

To: Gypsy & Traveller Advisory Board

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Children, Families and Education

Date: 18 November 2010

Subject: Minority Community Achievement Service
(MCAS)

Summary: This report summarises the current role and resourcing of MCAS, and outlines future issues and challenges.

FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT

1. MCAS Role and Purpose

1.1 MCAS exists to provide challenge, advice, support and training to schools and early years provisions, with the aim of ensuring access to and inclusion within provision for children and young people from vulnerable and/or BME communities (including Gypsy, Roma communities), and that they are supported to achieve to their maximum potential, hence ensuring equality of outcomes.

2. Current Resourcing

2.1 MCAS is currently resourced through two funding streams:

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (£1.35m).
- Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) (£1.15m).

Total £2.5m.

2.2 Staffing currently funded by each of these budgets are as follows:

DSG:

MCAS Manager	KR14	1
Advisor for Minority Ethnic and Bilingual Achievement (MEBA)	Soulbury 10 - 13	3
Advisory Teachers, Minority Ethnic Achievement	Upper Pay Scale	10
Senior Family Liaison Officer (FLO)	KR8	3
FLO	KR6	9
Total		26

EMAG

Advisor for MEBA	Soulbury 10 - 13	3
MEBA Specialist Teachers	Teacher P & C	14
MEBA Teaching Assistants	KR5	12
Total		29
Grand total		54

3. Future Funding

3.1 EMAG (as a ring fenced grant) will cease in March 2011. The Government has stated its intention to 'replace this' in the DSG, but to what level and/or how transparent this will be is still unclear. The continuation of funding the DSG itself is also still subject to confirmation. The expectation is that levels of funding will be confirmed early to mid December.

3.2 Assuming that if funding through the DSG does continue albeit at a reduced level, the MCAS service will need to be strategically restructured in line with identified need and available resources.

4. Issues for consideration

4.1 Key in shaping the future of MCAS services will be the Government's White Paper, now anticipated mid December.

4.2 Irrespective of levels of funding post March 2011, the following issues will need to be taken into consideration for vulnerable and/or BME communities (including GRT) across the 3 – 24 age range:

- statutory responsibilities;
- preventative work;
- access, admissions and attendance;
- children missing education (CME);
- achievement;
- safeguarding;
- the sharing and dissemination of effective practice.

4.3 Factored into considerations arising out of the White Paper and issues as listed in paragraph 4.2 will need to be the increasing numbers of declared GRT in Kent, as follows:

	January 2006	January 2007	January 2008	January 2009	January 2010
Gypsy Roma	694	827	887	1040	1286
Traveller of Irish Heritage	74	86	82	85	88

5. Next steps

5.1 Options for consideration will be brought forward once the budget situation for 2011/12 (and beyond) is confirmed.

6. Recommendation

6.1 This report is presented for information and comment.

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Head of Learners with Additional Needs