGs are made up of teachers from both primary and secondary schools, working together and alongside other staff in the Local Authority. .

Summary of Progress in the TAG groups

Improving e-communications / developing yearly transition plan / website / induction and transfer experience

7. The local authority has produced a much smoother and rapid transfer system where the most important information on Y6 pupils is transferred to secondary schools close to the end of Y6. This has meant that the secondary schools have all of the relevant information to help them to cater better for all Y6.

8. The transition website is currently undergoing changes and updates so that parents can gain access to schools websites with pages on transition. These include the vid-casts of pupils describing the experiences of what it's like to move from their primary schools to their secondary schools. These vid-casts are being uploaded onto school websites. This work was celebrated in a presentation event at the Education Village, involving all participating Y7 students. This was really well attended and pupils and Headteachers listened to presentations from Murray Rose, Rob Thompson and Stepan Heghoyan (the TAG leader for this work). Each pupil received a certificate and a book entitled "Change the World for a Fiver", the forerunner of the book used in the transition project "One Book for Darlington".

9. Transition conferences have happened annually from 2007. The conferences have covered a range of issues such as Y6 pupils moving up to secondary schools in June instead of September. The conferences inform and guide how we organise our work in Darlington to help transition.

Pupil-friendly anti-bullying information

10. This booklet has been completed and is accessible through both our corporate extranet and via our transition webpage.

Developing the use of Summer Schools

11. The TAG group leading in this area met to discuss ways forward in July 2009 and will report on progress in September. One idea they are looking at is using secondary school specialisms to inspire Y6 pupils before they arrive, so they would get to know what it is going to be like to be a pupil in say a language specialist school or a science specialist school. This will help them to find out what makes our schools unique.

Developing the curriculum resource "One Book for Darlington"

12. This TAG group was led by John Armitage (deputy head at North Rd. Primary school). The activities were based upon the book "Teach Your Granny to Text and Other Ways to Change the World" (see attached booklet). The book brings together ideas from young people from all around the UK. They are about the simple, everyday actions that if enough people did them (or even if they didn't) would change the world. So there are things like from 'walking your dad', 'read with a pal' and 'don't start a war' and are designed improve communication skills in young people with the added bonus of changing the world at the same time! One really important outcome of this work is to give our young pupils a voice with our town Cabinet. A pupil from each of our newly transferred Y7 year groups will present an issue to Cabinet about their local community. This will be an issue that the want the Cabinet to solve, or provide a report on. This builds on the work they did in the transition unit on "love where you live".

Next Steps for Transition Development

- Evaluate the impact of the 'One Book' project in September.
- Start a bigger TAG group looking at how well primary schools work with secondary school on pupil progress
- Talk and explore further the idea of transferring pupils earlier in the year rather than writing until September.
- Start work on improving our links with parents in the transition process. Also, how can parents help us to make the process even better?

Outcome of Consultation

13. No specific consultation took place for this report. Extensive consultation has taken place to inform the transition strategy.