

CABINET – 3 OCTOBER, 2006

ACCESS AND INCLUSION REVIEW
(ACCESS TO TARGETED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SERVICE

PART A

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to up date Cabinet about the Access and Inclusion Review.

Recommendation

2. Cabinet is recommended to
 - i) Note the progress made as indicated in the consultation document at Appendix 1;
 - ii) Agree that the Access and Inclusion review is set in the broader context of the Children and Young People's Service and the initiative becomes known as Access to Targeted Services for Children and Young People with Additional Needs, and will ultimately result in the production of an Action Plan;
 - iii) To note that a further report will be provided to Cabinet in Spring 2007;

Reasons for recommendation

3. Following the decision of Cabinet on 4th April 2006, to agree the commissioning of the review, officers have been engaged on work clearly to identify the scope of the review. It has become clear from that process that the review needs to cover a much wider perspective than that originally envisaged, brought about by the need to bring together aspects of the new Children and Young People Service's Department, and to adopt a multi-agency perspective.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee will receive a position report on all reviews ongoing in the department at its meeting on the 30th

November 2006. A further up-date for Cabinet on this particular review will be provided in Spring 2007. The update will provide details of progress and timescales.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The Special Educational Needs Development Plan is identified in the County Council's Constitution as part of the Plan Framework, and therefore requires the approval of the full County Council.
6. It is being proposed that the Special Educational Needs Development Plan be encompassed in a wider plan (Access to Targeted Services for Children and Young People with Additional Needs), the details of which it is proposed will be brought forward in the final report to Cabinet.

Resource Implications

7. The costs of the review and any associated implementation plan will take place within existing service budgets.

The Director of Resources has been consulted on this report.

Circulation under the Sensitive Issues Procedures

8. None

Officer to Contact:

Gareth Williams, Director of Children and Young People Service, 0116 2656300,
gwilliams@leics.gov.uk

Frances Craven, Head of Pupil Support, 0116 2657375
fcraven@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

9. The Access and Inclusion review was commissioned on 4 April 2006 by Cabinet, and addressed services that were located within the Access and Inclusion Service of the former Education Department.
10. Plans have been developed at officer level which involve:-
 - the adoption of a multi-agency perspective;
 - the principle of local area working in multi-agency teams as a key development;
 - time to be allowed in the Review to consider the complex issue involved carefully with staff and others;
 - recognition that the Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional processes needed to be integrated with service models.
11. Introduced by the Department for Education and Skills through the Every Child Matters agenda, the Common Assessment Framework is designed to enable a wide range of professionals to share a common assessment procedure. The Lead Professional concept applies where children have complex needs supported by many professionals. The Lead Professional acts as a co-ordinator of this team, on a short team basis, as needed.
12. Alongside these plans, five strands of work have been identified as priorities for the next twelve to eighteen months. These priorities are:
 - Education of Looked After Children
 - Attendance
 - Behaviour (Exclusions, Area Panels)
 - SEN (Strategy, 5 area special schools and related targeted services, monitoring provision in schools, place and role of units)
 - Safeguarding in a Children and Young People's Service

Consultation

13. Consultation meetings and discussions around the broader and longer term work will take place around the County during the autumn term.
14. The consultation document relating to the progress of the review and the suggested ways forward is attached as Appendix 1.

Equal Opportunities Implications

15. The aim of this review is to provide an improved and more equitable service in all areas of the County to children and young people with additional needs.

Background Papers

Report to Cabinet 4th April 2006