

**Meeting of the Cabinet – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**'Vision 2025' – A Strategic Plan for Learning**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report seeks to inform the Cabinet about the work that the Children's Services Directorate is carrying out on behalf of the Borough to develop its provision for all children and young people.
2. Over the next two decades we need an ambitious strategic learning plan for Dudley which supports children, young people and their families. Young people will need to be highly motivated and engaged in their learning in order to be successful and manage change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. This strategic plan for learning will be founded on a learning vision statement. This statement will contain the key principles that underpin all our aspirations and the detailed plans that will be prepared both now and into the future.
4. We want to build on current successes and ensure a transformational step change can take place in order that young people have outstanding opportunities in the future.
5. The strategic plan will span the years 2010 – 2025 and will be known as 'Vision 2025' – A strategic plan for learning.
6. The report also seeks to consult with Cabinet members to ensure the Vision 2025 statement incorporates their views. (See Appendix 1)
7. It is suggested that the draft Vision 2025 statement is shared with members and the Youth Council in order to obtain their views. Officers will also meet with a representative group of young people for a wider consultation before a final statement is drafted.
8. A further paper will be presented at the next Cabinet meeting. It will contain the final draft that incorporates the views drawn from all the consultations and the first part of our strategic plan for learning.

**Background**

9. The Directorate of Children's Services on behalf of the Council, is working with other Directorates, all schools, colleges, Children's Trust partners and other stakeholders to develop a long term strategic plan for learning provision which will run from 2010 – 2025. It will be known as 'Vision 2025' - A strategic plan for learning.

This plan will be founded on a clearly articulated vision that has been agreed by all partners within the Borough involved in supporting young people to learn.

## **10. Vision 2025**

The final Vision 2025 statement will encompass the key principles outlined in 'Every Child Matters' (ECM) and the Children's Plan. It will take our Children's Services motto 'Putting children and young people first in Dudley' and the Children's Trust vision statement 'we want all children and young people in Dudley to be healthy, happy and fulfilled' and build on them. The vision statement will contain the principles on which our strategic plan is based. This ambitious plan will ensure that services provided for children, young people and their families in Dudley are transformed from good to outstanding.

## **11. The Strategic Plan**

The strategic plan will translate the vision statement into a more detailed strategy. It will outline how the principles within the vision statement will be delivered across the Borough and within Townships.

It will ensure that the needs of individual children, young people and their families within our communities are met.

The plan will continue to be developed throughout 2009 and into 2010. It will incorporate the Boroughs 'Readiness to Deliver' document required for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) phase 1 submission to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in December 2009.

## **12. What does this mean for Dudley?**

### **12.1 What have we done so far**

Since September 2008 work has been ongoing to develop and agree a vision for future learning provision across the Borough. The final version of Vision 2025 will be confirmed during October 2009. The Borough wide vision statement will be supported by a strategic plan for learning which will include individual Township planning that will meet the needs of the distinct communities they contain.

### **12.2 What are we doing now**

Having worked on the draft Vision 2025 statement, a pupil's needs analysis is being produced along with an audit of current practice and provision. These are being set out in Township portfolios. They will outline current learning provision, developments taking place across the five aspects of the ECM agenda and the needs that must be met for the future. The portfolio will give details of the offer that will be available to young people and their families which turns the Vision 2025 statement into pathways to learning. The themes that will be included are:

- School choice, diversity and access
- Curriculum and learning offer
- Support for vulnerable groups

- Integrated and Extended services availability
- Targeted youth support
- SEN and Inclusion strategy
- ICT and technology strategy
- Sustainability plans
- 14 – 19 learning agenda
- Access to information, advice and guidance
- FE provision
- Sports and cultural facilities
- Future development opportunities
- Links to other agencies to support the development of Every Child Matters.
- Support for Parents

These will be underpinned by:

- Workforce development, continuing professional development opportunities for staff who support young people to learn
- Capital funding strategy
- Place planning and estate strategy for the future

The strategic plan will be delivered over the short, medium and long term. The short term covers the next three years, from 2009/10– 2012/13. The medium term covers the following five year period, from 2013/14 – 2017/18. The longer term covers the final seven years from 2018/19 – 2025.

The short term element of the plan is currently being developed with headteachers from each township in conjunction with local authority officers.

Further and wider collaboration and consultation will take place between August and November 2009 in order to develop a Borough wide strategic plan for learning.

### **12.3 What will we do Next**

We will produce a Borough wide plan which will have successfully brought together each township's needs, it will outline the curriculum pathways for young people; the facilities that will be required to deliver the learning pathways and the commissioning strategy for 14 – 19. This will be supported by a leadership, management and governance strategy that will enable the township to be held accountable for the young people it supports.

In time this blue print for future learning, education and support for children, young people and their families will be adopted. It will be flexible enough to incorporate any new local or national initiatives that will enable the vision to be delivered. This plan will include the refurbishment, remodelling or rebuilding of both existing and new facilities.

In order for the plan to be delivered locally, a number of funding streams will be joined together to support its delivery. These will include national & local government funding, and any other sources of funding made available from partners.

## **Finance**

13. The initial development of the vision will be delivered within existing Directorate resources. The technical element of our BSF submission will be supported by consultancy and the costs will be funded from the income generated from the disposal of surplus school buildings.

## **Law**

14. The provision of learning by the Council for children adults and families falls within a range of Council functions including the Education and Children Acts and Local Government Acts.

## **Equality Impact**

15. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.
16. Children and young people will be fully consulted during the development of Vision 2025 – A strategic plan for learning

## **Recommendation**

17. It is recommended that:-
- Cabinet members note progress made to date on developing our Vision 2025 – A strategic plan for learning.
  - Cabinet members suggestions/contributions/views/thoughts are sought on the draft vision statement.
  - Cabinet members endorse the work to be undertaken next.



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## **List of Background Papers**