

John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre

Impact Statement – The Community

Extended Schools Provision and Governance

John Kyrle High School has been very proactive in the development of extended schools provision.

These include:

- An in-house general practice doctor surgery at school named “4Us”. This is a once weekly surgery where pupils can go simply and confidentially. It was introduced in 2005 directly as an initiative by the Chair of Governors. Prior to the introduction there was excellent discussion and debate within the FGB and addressing a range of parental concerns including the appropriateness of provision of contraceptives and contraceptive advice to pupils under the age of consent.
- Adult and community education provision was significantly enhanced through the building of the new Adult and Community Learning Centre which opened in 2006 – this project was strongly supported by governors.
- Summer School has been run since 2003. In summer 2008 over 300 children enjoyed a very wide range of activities including sports training, creative activities, cookery, art and music.

Following a thorough review of extended schools in 2005, including a forward view of expected funding and the increasing scope of extended services an Extended Schools Coordinator was appointed for the Ross Cluster comprising 14 primary schools and one secondary school.

The Extended Schools Coordinator has attended a number of Governors meetings including Full Governing Body and the Enhanced Networks Working Party, ENWP (the scope of the Enhanced Networks Working Party covers community and key aspects of the Every Child Matters Agenda including health, wellbeing, safeguarding and attendance). The West Midlands Extended Services Manager, Mr Simon Bradley, has also attended the FGB.

Initially the governor coordination was through the Enhanced Networks working party, and the Extended Schools Coordinator attends meetings of this working party two or three each year to update governors on developments, to review progress and to allow governors to monitor and evaluate extended schools provision. The Enhanced Networks working party in turn reports to the Full Governing Body on extended schools activities.

John Kyrle High School achieved full service extended schools provision in June 2007. A number of primary schools in the cluster have also achieved this status.

In January 2008 a review of extended services governance was undertaken by the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, the Extended Services Coordinator and the Assistant Head, who is the line manager for the Extended Services Coordinator.

The strategic issues were:-

1. That the range of activities being encompassed within extended services was expanding
2. There was increased funding being routed through extended services which required greater governor oversight, awareness and control.
3. The existing governance structure did not effectively meet the requirements for governance by each of the schools in the cluster
4. The existing coordinator had communicated her intention to leave the post in summer 2008 due to her husband being relocated to a new job in Nepal, and the need and opportunity to establish clarity and responsibilities for the new coordinator.

The group researched options for governor structure and best practice. It was clear that extended services are a developing and changing area. Four models of governance were identified: - Limited company, voluntary committee, third party management or separate formal governing body for extended schools.

We decided that we needed to meet the strategic issues by inviting representatives from all schools in the cluster to a scoping meeting to review the extended schools provision and to decide the best way to proceed, ensuring that we address the need to meet governance requirements and also allow flexibility to develop to meet the expected changes in extended schools provision.

At the initial meeting it was decided to set up governance through a voluntary committee named "Ross Partnership of Extended Schools Governors Committee". Outline terms of reference were developed and agreed at a subsequent meeting. Membership was set as one governor from each school in the partnership, although we agreed that in the first year we would allow more than one member per school if an individual had particular expertise or value. It was decided that we would elect a chair for a 12 month period; the initial chair is Steve Lester, Vice Chair of JKHS governors and Chair of the ENWP.

The governors committee will meet at least 4 times each year. It will set the strategic direction for extended schools provision. It will ensure coordination and communication between all school governing bodies in the partnership and it will monitor and evaluate extended schools provision and activities.

We have involved the West Midlands Extended Schools Manager in these developments. He attended the partnership governors committee in October 2008. He stated at this meeting that in his opinion the structure we had developed was leading edge and he congratulated us on our enthusiasm and commitment. He said that he felt our approach to governance was best practice, not just in Herefordshire but also, based on his knowledge and experience, across the West Midlands region.

In addition to the Partnership Committee Meetings the Chair of the committee regularly meets with the Extended Schools Coordinator and Assistant Head to review progress and monitor and evaluate the extended schools work.

We will continue to take the extended schools provision forward within the partnership. We have committed to undertake a thorough review of Extended Schools governance in July 2009, 12 months after the initial establishment of the committee, to ensure that the committee is still fit for purpose and to make any necessary changes.