

'Your Choice', Extended Services Funding for economically deprived
Children and Young People

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is making £265.5 million in funding available to schools between 2008 and 2011. This subsidy funding is part of the extended services drive to improve attainment for all and narrow the gap in attainment and wellbeing. The project provides funds to be used by schools to support children and young people who are disadvantaged by economic circumstances, and children in care, to enable them to access the varied menu of activities element of extended services.

As an authority, we will be receiving £787,000 in 2009/10 to pilot a range of approaches to ensure that this funding has the maximum impact for the children and young people of Kent, before rolling out across the county in 2010/2011.

The DCSF has developed a set of **guiding principles** to guide how the funding is used:

Entitlement: The funding should enable children and young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and children in care ('the target group') to access activities from which they would otherwise be excluded due to their inability to pay.

Participation: The funding should be used to secure the target group's participation in extended services activities.

Additionality: The funding should be used to make existing activities more accessible to the target group, and/or to commission new activities that better meet their needs.

Involvement: The target group and their parents/carers should be fully involved in choosing, designing and continuously improving the range of activities on offer.

Relevance: Activities should be attractive and relevant to the target group.

Demand: The target group and their parents/carers should be able to exercise real control of the funding identified for them, in the same way as children and young people whose participation is not excluded by inability to pay.

Open to all: Any new activities created and delivered as part of the subsidy work should be available to all and should be paid for by those who can afford them.

Kent has received a **funding allocation of £787,000 for 2009/10**. Early indications are that county wide funding for 2010/11 will be scaled up accordingly, subject to confirmation, and be in the region of £5M.

Funding for each LA will:

- be distributed based on a DCSF formula reflecting the LA's size and deprivation
- come through the usual standards fund channel

- be required to be passed in full to schools (ie no LA top-slicing)
- not cover any administrative costs

There is an expectation that the funding will be used:

- to pay for activities from Summer 2009 through to 31 August 2010
- to cover the direct costs of activities at a level of the order of £300 per individual
- to cover one or more 'clusters'

The funding will need to be used to support access to participation in extended services activities for the target group. It is attached to the child rather than the school and as such should not be used to subsidise existing provision where there is low take up. There is also an expectation on schools to externally commission new activities.

The funding can equally be used to enable access to existing community based activities through meeting transport and equipment costs as well as subscription and membership fees e.g. leisure centres, gyms, Brownie uniform, etc.

A total of eight partnerships will take part in this year's pilot reflecting different geographical areas and varying levels of deprivation. They were selected for their capacity and capability to act as the most effective exponents possible, to display particularly strong models of collaborative working, those with co-ordinators and school based Parent Support Advisors, high levels of head teacher engagement, high Extended Services Full Core Offer status and an adequate infrastructure for the administration of the funding.

Detailed guidance around the monitoring of expenditure against activity will be made available to schools in the selected partnerships shortly, to coincide with funding reaching them in their June allocations. Every effort will be made to ensure that the administration implications for schools and LCSP's are kept to a minimum, and existing finance monitoring systems will be adapted to incorporate these additional returns.

Guidance will also be provided on how schools identify those children and young people who qualify for the funding (the target group) based on both direct and indirect economic proxies. A level of freedom and flexibility has been built in to these criteria to allow for responsive local working models to create the maximum benefit for as many CYP as possible within the available funding levels.

Further support to schools and partnerships will be available in the form of briefing events in collaboration with the TDA, DCSF's delivery partner.

An evaluation of the pilot will be undertaken to assess the outputs and processes and the learning used to inform arrangements for next year when all schools across all 23 partnerships will receive funding.