

EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 5

Wednesday 9th June 2010

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Jack Keeler, Chair of The Kent Governors Association and Chair of Governors at Headcorn Primary School, Ashford, and Einir Roberts, Chair of Governors at Harrietsham Primary School, Maidstone

1. Please introduce yourselves and describe the roles and responsibilities that your positions involve.
2. Please outline the extended services that Headcorn Primary School and Harrietsham Primary School – in which you are Chairs of Governors respectively - offer to their pupils and to the local community.
3. In your view, who benefits the most from the provision extended services? Are there any particular groups of pupils and of Kent residents who find it more difficult to access extended services? If so, why?
4. In your experience, are extended services closing the ‘attainment gap’ between the levels of achievement of children growing up in disadvantaged circumstances and those of their better-off peers?
5. What are the main challenges for Headcorn Primary School and for Harrietsham Primary School when providing extended services to pupils and to the local community (for example, with regard to staffing, signposting, finance, health and safety, transport and safeguarding)?
6. In your opinion, in what ways can these challenges be overcome?
7. To what extent, in your view, does the new Ofsted inspection framework provide levers for the promotion and provision of extended services by schools?
8. What role can school governors play, and what difference can they make, in promoting the provision of extended services in schools? In what ways can school governors enhance their understanding extended services?

9. Should schools be encouraged to develop and gain extended services accreditation? If so, why? What type of accreditation would you advise schools to gain?
10. How well is Kent's provision of extended services regarded on a national level? In what ways, if any, may the reduction of Government funding for Extended Services in future years, and the reduction of staff in the Extended Services Team of Kent County Council, affect the quality of extended services provision in the County?
11. In your opinion, in what ways can Kent County Council, together with schools and other providers of extended services, ensure the sustainability of extended services into the future?
12. To what extent can partnership working between geographically close schools improve the extended services these schools can offer to the local community?
13. In your view, in what ways, if any, can collaboration between Kent County Council, schools and external partners, such as those in the voluntary and private sector, be made more effective when providing Extended Services?
14. Are there any issues or questions in relation to extended services that you would like to raise with the Select Committee?