

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

17 March 2011

Coalition Changes – DCE update January/February 2011

Early Intervention Report

1. [“Early Intervention: The Next Steps”](#) interim report by Graham Allen was published highlighting the importance of early social and emotional development. His top three recommendations:
 - the 19 early intervention ‘top programmes’ identified in his Report should be supported and work undertaken with local areas to explore how they might be expanded.
 - Early Intervention should build on the strength of its local base by establishing 15 local Early Intervention Places to spearhead its development. These should be run by local authorities and the voluntary sector, who are already the main initiators and innovators of Early Intervention.
 - the establishment of an independent Early Intervention Foundation to support local people, communities and agencies, with initial emphasis on the 15 Early Intervention Places. He recommend that the Foundation should:
 - support local people, communities and agencies, with initial emphasis on the 15 Early Intervention Places;
 - be led and funded by non-central government sources, including local authorities, ethical and philanthropic trusts, foundations and charities as well as private investors who have already expressed an interest in this;
 - lead and motivate the expansion of Early Intervention;
 - evaluate Early Intervention policies based on a rigorous methodology and a strong evidence base, and encourage others to do the same; and
 - develop the capacity to attract private and public investment to Early Intervention.

Investment in 16-19 provision

2. Sixth-form colleges in England will receive investment as Schools Minister Lord Hill announced a £90 million package of funding. The money will enable sixth-form colleges to make essential improvements to buildings

and will help those schools and academies with sixth forms to meet the demand for additional 16-19 student places.

3. The funding package for 2011-12 includes:
 - £57.4 million to address priority building condition needs of the sixth-form college estate
 - £30 million for basic need funding for 16-19 student places to help sixth-form colleges, schools and academies meet the demands of demographic changes
 - making all sixth-form colleges eligible for Devolved Formula Capital for the first time – funding for maintenance will be given directly to the institution. This means the average sixth-form college will receive an additional £40,000
4. As discussed at the Children's Services Select Committee in January, Wiltshire is unlikely to receive any of this funding as there are no sixth form colleges in Wiltshire and there are no significant demographic changes.

National Curriculum Review

5. The Secretary of State for Education announced a major review of the National Curriculum in England. The review will be led by the Department for Education, supported by an Advisory Committee and Expert Panel made up of top teachers, academics, and business representatives. The review will:
 - replace the current substandard curriculum with one based on the best school systems in the world and provide a world-class resource for teachers and children
 - consider what subjects should be compulsory at what age
 - consider what children should be taught in the main subjects at what age.
6. The new National Curriculum will begin to be taught in maintained schools from September 2013. In order to allow schools time to manage the transition to the new curriculum effectively, the new Programmes of Study for English, mathematics, science, and physical education will be introduced from 2013, with Programmes of Study for other subjects coming into force the following year. The review will also advise on how the new curriculum should be phased in for each key stage.

Education Bill

7. The Education Bill was published 27 January 2010' It includes measures to tackle bad behaviour, tackle underperformance and improve the way in which schools are held to account. Measures in the Bill include:

- extending the Secretary of State's powers to intervene where schools are underperforming
 - introducing smarter school inspections. Ofsted will now focus only on four core elements of schools – pupil achievement, teaching, leadership and behaviour and safety
 - measuring our education system against the best in the world. Ofqual will compare our exam standards against the highest performing countries.
8. In addition, the Bill will strengthen teachers' powers to deal with bad behaviour. It gives teachers the power to search for any items schools ban that disrupt learning, like mobile phones and video cameras. It also gives schools the final say in expelling violent pupils and protects teachers from pupils making false allegations.

Academies Update

	Date opened
Sponsored academies	
The Wellington Academy	Sep 2009
Sarum Academy	Sep 2010
Non-sponsored academies	
Hardenhuish	Sep 2010
Lavington	Jan 2011
South Wilts	Jan 2011
Bishop Wordsworth's	March 2011

Munro Report

9. The interim report on child protection was published at the beginning of February. The areas for reform in the interim report include:
- the importance of a management and inspection process that monitors whether children are getting the help they need rather than being a tick-box exercise
 - developing social work expertise by keeping experienced, more senior social workers on the front line so they can develop their skills and better supervise more junior social workers
 - giving other professionals – health, police and family support services – easier access to social work advice when they have concerns about abuse and neglect
 - revising and reducing the statutory guidance, *Working together to safeguard children* – which is now 55 times longer than it was in 1974 – so that core rules are separated from professional advice
 - considering having a national system of trained reviewers of serious case reviews (SCRs), who can share findings so that lessons can be learnt nationally.

10. The final report is due in April 2011.

New Adoption Guidance

11. The government has launched [new adoption guidance](#) which aims to stop councils turning away potential adopters on basis of race, age or social background. The Government also plans to strengthen Ofsted inspections of adoption services to ensure services better serve vulnerable children in care and prospective adopters.

Vetting & Barring Scheme Remodelling Review

12. The [report and recommendations](#) were published in February suggesting that the new barring regime should cover only those who may have regular or close contact with vulnerable groups. Children's Minister Tim Loughton said:

- Protecting children and keeping them safe remains our top priority, but it's also important that well-meaning adults are not put off working or volunteering with children.
- The new system will be less bureaucratic and less intimidating. It will empower organisations to ask the right questions and make all the appropriate pre-employment checks, and encourage everyone to be vigilant.
- This is a commonsense and proportionate approach which will ensure that children are properly protected without driving a wedge between them and adults.

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Largely taken from the DFE website.