

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE - EXTENDED SERVICES

MINUTES of a meeting of the Select Committee - Extended Services held in the Swale 1, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 10 June 2010.

PRESENT: Mr R B Burgess (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, Mr A R Chell, Mrs J P Law, Mr R J Parry, Mr K H Pugh, Mr K Smith and Mr M J Vye

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms D Fitch (Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Policy Overview)) and Mr G Romagnuolo (Policy Overview Research Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

21. Interview with representatives of Kent Primary Schools Children's Council (Item 1)

(Delegates from Kent Primary Schools participated in the discussion on this item supported by Miss E Jenkins – Study Support co-ordinator).

Q1 – Which activities do your schools offer outside of lesson time?

The delegates identified the following activities:-

- Breakfast club
- Football
- Chess
- Sailing
- ICT club
- Ballroom dancing
- Choir
- Gymnastics
- Judo
- Fencing
- Arts and crafts
- Rounder's
- Homework club.

Q2 – Do your schools run holiday clubs?

The following feedback was given:-

- School organises a holiday club but does not run it.
- Schools run a range of activities in the holidays such as ICT and ceramics.
- Club on a Saturday and also at half term – I normally go and play and make cakes a lot of my friends also go.
- Schools run some clubs in the summer holidays and half term but I haven't been.
- Yes but I have not been – some of my friends have been and they liked it.

Q3 – what other activities do your schools offer?

- Fencing
- Speed stacking
- Sailing at Bewl water on a Monday evening it is facilitated by a pupils father.
- Netball club for years 4 & 5 and if you are good enough you get so go to summer training and can be selected for the Netball squad.
- Swimming club – at Dover Swimming pool – we are taken there by coach.

Q4 – How much do you enjoy your activities?

The delegates agreed that they all like the activities that they attended. However some are not as good as you expected them to be when you turn up. Also some were full and you do not get a place which is disappointing.

Q5 – do you have to pay for these activities? Are the ones that you do have to pay for better than the ones that are free?

- Activities that are funded by the school are free and are quite fun. The ones that are not run by the school are fun and are run people who know about the sport and are reasonably priced.
- You have to pay for breakfast club and after school club but not for others
- Speed stacking is free
- Clubs that we have to pay for are £1.50 upwards and sailing is £17 for the whole course.
- Holiday club is £1 an hour and school clubs are free
- We have had a letter from the school saying that we will have to pay cannot remember how much but have not had to pay yet
- We have to pay for basketball and athletics but do not know how much.

It was noted that after school clubs were child care and therefore were chargeable.

Q6 – do you have music activities outside of school? If you are better than others do you have the opportunity to play your instrument with others after school?

- If you are better than others you have the chance to go for an audition for a place in the school orchestra.
- There is an opportunity to go for music exams

Q7 - Are you good at something and find it difficult because you are better than others.

- Play recorder – others learn songs really slowly
- Good at drums – bored in music lessons so drift off.
- Football for girls – have a good and not so good group we are in high group still do same things but high group do harder things.

Q8 - In your area where are – do you link up with other schools to go to different clubs

- Year 5 & 6 do – go in a mini bus get chosen to go there if you are good at something
- Our school link to Valley Park – come from there to do dance and drama and do shows with us.
- We go to other schools for plays, drama and dance

Q9 – do your Mums/Dads/Carers take part in activities in school

- my mum and dad run growing clubs – others do cookery others teach reading and writing
- there are PA meetings in the evening some adults go– my mum is involved
- school organised things for parents to do like quiz night
- some of parents like to help school out at summer fare etc
- my friends mum who is Russian comes in and teach Russian

Q 10 - Did anyone took part in KCC family fun week

- no

Q11 – what additional activities would you would like to do

- more foreign languages after school – e.g. Russian – lots of Russian children in school. Italian and Spanish
- drama or acting clubs
- football
- cooking club

Q12 – How easy is it to take part in offered by other schools are you welcomed?

