
MEETING	EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	7 APRIL 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), HYMAN, MORLEY, MERRETT, FUNNELL AND DR D SELICK (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	MR W SCHOFIELD (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBER)

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda, in addition to the list of general personal interests usually circulated with the agenda.

There were no additional interests declared, but it was noted by Members that the Declarations of Interest sheet had not been included with the agenda. It has thus been appended to the Minutes.

53. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

55. EXTENDED SCHOOLS AGENDA - DRAFT FINAL REPORT

The Assistant Director of Partnership and Early Intervention informed Members about the Extended Services Disadvantaged Subsidy and circulated a one-page briefing note (see appendix A). He stated that:

- The government recognised the importance of extended services for children from disadvantaged and vulnerable families
- A key fund had been set up, which for 2010/11 would be £217 million to assist disadvantaged families to access Extended Services.
- The Government suggested that 'disadvantaged children' be defined as those receiving free school meals and/or 'looked after children'

- The new subsidy would encourage a greater degree of collaboration between schools which was considered crucial to making the services 'fit for need'
- York had been invited to pilot the subsidy using a small cluster of schools with funding of £80,000 in 2009/10
- Currently schools in York do not operate on a conventional cluster model, and for the most part, each school decides for itself what Extended Services it will provide
- The pilot would be officially launched in York on 29 April 2009 and would focus on schools that were geographically close - York High School, Westfield Primary Community, Hob Moor Community Primary and Woodthorpe Primary schools
- The money will be used to enable families to access existing services or to purchase new services not currently available
- The funding calculations per family were based on Pathfinder work and believed to be about £300 of benefit and 60% eligible take up
- In 2010-11, the Disadvantaged Subsidy Funding will rise to £217m to be used by all schools across England
- York would receive £300,000 from the 2010/11 funding

Members noted that the take up of free school meals in York was not as high as in other authorities and expressed concern about entitlement to the service i.e. whether it should be 'eligible for' not 'take up' of Free School Meals. They also agreed that some flexibility in the criteria would be helpful where there were other deprivations and difficulties for the child or the family, and raised concerns about small village schools and access to extended services. Officers agreed to:

- look at the definition of disadvantaged and the common assessment framework,
- circulate information on the Free School Meals eligibility criteria to Members ¹
- explore how the subsidy would work in rural communities

Members recognised the difficulties around transport and the need for effective provision i.e. safe and affordable transport arrangements. Officers confirmed they had already explored the issue of collaboration between schools with the head teachers from the schools involved in the pilot scheme, and work had been done on linking with the community and helping vulnerable children through primary and secondary schooling.

The Assistant Director of Partnership and Early Intervention also confirmed that:

- an Extended Services Team had been set up, but as yet this did not include cluster coordinators due to lack of funding
- after 2011 the funding would be mainstreamed into school budgets giving a two year period to prove that the service could make a difference - feedback on this would come from schools and pathfinders
- work was continuing on setting up the new strategic steering group for Extended Services
- Ofsted reports now include a community cohesion section and that this could be made available via an annual report to the Committee

- the Child Care Sufficiency Audit could be broadened to include extended services and issues around quality, accessibility, affordability – both collectively and individually, inclusive provision and flexibility in adapting to the needs of the local community

Having fully considered the draft final report and the information provided at the meeting, Members expressed their thanks to Eddie Needham for his contribution to the presentation evening on 24 February 2009, and agreed that the findings and recommendations arising from the review should be brought to the attention of the Ofsted Sub-Committee and school improvement partners to inform their on-going work.

Finally the Committee requested that the Scrutiny Officer make a number of amendments to the wording in line with their comments above, to enable the report to be signed off at the next meeting of the Committee.²

RESOLVED: That the draft final report be amended in line with Members comments

REASON: To enable the final report to be signed off at the next meeting of the Committee

Action Required

1. Information on Free School Meals criteria to be circulated to Members by Education Officers GR
2. Scrutiny Officer to amend Draft Final Report in line with Members' comments GR

56. EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2008-2009

Members considered the updated Workplan. It was noted that the Extended Schools Agenda item report would be signed off at the meeting on 19 May 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Workplan be agreed.

REASON: To progress the committee's Workplan.

Councillor Aspden, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].

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EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Agenda item I: Declarations of interest.**

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest:

Councillor Aspden	Governor of the Danesgate Centre Member of the National Union of Teachers Employee of North Yorkshire County Council
Councillor Brooks	Member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers Employee of The Manchester College
Councillor Merrett	Governor at St Paul's Primary School Committee member and Treasurer of the York Chinese Cultural Association Parent of a child who attends St Paul's Primary School Parent of a child who uses the school music service
Councillor Funnell	Governor at Burnholme Community College

Co-opted statutory members

Dr D Sellick	Church of England Representative Governor at Derwent Infant and Junior School
Mr W Schofield	Governor of Knavesmire Primary School Parent of children who attend Knavesmire Primary School and Millthorpe School

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Extended schools disadvantage subsidy



Overview for senior local authority Officers – Yorkshire & Humberside region

"To be able to go to a Team Around the Child meeting or a family conference, knowing that I can offer something practical and useful for the child/family is great. To have access to funding that doesn't require weeks or months of waiting for decisions is a huge relief."

Head Teacher in a subsidy pathfinder, December 2008

What is the purpose of the subsidy funding?

The subsidy will help schools provide a comprehensive range of exciting, high quality extended services, and ensure that these are accessible to all children and young people, focusing on those disadvantaged by economic circumstances and children in care.

How will it help children and young people?

Research shows that high quality out-of-hours activities can help improve well-being and raise standards of achievement. The subsidy is therefore part of the government's drive to narrow the gap in attainment and well-being.

What is the level of funding?

In 2009-10 each local authority in England will receive a share of £40m of subsidy funding to pass to one or more school clusters. In 2010-11, funding will rise to £217m to be used by all schools across England.

What do I need to do?

If you are a senior local authority officer in children's services, we would encourage you to take steps to ensure that the subsidy fits with your local authority's priorities and strategic goals as set out in its children and young people's plan and local area agreement.

Who can I ask for further details?

On behalf of the DCSF, the Training and Development Agency is working with local authorities directly to support the deployment of the subsidy. In the first instance you should contact your local authority's extended schools remodelling adviser (ESRA). You can also contact the TDA regional lead for subsidy at tessa.mason@carnegieleaders.org.uk

Where can I get more information?

- Please see <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12227>
- The document "01 Standards Fund circular 2008-11 (Updated January 2009)" contains background on the subsidy in the *Grant 1.6a* section
- The spreadsheet "04 Annex C Standards Fund Allocations 2008-2011 (Updated January 2009)" contains the subsidy funding amounts for each local authority

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