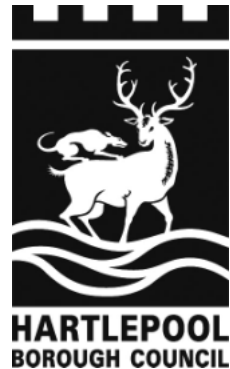


CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Tuesday 3 May 2011

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Councillor C Hill, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

- 1.1 Provision for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

No items

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Progress Report relating to the Development of an Integrated Youth Support Service – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

3rd May 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (MLD)

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcomes of the publication of Statutory Notices:

- To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Golden Flatts Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties;
- To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Owton Manor Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties;

2. BACKGROUND

The Director of Child and Adult Services presented a report to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services on 26th October 2010 outlining proposals for change in provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. The Portfolio Holder agreed that these proposals should go out to consultation. A report on the outcome of the consultation was presented to the Portfolio holder on 22nd February 2011 and the Portfolio Holder agreed to the publication of statutory notices.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is responsible for matters relating to children.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Key Decision - test 2 applies, Forward Plan Reference number CAS85/10

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder for Children's Services meeting on 3rd May 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To proceed with the implementation process to discontinue the additionally resourced support bases for pupils aged 7 – 11 years with moderate learning difficulties at Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE
LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (MLD)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcomes of the publication of Statutory Notices:

- To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Golden Flatts Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties;
- To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Owton Manor Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties;

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Director of Child and Adult Services presented a report to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services on 26th October 2010. The report outlined the nature of moderate learning difficulties, examined reasons for change of provision in Hartlepool and outlined options for future provision. The Portfolio Holder agreed that these proposals should go out to consultation.

2.2 The Director of Child and Adult Services presented a report to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services 22nd February 2011. The report outlined the consultation process that had been undertaken. The report concluded that the responses had been in favour of Option 2. This option was to formally close the Key Stage 2 support bases for pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools. This would allow the funding to be reallocated to the Local Authority's individual pupil budget, managed by the Local Authority Special Educational Needs Team. The money is then allocated on the basis of individual pupil need to mainstream primary schools across the town.

2.3 The Portfolio Holder agreed on 22nd February 2011:

- To the publication of public notices for a statutory period of 6 weeks for any formal objections to be received in relation to discontinuing the additionally resourced provision at Golden Flatts Primary School for upto 12 children with moderate learning difficulties in the age range 7-11 years from 1st September 2011;

- To the publication of public notices for a statutory period of 6 weeks for any formal objections to be received in relation to discontinuing the additionally resourced provision at Owton Manor Primary School for up to 12 children with moderate learning difficulties in the age range 7-11 years from 1st September 2011.

3. THE PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY NOTICES

3.1 Regulations published by the Department for Education require that statutory notices for proposals must be published:

- In the local newspaper;
- At the main entrances to the schools named in the proposals;
- And some other conspicuous place in the area served, e.g. local library or community centre.

3.2 The statutory notices for the proposals were published in the Hartlepool Mail on 7th March 2011. The statutory notices were posted at the entrances to Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools on 7th March 2011.

3.3 The statutory notices were sent to libraries and community buildings on 7th March 2011.

3.4 The statutory notices are attached at **Appendix 1**.

4. RESPONSES TO PUBLIC NOTICES

4.1 No representations (either objections or supportive comments) were received when this report was submitted to Portfolio Holder on 15th April 2011. However, the end of the statutory six weeks period will finish on 18th April 2011. If any representations are made in the meantime, a verbal update will be made available during the Portfolio meeting.

5. NEXT STEP

5.1 Having published the statutory proposals on 7th March 2011 and having considered any representations received within the consultation timescale, the Portfolio Holder is under a legal obligation to decide these proposals within two months after the consultation period. In considering the proposals in relation to discontinuing the additional support for pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools, the Portfolio Holder can decide to:

- Reject the proposals set out in the statutory notice;
- Approve the proposals set out in the statutory notice;
- Approve the proposal with a modification.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

6.1 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder:

- Note the outcomes of the statutory notice period relating to the proposals to discontinue the additionally resourced provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools;
- Approve the proposal that the additionally resourced facility at Golden Flatts Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years – 11 years with moderate learning difficulties be discontinued with effect from 1st September 2011;
- Approve the proposal that the additionally resourced facility at Owton Manor Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years – 11 years with moderate learning difficulties be discontinued with effect from 1st September 2011.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Zoe Westley
Head of Social & Education Inclusion
Telephone: 01429 287349
E-mail: zoe.westley@hartlepool.gov.uk

1.1 Appendix 1

PUBLIC NOTICE



PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE ADDITIONALLY RESOURCED FACILITY AT GOLDEN FLATTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Hartlepool Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Golden Flatts Primary School, Seaton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 1HN with effect from 01 September 2011.

