



Community Education/ Extended Schools Newsletter

Extended Schools for Norfolk!

Many of you will be aware of local developments related to the development of Extended Schools quite simply because you are involved or even causing them to happen!

- The Extended Schools Enquiry line is now available – Deb Duncan and her colleagues await your call. (01603 638006).
- We have launched the “Community Leadership for Norfolk” research project with colleagues from 20 schools, and the National College for School Leadership. Over the next 3 years colleagues will develop models/styles of leadership with community partners which will enable successful work with Children’s Services and Extended Schools.
- Plans for Earlham Full Service Extended School are well advanced. Dawn Travis is working with Piers Ranger (Deputy Headteacher) and others to put in place all the elements. Sarah Grainger from Norwich PCT is bringing a team of Health Visitors to work from the site – excellent news.
- Thetford and Great Yarmouth will also benefit from a Full Service Extended School and discussions with the 2 Excellence Clusters will begin the process of deciding which school is nominated by the LEA.
- The Park High School have just learned the DfES is supporting the Extended School work they have started with 2 years funding to develop the work.

- The guidelines to help all schools plan and develop their own notion of Extended School are nearly complete. Advice and information on finance, premises, insurance and much more will soon be available to all Norfolk Schools and will be on Esinet.
- Terry Simons is starting work with the North Walsham Cluster to develop together a “cluster” response to Extended Schools.
- Beverley Evans is the new Head of Adult Education (starting with Norfolk on 1 March 2004). Beverley is keen to see how the Adult Education Service can respond to the 14-19 Curriculum and develop ways of working with Specialist Colleges.
- Despite a very difficult budget for the County Council the elected members following discussions with the Director of Education, have agreed a plan to increase the amount of youth work delivered in the County. This will ensure the Service’s funding is grown over the next 5 years towards meeting Government targets. Contact your local Youth Work District Team to see how the local provision for young people will grow.

Martyn Livermore
Lifelong Learning Development Officer

Extended Schools — the role they play in childcare

With the introduction of the Education Act last summer, school-governing bodies have been empowered to manage childcare on school premises.

This together with support from the DfES has encouraged many schools to consider offering childcare facilities.

Schools offering childcare makes a lot of sense particularly in areas of disadvantage where voluntary or independent providers are harder to find; it can also be difficult to justify opening new facilities that may not remain sustainable. Schools, with ready-made facilities and premises could be the answer to closing the childcare gap.

Schools also readily lend themselves to breakfast clubs and after school care for children of school age.. Providing childcare for pre-school children in their local community and at a school they may ultimately attend also leads to smooth transition into the school environment.

This extension of services does not stop at childcare, it can also support community needs and be a single point of access for an integrated range of family services including childcare, healthcare and adult education.

What impact will this have on existing providers?

Many readers of Partnership News may have had a long hard struggle securing appropriate premises for their provision or may still be searching and the thought of

competition from schools may cause concern.

Rest assured EYDCP is very aware of spread of childcare in Norfolk and any request for support from new providers, whether schools, volunteer groups or independent providers, would be assessed based on demand and existing provision in the area.

School Governors are also empowered to appoint partners or outside organisations to run the childcare provision on their behalf.

Next Steps for Schools thinking of offering childcare

Provision

If you think the children and parents in your community would benefit from childcare facilities on school premises then speak to us. A Development Worker can help you through the childcare maze—call 01603 62 22 92.

Further information is available on the DfES website, which is www.dfes.gov.uk

Marcelle Curtis

Head of EYCC Strategy



Families make a musical journey!

For Thorpe Hamlet families, Family Learning Weekend 2003 meant going on a journey to Africa through storytelling and music. For me it meant a lot of work, trying to get funding, chasing up parents, chasing up workshop providers and trying to keep six year olds with musical instruments quiet and still enough to have their photo taken!

On Friday 10th October, Anna Mudeka and her band entertained parents and children in an open assembly. On Saturday 11th Tony Ogogo of Heritage Ceramics led a day of singing, dancing and storytelling. The workshops tied in with Black History Month. This is an event that I feel is extremely important, as a chance to broaden the horizons of families in the area.

Feedback from those who attended was very positive; all who filled in feedback forms said they would attend a similar event again. Around thirty families were involved over the two days, including some from Sure Start Thorpe Hamlet, with whom we worked to provide activities for younger children. The music on Fri-

day and the chance to try some drumming on the Saturday were very popular.

