

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SCHOOLS FORUM
WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2008**

Agenda item

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**CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS CONSORTIA
FUNDING 2008-11**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed funding formula for children's centres and extended schools 2008/11 and the phasing in of children's centre revenue for the developing children's centres over the three year period.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The report provides a brief update on progress in delivering children's centres and extended services through schools. It outlines the funding available through various grant funding streams and the purpose of the additional funding.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. School Forum is asked to consider and endorse these proposals.

4. Update on progress

- 4.1. 31 children's centres have been designated by 31.12.07 on track for the target of 50 by March 31st 2008. The commissioning of 32 phase 3 centres commences in February 2008.
- 4.2. 116 schools are reporting that they are providing access to the full core offer of extended services. This is 32% of secondary schools and 21% of primary schools. There is a target of 50% of primary schools and 33% of secondary schools by September 2008.
- 4.3. The 38 countywide extended schools consortia all have a hub school and are currently completing a self evaluation and plan to meet the target.
- 4.4. Baseline locality reports have been produced for all 82 communities and 38 consortia. Phase 1 children's centres are piloting an "annual conversation" performance management approach. A software system has been commissioned for all Hertfordshire children's centres and will be in place in Phase one and two centres by April 2008. This will enable common performance data to be collected and reported community, district and county level.

5. Revenue funding 2008/11

- 5.1. All Phase one and two children's centres lead agencies have received funding up to March 2008. Extended Schools consortia have revenue funding to August 2008 via the hub school.
- 5.2. The grant allocations from central government funding streams 2008/11 are shown in appendix one. They are a significant increase on the current year. Children's centre revenue funding in 2007/8 is £3.8m. Extended Schools is £2.2m.
- 5.3. By 2010/11 children's centres and extended schools will have achieved full implementation. The assumption is made that for children's centres the 2010/11 revenue will be the full allocation for all 82 centres and Standards Fund Sustainability will be the allocation for all the county's schools as extended schools.
- 5.4. The children's centre revenue funding is an area of the new Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) that replaces Sure Start Grant (GSSG). SSEYCG is differently structured to Sure Start Grant. There is no general area for central and district management costs so these need to be top sliced before funding is devolved to the centres at the same level as the current financial year.
- 5.5. The additional funding for children's centres is primarily to increase the capacity of all centres to provide outreach in order to close the gap between the outcomes of the poorest children and their peers. This is a new statutory duty for local authorities from April 2008 in the Childcare Act 2006. DCSF wants the main focus of this work to be families at risk of social exclusion and therefore poor outcomes e.g. teenage parents, workless households and families from minority ethnic communities where they are under represented in the wider community.

- 5.6. The challenge for children's centre revenue is that our commissioning approach means that unlike other authorities all 32 phase 3 centres will need some funding in 2008/9. This means that increasing the funding of Phase 1 and 2 centres to their final level will take longer. Our commissioning approach has been very successful in phase 2 in delivering our high targets. We propose to fund phase 3 lead agencies from July 2008 at a flat rate of £48K per centre for 2008/9.
- 5.7. Extended Schools funding continues to be part funded from SSEYCG in 2008/9 together with Extended Schools Start Up in Area Based Grant which is a pooled grant under the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Standards Fund Extended Schools Sustainability. Beyond 2008/9 all the funding comes from Area Based Grant and Standards Fund.
- 5.8. Extended Schools Start Up in the Area Based Grant is not ring fenced. The funding is to support the local authority's extended schools strategy, including support to schools and overcoming barriers. The funding reduces in 2010/11 to reflect that by that time all schools should be extended requiring less start up activity and central co-ordination. Central management and District Partnerships teams funding of £195,000 are to be top sliced from this stream. The current financial years top slice in £300,000.
- 5.9. HCC has taken a decision to allocate Area Based Grant for 2008/9 only and give further consideration to allocation of the 2008/10 budgets in the summer.
- 5.10. It is proposed to make a case that all the funding streams for extended schools should be allocated for a three year period on the same formula. There is a significant challenge to meet the extended schools targets and infrastructure extended schools will provide is critical to delivering the Children and Young Peoples Plan priorities. Three year allocation of all the funding to consortia will provide a sound platform for progress. A decision will be made by Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership and HCC Cabinet.
- 5.11. Extended Schools Sustainability Grant must be devolved to schools for co-ordination and to fund Parent Support Advisers (PSAs).
- 5.12. PSAs will be an early intervention and prevention resource to work with parents in a schools context to help improve behaviour and attendance; overcome barriers to learning; increase the number of parents and carers involved in their child's education both at school and at home. In part PSAs will help broker access and signpost to specialist services (including evidence based parenting programmes) for parents who otherwise would not have access.
- 5.13. The role of PSA is distinct from the new role of Children and Young Peoples' Workers focused on intervention with children and young people rather than parents and add capacity to the infrastructure for extended schools in Hertfordshire.
- 5.14. Revenue funding will continue to be devolved through the consortia hub schools.

6. Funding formula 2008/11

- 6.1. It is proposed to use the same approach for the funding formula for both children's centres and extended schools. The factors will be numbers of children in the relevant age range living in the community/consortium area, deprivation based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and rurality.
- 6.2. This represents a simpler formula for extended schools allocations than was used by Hertfordshire in 2006/8 and reflects DCFS methodology for local authority level allocations.
- 6.3. In 2010/11 all children's centres will be at 100% funding. The range of funding from the lowest funded centre to the highest will be £86,000pa up to £196,000pa.
- 6.4. The Phasing of revenue funding for children's centres over the three year period is set out in the box below. Type one centres have Lower Super Output Areas in 30% Index of Multiple Deprivation nationally. All other centres are type two.

Types and Phases

There are 14 type one centres and 36 Type 2 centres in phases 1 and 2. The 32 centres in Phase 3 are all type 2 centres

Allocation of Grant will be:

Year	Type 1	Type 2	Phase 3
2008-09	75%	65%	25%
2009-10	95%	85%	65%
2010-11	100%	100%	100%

- 6.5. Extended Schools consortia allocations, assuming inclusion of Extended Schools Start Up, will be within the following ranges over the three year period:

2007-08	£34,000	to	£67,000
2008-09	£82,000	to	£117,000
2009-10	£88,000	to	£128,000
2010-11	£94,000	to	£140,00