

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15 December 2005
Subject:	Community (Extended) Schools Roll-Out
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan, Director of Learning and Community Development
Contact Officers:	John Kennedy, Kashmir Takhar Area Managers, People First
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Bill Stephenson Education and Lifelong Learning Cllr Margaret Davine Social Care and Health
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

The Cabinet is asked to consider the Community Schools Pilot Evaluation Report (November 2005) and in the light of this report approve the proposals from the Park and Whitmore Clusters for developing the community (extended) schools approach and agree that the Nower Hill extended schools initiative can begin subject to a satisfactory plan being submitted to Cabinet

Reason for report

Approval of this report is recommended as it fits with the Cabinet decision taken in July 2004 to extend the community schools programme. The report indicates that progress has been made to address all of the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Report (July 2004)

- clusters are making good progress to develop extended activities in line with national expectations
- the extended school strategy currently being written will set out clear expectations for all clusters and schools
- more clearly defined roles for the Local Authority will be central to supporting

schools, cluster co-ordinators and ensuring that quality assurance measures are in place and monitoring / evaluation is regularly carried out and reported centrally.

- schools will need to develop activities which are sustainable over time

Park and Whitmore Cluster have been working for some time to put together proposals which take account of the Scrutiny recommendations and to ensure that they are in line with the Council and national expectations for community (extended) schools. Their proposals fit within the Council's strategic Corporate Priorities for strengthening communities, impact through partnerships and developing Harrow as a true learning community and the Community Strategy priorities for children and young people, and learning for all. The priorities set out will contribute towards the outcomes in The Children Act 2004 and *Every Child Matters*, and to the DfES expectations set out for all schools in relation to extended schools.

Approval of the proposals will enable the 11 schools in the Park cluster and the 7 schools in the Whitmore cluster to appoint co-ordinators to develop activities relating to family learning and parenting support, healthy living, enable the schools to provide counselling and support to meet the emotional health needs of children and in general to support the development of extended school activities.

Nower Hill Cluster are also working to finalise plans for extended school activities which will focus on the three areas of: family & lifelong learning, extra-curricular activities to support social & life skills, and swift and easy access to specialist support for pupils and parents.

Benefits

The benefits of approving the proposal are:

- Appointment of co-ordinators will enable the schools to pool expertise and resources across the schools, as well as draw in additional support from agencies such as health, social care, crime and disorder reduction partnership etc. Co-ordinators will work with headteachers to develop extended activities that are sustainable over time.
- Enable the Clusters to work in partnership with agencies to improve the way that services are delivered to children and families.
- Allow the Clusters to deliver activities in their priority areas, in consultation with pupils, parents and their wider local communities.
- Specific benefits related to the priority areas as set out in Clusters' proposals

Cost of Proposals

There are sufficient resources available for the roll-out in 2005-06, based on the assumption that no cluster is likely to be operational before January 2006 and unlikely to have staff in place before April 2006. The full year effect for the roll-out programme from April 2006 calculated at £120k is included in the Medium Term Budget Strategy for 2006-7. For the present, until the budget is finally approved provision will be made from the Standards Fund for Extended Schools for 2006/7.

Risks

Risks identified are;

- Budget uncertainty could have a negative influence on the recruitment of high calibre staff to the co-ordinator role.
- Implications for staff employed should funding not be sustained.
- Delivery of proposed activities within timescales and resources.
- Engagement of agencies in delivering proposed activities within timescales identified.
- Delay in enabling schools in some clusters to develop extended school activities which is a national expectation for all schools.

Implications if recommendations are rejected

If the recommendations are not approved the extension of the Community (Extended) Schools initiative will be delayed. Considerable work and debate has taken place amongst Headteachers in the clusters about their priorities and how they can make a real difference through extended school activities on a cluster basis. This commitment would be greatly undermined if the proposals do not go ahead.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

This report is brought to Cabinet for consideration following the decision taken in July 2004 to extend the community schools pilot, subject to plans receiving Cabinet approval.

Headteachers and People First Area Managers in the Whitmore, Nower Hill and Park Clusters have met regularly and collectively identified priorities for their areas based on hard evidence (information from vitality profiles and other sources) and soft data (issues raised by parents, children and young people,

governors and staff in schools). The schools have also considered lessons learnt from existing Community Schools developments in 4 Harrow Clusters and the Report from the Scrutiny Review Group in 2004.

Initial outcomes and targets have been identified and baseline data will be collected against which progress can be measured. Additional outcomes may be identified as work progresses. Headteachers, area managers and others will monitor progress and will provide updates to Members at agreed intervals. Clusters will also be expected to take on board recommendations in the progress report on community (extended) schools (November 2005).