- If we go to the high school and meet other schools it is fun but scary to meet other people.
- Go by mini bus we are welcome at school go every year.
- When go to rugby tournaments we are welcomed and welcome others who come to our school to play.

Q 13 - some children/young people have to do things at home like looking after ill parent and have to concentrate on that – are you aware of friends that find it difficult to attend after school activities because of home circumstances?

- Know of someone who lives on Isle of Sheppey whose mum is deaf and has cancer and she has to look after her mum.

Q14 – why did you chose to put your name forward to KPSC? Do you think that you can you make a difference?

- If work together we can change things
- Don't know – I was chosen
- My friends said I would be good because I talk a lot at school
- I was put forward for it
- Teacher picked 5 people for each class and then Deputy Head chose 3 from there

Q15 - Does each school have a school council and are you on it.

- Vote in house who should be house captain boy and girl – then from there school councillors chosen
- I am on school council and people who want changes come to us we have to write it in book – then go to a meeting
- Have a school council have a boy and girl per class and every Tuesday go to a meeting share ideas and then they go to head teacher

Q16 - Share anything you have achieved through school council

- Ask for ICT suite and we have got that now
- Ideas are put in a suggestion box – we asked for a new library the old one was knocked down and have a new one

Q17 – I am a governor of a primary school and we have a school council – in our school council they devised a means of being able to mentor other pupils – if anyone is disruptive they go in front of school council – do you have anything like this?

- We have “Buddies “– we take in turns – if someone has an argument they go the buddies who sort it out
- Recently we had two people come into school who were in who were mediators and told us what it is about – most of year 5 are now mediators
- In year 6 there are buddies they help to sort out arguments
- 2 people each day in meeting room – if problem go to them and sort it out but you are only allowed to go in two at a time.
- Last time I came here – we had to go in front of whole school and tell them what happened at Primary County Council I will do this again tomorrow and tell them what happened today..

Q18 – What if there we no activates outside of school, which could happen if the school runs out of money – how do you feel about it and what would you or parents do about it?

- Sad not to have any money – think parents contribute money to the school
- Feel ok – school not do anything about it – some parents might organise cake sales etc so they can get a bit more money
- Bit annoyed – tell mum and dad to get together with others and give school money
- Sad – get together with friends and do a charity fund raiser
- Disappointed if not have any clubs

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the Primary Schools County Council for coming along to the meeting and for answering questions from the Committee.

22. Interview with representatives of the Kent Youth County Council *(Item 2)*

(Youth County Council Delegates - Robert ? from Ifield School Gravesend, Libby Carter from Gravesend Grammar School for Girls and Tamanna Miah from Bradbourne School Sevenoaks, supported by Claire Trainor, Youth Participation Co-ordinator, Kent Youth Service, participated in the discussion on this item – set out below each question is a summary of the responses given).

Q1 - What activities outside of teaching time (extended services) do your schools provide to students and to the local community (for example, sports facilities, IT facilities, courses, and clubs)? Who provides and who runs these activities?

- My school does not offer anything outside the school community
- School has a lunchtime club music and dance – sometimes the school is rented out for performing arts and also sports event
- Football, swimming, music

Q2 - Who provides these services

- Always Teachers occasionally we have a sports coach in for a term
- Music teacher for older groups – Teaching Assistants for younger groups

Q3 - in your view, how beneficial are extended services?

- ones provided by school give the opportunity to mix with other year groups. Also there is the advantage of learning new skills
- meeting people make friends, learn new skills, helps build confidence.
- Gives you hobbies to do – free at the school – gives new skills meet new people – I have to pay for mini bus to go home only costs a £1.
- Keeps me out of trouble and stops me from being bored.
- Meet other people similar interests might not meet otherwise

Q4 - Tell me about your schools and what services provide?

