

APPENDIX 2SCRUTINY REVIEW – EXTENDED SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY RESOURCESRecommendations

Officers ensure that robust systems of support, advice and challenge are in place for all clusters to help develop the knowledge and expertise of each Cluster Co-ordinator and their lead headteacher.

Clusters Co-ordinators and headteachers be encouraged to consider the introduction of the appointment of Parent Ambassadors for hard to reach communities in their local area/cluster to look at whether such a scheme would be beneficial to the community.

That cluster groups develop a termly pro-forma for publicising activities and ensure a copy goes home with each child in the cluster. The information should also be widely available through community venues such as libraries, children's centres, health centres and relevant websites.

Other ways of communicating with the community at large should be investigated so that members of the community not directly involved with schools are aware of the services and activities available.

Elected Members who are also school governors should work to raise the profile of extended schools within the schools they govern, in their individual wards and in the community at large.

Steps should be taken to ensure that strategic working was ongoing to bring together expertise from the clusters and local authority officers together in the integration of Extended Schools and Children's Centres. As further Children's Centres were established and opened full advantage should be taken of working together.

All agencies involved in Extended Schools needed to develop an overall vision of how all schools and cluster groups develop plans for mainstreaming and in turn sustaining extended schools activities across clusters post 2011.

A challenge panel/ further review should be held in 6 months time to address the progress of the recommendations that had been put forward from the review group and to also explore the community lettings and community resources element of Extended Schools.

In line with the recommendation above, schools should be examining services they can provide to the community including making their premises available at a reasonable cost.