



Gravesham

Local Children's Services Partnership

Julie Barton, Extended Schools Development Manager

LCSP	Primary	Secondary	Academies	PRU's	Special
Gravesham	27	8	-	2	1

Gravesham

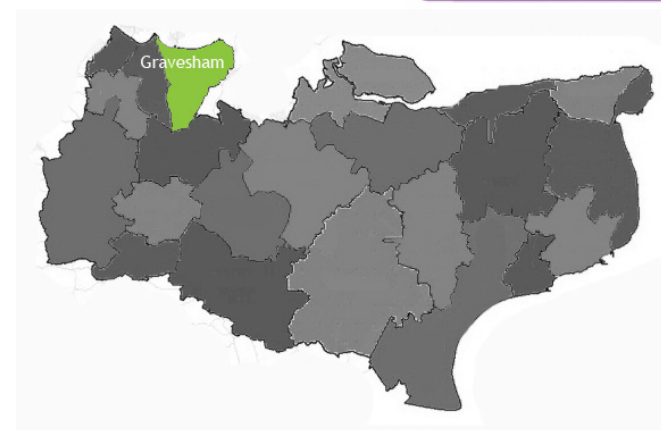
86% of schools have achieved National Healthy Schools status

100% 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 partnership:

- Engage preventative and early intervention services to raise the aspirations of children and young people and support parents and carers.
- Strengthen the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) curriculum to improve the learning and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families.
- Support transition to primary school and transition from primary to secondary school with a focus on community cohesion.
- Promote the voice of children, young people and families.
- Broaden the range of opportunities and activities for children, young people and families across the extended services agenda.





Key Extended Services Programmes for 2008-09

Primary to secondary transition support for vulnerable children

Gravesham Extended Services commissioned The Beat Project (a charitable organisation that works with disadvantaged vulnerable young people through setting up and facilitating a wide range of initiatives based around music and the creative arts) to work with targeted year 6 pupils from 13 primary schools to provide a range of radio courses and worked in partnership to deliver workshops in Drama, Film Making, Music Technology, Rock and Pop and Singing. Each school received an introductory assembly followed by a five week course and showcase event. Some of the pupils were selected to be role models and mentored other pupils. The programme was designed to build confidence and self esteem, engage and attract those pupils who may be at risk of isolation or exclusion, promote good social skills, work ethics and positive relationships, increase tolerance and allow pupils to gain valuable personal and technical skills. The project also aimed to raise awareness of support systems that were available to the young people when they started Secondary school. The programme addressed the 'Transition' into secondary school and encouraged the pupils to take pride in their work and school life. **CYPP Priority 2**

Nurture room at Westcourt School - in partnership with all the Gravesham schools

Extended Services provided funding for the Key Stage 1 Nurture Group at Westcourt Primary School designed to support vulnerable young children who have social, emotional, behaviour and learning difficulties to become confident and able to cope in mainstream education. This resource is available to all children in Reception and Year 1 who attend schools in Gravesham. Access to the resource is by referral to the Partnership Based Review (PBR). **CYPP Priority 2**

Whitehill Primary School after school family learning with new communities

Gravesham Extended Services worked in partnership with an independent Book Art Tutor, to deliver an after school family learning programme, targeted at families from new and emerging communities at Whitehill Primary School. This took place one evening per week over 5 weeks and involved 10 children and 4 family adults. The focus of the programme was making art books to celebrate different cultures and festivals. Some of the children were supported by older siblings who also attended the sessions. The school's English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator worked alongside the families whose country of origin included: Holland, Poland, India and Russia. An exhibition was held in the foyer of the Gravesham Civic Centre to coincide with 'The Big Day Out', an annual event held in Gravesham. **CYPP Priority 3**



