

Subject: *Extended Services Capital and Revenue Funding*

Date of Meeting: 9 June 2008

REPORT OF: *Director of Children's Services*

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The Children and Young People's Trust in Brighton & Hove is at the forefront of developments in integrating services for the benefit of children young people and their families. Following the development of the integrated area team and cluster partnerships where schools, CYPT and partner agencies come together to plan services, the CYPT is working towards bringing together capital developments for children's services to maximise both benefit for communities and value for money through pooling resources and developing joint projects. A new Primary Capital Strategy for Change is being developed for the city. One of the aims of this strategy will be to develop the role of schools within their communities. Primary schools should be at the heart of a community, providing both the venue and facilities for learning in the community not just for school age children but for parents and carers and all community members. They should also provide a venue for other community activities where funding allows.

The strategy will be in place from 2009, and therefore this is a transitional year. Proposals outlined in this paper should therefore be understood in terms of a longer term strategy that will take account of previous developments and look flexibly at all the relevant capital funding streams to ensure that Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Trust is able to achieve it's priorities and targets, maximise available resources and address the needs of all communities across the city, whilst taking account of the most disadvantaged.

1.2 Extended services revenue and capital funding is allocated for the development of childcare and extended services around school sites to enable every school in the city to meet the 'core offer' of extended services by 2010 (see section 3 for further detail).

1.3 Local authorities now have a new Childcare Sufficiency Duty from March 2008. The guidance states:

"In securing sufficiency, local authorities should focus on the long-term delivery of reliable and sustainable childcare services which allow parents to make decisions about the balance between work and family life. Sufficiency will be

met when parents in the local area are able to access the childcare they need to enable them to work or train.”

Provision of good quality, accessible childcare as part of extended services is therefore a core aspect of the local authority duty to provide sufficient childcare for parents of school aged children. There is also a crucial role for the local authority in developing and shaping the childcare market by supporting schools to commission new services and supporting existing childcare providers to ensure they offer a high quality sustainable childcare service.

- 1.4 The proposals for revenue and capital spend in 2008-9 will follow a sound business model based on demand for childcare evidenced through consultation with parents. The focus will be on filling gaps in provision to enable more schools to meet the core offer although there will also be some capital and revenue spend necessary to sustain existing projects especially where this is critical to the school's ability to meet the core offer. This is particularly an issue in areas of disadvantage. Projects selected will not undermine existing quality provision and space created will meet Ofsted requirements.
- 1.5 In order to reduce inequality and disadvantage it is proposed that revenue funding is top sliced to create a fund to support the inclusion of children with additional needs in childcare settings.
- 1.6 It is proposed that in 2008-9 the majority of capital funding will be used to develop an extension at Queens Park school that would enable childcare and other extended services to be delivered on site. This is not possible at present in the current Victorian building. There is evidence of demand and high need in this area. This follows completion of a large capital project in the West at Hangleton in 2007-8. There are further capital projects proposed in each of the 3 CYPT areas that improve and sustain existing provision (see Appendix 1 for details).
- 1.7 The childcare market is one in which unforeseen changes can occur which require a rapid response. This may be needed if a childcare provider fails an Ofsted inspection or if a provider folds and childcare provision is withdrawn from parents at very short notice. A degree of flexibility is planned in order to respond to such unforeseen changes in the childcare market and to ensure that provision to parents is maintained as far as possible and the total allocation is spent to support the local childcare market rather than being returned to Government. This may mean some reallocation of funds between Areas and is also why a contingency fund is built into the budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Agree proposals to allocate revenue funding of £297,751 in 2008-9 across the 3 CYPT Areas according to strategic developments identified to meet the core offer requirements, this takes into account the need for sustainability in areas of disadvantage in order to provide sufficient childcare, as outlined below:

East £96,250 39%

West £59,400 24%

Central £52,250 21%

Citywide funds allocated as follows:

Out of School Development Officer salaries £50,000

£20,000 would be allocated to support inclusion 8%

£10,000 for plans to develop a 'safe place to be' in secondary schools. 4%

£9,851 flexible contingency fund 4%

- (2) Agree proposals to allocate Extended services capital funding of £334,508 based on an analysis of provision and need in 2008-9 as outlined below:

East £150,300 46%

West £60,000 18%

Central £72,000 21.5%

Contingency £52,208 15%

A full summary of capital proposals listing school and specific capital development is listed in Appendix 1

Capital developments at Queens Park, within the east area would be spread over 2008-9 and 2009-10

