

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

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

1. The Executive Lead Member has approved the submission of the County Council's Strategy for Change (SfC) for the first phase of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) in Havant and Horndean to Partnership for Schools (Pfs).
2. Building Schools for the Future is a national programme intended to rebuild, remodel, or refurbish all secondary and secondary age special schools in England. Approval of the Strategy for Change is a key stage in progressing the BSF programme, as it sets out the aspirations and delivery proposals for the first phase of investment in Hampshire schools. The SfC sets out the County Council's ambitions for improvement following BSF investment and how these ambitions can be achieved. It also addresses key delivery issues, such as project resources, deliverability, capital funding and procurement strategy.
3. The County Council's Expression of Interest for inclusion in the national BSF programme, which was submitted to Pfs in December 2008, identified ten geographically based phases of investment across Hampshire. These were prioritised, as requested by Pfs, according to educational and social need. The Havant and Horndean area emerged as the highest priority area and forms Phase 1 of the programme.
4. The SfC is intended to set out the County Council's aspirations for what BSF will deliver and to establish a framework for delivery. It takes as its starting point the approved Children and Young People's Plan, 2009–12 (CYPP). The focus, therefore, is on issues across the whole range of Children's Services and not those related solely to schools as providers of secondary education. Its approach is aspirational, and KPIs are set for 2020, with milestones for 2015.
5. Phase 1 of BSF includes six mainstream secondary schools, three secondary age special schools and one education centre. The overall amount of capital investment expected from central government for Phase 1 is about £80m. Allocations will be made according to the cost indices prevailing when financial arrangements are concluded.
6. The default procurement approach for BSF is a Local Education Partnership, in which the local authority has a minority stake, with private sector partners taking the lead role. The County Council's preferred approach, however, is for a Regional Education Partnership (REP) to be established, which would be achieved through existing successful construction procurement frameworks established by Improvement and Efficiency South-East, expanded to cover the full range of BSF procurement activities to operate for authorities across the region and deliver efficiencies from these economies of scale.

7. Following approval of the SfC by Partnerships for Schools, the County Council is required to submit an Outline Business Case, which will set out in greater detail specific investment proposals at each school. This is scheduled for submission to PfS by 16 July 2010.
8. The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 11 March 2010 which is on Hantsweb at www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsummary.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=1352&tab=1

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAVANT ACADEMY

1. The Executive Lead Member has given approval for the completion of the necessary documentation to establish the Havant Academy; that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services be the County Council's representative on the Academy Trust and has appointed two governors to represent the County Council on the Havant Academy Governing Body.
2. In April 2009, Cabinet approved the publication of notices to close Staunton Community Sports College with effect from the end of August 2010. The decision was contingent upon the establishment of an academy in its place and was taken, after extensive consultation, in the context of several years of very poor GCSE results and a significant number of surplus places. Cabinet also determined that the lead sponsor for the new academy should be a local post-16 college with the County Council, itself, also a co-sponsor.
3. Since April last year South Downs College of Further Education has been identified as the lead sponsor and officers of the County Council have been working closely with that college together with the project management company appointed by the DCSF on everything that needs to be done to open the academy on 1 September 2010. Most of the work is on track and the 'Funding Agreement' which is, in essence, the document that will allow the academy to go ahead has now been agreed and signed off by the Secretary of State.
4. All academies are 'state-funded, independent' schools and are funded directly from central government and performance managed by the DCSF, or one of its agents. Each academy is responsible for its own assets and those assets are transferred from the school that it is replacing, in this case from Staunton College.
5. The County Council as co-sponsor is a Member of the Academy Trust, a company, and will be party to the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The sponsors retain overall control of the academy but that control is exercised through the board of directors of the company which is the governing body of the academy. The lead sponsor has the large majority of directors/governors of this company (sponsor appointed) but the County Council, as co-sponsor, is entitled to two. In anticipation of the establishment of the Academy the Executive Lead Member for Children's Service has appointed Brian Pope, Area

Director (Education and Inclusion) for the south east of the county, and Carol Koerner, Headteacher of Sharps Copse Primary School, which is a linked school to Staunton Community Sports College as the Hampshire County Council directors/governors. Elected Member oversight will be provided by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in his position as a member of the Academy Trust. Brian Pope and Carol Koerner will provide the professional expertise for the County Council to help drive the work of the academy and assure the improvement in outcomes for children and young people in the area.

