



Ashford 1 and Ashford Rural Local Children's Services Partnerships

Heather Goodacre, Extended Schools Development Manager

LCSP	Primary	Secondary	Academies	PRU's	Special
Ashford 1	21	5	-	2	2
Ashford Rural	19	1	-	0	0



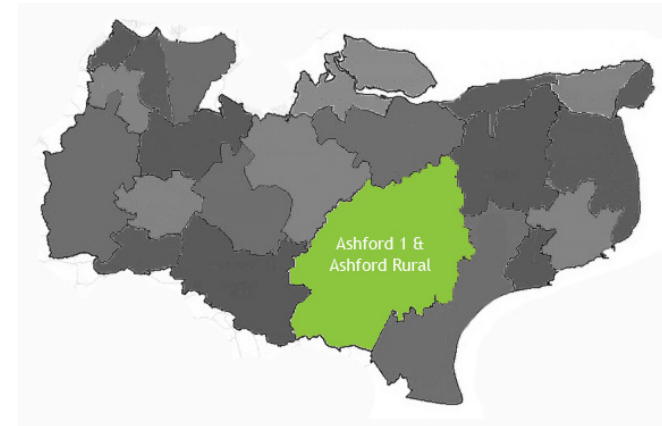
Ashford 1

71% of schools have achieved National Healthy Schools status
75% of schools providing access to the full core offer of Extended Services

Ashford Rural

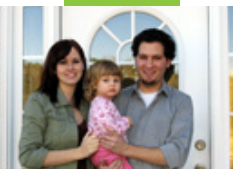
85% of schools have achieved National Healthy Schools status
75% of schools providing access to the full core offer of Extended Services

Figures as at 30 September 2009



2008-09 Extended Services priorities for the partnerships:

- Broadening range of opportunities and activities for children and families.
- Transition.
- Improve wellbeing outcomes.
- Community Cohesion.
- Supporting literacy and reading.



Key Extended Services Programmes for 2008-09

Addressing issues of rurality for children and young people

The Extended Services Development Manager (ESDM) and the Local Children's Services Partnership Manager (LCSPM) worked with the Cranbrook and Paddock Wood LCSP and KCC Rural Regeneration, to highlight the difficulties facing young people living in outlying rural areas. Young people from the partnerships were consulted and they produced a DVD showing interviews with other local children and adults across both areas. The DVD captured the issues raised during the consultation. In addition, views were sought from primary age children. These views were then shared at a Rural Partnerships Conference, where two key priorities arose to be taken forward; 'Things for Young People to Do' and 'Easier Access to Services'. The feedback from the conference has helped to direct resources and inform planning. **CYPP Priority 6**

'Active Movement' pilot

Extended Services has worked in partnership with other Ashford Rural partnership staff to organise a pilot based on the New Zealand 'Active Movement' programme for schools. Active movement is important for the healthy development of a child's brain - young children learn from movement and being physically active. Active movement also discourages health problems such as diabetes and obesity, and helps build tomorrow's athletes. Active movement is just as important for newborns as it is for older children. By helping children to get active, it helps their body to develop, helps them to learn and to feel safe, and to show them they are loved. The developers of Active Movement were invited to Ashford from New Zealand. They then trained 13 "Champions" to raise the awareness of Active Movement to parents/carers and other practitioners. An Active Movement conference took place in March 2009 which promoted the initiative to a wide audience. Next steps will involve offering training to all Health Visitors, as well as practitioners in early years settings and schools. A post will also be created to evaluate and coordinate the roll-out of Active Movement across the Ashford district. **CYPP Priority 2**

'Park Safe' project

Extended Services led and coordinated this project in partnership with the Community Safety Unit and the Kent Messenger Walking Initiatives. The project targeted parents of school-aged pupils and aimed to encourage them to park safely, particularly in the roads close to schools. Parksafes highlighted the dangers of poor parking near congested school gates and how lives can be put at risk if emergency vehicles cannot get through. A competition was also run to enable pupils at each of the 30 participating schools to create a poster to encourage parents to park safely and all members of the community were able to vote online for



