

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

**Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.**

Date: Tuesday, 2 November 2004

Time: 9.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of a meeting of the Education of Looked After Children held on 18th October, 2004 (copy herewith). (Pages 1 - 5)
- to receive minutes
4. Proposal to 'amalgamate' Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior School (David Hill, Manager, School Organisation, Planning and Development) (report herewith) (Pages 6 - 11)
- to agree to consult on a proposal to amalgamate both schools
5. LEA Governor Appointments (Paul Carney, Principal Officer, Managed Services).
- to determine LEA Governor appointments

The following items are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under those paragraphs, indicated below, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:-

6. Children's Amusements - Clifton Park (Peter Cunningham, Play and Premises Officer) (report herewith) (Pages 12 - 13)
- to accept a tender
(Exempt under paragraph 9 of the Act – any terms proposed by or to the authority for the supply of goods or services).
7. Keppel's Column (Guy Kilminster, Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager) (report herewith). (Pages 14 - 20)
- to determine which of the available options to actively pursue
(Exempt under paragraph 7 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)).

**EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Gosling and Kirk.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councilor Littleboy.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2004 be received.

9. THE GET REAL TEAM - PROGRESS REPORT

Katy Hawkins, Manager of the Get Real Team, gave an update on progress and reported on the following :-

(1) The Team

(a) A new Social Worker joined the Team on 7th October, 2004 and a new Admin. Worker had taken up her post and the Team was now fully staffed.

(b) The Management Team continued to closely monitor workloads and action plans to ensure the Team's effectiveness.

(c) During the Summer break, Tony Dewhurst and Sue Dean, DfES Regional Advisors for the Trent Region assessed the Team's performance, action planning and overall effectiveness. A copy of their comments had been put in writing and would be supplied to Members of this Panel. Their only comment for improvement was the development of a Senior Management Steering Group that could make necessary decisions to support the work of the Team. It was confirmed that this Steering Group had been established.

(d) - Locality Team meeting dates were being arranged in order to meet regularly and improve liaison and offer additional support directly to Social Work Teams.

(e) The Team will be attending a Chair of Governors meeting in November and would pursue the issue of every school having a Designated Governor for Children in Public Care. Governing Bodies were currently undergoing the process of elected designated members, and it was hoped to have the results of this by the October term break to consider any gaps and help Governing Bodies overcome them.

(f) A comprehensive monitoring system was being explored and developed to enable the Team to closely track all Year 6 and Year 11 pupils. This approach would ensure regular contact, monitoring and assessment to enable the best possible results at key stage 2 and in

GCSE's.

(g) A package of training was being developed for Foster Carers to be started in the New Year. This training was viewed as essential and all carers would be encouraged to attend. Extra training would be developed once the level of need had been ascertained.

(h) The education policy for Residential Units was being revised to ensure that Units had a nominated education person who would be trained and supported.

(i) A new way of collecting attendance figures for all Looked After Children, with support of the Education Welfare Service, had been negotiated. Termly attendance print outs would be brought to the Team within the first week of the new term. This allowed patterns of attendance to be examined and ensured a speedy response to issues of non-attendance.

(j) A new system was being established to improve the school attendance of children who return home on Care Orders. A form was being devised for parents to sign when their child was returned to their care and to inform them of their duties regarding education and the consequences of not following this up.

Resolved:- (i) That a copy of the DfES Regional Advisors' letter be forwarded to Members of this Panel.

(ii) That steps be taken to ensure good communication between designated teachers who have the responsibility for looked after children and the Unit Manager in Residential Units and Foster Carers and that this be monitored.

(2) Pupils off School Roll

There were currently four young people off school roll and the action being taken to meet the pupils' educational needs were explained.

(3) GCSE Results

A breakdown of the GCSE examination results for 2004 were submitted, together with comparisons from last year.

Resolved:- That the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services, be kept informed of GCSE Results.

(4) Local Public Service Agreement

A reported had been presented to the Cabinet Member for Social Services on 17th September, 2004 suggesting that, based on the results of 2004 and the Team's predictions for the 2005 cohort, it was most unlikely that the target of 90% would be reached of Care leavers

achieving the required grade of 1 GCSE at grade A to G, by the end of the PSA period.

