

# **Extended Services Select Committee**

## **Appendix 4**

### **Community Use of Secondary Schools in Kent project - Briefing**

To: Extended Services Select Committee  
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### **Specific Initiative: Community Use of Secondary Schools in Kent project**

#### **Project Aims**

- To review the current use of secondary school sites within Kent by the local community for timetabled activities and to identify any areas where demand for facilities is not currently being met
- To identify good practice of community access to school sites across the County and to identify potential barriers which prevent access
- To explore opportunities for co-location and/or dual use of school sites; particularly for those schools in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and those undergoing development
- To identify ways in which secondary schools could be further marketed as a valuable resource of facilities to be utilised for the benefit of the wider community

The intended outcome is to inform a review of the Kent vision for community use of school sites (particularly Secondary), in the future.

#### **Rationale**

Community access to facilities including adult and family learning, ICT and sports facilities is one of the five core elements which make up the core offer of Extended Services.

The Community Schools team (now known as Extended Services) was set up in Kent in 2003 to deliver Cabinet's vision of 'schools at the heart of the community' and the 'school that never sleeps'.

The Extended Services (formerly known as Extended Schools) government agenda is one of the key mechanisms by which the Kent vision has been driven forward and expanded further to provide a wider range of services and activities for children and their families outside of 'core curriculum'. Extended Services is part of the Change for Children agenda and is at the heart of delivery of Every Child Matters. It is one of the main vehicles for local delivery of services for children and their families (in close conjunction with Children's Centres).

The schools in Kent make up a large percentage of the local authority's assets and therefore it is important that these are used to their full potential for maximum benefit to the communities they serve and are located within.

## **Outcomes**

This project has:

- reviewed current community access of secondary school sites
- identified potential gaps in community access of secondary school sites
- consulted with schools to identify enablers and blockers to greater community use of school sites
- explored ways in which awareness can be raised amongst local groups and organization of secondary schools as possible venues for community activities, in turn possibly leading to increased use of these facilities across Kent
- undertaken analysis of Communities Services' delivered through schools
- identified future potential of school sites including possible opportunities for CFE integrated service teams, Communities directorate, District/Borough and Parish councils and Community and Voluntary Groups
- identified possible options to move forward

## **Further information**

The full report will be made available to all Members of the Extended Services Select Committee in due course. For further information, please contact Sean Carter, Extended Services Lead Manager on: 01622 694987 or via [sean.carter@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sean.carter@kent.gov.uk)