- Gravesend Grammar School for Girls – mainly sport and music – not any other clubs – only thing could improve would be to meet up with Boys school and have joint activities. Disco in years 7 -8 – 9 mixed but nothing after that.
- Bradbourne School is a girls school – they offer a lot of art and drama – offer art classes and put on shows, will be joining with boys school to form academy
- Ifield School – Gravesend - Music group –opportunity to go to concerts and play to old people in homes

Q5 – what other things would you like to do? What could schools around offer

- A lot of young people don't go to school activities they prefer activities that are not in school for example skate boarding, rock climbing and water sports
- There is not much for young people to do. Would like to have the opportunity to do first aid courses or help with C V writing.

Q6 - Are you limited by transport

- Tamanna – I live in New Barn, near Sevenoaks and going to an after school club means waiting around for a bus. There is nothing to do in New Barn – just one park
- Libby - I get a lift or walk so I stay after school to go activities or go home and come back

Q7 - do school sign post activities provided by someone else where you live?

- Gravesend Grammar School for Girls - we have notice boards – so we know what is going on
- Bradbourne school – There are leaflets at reception and sometimes announcements at made assembly or in class.

Q8 - In your view, what are the main challenges for your schools – if any – when providing extended services activities (for example financial, legal, transport, security, safeguarding, staffing challenges)?

- Staffing can be an issue we rely on teachers being willing to run these activities. They could be paid extra for this or make it part of job their job to organise clubs. Also could make a connections to other local schools have a joint offer. It can end up being more expensive to get external people to run clubs.
- Not all members of staff want to stay after school and run clubs – pay extra for their time.
- Transport issue not able to get to right place at right time.
- Most parents can not pay for bus home – make the mini buses free to drop off.

- Transport – freedom pass – young people can afford it get it reduced or free. Freedom pass only goes up to 16 years old.
- Using the premises – school not used at weekend – seems like a waste.
- School library not used at the weekend – could be used by community.
- Teachers feel young people need to be supervised or they will abuse premises but they would not if they were enjoying what they were doing.

Q9 - In your opinion, in what ways can these challenges be resolved?

- pay teachers for providing extended services
- buses – more accessible

Q10 – Has your school or any other students what activities you want to do?

- They ask the school council – but nothing even get done – they don't really try to get things done e.g. wanted to change the uniform as the kilts are hot in summer but they did not consider it
- Teachers decide what clubs are held as it depends on them to run them. That is why we have so many sports clubs as sports teachers are willing to run them.

Q11 - In your opinion, given the current financial climate and the prospect of budget cuts, in what ways can Kent County Council ensure the sustainability of extended services into the future? How protect clubs you have at the moment.

- Fund raising – to help with clubs and equipment – car wash and boot fairs and jumbles and raffles
- Non uniform days.
- Second hand school uniform shop.
- Cake sales.
- Try and cut costs of clubs – reduce printing etc.
- All the small pots of money disappearing – told may not have any Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) money coming in. Would be helpful if there was a small pot of money school can draw on.
- Gravesham – gifted young Gravesham – got start up from YOF – has local youth club – dance group rely on us for costumes – if YOF not there have to find their own.

Q12 – Volunteering – therefore not rely on money rely on people giving time.

- More experience of this in primary school where parents run clubs. Does not tend to happen in Secondary school.

Q13 – Opportunity for you to engage in voluntary activities?

- Gravesend Grammar School for Girls is big on volunteering. It is located near an old people's home. 6th form runs tea mornings. Volunteering is more popular in upper school and 6th Form in general. At 14 + 75% volunteer in some way.
- Bradbourne School - teachers and staff try to get pupils to volunteer to help others with reading and writing etc,
- Ifield School – a few people volunteer. I use to run a dance group which went well. It is really up to the staff to decide if they think the person can be trusted to be a volunteer.

Q14 - In what ways, if any, can Kent County Council, schools and external partners, improve the general provision of extended services?

- Publicity is a big one – our school puts posters up and get a teacher to talk about it. Until recently only a few went to gardening club because people had not been told about it.

Q15 – Role of Kent youth County Council - has it considered extended services/clubs?