However, given that a total of eight young people had achieved five GCSE passes at grade A* - C during 2003 and 2004, it was anticipated that by the end of the LPSA period they would qualify as care leavers and thus enable the target to be met. This represented 70% of the reward grant

Looking at the key stage 2 SAT's results, the Team's results fell short of this year's target, at 29.8%. . The Team is seeking predicted results from school in order for it to be assessed if there were any young people whose grades could be improved with targeted support, to enable the Team to meet the LPSA target of 44%. Not having specific primary teaching experience within the Team was a limiting factor in this case. The team has received predicted grades and at this time the overall attainment is predicted at 57%, however there are some risk factors as this is a highly transient group and the actual cohort who sit the test may be significantly different. As it is such a small cohort size, one or two children entering the system 2 days before the Sat's could have a significant impact upon the results.

(5) Personal Education Plans

The Team were undertaking a number of initiatives aimed at improving performance, examples of which were:-

- Team managers were being given monthly up to date statistics which included Pep's out of date for that month.
- Contacting individual Social Workers for year 11 and Year 6 pupils who had out of date plans, as this was a LPSA proxy measure.
- Attending team meetings to ensure Social Workers were clear and able to undertake their responsibility in regard to Personal Education plans.
- Working with the Planning and Protection Section to look at a plan to improve admin support for the sending out of completed Pep's, and ensuring each statutory review checked the date of PEP and gave a short timescale for it to be completed.

(6) Activities for Looked After Children

It was a disappointing summer; some of the activities offered had to be cancelled due to poor take up, despite extensive advertising through Carers, the Fostering Team and Locality Teams.

A Saturday Club was being developed from the end of October, 2004 which would be focussing on 8-14 year olds. It would be held once per

month and offer a number of taster activities for young people to try out. Advertising had commenced and there had been a positive response.

Criminal Records Bureau checks on two Driving Instructors were awaited and upon satisfactory return of these checks, driving lessons would commence. There was a significant list of young people who wanted to undertake driving lessons.

Meetings had taken place with the Swimming Co-ordinator, Education, Culture and Leisure Services regarding the provision of swimming lessons for young people who could not swim. Contact had been made with parents and carers and lessons were being arranged at their local pools. There were 50+ pupils in this Group.

(7) Teenagers to Work

The Rotherham Trainee Initiative pilot project, funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund had begun. Five young people had been engaged to the project and they had recently undertaken a residential course aimed at preparing them for the world of work. Reference was made to the success of one young teenager who had joined the Streetpride Team.

The Team was still pursuing the issue about the lack of placements to offer young people within the Council and that a more comprehensive report on this would be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved:- That a report be submitted, as early as possible, to the Delegated Powers Meetings of both the Cabinet Members for Education, Culture and Leisure Services and Social Services, on the current position of the Teenagers to Work Project, including a full breakdown and the next steps for its implementation, as requested at Minute No. 43 of the Cabinet Member, Social Services, Delegated Powers Meeting held on 20th August, 2004.

(8) Diary Dates

The following events had been planned and Members of this Panel were invited to attend:-

Consultation Evening with the Young People in the theme of Halloween – 29th October, 2004

Designated Teacher Conference - 3rd November, 2004

Post 16 Awards - 10th November, 2004 (subject to change)

Members expressed a preference for the Post 16 Awards to take place on 24th November, 2004 at 4.30 pm after the Council Meeting, this being a more convenient date for Elected Members to attend.

It was reported that the Annual Book Fair held on 16th October, 2004 had

been very successful with 130 young people attending.

Resolved:- That the events be noted and that the Post 16 Awards event be re-arranged to take place on Wednesday, 24th November, 2004 at 4.30 pm.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on Monday, 13th December, 2004 at 9.30 am.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services Cabinet Member and Advisers Meeting
2.	Date:	2 nd November 2004
3.	Title:	Proposal to 'amalgamate' Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior School -Ward No. 8 (Keppel)
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary

It is proposed to consult on the amalgamation of 'Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior Schools'. Members have agreed previously agreed to consult as appropriate where two schools meet the considerations for amalgamation which are described in the 'School Organisation Plan'.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the consultation on the proposal to the amalgamation of 'Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior Schools' as described in Appendix 'A' is begun and that a further report be brought to Members with details of the outcome of the consultation.

7. Proposals and Details

The proposal to be consulted on is:-

It is proposed to make a prescribed alteration to Redscope Infant and Junior Schools from April 2005. Redscope Junior School will be closed and there will be a change in the age range of Redscope Infant School from its existing 3-7 years to 3-11 years.

The School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a nursery of up to 52 places (26 FTE). This would mean an admission number of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- i) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- ii) to produce financial savings to deploy elsewhere within the Education Services Budget.

