

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Policy Overview Research Officer
To: Extended Services Select Committee
Subject: Extended Services in Kent
Date: 11 March 2010

Summary: To discuss and agree Terms of Reference and Scope for the Review

Introduction

The concept of “Extended Services”, formerly known as “Extended Schools”, was introduced by the Government as a key method of delivering the outcomes of the “Every Child Matters” agenda. Extended Services involve closer collaboration between schools, local authorities and other local service providers in an effort to offer the community a range of integrated services. These are aimed at improving attainment, health and wellbeing, engagement with learning, as well as enhancing access to a wide range of services and facilities for the local community.

All schools are expected to provide access to the “core offer” of Extended Services by September 2010. Importantly for this review, they are expected to provide community access to facilities, including adult and family learning, ICT and sports, where this is required by the community and where their facilities are of a standard to enable this.

The ambition of wider community use of schools is also shared by the Total Place initiative, in which Kent County Council is taking part. Total Place considers how a ‘whole area’ approach to utilisation of public resources can lead to improved services at lower cost. As part of this approach, we would like to explore the concept of the “School that never sleeps”.

In Kent, 95% of schools currently meet the standards of the Government’s core offer. However, given the present financial climate, it is crucial to identify those aspects of the programme that are proving to be most beneficial for the community, and that can be sustainable in the future. In addition, it is important to consider whether partnership working between all agencies involved in providing Extended Services in Kent could be enhanced to enable these aspects of the programme to be sustained or expanded.

Committee Membership

The Select Committee consists of eight Members of Kent County Council:

Mrs A Allen

Mr R Burgess (Chairman Designate)

Mr A Chell

Mrs J Law

Mr R Parry

Mr K Pugh

Mr K Smith

Mr M Vye

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To identify aspects of the Extended Services programme in Kent that are proving to have the greatest impact and benefit for the community, and that are most likely to be sustainable in the future.
2. To explore ways - if any – in which collaboration and partnership working between all organisations involved in providing Extended Services in Kent can be improved.
3. To investigate any obstacles and challenges to the progress of Extended Services and the development of the concept of the “school that never sleeps”, particularly those that may prevent closer partnership working and could threaten sustainability. To identify possible solutions to overcome these challenges.
4. To analyse whether resources for Extended Services within Kent County Council, and across schools and other partner organisations, are deployed in the most efficient and effective manner.

Proposed Scope

The breadth and complexity of this topic requires a clear and focused approach. Possible key themes and aspects to be covered by the review are detailed below:

1. To identify aspects of the Extended Services programme in Kent that are proving to have the greatest impact and benefit for the community, and that are most likely to be sustainable in the future.
 - a. Investigate Extended Services approaches across the County that are proving to be most efficient and beneficial, in particular in relation to learning and attainment for children and young people, and to the core offer element of “community access to facilities, including adult and family learning, ICT and sports facilities”.
 - b. Explore Extended Services schemes which are more likely to be sustainable into the future.

2. To explore ways - if any – in which collaboration and partnership working between all agencies involved in providing Extended Services in Kent can be improved.
 - a. Identify the extent to which services, such as the Youth Service, Adult Education and the Libraries Service, are currently delivered in school sites in Kent.
 - b. Consider whether schools in Kent could act as portals for access to wider public services.
 - c. Clarify commissioning roles and relationships between schools, the Local Authority and other commissioning bodies.
 - d. Consider whether partnership working between all agencies involved in providing Extended Services in Kent can be maximised.
 - e. If closer collaboration is possible, explore ways to achieve it.

3. To investigate any obstacles and challenges to the progress of Extended Services and the development of the concept of the “school that never sleeps”, particularly those that may prevent closer partnership working and could threaten sustainability. To identify possible solutions to overcome these challenges.
 - a. Examine whether legal, economic, operational or social blockages and challenges prevent the full development and effectiveness of the Extended Services programme and “School that never sleeps” concept.
 - b. If obstacles exist, identify possible solutions.

4. To analyse whether resources for Extended Services within Kent County Council, and across schools and other partner organisations, are deployed in the most efficient and effective manner.
 - a. Identify the resources that Kent County Council and partner organisations will have available to them, particularly after March 2011, to provide effective Extended Services.
 - b. Consider whether these resources can be deployed in a more efficient and effective way, and whether they can ensure the sustainability of Extended Services provision.
 - c. Investigate whether other resources could be used to provide Extended Services in a more efficient and effective manner.

Proposed Timetable

February/March 2010: research and preparation.

19 March 2010: first meeting of Select Committee, to appoint the Chairman and to discuss and agree the Terms of Reference of the review.

Mid April to early July: hearings and visits (considering that Easter Holidays are from 2 to 19 April).

Mid July: Committee meets to identify key issues and to make recommendations.

September: report writing, production of first draft.

October: Committee discusses first draft of report and suggests amendments. Amendments carried out accordingly.

19 November 2010: despatch for Cabinet. Report becomes “public”.

29 November 2010: report presented to Cabinet.

30 November 2010: despatch for County Council.

9 December 2010: report presented to County Council

Witnesses (oral/written evidence)¹

Evidence may be requested from the following:

- Representatives of primary, special and secondary schools in Kent that are currently offering extended services.
- School governors.
- KCC senior officers involved in Extended Services, including officers from Education and Communities Directorates.
- Children, young people and parents. Potential users of Extended Services in the local community.
- Representatives of Central Government, for a national perspective.
- Representatives of external organisations – including voluntary organisations – which are involved in the local provision of Extended Services.
- Other: eg academics, professionals, other potential users within the community, who can make a meaningful contribution.

Site Visits

Visits may be organised as part of the evidence gathering process.

Recommendations:

1. To appoint the Chairman of the Extended Services Select Committee.
2. To agree the Terms of Reference and the general approach to the review of Extended Services in Kent.

Contacts:

¹ Full List of suggested witnesses in Appendix 1

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