

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE 28 JANUARY 2010

---

#### PRIMARY BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICE

##### Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of the continuing development of the Primary Behaviour Support Service and its impact on the outcomes for children and young people in Wiltshire (previous report 13 Nov 08).

##### Background

2. An independent review of the Primary Behaviour Support Service was commissioned by the SEN Strategic Monitoring Board in 2007. The final report of the review was made available to all primary head teachers and other stakeholders in October 2007.
3. In response to the review and to progress recommendations, a Primary Behaviour Strategy Working Group (PBSWG) was established. The group has Head Teacher representation from primary schools across Wiltshire, is chaired by a Head Teacher and supported by Local Authority officers.
4. Progress on the work of this group has been regularly reported to the SEN and Social Deprivation Group with papers then going to Schools' Forum. The most recent report was presented on 19 November 2009.
5. Working with the PBSWG, fundamental changes have been made to the service which is now fully operational across the whole of Wiltshire ensuring all primary school children across the County have access to equitable support.
6. The service is committed to early intervention working with schools and other professionals to identify and meet needs at the earliest opportunity. This includes, where appropriate, engaging with parents and using the well proven intervention model of child, home, school in order to effect change and improve outcomes.
7. There is evidence from research that timely intervention at KS1 and 2 will enable children and their parents to remain engaged in learning. This will have consequences in improved attainment and reducing both fixed and permanent exclusions, substantially reduce attendance issues and involvement in criminal activity.
8. Additional risks which can be reduced through early intervention include avoiding the necessity of undertaking Statutory Special Educational Need Assessments, placements in special school provision and more children and young people needing to be accommodated because of the breakdown of school placements contributing to family difficulties.

## **Main Consideration for the Council**

9. The Behaviour Support Service (BSS) supports primary schools in meeting the needs of pupils 'who demonstrate features of emotional and behavioural difficulties, who are withdrawn or isolated, disruptive and disturbing, hyperactive and lack concentration; those with immature social skills; and those presenting challenging behaviours arising from other complex special needs' (SEN Code of Practice 7:60). The service provides specialised knowledge and skills to mainstream primary schools, maintaining a high level of credibility; it provides advice rooted in practical experience.
10. The service is the first point of contact for primary schools in relation to behavioural difficulties at whole school and individual pupil level. The service promotes early intervention. It works with the full primary age range across all levels of need. Some aspects of provision relate to whole school level work whilst other activities focus more on groups and individual pupils. To meet the needs of different schools and individuals the Primary Behaviour Support Service works in a variety of ways and offers a variety of support.
11. BSS staff endeavour to attend all relevant meetings in respect of all pupils. Once made aware, they support all schools in supporting pupils presenting challenging behaviour. The service is fully involved in all related initiatives and has strong relationships to ensure effective joint working with relevant agencies and partners. There is a comprehensive plan in place to ensure staff receive up to date training. Full service organisation work plans are in place.
12. The type and level of provision is now equitable across Wiltshire. Primary Behaviour Support staff (teachers and TAs) are organised into 10 small community teams located in areas that serve clusters of schools based on Wiltshire's community areas.
13. The BSS Strategic Manager has responsibility for the strategic development and performance management of the Service.

## **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

14. Engagement in education is significant for the wellbeing of individual children, families and communities.

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

15. Early intervention to meet social and behavioural needs of children is key to ensuring that the Five Outcomes as set out in Every Child Matters are achieved. These are Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Enjoy & Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing. Effective early intervention to support children in education promotes equality of opportunity.

## **Risk Assessment**

16. Good progress has been made in the development of this service in full partnership with headteachers and other targeted services in the Council.

## **Conclusion**

17. The increased capacity of the service is having a measurable impact. Staff now have greater capacity to address children's needs swiftly, there is less waiting for schools and therefore greater impact on schools, pupils and parents. The Behaviour Support Service is able to make a significant impact in local areas. One clear measure of improved outcomes is that of exclusion activity. The figures below evidence a reduction in exclusions both fixed and permanent. These are academic year figures.

07/08 - 21 PEX pupils, out of school for an average of 6 months

08/09 - 13 PEX pupils, out of school for an average of 3 months

07/08 – 225 pupils excluded with 425 fixed term exclusions

08/09 – 218 pupils excluded with 439 fixed term exclusions

18. In September/October '09 there were fewer permanent and fixed term exclusions than at the same time last year. This indicates a further reduction on previous year figures for 09/10 academic year. Direct feedback from Primary Head Teachers regarding the support and intervention has been a feature of the developing service and this has all been very positive.

19. With the reduction in Permanently Excluded Pupils it is now possible to maintain these pupils in mainstream primary schools. They continue to receive education with their peers in their community, a major contributory factor to improving outcomes. As there are fewer permanent exclusions the Well Centre (previous separate provision for permanently excluded pupils) has been closed and Primary Tuition Service (PTS) staff are being redeployed to support the Core Staff thus further increasing the service capacity directly to pupils within schools.

20. The budget for the service is set out in the attached Appendix 1. It is clear that the Service provides value for money.

For Children's Services Select Committee to note the progress made.

**Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Director Department for Children and Education**

---

Report Author: Mary Smith, Strategic Manager Primary Behaviour Support Service  
Date of Report: 21/12/09

## **Glossary**

|       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| BSS   | - | Behaviour Support Service                |
| PBSWG | - | Primary Behaviour Strategy Working Group |
| PEX   | - | Permanently Excluded Pupils              |
| PTS   | - | Primary Tuition Staff                    |
| SEN   | - | Special Educational Needs                |

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Funding Arrangements

Appendix 2 – Primary Behaviour Support Service Menu

Appendix 3 - Primary Behaviour Support Service Case Studies

## Appendix 1

### Funding arrangements

*Please note:*

*Funding figures are for financial year April '08 to March '09*

*Data on pupils, schools etc collated for academic year Sept '08 to July '09*

Core service Funding £676,876

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of pupils supported at School Action+ | 273 |
| Number of pupils supported with Statement    | 52  |
| Number of schools supported                  | 139 |

The budget for the core service for the current financial year 09/10 is £751,135. This includes the salaries for Strategic Manager, Operations Manager, 9 Behaviour Support Teachers and 12 Behaviour Support Assistants.

Primary Tuition Service Funding £249,161

*Full-time equivalent provision for PEX pupils:*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of pupils supported at School Action+   | 10 |
| Number of individuals supported with Statement | 7  |

*Provision for pupils with medical needs:*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Number of individuals supported at School Action+ | 3 |
| Number of individuals supported with Statement    | 3 |
| Number of individual supported with no SEN        | 8 |

*Full-time equivalent provision for pupils following SEN request:*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of individuals supported with Statement | 1 |
|--|---|

The budget for the tuition service for the current financial year 09/10 is £254,393. This includes the salaries for 2 teachers and 6 Behaviour Support Assistants

This page is intentionally left blank