

Learning and Children's Services

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO SCHOOL GOVERNORS FOR THE SUMMER TERM 2009

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1. STRATEGY FOR EXPANSION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

LOCAL AUTHORITY AS A COMMISSIONER OF SCHOOL PLACES

The Local Authority has confirmed the need for permanent expansion of primary school places to provide an additional 450 places across the Borough from September 2011. This is not a situation that is unique to Kingston – two thirds of London boroughs have reported similar upward trends in the need for primary places.

Thirteen schools responded to a request for Expressions of Interest to be included in the Strategy for expansion. In addition two new schools in Surbiton and Malden & Coombe are proposed. This has enabled the Local Authority to publish options on where these additional permanent places could be created. The consultation with local residents and parents, neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders such as the Dioceses closes on 15 June.

A copy of a summary document and questionnaire is being sent to the parents of all primary school-aged children in the borough and to those with children in early years and childcare settings. It will also be made available in libraries, GP surgeries and Children's Centres. The full consultation paper providing more detailed information is available to view on the Council's web site – www.kingston.gov.uk. Copies of both documents are being sent to all schools.

In addition to the questionnaire, four open meetings are being held in early June to discuss the issues and proposals in more detail.

There is a requirement for local authorities and governing bodies to ensure that children and young people have a say in decisions that affect them. Section 157 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 requires school governing bodies to invite and consider the views of pupils on core policy matters that will affect them. Governing bodies that are named within the consultation will therefore need to consider how they can enable pupils in their school to participate in the consultation and the Local Authority is aware that many are already doing this. As the Strategy for Expansion progresses the Local Authority will provide materials that can be used with School Councils and other pupils to facilitate this process.

The responses to this consultation will help determine the preferred mix of schools to expand in order to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the future. The Local Authority is also arranging feasibility studies of building works required at individual schools to accommodate the additional pupils. The final strategy for expansion will therefore depend on a combination of the availability of sites for new schools (including the likely outcome of planning applications), feasibility studies, and responses to this initial consultation. Kingston upon Thames has adopted a number of guiding principles when looking at the provision of primary school places within the borough.

The key ones are:

- to minimise the use of temporary accommodation and invest in permanent buildings

- pupils should be able attend a school within their own locality (within two miles of their home)
- consideration should be given to parental preference by expanding popular and high achieving schools which are on sites that are physically capable of expansion and where Government guidelines allow
- schools should be planned within the following range of sizes:
 - primary schools (for pupils aged 4 to 11) with an intake each year of between 30 and 120 pupils
 - infant schools (for pupils aged 4 to 7) with an intake each year of between 60 and 120 pupils
 - junior schools (for pupils aged 7 to 11) with an intake each year of between 60 and 120 pupils
- class sizes at reception and Key Stage 1 (4 to 7 year olds) should be 30 pupils or fewer - the local authority (with governing bodies) is responsible for securing the legal requirement to limit infant classes to 30 or less
- class sizes at Key Stage 2 (7 to 11 year olds) should be of 30 pupils or less – this is an aim of the local authority not a legal requirement
- there continues to be a balance between community and faith schools in line with the local authority's legal obligation to meet diversity of provision
- the local authority aims to retain some surplus capacity in its schools to try as far as possible to accommodate parental preference and allow for the in year admissions of pupils (for pupils moving into the local authority area and requiring a school place during the academic year)

New sites for development within the borough are limited and not all schools have sites that are big enough to increase the size of the school however popular the school might be. Ensuring that we provide value for money as well as a high standard of education and pupil welfare are at the top of our list of considerations when looking to expand our schools.

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

Due to the scope of some of the building works that will be required at schools with permanent expansion it may not be possible for some of the schools named in this consultation to accommodate additional temporary classes for September 2010. It will therefore be necessary to agree which schools will have additional temporary classes for Reception for September 2010.

The local authority will continue to consult with schools during this term to agree where the additional places will be added for September 2010. Information on the location of additional temporary classes will need to be included in the Primary Admissions Booklet which the Local Authority is required to publish by 12 September 2009. Some schools have already indicated that they are willing to host an additional class as an interim solution and these schools will be approached to discuss possible arrangements for 2010. Feasibility studies at schools named as possible options for permanent expansion will also consider the potential of hosting additional classes from September 2010 onwards.

