



meeting CABINET

date 7 June 2006

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Nottinghamshire Strategy for Extending Services in and Around Schools

Purpose of report

1. To request members' endorsement of the Nottinghamshire Strategy for Extending Services in and Around Schools, 2005/08 that has been agreed in principle by the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Formal endorsement is being sought from all organisations represented on the Partnership.

Information and advice

Background

2. The development of Extended Services in and Around Schools is key to the delivery of the "Every Child Matters" agenda enshrined in the Children Act 2004. Recent legislation and guidance has served to clarify the Government's vision and expectations of the role of the Local Authority and partners in securing "access to opportunities and services for all", (Extended Schools Prospectus June 2005).
3. It is the intention of the Government that by 2008 50% of primary schools and 30% of secondary schools will be offering access to the 'core offer' of extended services. By 2010, this will apply to all schools.
4. In Nottinghamshire there are firm foundations on which to develop Extended Services in and Around Schools. Local partnership work and the provision of diverse opportunities for children and young people beyond the school day have been progressing well over a number of years. In order to provide an effective framework for this work to flourish, an overarching strategy has been developed in collaboration with statutory, voluntary and community partners in Nottinghamshire.

Development of the Strategy

5. The Strategy describes an approach to partnership working which builds on good practice and reflects the diverse character of the county. It sets out some shared core principles and values, and broadly summarises how these will be used to shape innovative local service delivery. Initial proposals captured some of the key learning from Building Learning Communities activity in and around schools, and were developed further to respond to the wider Every Child Matters agenda.
6. Central to the development of access to extended services are the principles of affordability, sustainability and partnership between agencies. The Strategy sets out the rationale underpinning deployment of financial resources which are available to encourage start-up activity, and importantly to enable some infrastructure and capacity building.
7. Government funding to the Local Authority is through the Standards Fund Grant and totals £1,063,260 in 2005 / 2006, £1,083,435 in 2006 / 2007 and again in 2007 / 2008. The Strategy is making all this revenue available to schools to support both targeted work and the universal offer. Funding available to the LA for capital development is located in the General Sure Start Grant, and totals £1,060,006 in 2006 / 2007 and £1,084,402 in 2007 / 2008. Further detail about proposals for capital development will be brought to Cabinet in the near future. Government is also funding schools directly through the School Standards Grant, and this has been enhanced in years 2006 – 2008 with an amount for 'Personalised Learning'.
8. The Extended Services Planning Group within the County Council worked with the multi-agency Extended Services Stakeholder Steering Group to shape the draft document. Following discussion with colleagues and some further refinement this was circulated widely for consultation in the Autumn 2005. Consultees included all statutory, voluntary and community agencies associated with the Nottinghamshire Partnership, all schools and school governing bodies, representatives of the Youth Assembly, all Parish Councils. 32 written responses from a range of agencies and individuals were collated, and the revised draft re-circulated for consideration by the Stakeholder Steering Group. The document received approval from this group on 5 April 2006.
9. The Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership considered and agreed the Strategy on 24 April 2006
10. Representatives of partner agencies have agreed to present the strategy to their host organisations for approval and endorsement through the appropriate channels, and to report back to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (C&YPSP).
11. The final version of the strategy will be published in a style which reflects the spirit and principles of the multi agency partnership and that

the presentation of the strategy will be consistent with other documents endorsed by the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership.

Public engagement policy

12. Details of the scope of the consultation process appear above in paragraph 4.

Statutory and policy implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

Personnel implications

14. In Nottinghamshire, this work is spearheaded by a small core team and supported more widely throughout the organisation and beyond by schools and partner services.

Financial implications

15. Details of funding streams available to support implementation of the strategy appear in the report.

Equal opportunities implications

16. The Service diversity review form that has been completed for this report is listed as a background paper.

Implications for service users

17. The Strategy sets out an approach to joined-up working between schools statutory and voluntary partners, children, parents and communities with the aim of enhancing and enriching the life chances of children and young people, the primary service users. Service users are directly involved in implementation of the strategy, and are instrumental in shaping its development in the future.

Crime and disorder implications

18. The "core offer" for Extended Services establishes a framework of provision and support for children and young people, which has implications for effective citizenship and community safety. Access to a varied menu of activities all year round, swift and easy referral to specialist services, and parenting support all serve to create a web of opportunities for children and young people enabling them to make a positive contribution to their communities. Effective implementation of the strategy will help to ensure that risk factors for children are reduced and protective factors and resilience are enhanced.

Human Rights Act implications

19. This programme of activity is designed to support the Every Child Matters “five outcomes” for children and young people outlined by Government.

Corporate Property implications (SR)

20. The Extended Services Strategy seeks to encourage Nottinghamshire Schools to work with other agencies to provide a range of facilities that are easily accessible to the community. This mirrors the County Council's Corporate Property Strategy which attempts to reduce property requirements by multi-agency partnership working.

RECOMMENDATION

21. That the Nottinghamshire Strategy for Extending Services in and Around Schools be endorsed.

COUNCILLOR JOYCE BOSNJAK

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Reasons for recommendation

22. The Strategy for Extending Services in and Around Schools supports the priorities and principles within the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Area Agreement. It relates closely to and complements the Early Years Strategy, and takes account of parallel developments in relation to the Integration of Children's services, the development of the Children's Trust and ongoing work around the Common Assessment Framework.
23. Strategies agreed by the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, of which the County Council is a key member, require endorsing by each constituent member.

Other options considered

24. The Government through the DfES places expectations upon Local Authorities to prepare and implement a strategy for the development of Extended Services.

Legal Services' comments (LM/15.5.2006)

25. Cabinet has delegated authority in respect of the discharge of the County Council's functions as Local Education Authority for the provision of education.

Director of Resources' financial comments (NDR)

26. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

"Extended Schools: Access to opportunities and services for all. A prospectus" DfES June 2005.

SDR: Extending Services in and Around Schools.

Electoral division(s) affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1571