

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR
Children's Services**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO NUMBER AND TYPE OF CHILDREN'S
CENTRES IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Executive Lead Member has given approval to consult on proposed changes to the number and type of children's centres in Hampshire. The consultation period being 1 January to 12 February 2010.

Hampshire County Council currently provides services to children under five and their families through 60 Sure Start children's centres. This figure, following local consultation and national agreement is proposed to increase to 85 centres by March 2010 meeting the Government's target for every community to be served by a children's centre. This will bring to an end three phases of children's centre development covering the period 2004 to 2010 and represents a capital investment in excess of £40m.

The number of children's centres to be developed in Hampshire was clearly set out by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and this development is overseen by the agents managing the roll-out and implementation of the development of children's centres, Together for Children. The requirement was for Hampshire County Council to provide a minimum of 53 children's centres in phase 2 in addition to the seven that had been developed in phase 1 with a further 25 being added in phase 3. A request was made by Hampshire County Council to reduce the number of phase 2 children's centres from 53 to 45, however, this application was refused. The guidance further required the Local Authority to develop full core offer children's centres within the top 30% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) wards and the number of full core offer children's centres was agreed by Together for Children and the DCSF. All phase 3 children's centres are graduated models.

A full core offer children's centre is required to have integrated early education and childcare on or within 0.5 miles of the centre, to employ a fully qualified early years teacher and opening hours of five days per week, ten hours per day, 48 weeks of the year. Both full core offer and graduated centres are required to deliver a range of other services including links to Jobcentre Plus and childminders, access to health services, family support and outreach and the provision of advice, information and guidance. However, it is expected that the style of service delivery will differ with much more emphasis within a graduated centre being on delivering services through outreach and in partnership with other agencies and organisations.

Following recent discussion with Together for Children, advice has been given that allows the Council greater flexibility over the number and type of centres they provide. Centres should now only be designated as full core offer if a minimum of 50% of the under fives in their Notional Catchment Area (NCA) live within LSOAs in the top 30% of the most deprived areas. The Council now needs to strategically review both the overall number and the geographical make-up of its children's centres as well as the number designated as full core offer, this should now be a continuing process. It is advantageous to take action at selected sites and implement the changes prior to the March 2010 designation deadline.

As appropriate further reports will be brought to the Executive Lead Member Children's Services detailing options available to better align service delivery with available resources. It is expected that any required changes to staffing structures as a result of this initial review would be dealt with through vacancy management.

These changes would allow an initial reduction in the number of full core offer centres from 28 to 26 and reduce the overall number of centres from 85 to 81. This will be achieved by merging Hampshire County Council managed centres where there are twinned management arrangements in place and some joint service delivery.

Initial changes would affect centres in Eastleigh, Havant, Rushmoor, East Hants and the New Forest. These changes, as outlined above, would incur no additional costs. All staffing structures would be left in place for the short to medium term and, where NCA alterations are required, existing budget shares would be adjusted accordingly, if this directly impacts on the formula for the allocations.

Consultation will take place through local meetings in the centre(s) and through a consultation document to be distributed to staff, parents, Partnership Boards, local County Councillors and partners such as Health and Jobcentre Plus. It will also be available on the Children's Centre service's website between 1 January and 12 February 2010.

A final decision on the proposed changes based upon the outcome of the consultation would be sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his decision day on 10 March 2010.

The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 17 December 2009 which is on Hantsweb at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/091217-excsed-R1210124351.html>

THE FUTURE OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM IN HAMPSHIRE

The proposed new Primary Curriculum has three central overarching aims and values:

- To create successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve.

- To develop confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- To foster responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

These aims and values sit well with Hampshire's published document Education in Hampshire in the Primary Years and with the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan. The key features of the proposed new Primary Curriculum are:

- The continuing importance of subjects and the essential knowledge within them.
- The importance of the development of skills and understanding.
- The strong focus on progression.
- English, Mathematics and Information Communication Technology (ICT) as central to the curriculum.
- Every child having an entitlement to a broad, rich and exciting curriculum which links learning to their experiences and is relevant to them.
- Clear links across subject areas so that subjects are not taught in isolation.
- An emphasis on children's personal development and well-being.
- Clear links between the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and then linking to Key Stage 3.
- A language opportunity for all 7-11 year olds.

The proposed changes present a significant development in the way the curriculum is structured. It recognises that children do not learn in subjects but it seeks to ensure that children enjoy the unique primary years of their development. Hampshire County Council is already well-placed to respond to any proposed changes to the Primary National Curriculum and is taking the opportunity to review planned learning in the primary school. The curriculum debate is already underway with schools and this has been supported by the second Primary Conference in September 2009 led by Professor Mick Waters which was attended by more than 500 delegates. The intention is to build on Hampshire's existing documentation so as to further define the entitlement for every child in a Hampshire School.

In "A Primary Curriculum for Learning", Hampshire proposed an approach to the development of the curriculum which ensures that the values of the school and community combined with the understanding of how our children make best progress are at the forefront of planning the curriculum. Children's Services (primary team) intend to promote this approach and to support schools in developing their curriculum through existing networks and groups of schools within local children's partnerships.

The Executive Lead Member has considered the proposed changes to the Primary National Curriculum and supports the revision of the current Hampshire documentation based on the proposed changes and other reviews and the use of this revised documentation to aid headteachers in the introduction of a new Primary National Curriculum. Confirmation has subsequently been received from the Secretary of State that a new curriculum will be implemented in all primary schools from September 2011. A further report is to be presented to the Executive Lead Member in Summer 2010 which will include an update on the progress of any necessary changes in Hampshire Primary Schools.

The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 17 December 2009 which is on Hantsweb at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/091217-excsed-R1210124405.html>.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN HAMPSHIRE 2009

The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services has received a report by the Director of Children's Services summarising the assessment, test and examination data for 2009 for children in the early years, those in primary schools and those in secondary schools up to the age of 16. Overall, Hampshire's children and young people have performed well in assessments, tests and examinations and attained standards higher than in previous years and higher than those attained by children and young people who attend school in statistically similar areas of the country. Children from many black and minority ethnic groups have continued to do well in Hampshire; those with special needs have again made progress in Hampshire schools; those in care have done better than in previous years and at some age groups are now making good progress and the most able continue to progress well. The gap between those eligible for free school meals and those who are not reduced significantly in 2008 and, whilst not reducing further, the gains made have been maintained in 2009.

Whilst the gap has narrowed between many of the more vulnerable groups and the rest of the population and standards overall, as measured by test and examination outcomes, have risen there remain some areas of relative weakness or of insufficient progress. To address this, the Executive Lead Member has approved a number of actions for the Children's Services Department to undertake, along with some relating to the maintenance of success. The full report by the Director of Children's Services on this item will

be distributed to schools and colleges in Hampshire to alert them to the summary outcomes from 2009 tests and examinations and the future priority which arises from them.

The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 17 December 2009 which is on Hantsweb at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/091217-excsed-R1210124359.html>.

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