
Scrutiny Management Committee

18 May 2009

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

Education Scrutiny Committee – Extended Schools Agenda Final Report

Summary

1. This report presents the final report from the Education Scrutiny Committee detailing their review of the Extended Schools Agenda.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to carry out a review of this topic, the Education Scrutiny Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

To contribute to the development of processes aimed at ensuring accessibility and a high quality of extended school provision

Objectives:

- i. Examine the proposed role and composition of the Multi-Agency Steering Group to confirm its functions are fit for purpose and that the appropriate partners and Directorates are involved
- ii. Assess the affordability, quality and take-up of childcare and activities for children aged 5-11, and identify ways of ensuring their affordability

Consultation

3. As part of their review, the Education Scrutiny Committee carried out a number of consultation sessions, as detailed in their final report attached at Appendix A.

Options

4. Having considered the findings contained within the final report attached, Members may choose to support all, some or none of the recommendations shown in paragraph 7 below, and provide their comments, prior to the report being considered by the Executive.

Analysis

5. In regard to the aims and objectives of the review, the final report attached, analyses all of the information gathered and the arising issues.

Summary of Recommendations Arising From the Review

6. The final report of the Education Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Executive should:
 - i. Instruct officers to continue to develop the Strategic Steering Group
 - ii. Broaden the Childcare Sufficiency Audit to include Extended Services with a particular focus on accessibility, affordability, inclusive provision, and flexibility in adapting to the needs of the local community
 - iii. Instruct all Local Authority schools in York to identify a member of staff and a Governor responsible for Extended Services and community cohesion
 - iv. Bring the findings and recommendations arising from this review to the attention of the Ofsted Sub-Committee and school improvement partners in order to inform their on-going work
7. The Education Scrutiny Committee also recommends that the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services commission the following two reports on:
 - ways of improving cluster arrangements and the establishment of a number of Extended Services Partnership Co-ordinators for York schools with the options for the medium / long term funding of these posts
 - how best to use the 'Disadvantaged Subsidy Funding' (outlined in paragraphs 10-16 of the report)
8. Finally, the Education Scrutiny Committee recommends that the new Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee which is due to come into effect from the beginning of the municipal year 2009/10, consider reviewing the development of the Strategic Steering Group in the future.

Corporate Direction & Priorities

9. The remit for the review supports Corporate Priority No.7 – 'Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city'.

Implications

8. There are no known Legal, Financial, Equalities, HR, or other implications associated with the recommendation below, or with the recommendations within the final report at Appendix A.

Risk Management

9. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation within this cover report. The risks associated with the recommendations within the final report are detailed therein.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to note the contents of the attached final report and provide comments on the findings and recommendations as shown in paragraphs 6-8 above.

Reason: To inform the Executive's consideration of the final report.

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Report Approved **Date** 6 May 2009

Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Appendix A – Extended Schools Agenda Scrutiny Review - Final Report dated 6 May 2009

Annex A – Findings from visits to After School Clubs

Annex B – Findings & Analysis from returned surveys