

Extended Schools

“Children at the heart of schools: schools at the heart of communities”

The Extended Schools initiative gives real opportunities to develop and deliver services and activities on a very local basis by working through and with schools. This needs a flexible approach where the development of strong working relationships between schools, young people, parents, health service, voluntary organisations, the community and statutory agencies will be vital to the long term success of this approach.

The government has just published the Extended Schools Prospectus which sets out the expectation that all schools will be expected to offer children, young people, families and the wider community access to the following range of activities and services by **2010**.

- **Childcare**
- **Study support and other out of school activities e.g. sport, drama, enterprise activities**
- **Parenting support including family learning**
- **Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist services e.g. speech therapy, intensive behaviour support and sexual health advice**
- **Community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning**

These programmes / services could be provided independently, across a cluster of local schools or working in partnership with other providers.

Children with disabilities or special educational needs must be able to access all the new services.

How services develop in any particular community and school will depend upon local need and existing provision and there is no set model as what is appropriate in one school may not be the right approach in another.

Funding:

- the prospectus states that there will be funds directly available to schools through the School Standards Grant in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 to develop the extended schools agenda.
- The Early Years and Childcare team will be pleased to deal with queries around childcare related funding: they can be contacted through the Childcare Information Service on 01603 622292.

If you would like further information or an opportunity to talk through ideas please contact the Extended Schools Enquiry Line on 01603 638006