List of schools in the Park and Whitmore clusters:

Park Cluster Schools

Bentley Wood High School	Kenmore Park First School
Kenmore Park Middle School	Park High School
Priestmead First School	Priestmead Middle School
Stanburn First School	Stanburn Middle School
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School	Whitchurch First School
Whitchurch Middle School	

Whitmore Cluster Schools

Longfield First School	Longfield Middle School
Roxeth First & Middle School	St. Anselm's R.C. Primary School
St. George's R.C. Primary School	Vaughan First & Middle School
Whitmore High School	

Nower Hill Cluster Schools

Cannon Lane First School	Cannon Lane Middle School
Moriah Jewish First & Middle School	Nower Hill High School
Pinner Park First School	Pinner Park Middle School
Pinner Wood First School	Pinner Wood Middle School
St. John Fisher RC First & Middle School	
West Lodge First School	West Lodge Middle School

Options considered

Cluster headteachers have met to consider priorities. Options were considered based on available information gleaned from the schools' data, the Harrow Vitality Profile, ACORN¹ profiles and Super Output Area (SOA) analysis. Headteachers considered the age range of children to be targeted and issues raised by parents and staff which emphasised the need for developing initiatives relating to children's health and parental support programmes

¹ ACORN (A Classification of Regionalised Neighbourhoods) is a measure of affluence.

Consultation

Park Cluster headteachers involved in the development of these proposals have discussed them with members of their governing bodies. As the project begins its development in the autumn term 2005, governors and other partners in the Whitmore and Park clusters will be involved. Cluster schools have begun the process of capturing parents' views about parenting support programmes and this work will be extended during the initial stages of the projects.

Drawing on the lessons learnt from the existing projects it is clear that consultation and community engagement through structured activity will be a key priority for the Coordinators once appointed.

Financial Implications

There are sufficient resources available for the roll-out in 2005-06, based on the assumption that no cluster is likely to be operational before January 2006 and unlikely to have staff appointed before March 2006. The full year effect for the roll-out programme from April 2006 calculated at £120k is included in the Medium Term Budget Strategy for 2006-7 which will be part of the forthcoming budget discussion. Funding will be made available from the Standards Fund for Extended Schools for 2006-7. However this would require a realigning of the Standards Funding for 2006-7 and 2007-8 so that all clusters could be supported financially. This would represent a reduction for some clusters based on this year's funding. There is no indication of what Standards Fund would be available for extended school developments beyond March 2008.

Legal Implications

The Clusters will appoint and manage staff for the projects. Arrangements for line management will be developed along similar lines to those developed by existing Clusters. Employment contracts for existing staff who become involved in the projects may need to be reviewed. Data will be shared with regard to the Data Protection Act 1998 and any local protocols agreed between the services. Legal advice will be sought as required to consider any additional issues concerning confidential information.

Section 27 of the Education Act 2002 gives power to schools to provide services and facilities for the benefit of the community. The governing bodies of the schools will retain responsibility for the control of the school premises, unless agreements to transfer control are entered into.

Extended Schools Guidance (2004) has been provided to all schools which provides more detailed guidance on matters relating to extended schools such as safeguards for school finances.

Equalities Impact

The proposals contribute to the corporate equalities plan and race equality scheme in a number of ways. The priorities identified aim to build cohesive communities, provide opportunities to succeed, achieve aspirations, provide access to services, combat disadvantage and promote social inclusion.

The proposals link to the Harrow's Corporate Priorities for strengthening communities, developing Harrow as a true learning community and impact through Harrow's partnerships.

The proposals link to the Harrow's Community Strategy to (a) continue to raise student achievement, target education services, support and opportunities for individual children and families, regenerate and empower the community through learning; (b) ensure that all children and young people enjoy good physical and mental health and live healthy lifestyles; and to keep them safe by protecting them from harm and neglect; (c) ensure that vulnerable children and young people receive help and support to build on their strengths and develop resilience.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

The proposals will contribute to the Crime, Disorder & Drugs Strategy (2005-2008) Priority Area 4 *Young People and a Safer Harrow*, to develop partnership working with young people and encourage their participation in all Safer Harrow initiatives, promoting the development of Youth Inclusion Support Panels, support voluntary sector services and parenting support programmes and encourage increased access to youth services. Developments will also contribute to the cross-cutting theme of support for community cohesion.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendix A Summary of the Evaluation Report on the Community Schools Pilot (circulated in the Cabinet Supplemental Supporting Documents Pack)

Appendix B Learning and Community Development (Nov 2005) Community Schools Pilot - Evaluation Report (circulated in the Cabinet Supplemental Supporting Documents Pack)

Background papers:

Cabinet, 29 July 2004, Extension of Community Schools Programme
Scrutiny Review Group Report (July 2004) NHP Community Schools Pilot
Harrow Vitality Profile and SOA Analysis
Acorn Data – July 2004

School Data – 2003/4

Cluster Profile Information - 2004

Mini audit of extended schools activity 2004

Detailed Stanmore-Kenton Extended Schools Proposals (available in Members Library)

Detailed Whitmore Cluster Extended Schools Proposals (available in Members Library)

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8424 5331