- There is a Positive Activities Sub Group which try's to organise events and at the same time make sure things are publicised.

Q16 – How KCC members help you achieve these aims.

- Biggest issues make sure we know what we have available for example funding, organising battle of bands is not cheap.

Q17 – Voluntary groups like Lions, rotary work in secondary school – in Canterbury district Members worked with Rotary to fund a battle of the bands – schools did the transport – ways to attract it into schools and area? Any examples?

- No

Q18 – if are considering extended services in KYCC could you bring a report back to this committee

- Yes we have a meeting on Sunday and will report back and if any of you would like to come along you would be welcome.

Q19 - What appears to be early steps in running it yourself – what if there is no money so it is up to you and parents to organise activities? Sounds like you just need someone to co-ordinate.

- Yes but easier if have money, need to have advice on what we can and can't do.
- Need to make sure that the advice is young people friendly – lot of advice given by Council no one can understand.

Q20 – Do you have breakfast clubs if not are they a good thing? What can we do to help you – no money?

- Do not have a breakfast club – canteen have toast available but not well used.
- I think it would be a good club – school next door do a breakfast club and one at colleague.
- Breakfast club at primary club – would be good to have one – encourage young people to have breakfast.
- It is important to publicise extended services – I did not know anything about Connexions until they came to school
- “togogo” website was not a success – need something like that but created by young people – publicity important.
- Will take it back to the YCC and see if we have the skills

Q21 – do you access youth clubs where you live if there aren't any at your school

- main thing scout and guides – I am an explorer – I have links through church-youth club
- New Barn – youth club too far away – need transport – used to get a lift.
- Robert – is one in Northfleet – issues transport, if I could get transport there and back would go for it.

Q22 – do school offer extended services to adults in evenings

- no school don't open up for adults (Gravesend Grammar School for Girls)
- odd occasions cookery classed and adult education – not much (Sevenoaks)
- nothing for adults (Ifield School)

Q23 – How disappointed would you or others be if these services taken away – how important are extended services to you

- if take them away more adults moan about young people on street
- put pressure on council to put them back and rely on adults to run them.
- More kids on the street not have anything to do and be bored.
- If no music club do not know what I would do.

Q24 – would you feel confident about going to Headteacher and exploring the possibility of more teachers offering more time for extended services

- My head teacher is really nice, I can talk to her and she takes on ideas.
- My head teacher not often available but if she was I would speak to her about it.

Q25 - Are there any issues or questions in relation to extended services that you wish to raise with the Select Committee?

- how are the budget cuts going to effect extended services?

Response – we have got to think of ways of continuing excellent services and where they are not so good to build them up. Need to look at different ways of doing this. If people want different or improved services they need to come up with ideas and have a passion for making this happen. There may be a massive change for organisers but there should be for the end users.

The Committee thanked the representatives from KYCC for attending the meeting and sharing their views. It was important to continue this dialogue via KYCC.

23. Interview with representatives from Kent Young Advisors

(Item 3)

(Delegates – Lauran Sharp (North School Ashford) and Stacie Stephens (Home tutored- Dover) supported by - Claire Trainor, Youth Participation Co-ordinator, Kent Youth Service, participated in the discussion on this item).

Introductions

Lauran Sharp – 14 years old - works with young and disabled children in Ashford Youth Centre and has been accepted to work in a nursery for children 2 – 5 years old.

Stacie Stephens – Dover – 15 years old - works in a café

Q1 - What activities outside of teaching time (extended services) do your schools provide to students and to the local community (for example, sports facilities, IT facilities, courses, clubs?) Who provides and who runs these activities?

- Lauran – we have a lady called Jenny who comes into the youth centre three times a week and takes us to play sports. She is always there for us. We also get tips on how to live healthily. There are a range of activities for example on Tuesdays – boys have football and girls – netball and then boy and girl mixed sports.
- Stacie – we have street dancing for 5 – 11 year old on Thursday and on Fridays for 11 – 19. There are gardening clubs for younger children at Primary school my Mum helps with it. There are also football activities run by Charlton Athletic.