We noted that there was a good representation of fathers, which is often lacking in family learning and school events generally. It was hard to work out which was more entertaining, watching dads dancing, seeing the headteacher trying some African moves, or watching Terry Simons strut his funky stuff.

Being relatively new in post I have also learnt a lot from the weekend. I now know that more activity and shorter sessions would be better when dealing with younger children. This is obviously something I was aware of but had forced home when the children discovered hula hoops at the back of the hall and found them more interesting than traditional African stories!

The weekend was enjoyable tiring though it was and the funding from the Learning and Skills Council was key.

We hope to host more events of this type in future.

Christina Poulton

Thorpe Hamlet First School



A Race against Time

Sprowston has grown from an agricultural village with 992 inhabitants in 1921 to the most densely populated parish in Norfolk with over 15,000 inhabitants. Just two miles from Norwich City Centre and split by busy arterial roads, it is usually perceived as part of the suburban sprawl.

I came late to the Sprowston CE partnership in November 2001 with an initial contract for four months. My first task was to invite people who had been involved with the Millennium celebrations to an evening pre-Christmas party at the High School. After the punch and mince-pies, we divided into three twenty-minute focus groups who indicated an interest in the history of the parish, especially in the living history, and in making that history known to other residents in a variety of ways. Those who showed most interest, and had time, were the retired residents of Sprowston, most of whom had had to leave school at the ages of fourteen or fifteen without any academic qualifications, but had managed heavy responsibilities and gained rich life experience ever since.

Two very active groups were formed, one group of men still at work, known as Archive IT, meeting on Thursday evenings to find out about and begin computer archiving, and a Reminiscence & Research Group who meet monthly to share memories and research (documents, photographs and talks). A committee was elected for the sustainability of the project, and Sprowston Heritage developed a con-

stitution as a not-for-profit organisation and fourth member of the CE partnership. With the support of the partnership these groups have burgeoned, each inspiring the other. A Sprowston 'Tapestry' Group, comprising about fourteen men and women, has since formed to embroider four panels based on Sprowston's history, and a Community Play is just over the horizon. Several people have written items which we hope to publish.

There are now 683 images on the archive, using the Comma software programme, with additional sound tapes. The archive shows whatever information the donors of the material provide and identifies people and their connections for those who search for them individually or in groups. Topics can be presented in albums or storylines, to illustrate talks, and as silent slide-shows, as on Family Learning Day with many other linked activities.

Sprowston Heritage and the CE partnership have great potential for development, especially for the benefit of the schools. We have been awarded a good grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund, conditional upon achieving match cash funding. Some of my time has had to be used to secure this funding.... Shall we get it or not? Find the answer in the next newsletter, perhaps!

Liz Matthews
Sprowston Community Education Project

Extended Schools Pathfinder—Evaluation Results

Four Schools: Downham Market, Flegg, King Edward VII, The Park, all participated in an extended school pathfinder project between November 2002 and August 2003.

The project financed by the DfES, supported by the LEA, sponsored some exciting and interesting projects including:

- A cinema club at Flegg, developed as part of student involvement in business initiatives.
- Additional parents and toddlers provision run by students at Downham Market.
- Joint sports activity, including promotion of girls' football at King Edward Schools with students also from The Park.

There are a number of learning points identified by the report:

- It is important to allocate co-ordination responsibility for extended school development to a specific staff member with sufficient time to fulfil the role.
- The project has a greater chance of success, when the senior school management team are

engaged with the project; or a senior person fulfils the co-ordinator role.

- Building comprehensive and effective partnerships with a range of organisations and agencies is vital for service/activity delivery.
- Involving governors, staff, community groups, local organisations is essential.
- Undertaking outreach work in the local community to extend links with local people and organisations is beneficial.
- Providing a friendly, helpful, contact point, creating social spaces for sitting and eating, making information available in interesting, colourful ways; are an essential part of making the community feel welcome to the school venue.
- Sustainability requires engagement with young people and the community in ways which both encourages and empowers them.

Overall, the findings are positive and encouraging for the future of extended schools in Norfolk.

Terry Simons
Extended Schools Project Manager

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Swaffham Learning Community	Chris Heron	01760 726106	cheron@ecotech.org.uk
Wymondham Learning Community	Kate Wood	01953 601051	kate@wymondhamlearning.org.uk

Date for your Diary

"Fun for All"

Saturday 20 March

11.00 am-3.00 pm

Alderman Peel High School

Market Lane

Wells

For details contact:

Fiona MacCallum

Tel: 01328 710476

Extended Schools Enquiry Line

Contact: Deborah Duncan
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