Big Day Out - celebrating cultural diversity in Gravesham

Extended Services worked with all the secondary schools in Gravesham to provide a marketplace and showcase for The Big Day Out, which is organised in partnership with Gravesham Borough Council and North West Kent Racial Equality Council. This is an annual event which takes place every summer at the Riverside Leisure Area in Gravesham. It celebrates the wide cultural diversity across the partnership. All the Secondary Schools showcased a performing art at the event. Schools also had the opportunity to celebrate some of their outstanding practice across the Extended Services agenda including their out-of-hours activities. **CYPP Priority 6**

Transition information sessions

Following the 2007-2008 successful pilot of transition information sessions in Gravesham across eleven schools, 4 events were organised during 2008-2009, with 4 host primary school and all other primary schools engaged. 310 parents and their year 6 children attended. Local services such as; The GR@ND - Healthy Living Centre, Healthy Schools, Youth Service, Connexions, School Nurses, Community Wardens, Police Community Support Officers, Pals Theatre, Children and Families Information Service, Kent Safe Schools, Specialist Teaching Service and the Police attended and formed a marketplace of information for the parents and students. There was a theatre workshop for the Year 6 children, which enabled them to meet each other and discuss transition in a fun and creative way. The secondary schools also provided entertainment for the event, which was an excellent way of showing the families some of the resources secondary schools had to offer. Goody bags were provided for the children which included school starter kits. An 'Every Parent Matters' booklet was given to the parents which included information on local services. **CYPP Priority 2**

Gravesham Parent Forum

The forum was established in 2006 and is co-led by the Extended Schools Development Manager (ESDM) alongside the parents and is supported by the Gravesham Extended Services team who source the speakers and visiting partners. Six parent forums are held each year and they have all been well attended by the parents and well supported by the Local Children's Services Partnership (LCSP), local partners and providers. This has included a wide variety of professionals from education, health, social care and community, ranging from; the dental hygienist, police community support officers, women's domestic violence workers, local librarian, children's centres and many more. Various workshops and programmes have been introduced in partnership with Kent Adult Education, who recently delivered an 'Active Club' which showed parents how to be active in and around the home. The forum has raised parents' awareness of the range and sources of support/advice available, shown them how to access key services and enabled involvement in family learning opportunities, as well as helping parents to understand the transition process, how to deal with transport issues and how to use videoconferencing. **CYPP Priority 3**



In addition the forum has developed a resource for families with teenagers in partnership with the County Adviser for Drugs Education who attended the new PSHE primary curriculum working party. The forum is also supporting the African Caribbean Forum (ACF) that is an extension of the Gravesham Parent Forum. As part of their work, the ACF presented a road show to promote life in Nigeria including culture, dress, food and drink etc. The Extended Services team contributed by using their own skills to develop a short fashion show DVD of Gravesham children performing in traditional Nigerian dress. The forum continues to look to find creative ways to support families that are hard to engage and often has representatives that attend and feedback to other groups of parents in the community, e.g. neighbourhood forums supporting the Roma Gypsies and young parents from the Children's Centres.

Active club workshop

Gravesham Extended Services commissioned Adult Education in collaboration with The British Heart Foundation to create a workshop/training course for adults interested in setting up an active club/activity for children and young people - either a breakfast club/lunchtime activity or after-school activity/club. 19 families were involved and the workshop was designed to raise awareness of the increased issue of obesity in children, discuss inclusion and practical ways to ensure each child benefits from the activity proposed. The workshop was also designed to be a fun, interactive session, which boosts people's confidence and inspires them in their work with children and young people. Parents, Healthy Schools Coordinators and school staff members attended the workshop to develop ideas for activities in their schools. The workshop brought up issues such as catering for a disabled child, ensuring that very active children are kept interested whilst including less able children. Fun included skipping and team games. **CYPP Priority 2**

Voluntary Service Unit (VSU)

