

Primary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships in Essex

The Local Authority has identified £600,000 of funding to support primary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships (BAPs) in the 2009/10 academic year; the consultation process has been put in place to determine the distribution of this funding.

As agreed at the Area Development Groups, in partnership with EPHA, the LA is undertaking a series of consultations with all primary schools in Essex over the course of the Summer Term in order to establish BAPs from the start of the 2009/10 academic year. Each school will have the opportunity to attend one of ten conferences or to respond directly to this consultation document.

What is a Behaviour and Attendance Partnership?

Many primary schools will already be working in a collaborative cluster that fulfils at least one of the five design principles of a BAP

- All pupils are the collective responsibility of the partnership as embedded in a Vision statement.
- Schools within the partnership operate a Fair Access protocol that ensures that schools admit a fair share of 'hard to place' pupils and operate a managed moves protocol
- Schools are able to access high quality support and provision from the LA, and other providers, which meets the needs of pupils at risk of exclusion.
- Educational, personal development and welfare needs of pupils are identified early, assessed then the partnership arranges additional support as a coordinated package and monitors progress
- Schools agree local targets to meet required outcomes and the partnership manages its own performance and process.

It is likely that a primary BAP will look significantly different from the secondary model established in Essex from the start of the 2008/09 academic year.

The funding secured by the Local Authority provides an opportunity to develop clusters further with a specific focus on improving behaviour and attendance.

How will primary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships be organised?

The purpose of this consultation is to establish how many partnerships will be set up and how much funding each one will receive. Initial meetings with primary Area Development Groups, a dialogue with EPHA and individual discussions with head teachers have already taken place. A large number of clusters of primary schools already in existence have identified needs relating to behaviour and attendance and developed initiatives to address the issue but have been unable to secure appropriate levels of funding to put these aspirations into

operation. The funding provided by the LA will allow for the development of a number of programmes under the auspices of BAPs

The consultations are taking place across ten areas based on the existing secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships:

- ❖ Basildon
- ❖ Braintree
- ❖ Brentwood
- ❖ Castle Point/Rochford
- ❖ Chelmsford/Maldon
- ❖ Colchester
- ❖ Epping Forest
- ❖ Harlow
- ❖ Tendring
- ❖ Uttlesford

Following the consultations the Local Authority will consider proposals for partnerships put forward by clusters of schools. It is likely that the successful bids will be based around a specific project that addresses behaviour and attendance. Schools will be asked to provide an outline of the proposed project that details the number of schools involved, the numbers of pupils within those schools, the targeted cohort for the project and the impact that the establishment of a BAP will have on the schools, pupils and local community. Additional information relating to the process of making a proposal will be supplied at the consultation meetings or by contacting Ralph Holloway on the email address below from the start of the Summer Term 09. The Local Authority does not wish to be prescriptive about what a successful proposal will look like, where they will be located or the level of funding to be allocated. However, in order to provide some context, details of a new initiative developed by primary schools across Canvey Island are set out below.

Canvey Island Re-Start Unit

The eleven primary phase schools across Canvey Island have developed, in collaboration with the Local Authority, a Re-Start Unit targeted at Key Stage 2 pupils at risk of permanent exclusion. The Re-Start Unit is based at Canvey Junior School but is open to pupils at risk of exclusion across all of the schools. Pupils are given a short-term placement (although a specific length of placement may depend upon individual circumstances) and the educational and academic needs of the child are addressed alongside the behavioural issues identified as the reason for the referral. Three of the headteachers on Canvey Island form the management committee and the Unit is seen as belonging to all of the schools rather than the host school. At the completion of the placement a detailed reintegration programme takes place involving staff from both schools that will have collaborated throughout the duration. The approximate cost of the Unit is £30,000 and feedback from all schools involved has been positive: there has

been an impact on the behaviour of the pupil, increased engagement from parents and professional development for staff. Representatives from the Canvey schools will be speaking at the conferences to set out how a shared ethos and provision aimed at supporting the most vulnerable learners has had a real impact. There have been no permanent exclusions from Canvey primary schools this academic year.

LA support for Primary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships

The LA has made the decision to allocate all of the funding directly to schools rather than hold back money for administration and support staff. It will therefore not be possible to employ individual facilitators to work directly with partnerships in the same way as has happened in secondary schools. However, the Children's Support Service will work with each partnership to provide guidance and advice on the establishment and monitoring of programmes.

What happens next?

All schools are invited to attend one of the ten conferences to contribute to the consultation. If you are unable to attend please email ralph.holloway@essex.gov.uk with your views. The bidding process will take place over the course of the Summer Term with funding to be allocated from the start of the 2009/10 academic year.