6. The report arises from consideration of the reports by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 24 March 2010 which are on Hantsweb at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsu/mmary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1459&cancel=n

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

1. The Executive Lead Member has given approval to proposed changes to the number and type of children's centres in Hampshire. This follows a consultation period in January and February 2010, which was distributed to children's centre partnership boards, parents, staff and other stakeholders including health and district councillors via the children's centre. Additionally the document was sent directly to County Councillors in the areas affected by the proposed changes and trade union representatives via the Education and Inclusion consultation group.
2. 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 centres development covering the period 2004 to 2010 and represents a capital investment in excess of £40m.
3. The number of children's centres to be developed in Hampshire was set out by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and is overseen by the agents managing the roll-out and implementation of the development of children's centres, Together for Children (TfC). The guidance also 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). Further to this, the County Council took a decision in 2006 to extend the full core offer to all phase 2 children's centres with an IMD ranking up to 35%. This resulted in the development of 28 full core offer children's centres. The number of full core offer children's centres in Hampshire was agreed by TfC and the DCSF. All phase 3 children's centres are graduated models.

4. Over recent months it has become clear through discussions with TfC, that DCSF requirements have changed and there is now greater flexibility regarding the number of children's centres that have to be developed by Local Authorities. Along with this, the criteria for full core offer centres has also been relaxed, enabling the County Council to review its current number of full core offer centres. Based on this current guidance Hampshire would only have five centres that qualify as full core.
5. Together for Children requires the County Council 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 centres. Work will continue beyond this initial review period to identify further opportunities for rationalisation of children's centres across Hampshire. While this review is a requirement, the County Council is committed to working out the detail of any changes and identifying the best way forward for the effective delivery of services to meet the local needs of children and families through children's centres.
6. A number of changes to the structure of the County Council's children's centres were proposed, consulted upon and have been approved. These changes allow an initial reduction in the number of full core offer centres from 28 to 25 and reduce the overall number of centres from 85 to 81. The reduction in the overall number of centres would be achieved by merging Hampshire County Council managed centres where there are already twinned management arrangements in place. Significant integrated working and joint service delivery is already being achieved in the centres affected by these proposals. The changes affect centres in Eastleigh, Havant, Rushmoor, East Hants and the New Forest, they incur no additional cost and are expected to present opportunities for substantial savings in the long run.
7. The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 11 March 2010 which is on Hantsweb at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsu/mmary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1313&cancel=n

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE HAMPSHIRE ADOPTION SERVICE

1. The Executive Lead Member has given approval to proposed updates to the Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Adoption Service.
2. National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services require that the registered provider (in the case of a local authority, the elected members) formally approves the Statement of Purpose of the service, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary, at least annually.
3. Provision of adoption services in Hampshire supports the Corporate Priorities of "Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all" "Maximising well-being" and "Enhancing our quality of place". The service enables and encourages all children and young people who are looked after by Hampshire Children's

Services to stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, provide a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being, in line with the Every Child Matters five outcomes (Children Act 2004).