Extended Services commissioned VSU to engage in a number of multi-agency projects across Gravesham. Young people volunteer with VSU in one or more of the following ways; group projects, lunchtime groups, projects including peer mentoring and befriending clubs and clubs for social services referred children, young carers, the elderly and disabled adults. Youth Action Teams focus on issues identified by the young people themselves and the VSU also provide holiday schemes across the partnership. VSU is a registered charity and youth action agency that has been operating in Kent for over 45 years. Their mission is to contribute to the education of young people (aged 14-25 years) by involving them in positive, practical and self-determined action in response to real community needs. VSU does this by recruiting young volunteers from schools, colleges and other community-based centres and supporting them in a wide range of volunteer activity, which benefits their local community. **CYPP Priority 2**



Speech and Language Information and Communication forum (SLIC)

Gravesham Extended Services commissioned a Speech and Language Therapist to lead the forum set up by the ESDM in 2006. The aim of the forum is to bring together a wide range of professionals working with children with speech, language, interaction and communication difficulties in Gravesham to identify how the team could work together in the most effective way. This remains the focus of the forum but other issues are also now covered such as; sharing best practice, sharing new developments, sharing and coordinating training information, developing new training initiatives/programmes, developing new language resources for use in local schools, understanding how each member of the team works, how children's needs can be met most effectively within the resources available and coordinating provision across the area. Partners include speech and language therapists from across health and education, advisory teachers, early years SENCO, a teacher from the Children's Centres, an educational psychologist and special school representatives. The team has recently expanded to include representatives from the local Lead Schools for Language Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The most recent resource developed by the team is the SLIC Smiley Boxes. These started with funding obtained from the Standards Fund for Communication and Interaction and have been supported throughout by Extended Services and the Ifield Smile Centre. The SLIC team were aware that Language Link (a computer based online assessment tool) was being used in all local primary/infant schools. Resources were available on the website but the SLIC team felt it would be appropriate to enhance these resources and give more specific guidance on how to develop a child's understanding of language. Therefore it was agreed the team would produce 8 boxes of resources to help develop children's language skills. The boxes link directly to the 8 language topics assessed within Language Link. **CYPP Priority 5**

Video conferencing in all the Gravesham schools

Extended Services has provided funding for video conferencing (VC) facilities in all 37 schools in the Gravesham partnership. Gravesham Extended Services has worked with Kent Building Schools for the Future (BSF) to drive the transformation of teaching and learning through the use of technology, working together and pooling resources with the aim of enhancing the VC opportunities available to schools. Key partners have included the Kent EIS team and South East Grid for Learning, who have also helped with work in other areas such as E-safety and content projects. VC has supported a wide range of extended services activities and opportunities across the curriculum including; Primary to Secondary School Transition, Year 9 Business and Enterprise Focus Day involving more than 100 pupils, British Space Centre, KS 2 French Lessons, and many more. The video conferencing facilities also enable schools to link up not only with each other and other schools across the country, but also to local museums and galleries and other countries in the world including America, Hong Kong and Germany. This provides an opportunity for curriculum enrichment and community cohesion, by giving children an understanding of other cultures. Many of the schools are using video conferencing technology to work



towards the ICT Kite Mark and the DCSF International School Award, which is a scheme that provides recognition for teachers and their schools who are working to instil a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people, through both curriculum-based and out-of-hours learning. Extended Services has provided the VC training to all schools, as well as other groups including parent forum members to enable them to use the video conferencing technology effectively. **CYPP Priority 7**

Istead Rise Primary School transition video conference project

Extended Services supported Istead Rise Primary School and coordinated a group of video conferences which enabled year 6 pupils to link up with the secondary schools which they were transferring to in September 2009 and speak to current year 7 pupils about school life and the daily routine within their new school. 5 secondary schools took part and the project included 29 primary aged pupils and 24 secondary aged pupils.