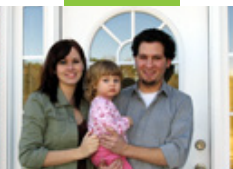
their favourite posters. The top voted illustration at each school was printed on a special banner and displayed at the entrance. This aimed to raise the profile of the project further. In addition, Extended Services in partnership with Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue are arranging 'drive bys' at 14 schools to raise awareness of the importance of being able to access school roads at peak times. **CYPP Priority 8**

Targeted Summer Transition Project

Extended Services, in partnership with the Behaviour Educational Support Team (BEST) and Kent Police worked with 10 schools in Ashford One to run a summer transition project targeted at vulnerable young people. The aim of the project was to aid transition to Secondary school and build self-esteem and confidence in the young people involved. Pupils from 3 secondary schools were involved in the project: The North School, The Towers School and Ashford Christ Church CE Maths & Computer College. 56 young people were involved over 9 days and they took part in a variety of activities including a day at Lydd Watersports, Arethusa Venture Centre and a day at their new schools with Charlton Athletic. The children really benefitted from forming new friendships and there was an abundance of peer support across the groups. The children learnt to listen to each other and to instructions from adults and were able to take responsibility for themselves. Extended Services worked with the partnership transition Family Liaison Officer (FLO) and schools to identify vulnerable children due to go to the 3 secondary schools, who might benefit from involvement in the project. Every family whose child was part of the project received a home visit, providing information and aims of the project. Parental engagement and understanding was crucial to the success of the programme. The young people were met in their new schools where they could see a friendly face and any issues could be addressed and resolved. Extended Services funded the activity days and also ensured that the project catered for all vulnerable pupils across the partnership. **CYPP Priority 2**

Summer Family Learning Activities

Extended Services coordinated (in partnership with the Extended Schools Coordinator for Ashford Christchurch CE Maths & Computer College), a range of activities for families and young people across the district. These were held during the summer holidays. The activities linked in with the local Children's Centres and included sports, archery, cookery, IT, arts and crafts. On the Stanhope Estate in South Ashford activities took place in the area every day over the summer. Activities were not age restricted and were linked in with Moat (a housing association) and the Ray Allen centre. Extended Services funding helped to pay for resources and staff time. More than 960 children and their parents attended the activities over the holiday period. This was run in addition to holiday activities programmes at other schools including The Towers and Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, which helped to ensure adequate holiday provision across the whole district. **CYPP Priority 6**



Summer Holiday Activities Booklet

Extended Services developed a booklet of summer activities that were taking place across both Ashford partnerships for children and young people. This included details of events that were taking place at different venues including schools, Children's Centre, leisure centres, libraries and youth centres (and included events that were being coordinated and/or funded by the Extended Services team). It also included options regarding holiday childcare provision for parents. These booklets were then circulated throughout Ashford as a one-stop guide for information on Summer holiday activities. **CYPP Priority 6**

Ashford Rural - All Day Transition Event

Extended Services coordinated a transition event with several headteachers from Ashford Rural Primary schools. This was held in July 2009 at the Rare Breeds Centre, for Year 6 pupils in the Ashford Rural partnership that would not be going to Homewood School & Sixth Form (who run their own transition week) in September 2009. Around 300 pupils attended the event. Year 7 pupils from The Norton Knatchbull School, Highworth Grammar School for Girls, Swadelands School, The Towers School, The North School and Ashford Christ Church CE Maths & Computer College. The secondary school staff are crucial to the success of the event as Year 6 pupils can spend a fun day with staff they will meet in their new schools. The Year 7 pupils were asked questions about secondary school in an informal environment whilst drama activities, problem solving activities and a quiz trail also took place. Representatives from the secondary schools (usually those that have responsibility for Year 7 pupils) brought the Year 7 pupils to the event and ran small groups with the Year 6 pupils. The aim of the event was to aid a smooth transition for the Year 6 pupils into their respective secondary schools. A Family Support Worker who focuses on Years 6-7 transition helped to organise the groupings, following Christ Church CE Maths & Computer college, supported the workshops and were able to share their experiences, which dispelled many myths! **CYPP Priority 2**