The proposal is to discontinue the additionally resourced facility for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) at Golden Flatts Primary School. The facility currently provides up to 12 places for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties (aged 7-11 years). There are currently no pupils attending the support base and no waiting list for placement in such provision. Support for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties is available within all of our mainstream schools to promote successful inclusion and ensure all children reach their full academic potential.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained by contacting Christine Lowson on (01429) 523754 or by writing to the address below. Information relating to these proposals can also be found on the Council's website at :www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/9/special_educational_needs-assessment/305/special_educational_needs_sen/8

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to The Director of Child and Adult Services (ref CL/GFSENMLD), Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY.

Signed: Nicola Bailey, Director of Child and Adult Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Publication Date: 7th March 2011



PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE ADDITIONALLY RESOURCED FACILITY AT OWTON MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Hartlepool Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Owton Manor Primary School, Eskdale Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4BT with effect from 01 September 2011.

The proposal is to discontinue the additionally resourced facility for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) at Owton Manor Primary School. The facility currently provides up to 12 places for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties (aged 7-11 years). There are currently no pupils attending the support base and no waiting list for placement in such provision. Support for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties is available within all of our mainstream schools to promote successful inclusion and ensure all children reach their full academic potential.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained by contacting Christine Lowson on (01429) 523754 or by writing to the address below. Information relating to these proposals can also be found on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/9/special_educational_needs-assessment/305/special_educational_needs_sen/8

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to The Director of Child and Adult Services (ref CL/OMSENMLD), Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY.

Signed: Nicola Bailey, Director of Child and Adult Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Publication Date: 7th March 2011

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

3rd May 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: PROGRESS REPORT RELATING TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED YOUTH
SUPPORT SERVICE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards the development of an Integrated Youth Support Service and improvements made to the coordination and joining up of activities historically associated with the Local Authorities Youth Service and Connexions Service.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Report summarises progress made towards the development of a local integrated Youth Support and explores the performance of the new service in relation to key performance indicators alongside the challenges that lie ahead for the provision of youth support services locally.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is responsible for the activities and performance of the local Integrated Youth Support Service.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 3rd May 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the progress made towards the development of an Integrated Youth Support Service; the improvement in outcomes for local young people and the key areas for development for 2011/2012.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: PROGRESS REPORT RELATING TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED YOUTH
SUPPORT SERVICE.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards the development of an Integrated Youth Support Service and improvements made to the coordination and joining up of activities historically associated with the Local Authorities Youth Service and Connexions Service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A structure for the delivery of a local Integrated Youth Support service which would cover activities historically associated with the Local Authority Youth Service and Connexions Service was developed during 2009 in line with national recommendations relating to the integration of young people's services. The structure came into effect in 2010 and was supported through the co-location of both teams' central functions within the One Stop Shop facility in Tower Street.
- 2.2 The Integrated Youth Support Service has been developed to support and lead on the delivery of a comprehensive integrated Youth Offer for 13-19 year olds (and up to 25 where there is additional need). The key aim of the Integrated Youth Support Service is to ensure that all local young people have the chance to enjoy happy, healthy and safe teenage years that prepare them well for adult life and enable them to reach their full potential.

The service seeks to do this:

- By ensuring that local young people have access to a range of positive activities and informal learning opportunities tailored to suit their needs.
- By providing impartial information advice and guidance to help young people make more informed choices, about learning, raise their aspirations and equip them to make safe and sensible decisions about sexual health and substance misuse.
- By ensuring that young people are engaged in shaping the services they receive and by encouraging more young people to volunteer and become involved in their communities.

- By offering more personalised, joined up support and activities for young people who are experiencing difficulties.

2.3 The statutory duties covered by the service on behalf of the Local Authority are section 507B of the Education Act 1996 which requires the Local Authority so far as is reasonably practicable, to secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to –

- sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
- Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities, which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

Alongside:

- the provision of Connexions services under section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 ("The Act");
- The conducting of assessments relating to learning difficulties under section 140 of the Act; and
- The provision of careers services under sections 8 & 9 of the Employment and Training Act 1973.

2.4 Overall performance of the Integrated Youth Support Service, in terms of improving outcomes for local young people, can be measured across the following key Performance indicators:

- The numbers of young people locally who participate regularly in positive activities with an emphasis on personal and social development.
- The reduction in the numbers of young people (aged 16-18) who are not in education, employment or training.
- The reduction in the numbers of young people using alcohol, drugs and volatile substances.
- The reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies.
- The reduction in the number of first time entrants into criminal justice system.

3. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE OVER 2010/2011

- 3.1 Overall the Integrated Youth Support Service could be deemed to have made good progress towards the development of an Integrated Youth Offer through the improved co-ordination of activities historically associated with the Local Authorities Youth Service and Connexions Service.
- 3.2 The service has undergone significant change, not least as a result of a change in Government, and a significant reduction to the overall budget which resulted in a staff restructure and a number of compulsory redundancies.
- 3.3 In spite of this the service has remained focused upon the provision and development of services to local young people which has resulted in a number of key achievements. Most notably:
- Supporting local young people to secure funding and planning permission for the development of a new skate park adjacent to Rossmere Youth Centre (scheduled to open in late May/early June 2011) in spite of uncertainties regarding funding nationally.
 - Participation in the National Pilots for the development of the National Citizenship Service (the only concrete piece of Youth Policy to have developed via the coalition government to date) in partnership with the Tees Valley Local Authorities.
 - The development of a progression pathway for Teenage Parents, beyond school leaving age, to support their continuation/re-engagement with education, employment or training.
 - The further development of support systems for local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations wishing to establish themselves as providers of services to young people or further develop youth work skills across their existing staff teams.
 - The coordination of the 'The Futures Bright, The Futures Hartlepool' celebration event that witnessed over one hundred local young people receive awards from their peers. This included seventy seven young people who have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- 3.4 With regards to broader performance measures the service has continued to support notable improvements in terms of population outcomes for young people:
- The numbers of young people locally who participate regularly in positive activities, with an emphasis on personal and social development, has reduced slightly in comparison to the previous year from **23.8%** of the 13-19 cohort to in **2009/2011** to **19.9%** in

2010/2011. However, the numbers of young people supported to achieve a recognized accredited outcome via their participation has increased from **6%** in **2009/2010** to **20.2%** in **2010/2011** which is evident of the increased emphasis placed upon the acknowledgement of young people's development through their engagement with a strong local Youth Work curriculum.

- The service has been able to sustain the reduction locally in the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training from **7.4%** in **2009/2010** to **6.6%** in **2010/2011**. This is in comparison to a **national average** of **6.0%** and a **regional average** of **7.9%** for 2010/2011.
- Due to the cessation of the 'Tell Us' survey nationally, which was the principle tool for determining local levels of young peoples substance misuse, it is difficult to determine whether the numbers of young people misusing substances has reduced in comparison to previous years. Whilst the numbers of referrals to the local young people's substance misuse service has risen during 2010/2011 this can be attributed to an increased integration of the service into local prevention and early intervention systems such as the Team Around the Secondary School process. Performance relating to substance misuse is monitored intensely by the National Treatment Agency and Hartlepool has access to this data and will consequently be able to establish local targets and evaluation methods. The annual needs assessment completed by the Substance Misuse Commissioning Group and agreed by the Portfolio holder in March 2011 sets out clearly the direction of travel for local plans relating to the prevention of substance misuse.
- It is estimated that the number of teenage pregnancies has seen a further reduction. However, these figures have yet to be validated nationally.
- The service has contributed to the reduction in the numbers of local young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time from **158** in **2009/2010** to **95** in **2010/2011**.

4. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 Following the change in Government the future of Local Authority Youth Support arrangements is likely to undergo further significant changes in the coming year.
- 4.2 The following shifts in national guidance provide an insight into the future challenges and development opportunities that lie ahead:
 - The development of the Early Intervention Grant and the removal of historic ring-fences provides us with the opportunity locally to develop a more innovative response based upon local need as

opposed to nationally proscribed approaches to children, young people and families. However, within these local developments we need to ensure that the youth phase continues to be recognised as a key developmental phase. Frequently it is a phase in which problems that have not merited a response from services during childhood can quickly escalate as young people are exposed to a range of new opportunities, challenges, risks and pressures.

- Given the increased emphasis being placed upon Targeted Services we need to ensure that all young people in Hartlepool continue to have access to safe and welcoming spaces that provide them with things to do and people to talk to. We need to ensure staff operating across local youth provision are able to deliver a curriculum that equips local young people to deal with the opportunities and adversities in their lives and that staff have the skills and confidence to intervene earlier and provide additional support before problems escalate and merit a more costly and specialist intervention.
- The Statutory responsibility for securing young people's Careers Advice and Guidance will shift from the Local Authority to Secondary Schools in September 2012. We need to work closely with Schools over 2011/12 to ensure that the progress we have made locally in relation to raising the numbers of young people who progress from school into education, employment or training is sustained.
- As resources for the provision of youth support arrangements reduce the Council will need to ensure that all of the opportunities that exist, whether they are delivered by the Local Authority or broader Voluntary/Community Sector, are promoted effectively to local young people as part of a comprehensive Youth Offer. The Council will need to acknowledge young peoples communication preferences and make full use of E-Networks and other mobile technologies to ensure that local young people are aware of where they can go; what they can do; who they can talk to; how they can participate and how they can access further support if they are experiencing difficulties.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to note the progress made thus far in relation to development of an Integrated Youth Support Service and to note the key challenges and development opportunities that lie ahead for local Youth Support arrangements.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

7.1 Mark Smith
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