4. Revisions to the Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Adoption Service concentrate in particular on:
 - better reflecting the range of skills and experience amongst Hampshire adoption service staff,
 - detailing the locations of the adoption teams since a remodelling that followed the Ofsted inspection in 2005,
 - the appointment of Lyndsey Marshall, who is the named Adoption Support Adviser
 - amendments to the complaints procedure,
 - the incorporation of the Advocacy Service, and
 - acknowledging the importance of feedback.
5. The report arises from consideration of the reports by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 11 March 2010 which are on Hantsweb at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsu.mmary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1319&cancel=n

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE HAMPSHIRE FOSTERING SERVICE

1. The Executive Lead Member has given approval to proposed updates to the Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service.
2. National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services require that the registered provider (in the case of a local authority, the elected members) formally approves the Statement of Purpose of the respective service, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary, at least annually.
3. Provision of fostering services in Hampshire supports the Corporate Priorities of "Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all" "Maximising well-being" and "Enhancing our quality of place". The service enables and encourages all children and young people who are looked after by Hampshire Children's Services to stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, provide a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being, in line with the Every Child Matters five outcomes (Children Act 2004).
4. Revisions to the Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service enable in particular:
 - the range of skills and experience of Hampshire fostering service staff to be better reflected and the style of the document to fall into line with related documents,
 - the wording to be updated for ease of understanding and comprehension whilst maintaining the required information,
 - the inclusion of graphics and images that support the reader's understanding, and

- improvements in the foster carers training pathway to support the stability of children and young peoples placements.
5. The report arises from consideration of the reports by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 11 March 2010 which are on Hantsweb at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsuimary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1277&cancel=n

**DETERMINATION OF CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS:
2011/12**

1. The Executive Lead Member has given approval for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for maintained schools in the school year 2011/12 and the admissions polices for all voluntary controlled and community schools.
2. The County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Hampshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.
3. The annual consultation on admission arrangements for September 2011 was carried out informally during the autumn term 2009 in the expectation that the Code would be revised in the light of recommendations made by Sir Jim Rose in his review of the primary curriculum in April 2009. The revised Code clarified that the 2011 arrangements must comply with the 2009 Code, although there are two extra requirements in connection with children starting the primary phase. Firstly, admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. This should be on a full-time basis if the parent chooses but parents can request that their child attends part-time until reaching compulsory school age. Secondly, admission authorities must allow parents of children who are offered a place at the school before they are of compulsory school age to defer their child's entry until later in the school year. The results of the consultation were considered by the Hampshire Admission Forum at its meeting on 10 December 2009 and the recommendations approved.
4. The main focus of Hampshire County Council's consultation on arrangements for 2011/12 was in connection with the date for notifying parents of the outcome of main admission round applications for children starting a new phase of primary education in September 2011. Previously this date has been towards the end of January but new regulations impose a national deadline of 15 January for the submission of primary applications and to allow authorities to meet the new requirements for inter-Local Authority co-ordination the new regulations require Local Authorities to continue exchanging information until the last working day in March (Thursday 31 March 2011 for September 2011 admissions). As a consequence, the date for notifying parents of the outcome of primary phase applications made in the 2011/12 admission round cannot be before 1 April. This is a considerable change for primary phase schools and parents who would previously have known the outcome of their applications in late January. The proposed decision date offered for consultation was 6 May

2011. This proposal took account of the dates of the Easter holiday in 2011, the large dataset in Hampshire's main round admissions processes and high number of neighbouring authorities.

5. The 2009 Code stipulated that from the academic year 2010/11 onwards, local authorities must co-ordinate all in-year applications. It stipulated that local authorities must formulate a scheme, by 1 January 2010, for coordinating in-year admissions from September 2010. Hampshire County Council's consultation focussed on the timescales in which in-year applications should be processed and the centralised operation of waiting lists was carried out in the autumn term 2009 to allow a qualifying scheme to be formulated by 1 January 2010. As the LA had not operated a centralised scheme for in-year applications, it initiated a trial scheme for the 2009/10 school year. The Executive Lead Member approved the adoption of the in-year 2010 co-ordinated scheme at his meeting of 17 December 2009. The same in-year scheme has been adopted for 2011/12 with a few minor amendments.
6. The report arises from consideration of the reports by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 31 March 2010 which are on Hantsweb at: [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsu
mmary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1456&cancel=n](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsu
mmary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1456&cancel=n)

David Kirk
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services