Transition Event for entry into Reception Year (Year R) at Primary School

Extended Services funded this event which was coordinated by the Early Years Advisory Teacher (EYAT). Other partners included Childcare Development Officers and key staff from Hamstreet and Tenterden Infant schools. This 3 day transition event was held in the summer for pre-school aged children due to start in Year R in September 2009. All Early Years settings and Primary schools in the Ashford Rural partnership were invited to attend. The event was repeated over 3 days with different Primary schools present on each day. Year R children also attended to answer questions and talk to the pre-school aged children. It was also an opportunity for Year R teachers to speak to the groups of children. The aim of the event was to help children to understand and feel confident about starting school and also to build relationships between Early Years settings and Primary school staff.

CYPP Priority 2



FILMCLUB

FILMCLUB was commissioned by Extended Services to provide training across both partnerships for schools to set up film clubs that can run after school or during lunchtime. FILMCLUB is an after school film club in England (funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families) which is free to all state primary and secondary schools. It gives children from participating schools access to thousands of films and organises school visits by professionals from within the film industry. 9 schools are now trained and registered and are able to provide FILMCLUB as an after school club. In schools where this club had been set up, positive feedback has been received from headteachers, teachers and young people alike. The club in particular has appealed to students who were previously not participating in any other club. Attending this club allows them the opportunity to discuss films in a safe environment with their peers and raise their confidence. Many students have now gone on to take part in additional clubs. FILMCLUB also allows the opportunity for family learning events. All schools that attended the initial training and subsequently registered with FILMCLUB were given additional funding by Extended Services to enhance their club e.g. purchase of blackout curtains.

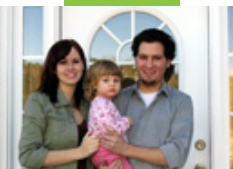
CYPP Priority 6

English as an Additional Language (EAL) community cohesion programme for Ashford One

Extended Services funded and worked in partnership with a Specialist Teacher from the Minority Communities Achievement Services (MCAS) to deliver a 12 week programme for parents within the Ashford One community for whom English is as an Additional Language. Independent tutors were commissioned to deliver the workshops. The programme helped to give parents an understanding of services available to support them in their child's school, as well as in the community. Every attendee was given an Oxford picture dictionary to assist them with their English language skills and certificates were handed out at the end of the course. The course also offered the opportunity for practical learning, for example how to register with a doctor, how to make appointments etc. It also provided attendees with key skills to help them engage with their child's school and help them with their language, writing letters to school and enabling them to participate with school and community activities. In turn, these skills were intended to help parents support their own child's learning. The main impact has been the success of helping parents build their social network, not only with school but with other services including school nurses and the police. **CYPP Priority 3**

Healthy Eating training

Extended Services funded this pilot project which was coordinated by a Parent Support Adviser (PSA). The PSA was given healthy eating and healthy lunch box training by the Food in Schools Dietitian. This training was then delivered to parents of new Reception children at John Wesley Primary School. The PSA has now delivered the course in 9 Ashford Rural primary schools, Children's Centres and some Early Years settings across Ashford. Independent day nurseries have also requested the training. Extended Services is also



promoting this training on behalf of the PSA, so that there will be further rollout in 2010. **CYPP Priority 3**

Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) in schools

Extended Services provided funding and worked in partnership with Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) to coordinate the delivery of the volunteer reading programme in Ashford Rural schools. VRH is a national charity that helps children who struggle with their reading to develop a love of reading and learning. The programme places trained adult volunteers into schools to support primary aged children to improve their reading skills. There are currently 15 adults in place in primary schools across the Ashford Rural partnership. They each look after 3 children, providing 3 hours of reading support time per week to a school. Schools identify children who will benefit from the support and the volunteers look after those children throughout the course of an academic year. **CYPP Priority 2**

Basis Skills Counselling for school staff

Extended Services commissioned the Dover Counselling Centre (a local charity providing professional counselling and support services) to deliver 4 x 6-week 'Basic Skills Counselling' courses to school staff across the Ashford One partnership. 50 members of staff, particularly those involved in one to one work with children and young people in school benefitted from the training. In addition, all those staff that attended the course were offered additional clinical supervision from the course tutor. This gave staff the opportunity to discuss particular case studies and possible new strategies for them to use. **CYPP Priority 2**

Polish speaking Family Liaison Officer (FLO)

Extended Services provided funding for a Polish speaking Family Liaison Officer to work at East Stour Primary School in Ashford One. This had been identified as a need by the school, as there had been a large increase in the numbers of Polish children attending the school. Many of these families needed additional support but had limited or no English language. Employing a member of the Polish community into this post enabled this extra support to be given to these parents. **CYPP Priority 3**

Joint working with Bluebells Children's Centre, Hothfield

Extended Services has worked in partnership with Bluebells Children's Centre to run a breakfast club from its site in Hothfield. The Extended Services Parent Support Adviser (PSA) facilitates the breakfast club which runs 3 mornings a week. The PSA is also able to provide support for parents at the club as many come along to eat breakfast with their children before they go to school. Parish Councillors have also volunteered to help out at the breakfast club to provide cover. This also provides an ideal opportunity for these Councillors to network with members of the local community. The club is linked to the school transport routes and after

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breakfast all the children are transported to school together. Extended Services also provided funding and supported the after school club at the Children’s Centre. The Extended Services Development Manager (ESDM) for the Ashford partnerships also chairs the Hothfield Youth sub-group to ensure coordinated youth provision in the Hothfield area. As part of the work of this group, Extended Services has commissioned Kent Youth Service (with support from the Hothfield Foundation) to deliver youth activities 1 night a week in the community. **CYPP Priority 1**

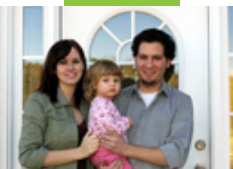
Kent Children’s University (KCU) programme of activities

Extended Services fund the delivery of KCU programmes across the Ashford One partnership. The Towers School host this ongoing programme and their staff are registered as KCU Tutors. These programmes have been offered to all year 5 and 6 children in Ashford One. Each programme consists of 3 consecutive Saturday mornings and more than 200 children attend each Saturday. Many activities are oversubscribed and at the end of each 3 week programme, every child receives a certificate at a celebration assembly so parents can see their achievements and have an opportunity to speak to staff. There has been a steady rise in the numbers of children attending and many opt for the same subject each time. Activities include: ‘Super Science’, cookery, sports, arts & crafts, drama, digital workshop, gymnastics and DJ workshops. **CYPP Priority 6**

Smarden Primary School

Smarden Primary School has worked hard to become more involved in the community. The school has connected in many ways with other organisations and groups within the village. Most importantly, the link with the ‘Good Neighbour Scheme’ has been particularly successful. They provide a Meals on Wheels service for the elderly and vulnerable members of the community with meals cooked in the school kitchen. The scheme incorporates a rota of willing volunteers from the community who deliver the meals and return the crockery for washing up. This provides opportunities for the children, families and elderly to connect in a new way. They can learn about and from each other. It has also increased awareness of social issues that exist in their own, and wider community. It is a fantastic example of community leadership.

