

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2005

**Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services  
Ian Merritt, Senior Education Officer  
Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager  
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **24. Draft Children's Centre and Extended Schools Strategy** *(Director of Children's Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non Key.

**Purpose of report**

Approval was sought to undertake a public consultation exercise on a draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy published in December 2004 required local authorities to develop Children's Centres across the borough by 2010. Children's Centres needed to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support and outreach to parents and child and family health services.

In addition the local authority was required to ensure that a core offer for extended schools was in place by 2010. The core offer for extended schools consisted of study support activities, childcare available 8 am - 6pm, parenting support and swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils.

The draft strategy which was attached as an appendix, set out the process

of ensuring these two requirements were met and brought together in one coherent strategy.

Three options for the proposed delivery model were included within the strategy document. The Senior Education Officer indicated that option 1 was proposed as the preferred option as it enabled local accountability through the neighbourhood fora, enabled local people to have a say on how services were shaped and enabled the extension of learning from the Sure Start programmes across the whole town.

### **Decision**

The draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy was approved for consultation.

## **25. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

**Minute 26 – Children's Homes: Regulations 33/34 Reports** (Para 6 – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of a particular child.)

## **26. Children's Homes: Regulations 33/34 Reports – Para 6** (*Director of Children's Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non Key.

### **Purpose of report**

To present the Regulation 33/34 report of a visit to Exmoor Grove Children's Home covering the month of August.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Appended to the report was a pro-forma in respect of a visit to Children's Home for Exmoor Grove in August 2005.

**Decision**

The report was received and noted.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005**