



Extended Services – Briefing note 1

July 2009

Activity Subsidy

What is happening in York?

City of York has been given funding from government to ensure that children and young people disadvantaged by their family's economic circumstances or who are looked after are financially supported to take part in activities of their choice outside of the school day (Extended Service Activities) in the same way as those that are able to pay.

The amount of funding York has been given for 2009/10 is £82k. The funding is intended to pay for activities over the year, based on the assumption that around £300 will be spent on each eligible child, with an assumed take up of 60% of those eligible. This will provide young people with the opportunity to take part in around 2 hours of Extended Activities per week during term time and 30 hours over the school holidays.

A cluster of four schools has been identified to pilot the scheme during the first year and we expect that the funding will be used to pay for activities from Summer 2009 to August 2010. The four schools involved are

- Hob Moor Primary
- Westfield Primary
- Woodthorpe
- York High

How will it help children and young people?

The funding should allow eligible children and young people to benefit from access to activities in the same way as those who are able to pay. Research shows that high quality out of school activities can help improve well-being and raise standards of achievement and attainment.

Who is eligible?

Eligible children and young people are those who are entitled to free school meals or who are looked after. Over the pilot year we will also explore other indicators of economic disadvantage as a way of including other children and young people who would benefit from receiving this activity subsidy.

Guiding Principles

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) has developed a set of principles to guide how the funding is used:

- 1 **Entitlement:** The funding should enable eligible children and young people to access activities from which they would otherwise be excluded due to the inability to pay.
- 2 **Participation:** The funding should be used to secure eligible children and young people can participate in extended services activities.
- 3 **Additionality:** The funding should be used to make existing activities more accessible to eligible children and young people, and or to commission new activities that better

- 4 **Involvement:** Eligible children and young people and their parents/carers should be fully involved in choosing, designing & continuously improving the range of activities on offer.
- 5 **Relevance:** Activities should be attractive and relevant to eligible children and young people.
- 6 **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 able to pay.
- 7 **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.

Use of Activity Subsidy Funding

Pathfinder schools will need to use the funding to support access to participation in extended schools activities for eligible children and young people. Unfortunately the funding cannot be used to develop other aspects of the extended schools core offer, to pay for related activities such as consulting children and parents or to meet other indirect or capital costs.

For some pupils, the cost of transport to and from activities may be a major financial barrier to participation. To help address this, funding can be used to subsidise transport where appropriate.

To ensure the funding meets the needs of the target group, the DCSF expects schools and other partners to use innovative ways to consult with children, young people, parents and the wider community.

Outcomes and Evaluation

The impact of the activity subsidy will be measured and the main outcomes are expected to be: -

- 1 Increased participation in extended services.
- 2 A greater understanding of why eligible children and young people may not have engaged with Extended Services Activities prior to receiving the funding
- 3 A process for identifying future target groups and a method of consulting with them.

What is happening in Year 2 (2010/11)?

In Year 2 the funding will be available to all schools, and clustering will be encouraged to make best use of the funding available, by avoiding duplication of activities and minimising the administration burden on individual schools.

Funding for Year 2 is to be confirmed by the Department for Children and Families and is expected to be allocated on the same basis as the pilot.

It is hoped that increased demand for activities will result in the sustainable development of new and exciting Extended Service activities to meet the needs and aspirations of all children and young people in York.

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