- (3) Agree delegated flexibility to allocate the contingency fund in emergency situations. To also allow some reallocation of up to 20% of the budget allocated should capital developments be postponed or changes to providers or to the market jeopardise childcare places.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The 'Core Offer' of Extended Services In and Around Schools is a government target that all schools are required to achieve. The four elements of the 'Core offer' are:

A varied menu of activities and childcare

Parenting support

Swift and east access to specialist services

Community Access

In September 2007, 36 schools in Brighton & Hove were delivering the core offer. The target for September 2008 is to increase this to 45 schools. All primary schools need to provide access to childcare from 8-6pm, 48 weeks a year, all secondary schools need to provide a 'safe place to be' and access to a varied menu of activities from 8-6pm. In Brighton & Hove Extended Services are being developed through clusters of schools and partner agencies, provision is planned at cluster level; therefore a development on one school site may well meet the needs of a number of schools in the cluster.

3.2 The Healthy & Extended Services Strategy group has had oversight of all developments relating to Extended Services and Healthy Schools. As we are now at a new stage in the implementation of Extended Services we are consulting on these arrangements and whether the Extended Services Network Group would be responsible for oversight of the programme. Recommendations will be made at the next Healthy and Extended Services Strategy Group meeting on 3rd June.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation with parents in the relevant schools has taken place before any new childcare places are planned. Consultation on childcare plans is now also taking place in the Cluster Steering groups and themed meetings across the city. Steering group meetings include representatives from schools, community and voluntary sector organisations, parents, young people and neighbourhood organisations. Cluster themed meetings include ward councillors and other partner agencies and stakeholders.

4.2 Consultation has taken place with the City Early Years and Childcare Team, with the Area Assistant Directors in the CYPT and with the schools Capital team to ensure that developments proposed in 2008-9 are part of the developing long term capital strategy in the city which will develop a more joined up approach to capital developments on school sites.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The revenue grant for extended schools identified in this report of £298k forms part of the Sure Start, Early years and Childcare Grant allocation of £5,366K for 2008/09. The SSEYCG 2008-11 allocation summary lists this element of the sure start grant for 2008/09 only, with it switching to Standards Fund in 2009/10.

In addition to this element of the SSEYCG extended Services is also in receipt of funding in 2008/09 form 'Extended Schools – Start up' Area Based Grant (£481k), Standards Fund (£283k) and Children's Fund (£100k).

This report does not contain detailed spending plans for the area allocations and additional work would have to be done to ensure that the services provided were in line with the strategic priorities and offer requirements of the grant and sustainable within the ongoing funding available.

"The DCSF capital allocation for Extended Schools for 2008/09 is £334,508. This increases to £354,419 in 2009/10 and then reduces to £183,183 in 2010/11. The capital allocations for 2009/10 & 2010/11 will need to be reviewed in conjunction with other school capital allocations to ensure appropriate provision is provided"

5.2 Legal Implications:

The report sets out how the Council proposes to allocate funding for childcare and extended services around school sites, in line with national guidance setting out new duties in this area.

In order to make reasoned, well informed decisions regarding new arrangements, consultation should take place with parents and schools. The proposals should also ensure that all children throughout the City have access to similar services, in accordance with assessed need.

Hilary Priestley Acting Senior Lawyer 22/05/08

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Promotion of inclusion for children with disabilities or special educational needs is addressed specifically in the revenue proposals and funding is attached to support inclusion of children with additional needs in childcare settings. All new childcare providers will be expected to provide some subsidised places for children from low income families and capital projects will be accessible. Families using childcare are also encouraged to take advantage of working families' tax credit if applicable.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

The Out of School and Play Development Workers work with each childcare provider and advise them around their financial planning where funding is allocated. The CEYC Business Manager will also offer business support to enable providers to develop sound sustainable business plans for childcare provision. Working on a cluster basis enables larger 24 place settings to be developed which are more sustainable. Capital projects are planned within the corporate framework and requirements relating to sustainable schools.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Extended Services provide support and diversionary activities for vulnerable children and young people including those at risk of getting involved in crime and anti social behaviour. Parent support is one of the five aspects of the 'Core Offer', and improving parenting skills can lead to a consequent improvement in behaviour and reduction in offending. Capital developments enable more schools to provide parent support and community facilities on site.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Potential risks for each project are assessed using the corporate I DO RM model.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Extended Services contribute to all 5 Every Child Matters outcomes. Childcare for school aged children enables parents to return to work and therefore contributes to reducing child poverty and the creation of a prosperous and sustainable economy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1: Summary of Extended Services Childcare Capital Proposals 2008-9

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None