



Decision Session - Executive Member for
Children and Young People's Services

8 September 2009

Report of the Director of Learning Culture & Children's Services

Extended Services Activity Subsidy Pilot

Summary

1. This report seeks to update the Executive Member on a new stream of funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families that aims to support the government's "Narrowing the Gap" and "Improving Well-being agendas". It informs the executive member of the cluster of schools (York High School, Hob Moor Community Primary, Woodthorpe Primary, and Westfield Primary) chosen to pilot the subsidy for the period Summer 2009 through to August 2010 (year 1) and the rationale behind this decision.

Background

2. City of York has received a new stream of government funding (currently called "Activity Subsidy") to pass on directly to a cluster of schools. The subsidy is part of the government's commitment to Extended Services, and complements the core offer objective of schools providing access to a comprehensive range of exciting, high quality out of school activities. The subsidy will help to ensure that these activities are accessible to all. It focuses particularly on those children and young people who are disadvantaged by economic circumstances (the target group). Initially this group will be those eligible for Free School Meals and those in care.

Research shows that high quality out of school activities can help improve well being and raise standards of achievement, narrowing the gap in attainment and improving well-being. Positive relationships with low income families can be created, strengthening their engagement with schools and the wider extended services core offer.

The expected benefits for those involved are: increased self-esteem, confidence and independence, increased aspirations, taking responsibility for themselves, development of social and life skills and the possibility of finding inspiration in discovering a talent they might otherwise have never known.

The amount of funding agreed for York in Year 1 is £82k. A suitable cluster of schools needed to be identified that would fit the subsidy criteria, match the funding available, be able to work in partnership, and be willing to share

learning with other schools for city wide roll out. More details are included at Annex 1.

In Year 2 (2010/11) the funding is set to increase significantly to £442k and is to be used by *all* schools, working on a cluster basis, for the same purpose.

Consultation

3. Schools in the pilot cluster are expected to consult with their pupils to ascertain activities that the target group and the school population in general would like to have available. Such consultation needs then to identify any unmet needs and barriers to participation, with a view to commissioning new services where this is appropriate. Ongoing consultation will be carried out to gauge how well new activities are meeting demand, in order to refine the offer in the longer term.

Analysis

4. In deciding on a suitable pilot cluster the authority started by exploring existing cluster collaboration arrangements to see if a model existed that could be built upon to ensure the success of the Subsidy in Year 1. At the same time, work has been being undertaken by an external consultant (Maxine Froggatt) to develop small clusters of schools to develop new approaches to improving outcomes for children and young people through a partnership approach and community involvement. It seemed sensible to join up these initiatives, and this consideration, combined with an analysis of the potential eligibility of pupils in the schools concerned, has led us to identify a cluster in the west of York (York High School, Hob Moor Community Primary, Woodthorpe Primary, and Westfield Primary) as a suitable pilot for Year 1.

This cluster of schools meets the criteria for success set out by the Training and Development Agency (TDA). Firstly, it contains approximately the right number of pupils in the target group to match the funding available based on the Free School Meal data. Secondly, there is a history of collaboration through Shared Community Partnership working at the primary school level. Thirdly, it is small enough to be manageable, and to learn from, ready for citywide roll out in Year 2 (2010/11). In addition, it represents a mix of primary and secondary, large and smaller settings, which will all provide a range of learning to pass on to other schools/clusters in Year 2.

Corporate Objectives

5. This work will contribute to the corporate objectives around Learning City and Healthy City, through its focus on equality of access, and improved outcomes, for all of our citizens.

Implications

6. **Financial** There are no implications for existing budgets. Additional grant funding of £82k has been advanced through the Standards Fund from the DCSF and devolved to the pilot schools; this money must be used for provision of activities, removing barriers to access and commissioning of new activities.

Human Resources There are no direct implications on posts at this time, as the grant funding is specifically for provision/commissioning of activities and cannot be top sliced for any other purpose such as additional posts, administration etc. The pilot will be run using existing staffing budgets within the Extended Services team and the schools concerned.

There are no implications relating to equalities, crime and disorder, ITT, property, or legal arising from this report.

Risk Management

7. The risks associated with the Subsidy pilot are acceptable – the four pilot schools are committed to the pilot and aware of the parameters of the subsidy. The Extended Services Unit is supporting schools in the implementation of the Subsidy, with additional input from the Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) and practical support and guidance from the pathfinder authorities. The city has a well-developed range of activities on which to build through the Subsidy.

Recommendation

8. That Executive Member notes the decision to use the following cluster to pilot the subsidy in year 1, and requests that a further report be brought forward prior to citywide roll out of the subsidy in year 2 identifying the clustering arrangements across the city.

Cluster for Year 1 – 2009/10

York High School, Hob Moor Community Primary, Westfield Primary Community and Woodthorpe Primary schools.

Reason: to support corporate and national objectives to narrow the gap in outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

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Report Approved

Date *24 August 2009*

Wards Affected: Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, Westfield

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Training and Development Agency for schools guidance – Extended services disadvantage subsidy – Narrowing the gap: raising attainment and improving well-being.

Annexes

Annex 1. Extended Schools Subsidy briefing note 1