Q2 – Stacie as you are home tutored how do you access extended services?

- I go along with a group of friends who attend school, I ask if I can attend and am allowed go with a group of feinds and ask and are allowed as long as follow rules

Q3 - In your view, how beneficial are extended services? Do you think that the provision of extended services helps improve educational attainment?

- It me to learn new skills and meet new people. Also increases self confidence
- Though working with the disabled and get a lot of respect and have gained a lot of confidence. It also helps me to learn new skills for example I have got a 20 month old young brother, youth club and mum helped me to know what to do. So when I chose my year 10 options I selected child care, it helped me to lean in two different places , school and youth club.

Q4 – As you are home tutored how do you find friends?

- I used to go to Aster college and my friends still go there, I met up with them after school.

Q5 - Do schools in area tell young people about the youth centre

- We had posters put up at school around saying what the youth centre offers.

Q6 - Are there any groups of students and people in the local community who, in your view, find it particularly difficult to access these extended services? If so, what can be done to help them access these services?

- You could advertise it a bit more in leaflets and on posters also could use Facebook

Q7 –What we have heard at meetings is that extended services in Dover are one of the best - how does this ideal system in Dover actually works for you Stacey – is it the contact points the problem?

- It is held at the Community Centre at end of my road so I get to hear about it but if activities are held in the school I only hear about them via friends.

Q8 - What do you think could be done to give you a bit more “me time”

- more choice about what is going on

Q9 - Do you use Facebook?

- Yes I have my own group on there because I am in a band and I sing

Q10 – We know that there are going to be huge budget cuts – do you have any ideas how keep services going?

- Fund raising by people using the services
- Ask parents to help out

Q11 – Do adults use your school building for some kinds of services and does this cause any problems– any problems?

- North School, Ashford - we have got new buildings – as we are a sports college we have got fantastic facilities to hire out including an astro turf pitch and a climbing wall. We also hire out our school hall.
- I am aware that adults use the school facilities at Aster School – now aware of adults using the school facilities.

Q12 - You seem happy with facilities - are there other young people who would like other things?

- A lot of what is going on is spaced out it could be put together more. Once a week we have football and street dance, it is boring when these are not on they should be held more frequently. There should be more types of dancing – we only have street dance and not every one likes it, some may wish to do Ball Room dancing. (Stacie)

Q13 – would you and friends feel confident in going to people who run community centre and putting forward your ideas?

- Yes I would feel ok to talk to the people who run the community centre.

Q14 – if had to pay would you value it more and be more likely to attend?

- If you pay for something you are more likely to stick with it.
- At youth club we pay a £1 a week and use facilities and pay for snacks.

Q15 – There appears to be a very good youth club (Ashford) Dover not – but have a community centre – say to people who run it what can be put on – join in a lot more if more on offer.

- yes

Q16 – you have mentioned a great youth club and that you access activities via the schools – have you or friends found it hard to access activities ?

- no

Questions to Claire Trainor

Q20 – Is there anything that you would like to draw the Committee attention to?

- An issue transport home after activities especially in rural areas. Young people are often not able to go to after school activities as they are not able to get home afterwards. There is also the issue of transport for disabled young people, they may get a taxi to school but are not able to stay to after school activities as they have no means of getting home.

Q21 – As funding is reduced is there a dynamism in the youth service to assist young people to self help and organise their things themselves?

- Yes – If schools and youth service link up and volunteer out them and link into BSU – to provide support for willing young people. You could have one worker linking a number of young people.
- There are areas additional support needed is needed for example Dover, it is an area where it is difficult to get people involved, therefore more support is needed and to generate awareness of what is available. In Ashford for Luran it is a different experience the school and youth club are involved and the activities are widely used.

The Committee thanked Luran, Stacie and Claire for their very interesting and helpful contributions.