Considerations for amalgamation are described in the School Organisation Plan in Section 4, 'LEA Policies and Principles'. (These are described in **Appendix A**)

There is currently a vacancy for the Head Teacher's post at the Junior School, both schools are on the same site, and the admission limit of the two schools is 60. The conditions for consultation on an amalgamation are met.

8. Finance

The amalgamation of the two schools will, when comparing the budget of the existing two separate schools lead to savings.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	£	£	£	£
Total Saving	(44,000)	44,000	44,000	44,000
Cumulative	nil	44,000	88,000	132,000

The financial savings are savings on staffing, which arise from the loss of a Head Teacher's post from the school's budget. The 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' procedures protect the school budget in 2005-06 and an additional +5% is added to the budget of an amalgamated school. (The savings on a Head Teacher's salary are therefore negated in the first year.) Guidance on 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' for future years has not yet been issued and the projected saving are based on the cumulative loss of a Head Teacher's salary.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks associated to an amalgamation are detailed in Section 4 of **Appendix A**.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The principal advantages of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlement:

- removal of the school transfer at the end of key stage 1;
- provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- a unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- the potential to remodel the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- a whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase; more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The School Organisation Plan and the 'School Standards and Framework Act, 1998'

The consultation process is described in **Appendix A**.

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Proposal to 'amalgamate' Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior Schools

1 The Proposal and its Purpose

It is proposed to make a prescribed alteration to Redscope Infant and Junior Schools from April 2005. Redscope Junior School will be closed and there will be a change in the age range of Redscope Infant School from its existing 3-7 years to 3-11 years.

The School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a nursery of up to 52 places (26 FTE). This would mean an admission number of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- i) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- ii) to produce financial savings to deploy elsewhere within the Education Services Budget.

Considerations for amalgamation are described in the School Organisation Plan in Section 4, 'LEA Policies and Principles'. These are where: -

- 1) It is possible to accommodate all of the children on one site, thereby removing surplus places (if applicable).
- 2) The admission limit is already no more than 60, or can be reduced to no more than 60, by the associated removal of surplus places.
- 3) Both Key Stages are on the same site.
- 4) There is a vacancy for one or both head teacher posts (and possibly deputy head teachers also) as a result of retirement or resignation.

2 Existing Situation: Numbers on roll and Capacity

2.1 Redscope Infant School

Net Capacity	=	180
Admission Limit	=	60
Number on Roll (Jan 2004 NOR)	=	162
Surplus Places	=	18

2.2 Redscope Junior School

Net Capacity	=	240
Admission Number	=	60
Number on Roll (Jan 2004 NOR)	=	247
Surplus Places	=	-7

3 Development of Numbers on Roll

Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Infant	162	164	164	168	162
Junior	247	244	239	226	222
Total	409	408	403	394	384

4 Advantages and Disadvantages

The principal ADVANTAGES of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlement:

- removal of the school transfer at the end of key stage 1;
- provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- a unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- the potential to remodel the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- a whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase;
- more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

The principal DISADVANTAGES of amalgamation are:

- the loss of the Head teacher of one of the schools which could impact upon accessibility to staff, parents and pupils (this may have particular relevance where schools serve areas of social and economic disadvantage);
- potential difficulties in bringing together two different sets of working practice;
- possible fear of and resistance to change amongst staff, governors and parents;
- in some (but by no means all) cases, a lack of staff expertise in teaching and management across the two key stages.

5 Financial Implications

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	£	£	£	£
Total Saving	(44,000)	44,000	44,000	44,000
Cumulative	nil	44,000	88,000	132,000

The financial savings are savings on staffing, which arise from the loss of a Head Teacher's post from the school's budget. The 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' procedures protect the school budget in 2005-06 and an additional +5% is added to the budget of an amalgamated school. (The savings on a Head Teacher's salary are therefore negated in the first year.) Guidance on 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' for future years has not yet been issued and the projected saving are based on the cumulative loss of a Head Teacher's salary.

6 Consultation Timetable

Cabinet Member to
agree to consultation

2nd November 2004

Pre statutory consultation period,
including meetings with governors,
staff and parents

until 2nd December 2004

Report to the Cabinet	16 th December 2004
Publication of statutory notices	5 th January 2005
6 week period for representations and objections closes	16 th February 2005
LEA/School Organisation Committee decision	March 2005
Implementation	1 st April 2005

By virtue of paragraph(s) 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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