Extended Services arranged the timetable of link-up opportunities and coordinated a list of questions agreed by the pupils. These were exchanged prior to the video conference taking place. This enabled the pupils and students to be prepared and feel confident during each link. Most of the secondary schools involved year 7 pupils who had previously transferred from Istead Rise. Linking pupils to familiar faces promoted even more confidence in the younger pupils. All pupils involved agreed that using video conferencing in this way helped to support other work centred on the primary to secondary transition, which was taking place across the partnership at the time. **CYPP Priority 2**

Incredible Years parenting course for parents who have children with ADHD

Extended Services commissioned the Parents Consortium to deliver 'The Incredible Years' parenting course to parents, with additional training sessions for parents who have children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). There had been an increase in the number of diagnosed ADHD cases across Gravesham and local services including Health and Education had expressed a need to develop parent support groups in Gravesham focussing on parents/carers with children who have ADHD. Community Paediatricians, Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) and the Parents Consortium referred parents to the course from across Gravesham. The course ran from September to November 2008 and more than 20 parents attended. The main priorities of the course were to empower and support the parents through creating a supportive atmosphere, and looking at consistency in family rules, discipline, praise and boundaries for the children. The parents developed a very close relationship and used the group as a way to share their worries and anxieties and receive empathy and mutual support. CAMHS and Parents Consortium delivered the course resources and facilitated the discussions. The course was successful in providing parents with information on where to go for support, developed close and supportive relationships with other parents and they completed the course more confident of their

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abilities as parents and aware of other strategies to help them in supporting their children. Following on from the ‘Incredible Years’ course were three training sessions for parents/carers of children who have ADHD looking at the medical, educational and family issues surrounding ADHD. **CYPP Priority 3**

Parent Support Adviser (PSA) and PSA hub

Gravesham Extended Services provided funding for a part time Parent Support Adviser who works with a range of schools across the Gravesham partnership to promote parental engagement and support the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the Team around the Child. The post works with parents in a schools context, to help improve behaviour and attendance, overcome barriers to learning and increase the number of parents involved in their child’s education, both in school and at home. In part, the PSA helps to broker access and signpost to relevant specialist services (including evidence based parenting programmes) for parents who would not otherwise have access. Early intervention and support during transition stages promotes continual engagement with schools and learning. A PSA hub has also been funded by Extended Services on the Wrotham Primary School Campus, to support all the parents across Gravesham, bringing them together to share a range of resources and opportunities, especially if they do not have a school family room of their own. **CYPP Priority 3**

Saint George’s C of E Secondary School-parental support

Gravesham Extended Services provided funding for a Parent Support Adviser (PSA) who works directly with targeted schools to provide support, information and education services to parents of children attending the school and investigate concerns raised by parents, pupils and teachers (as agreed by the headteacher). The PSA focuses their work to support pupils who have been or are likely to be excluded and to work with parents and pupils to avert potential exclusion. The PSA organised a formal talk about Drug Awareness at Saint George’s Secondary School, to all parents and carers of students from year 7 to 12. The talk was delivered by a Drugs and Alcohol Community Development Worker. There were various discussions including those on different types of drugs, things to look out for and what parents can do if they think their child is experimenting. It was an opportunity to reassure parents that drug use is a lot less wide spread than they fear. A sample drugs kit was used as a resource during the event so that parents could physically see samples of common drugs found in the community. Other key partners were The GR@ND - Healthy Living Centre in Gravesham and Extended Services. **CYPP Priority 3**

Project SNOW (Science eNergy Opportunity @ Wrotham) primary school

Following the success of Project GOAL (Go On And Learn) that had occurred at Wrotham Road Primary School a year before, the specialist teacher for behaviour led on the Project SNOW, with support from the Minority Communities Achievement Service (MCAS)



and Extended Services. This involved a series of sessions with identified students that were struggling with the transition to a new culture. In October 2008, Wrotham Road Primary School had approximately 70 Eastern European families join the school. These pupils had very limited English language and a very different culture to other pupils already settled in the school. Whilst they were being supported with extra English lessons there was a definite need for a more intensive project encouraging inclusion across the cultures and supporting the new children in their transition into English life.

The sessions involved learning in a fun, practical and active way. The pupils looked at various scientific experiments; they played literacy and numeracy games using football and other physical activities - a universal language. They also sang songs in different languages and learned to appreciate how far some students had travelled to be in England and to respect each other's differences and in fact celebrate their individuality. The project culminated in an assembly where the pupils shared what they had learnt with the whole of Key Stage 2, the teachers, local services, Northfleet Nursery and also the Mayor of Gravesham. This assembly was a great example of children celebrating their differences, valuing their learning and clearly showing how the project had impacted practically on inclusion and integration within the school. Extended Services used their own skills to make a short DVD that could also be shared with other schools in Gravesham. **CYPP Priority 2**

Polish community group

Extended Services has, in partnership with the Specialist Teachers for Ethnic Minority Achievement, Gravesham Borough Council and the Children's Centres, developed a Polish community group. The group meets regularly to plan cultural events to gain support from each other, celebrate the Polish culture and share this with others. Gravesham has a high ethnic minority population and therefore it is very important that they integrate with their communities, ensuring the children feel included yet also clearly aware of their own cultural identities. Extended Services also funded a cultural celebration, which coincided with the Polish 'National Children's Day' in June 2009. The Polish community is now well-established in Gravesham with most speaking good English. They feel the need to remind their children of their culture and heritage. By sharing this different culture with others in the community Extended Services feels that this increases children's understanding and mutual respect in the Gravesham community for difference and diversity.

CYPP Priority 3

Family/community rooms in Gravesham schools

Gravesham Extended Services funded 23 family rooms designed to be a welcoming and inclusive space within the school for families and the local community enabling them to access supportive material and information on a wide variety of issues. They provide a safe environment where parents are able to talk to school staff and external multi-agency services and a place where socialising can

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occur to forge informal support networks; formal parenting sessions, community events and adult education sessions. The aims are to provide parents with contacts for national and local sources of information, additional support services from within the school, provide support to parents to help them with their child's learning and provide parents with informal opportunities to engage with the school and each other to develop relationships. The rooms also aim to facilitate community cohesion by breaking down barriers between the school and the community by encouraging the use of the school as a resource for everyone. Outcomes have included parents feeling well supported by the school and community so they were able to engage more with the school and their child's learning. These rooms are used to provide early intervention and supportive services to vulnerable families, which help to prevent breakdowns in relationships and family crises occurring. This in turn increases the level of stability and routine within the home for the child. **CYPP Priority 3**

Healthy Schools-Healthy Living days in Gravesham

Gravesham Extended Services and Healthy Schools worked together to raise the awareness of the Kent Healthy Schools programme through school/community combined sports day events with a Healthy Living marketplace for pupils, families and staff. The days consisted of sports day activities for pupils and their families, opportunities for all pupils and parents to visit the marketplace and speak to the agencies and school partners, a sponsored walk and a talk for pupils, parents and teachers. The events increased parental engagement, with many families requesting additional opportunities to learn more. Plans were also made to strengthen links and continue programmes with partners throughout the year for pupils/families and staff. The events also provided evidence to support validation for Healthy Schools Status. In addition, plans were made to develop the model with other Extended Services themes. Additional partners included; The GR@ND - Healthy Living Centre, Safe Schools, Kent Police, Adult Education, Sure Start Children's Centres, School Nurses, West Kent Primary Care Trust, Stop Smoking Service, Primary Care Trust Dental Hygienist, Community Against Drugs, Parent Support Advisers, Kent Fire and Safety, Youth Befriending, KCA, School PTA and the Parent Forum.

CYPP Priority 2

Summer provision

Gravesham Extended Services compiled a range of information from schools, partners and providers regarding summer activity provision taking place across the partnership. This also included the Leisure and Recreation Opportunities information (produced by Gravesham Borough Council). This information was then sent to all schools, where it was distributed to all families. **CYPP Priority 6**



2009-10 Extended Services priorities for the partnership:

- Transition to primary school and transition from primary to secondary school.
- Strengthening the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum and engaging young people.
- Raising the aspirations of vulnerable children and young people.
- Broadening the range of opportunities and activities for children, young people and families.
- Community cohesion.