

By: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills

To: Select Committee: Extended Services – 15 February 2012

Subject: EXTENDED SERVICES – “ONE YEAR ON” REPORT

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To advise Members of the action that has been taken forward since the publication of the Extended Services Select Committee report in December 2010

Introduction

- 1.1 The Extended Services Select Committee reported to the County Council in December 2010.
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee Topic Review for Extended Services were:
 - 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.
 - To explore ways - if any – in which collaboration and partnership working between all organisations involved in providing extended services in Kent can be improved.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - For the Extended Services Select Committee to make recommendations after having gathered evidence and information throughout the review.
- 1.3. The Committee received evidence and information from a wide range of stakeholders, professionals, representatives of organisations supplying extended activities and services, academics, officers as well as pupils and families accessing extended services.

- 1.4 The Extended Services Select Committee made a total of 18 recommendations for further action. The 'One Year On' monitoring report (Appendix 1) will be considered by The Extended Services Select Committee on 15th February 2012 to review progress made against the recommendations.

Context

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the challenging financial environment that the County Council faces, as well as the evolving changes in the relationship and role that the County Council has with schools in light of national policy direction. The pace of change in the education sector means that the context in which a number of the Select Committee's recommendations were made have changed since the report was finalised in October 2010. For this reason a revised action plan was presented and endorsed by the Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th July 2011 and the Education, Learning and Skills Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12th July 2011. It was intended that the revised actions did not lose the spirit of what was intended when the recommendations were originally set out, but which could be achieved in the different environment that we are now in.
- 2.2 Responsibility for the delivery of the majority of the Select Committee's recommendations sit primarily with the Learning Plus Team within Education, Learning and Skills, although a few impact on other teams such as the Youth Service. The Youth Service is itself currently subject to a review and consultation process, and the Learning Plus Team is subject to the current formal consultation process for Education, Learning and Skills, with a view to the service (with the exception of one post) becoming a traded activity.
- 2.3 Since the Select Committee reported, the ring fenced government grants for Extended Services have ceased and changes to funding arrangements for schools have resulted in a reduction in capacity to a small strategic team working across the county. In the context of these funding changes as well as the changing relationship and levels of support to schools from services provided by the authority changing, the vast majority of schools have to date felt unable to commit to pooling resources to continue the employment locally of operationally focussed Extended Services Co-ordinators. This has therefore had an impact on the ability to implement a number of the Select Committee recommendations that related to the work of Extended Services/ Consortium Co-ordinators. Many schools are however now either investigating or moving towards collaborations together in order to pool resources and expertise and this is an area that the Learning Plus Team are developing tools, resources and facilitated support to enable this to happen. These collaborations are taking many forms, from simply pooling budgets for specific activities/ resources to federations to academy trusts.
- 2.4 There are two noticeable exceptions to the situation described above, with two clusters of schools that have each pooled funding to maintain their local Extended Services resource. These clusters are:

- Quartet in the Community – A cluster of 4 schools in Thanet (Hartsdown Technology College, Garlinge Infant School, Holy Trinity and St.John's Primary School and Salmestone Primary School.) These schools have pooled funding in order to maintain their Extended Services Co-ordinator post.
- Dover Extended Services (DES) – Following Dover being the first district of schools and partners in the country to achieve a Quality in Extended Services Award at Advanced level in November 2010, the majority of schools agreed to pool funding together (on a per pupil basis) in order to sustain and develop the DES partnership. For 2011/12 this has maintained the post of a Development Manager and a Co-ordinator. Discussions are currently on-going about the partnerships plans and staffing needs for future years.

2.5 In addition KCC services such as Community Learning and Skills, Kent Adult Education, continues to offer free Family Learning opportunities which address the needs of families, in some of Kent's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, through intergenerational learning in order to improve the skills, expectations and aspirations of both adults and children, improve parenting skills and the connections between school and home. Programmes are targeted at those areas where adults have the lowest skills levels and where the need for improvements are the greatest. In 2010-11 503 programmes were offered of which there were 3, 265 enrolments at 240 venues across the County which include primary schools (176), Children's Centres (47) and other community venues.

One Year On

3.1 In light of the context detailed above, the monitoring report for the recommendations of this Select Committee is presented in Appendix 1 of this report.

Current Extended Services Support to Schools and Partners

4.1 The current priorities and support provided by the Learning Plus Team, informed by the work and recommendations of the Extended Services Select Committee is presented in Appendix 2 of this report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the 'One Year On' report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Extended Services 'One Year On' Monitoring Report

Appendix 2 Current Priorities and Support Provided by the Learning Plus Team

Background Documents:

Extended Services Select Committee Report to Full Council on 16/12/10

Minutes of Full Council on 16/12/10