The schools strong community links has helped them to obtain consent from a local land owner to use their field as an agreed alternative route by parents and children to get to school safely. The landowner has installed a path allowing access across the land. The school have provided a ‘welly storage area’ and this promotes a healthy, safe alternative route to school. This example highlights the importance of maintaining and forging links with the community. **CYPP Priority 8**



Community Health and Cooking Club

The Towers School held a community based health and cooking club and drew on Family Liaison Officers to identify vulnerable children & families to attend. Parents were invited to attend the first week of the summer holiday and work with their children on cooking for a healthier life style. They also looked at a variety of cooking techniques to reduce the amount of fat. They discussed making healthier choices when shopping and looked at why breakfast was such an important meal. Now further sessions are being organised to cover such topics as 'cooking on a budget', 'special diets' and 'oriental dishes'. **CYPP Priority 2**

Homewood School 'Take up the Challenge' project

Extended Services worked with Kent Youth Service and Homewood School to implement and fund this new initiative. It targets vulnerable young people that are not exhibiting challenging behaviour, but are struggling to adapt to the secondary school environment. A six week pilot programme was planned which encompassed: Environmental Therapy / Orienteering / Go-Karting / Open Programme / Outward Bound Course / Golf, followed by a celebration event where awards and certificates are presented. This project has evolved and is well respected by teaching staff, parents and wider partnership staff. The project is now in its fourth year and works with Year 7/8 & 9 students as identified by key staff. This year, for the first time, Year 6 students took part to support their transition to secondary school. At the end of each year, all 'Take up the Challenge' attendees are invited to attend a Residential Week. This is the highlight and an opportunity to see the long term impact on children; friendships have been formed, there is strong peer support, mutual encouragement and plenty of confidence boosting. The next target is to identify innovative ways of increasing parental engagement and providing parental support. **CYPP Priority 2**

'My Tunes' project

Extended Services worked with Defcon Workshops (an organisation specialising in creative artistic workshops for young people) to create the "My Tunes" project for the 3 secondary schools in the Ashford One partnership. The project aimed to provide creative artistic experiences to young people. The company employ experts in their fields to work with young people and pass on the knowledge they have accumulated throughout their respective careers. Examples include specialists in music and DJ setups. This was an 11 week project working with 30 targeted young people (10 from each school). Each session was 3 hours and collectively they produced a CD where all participants had a role. Areas that were covered included song writing, recording, arrangement, voice coaching, editing, performance, team work, brain storming and new computer skills. Students were introduced to various styles of music including rock, drum and bass, house, grime, live and pop. Topics including, bullying, love, social issues and the environment were also covered. By the end of the 11 weeks, the young people could write, arrange and construct a song. They learnt how to discuss issues within a group, turn their views into poems/songs and how to add melodies. The project culminated in an informal

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'Live Lounge' performance to parents and staff. It highlighted the collaborative, excellent work these young people had worked on over the project. **CYPP Priority 6**

Parent Forums

Since the launch in June 2007, the forums across the Ashford Partnerships have evolved from small core groups of parents. The groups have worked on a wide variety of topics including 'road safety', 'better communication between parents and schools' as well as hosting Family Fun Days. The forums are coordinated and managed by Extended Services. In recent months Extended Services have coordinated presentations at the forums on matters that it is hoped schools will actively promote and topics that aid children's learning. The most successful events have been on "Your Child's Amazing Brain" which gives parents the biological facts behind why children behave in a certain way. This is very popular with parents/carers and from their evaluations there have been further presentations delivered on Social and Emotional Wellbeing, understanding behaviour between siblings and how to improve behaviour and self esteem. **CYPP Priority 3**

2009-10 Extended Services priorities for the partnerships:

- Ensuring the voice of children, young people and families is part of LCSP and Extended Services planning.
- Broadening the range of opportunities and activities for children, young people and families.
- Improving learning outcomes.
- Improving wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families.
- Supporting adult and family learning.

Notes:

