

**Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Developing Lifelong Learning
BSF Programme Update 14 Sept 2007**

Appendix 1: Education Transformation in Durham

Vision for the Children's Services Authority

To improve outcomes for all Children, Young People and their Families in County Durham through working in partnership to co-ordinate and integrate the delivery of services designed, developed and focused on meeting the needs of all of our children.

Every Child Matters

Durham County Council (DCC) has been developing, with many partners, its strategic approach to Every Child Matters and Children's Services. It has established, with these stakeholders, and with children and young people playing a central role, a vision for children, young people and their families.

There are **five key outcomes**, jointly identified and agreed, essential to the development and well-being of our children and young people. This provides the basis of the high level strategic plan for all services to children and their families, known as the Children and Young People's Plan, which will be underpinned by an integrated commissioning framework. In County Durham all our children, young people and their families should:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

In addition, all children, young people and their families will be:

- Listened to
- A full part of decision making
- Comfortable with the decision making process
- Aware of the opportunities to be involved
- Treated with the same respect, dignity and status as adults

Building Schools for the Future will help achieve these outcomes for all children and young people, thereby creating firm and sustainable foundations for the future success and regeneration of County Durham.

Children and Young People's Plan Priorities

Key Priorities:

- More children choose a healthy lifestyle.
- All children and young people can access services to support and promote emotional well-being.
- Parents and carers have skills and support needed to be effective throughout all stages of family development.
- Children and young people are protected from homelessness and failing tenancies.
- Children and young people are safe from bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour as both victims and perpetrators of crime.
- Attainment and achievement levels for all children are improved with gaps between groups reduced.
- Children and young people access safe play, learning, leisure and recreational facilities that provide opportunities for personal and social development and enjoyment.
- Children and young people and their parents are engaged in shaping and improving their communities and their own life choices and have their views on decisions that affect them represented and responded to in a meaningful way.
- A positive image of children and young people is promoted whereby they feel respected in their communities and by service providers.
- Reduce the number of children and young people living within or suffering the effects of poverty.
- Increase levels of participation in suitable learning opportunities such as apprenticeships progressing to employment and improving employability so the gap between participation levels in groups at risk of being disadvantaged is reduced.

Cross Cutting Priorities

- Meeting the needs of vulnerable and hard to reach children and young people.
- Transport.
- Improving data collection, sharing and analysis.

Although BSF is a national programme it can only be effective if it delivers education transformation in a local setting. Children and young people in Durham must gain maximum benefit from BSF investment and the 15 year programme acts as a mechanism to deliver change and improve outcomes across the board. Education Transformation in Durham consists of:

- A strategic change to the pattern of school/community provision.
- Individual school change to include designing schools for personalising learning.

The key areas that Durham County Council is focusing on in its change management programme to improve outcomes for children and young people are:

- **School Organisation**

BSF funding will provide an opportunity to enhance choice and diversity of local provision through some possible school re-organisation, respond to the needs and aspirations of parents and contribute to raising standards. Over a 15 year timescale secondary school rolls are expected to fall considerably and it is anticipated that there will be fewer schools. Durham will have its first Trust school from September 2007 and consultation will begin at this time on proposals for three academies to be included in the pattern of provision after Wave 3 of BSF. There are currently four faith secondary schools.

- **Academies**

Consultation will begin in September 2007 on the future pattern of secondary schooling across the county to include three academies. There are no Academies included in Wave 3.

- **Secondary Performance**

Durham has recently been awarded Beacon Status for school improvement. The County Council's Achievement Services section has a strong history in monitoring pupil progress against national and local targets to help identify at an early stage schools requiring additional support. This process is enhanced by each school having its own School Improvement Partner (SIP).

- **14-19 Provision**

BSF proposals will ensure that all 14-19 year olds have access to the 14-19 entitlement. This access will include a choice of broad range of high-quality curriculum options and ensure gaps in provision are filled through collaboration.

- **SEN and Disability**

All learners will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. BSF capital funding will support the delivery of the SEN agenda as promoted by the SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" and by "Every Child Matters". In terms of physical access to buildings all BSF plans must ensure compliance with DDA to ensure disabled pupils, teachers, parents have equality of opportunity.

- **Children's Services/Children's Trusts**

The BSF programme will support the delivery of integrated children's services through children's centres and extended schools.

- **Extended Schools and Community Provision**

All schools in Durham are part of a 'cluster' to ensure that local communities have access to the "core offer" of activities in accordance with national guidelines on Extended Schools provision. BSF supports the enhancement of this provision.

- **School Workforce Reform, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Change Management**

Durham has a very comprehensive CPD programme and Head Teachers and School Leaders are already engaged in the programme to drive forward improvement following BSF investment.

- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

The extended use of ICT will be a key contributor to the transformation of learning and teaching and will be a major element of both the vision and capital investment. Enabling personalised learning is a key requirement.

County wide wireless broadband internet access and the aspiration to deliver 'one device per student' will ensure learning can take place at anytime, anywhere. Specific details are included in the County's Designing Schools for Personalising Learning document.

- **Specialist School Provision**

All secondary schools in Durham have a specialism. New facilities in each school receiving BSF investment should reflect the specialism of the school.

- **PE and School Sport Provision**

BSF investment must enable schools to meet the National Strategy for PE and Sport (PE School Sport and Club Links, PESSCL) and work towards the 2010 ambition. A PE and Sport Stakeholder Group is to be established in Durham to ensure that there is a planned programme for the provision of sports facilities across the County.

- **Behaviour and Attendance**

Improving behaviour and attendance in schools increases the effectiveness of teaching and learning making a major contribution to raising standards. The design of a school building can significantly affect behaviour which needs to be considered in new design proposals emerging from BSF funding being available. Durham has one Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Facilities within this can make a considerable contribution to raising standards of pupil behaviour and achievement.

- **Healthy Schools**

The National Healthy Schools Programme aims to improve educational achievement through better health and well-being and make schools safe and secure. BSF investment used to enhance facilities will address the requirements of the programme.

- **Personalising Learning**

Durham anticipates that Personalising Learning is a pathway to transforming teaching and learning, as outlined in the County's 'Designing Schools for Personalising Learning' document.