Pupils admitted to schools in September 2010 will continue their primary education at the same school regardless of permanent expansion plans.

Next Steps

A Strategy for Expansion, taking into account the views expressed in this consultation, will be submitted to the Council's Executive on 7 July. Statutory consultation on the plans for specific schools sites will then begin from September 2009 onwards. This process is likely to take five months for existing schools and nine months for the new schools due to the need to include a competition to determine the provider of the school. The scale of expansion required (equating to a 28% increase from current capacity) is a significant challenge for the whole schools' community, and the Local Authority will continue to work closely with schools during the expansion to ensure that pupil's quality of education is not adversely affected. Wherever possible the Local Authority will seek to address the priorities set out in the Primary Capital Programme Strategy when undertaking work at schools.

LA Officers will be happy to attend Governing Body meetings to discuss proposals or support schools with meetings held with parents.

For further information on the above please contact: Anne Redparth, Head of Resources and Commissioning, on 020 8547 5276 or email anne.redparth@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

2. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE AND NEW SCHOOL CONSULTATION

The Local Authority is continuing its work to enter the Building Schools for the Future programme as soon as possible. This will provide investment of around £180m to expand secondary provision to accommodate the increased pupil numbers from September 2015 and transform education across secondary and special schools and the Pupil Referral Units. By 2015 we will need to build a new secondary school of at least eight forms of entry, and add additional forms of entry to a number of other Kingston secondary schools.

The BSF Strategy for Kingston includes the new secondary school in the Kingston Town neighbourhood. Consultation will commence shortly regarding the possible locations for the new school.

In late April 2009 Partnerships for Schools, the body overseeing the BSF programme, invited Kingston to evidence our 'Readiness to Deliver' earlier than previously indicated, so as to enter the programme at an earlier date. We are confident that we will meet the requirements of the programme, and therefore the LA and schools will continue to develop our ideas for transforming education in Kingston. We have set some very challenging targets for improving outcomes for pupils and for improving schools' performance. The LA will now be developing its 'Strategy for Change', which will provide more detail on how we expect to improve teaching, learning, the curriculum including ICT and the accommodation in our schools.

As a result all secondary and special schools are required to prepare their own Strategy for Change by the end of this term, with support from the Local Authority and the Kingston BSF Team. This is a key development for governors in secondary and special schools to engage in and approve school plans by July.

Governing Bodies of secondary schools are asked to consider the 'Readiness to Deliver' document that the LA has submitted to the DCSF, including the proposals for expansion on a number of secondary school sites in the future.

The Director of Learning and Children's Services will write with more detail to Chairs of Governors shortly, setting out the BSF process and the requirements for schools.

For further information on the above please contact, Tina Herring, Service Director for Learning and School Effectiveness on 020 8547 5288 or email tina.herring@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

3. UPDATE ON CAPITAL FUNDING

SCHOOLS CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2009-11

The following provides a summary of the planned use of the £30m allocated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for schools capital projects for the next two years:

	Total Allocation 2009-11 £	Being used to meet priorities:
Devolved Formula Capital (direct to schools)	5.2m	Individual school building & ICT plans. Contributions to major building projects to be formalised.
Primary Capital Programme	8.4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Hill Primary co-location, • Additional classes September 2009 (part) • Expansion primary classes 2010 onwards
Modernisation (31 non-VA schools)	1.0m	To be allocated against Prioritisation Matrix criteria, using data from condition & suitability surveys.
LCVAP (16 VA schools)	2.1m	Prioritised at LCVAP against Prioritisation Matrix criteria
Schools Access Initiative	0.45m	"Supported Borrowing" allocations – in effect no real new funding available for new projects. Basic Need reflects the allocation for increasing pupil places.
Basic Need	3.5m	
Extended Schools	0.33m	Grant funding – allocation basis to be confirmed – some may be needed to 'top-up' Children's Centre developments.
ICT – Harnessing Technology	0.84m	Kingsnet costs retained centrally (25%) plus balance of 75% allocated to schools
Targeted Capital Funds: (i) 14-19 Diplomas and SEN/Disability	8.0m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coombe Boys additional accommodation & rewiring, • Pre-BSF improvements at schools • Pre-BSF work for SEN

(ii) Kitchen & Dining Facilities	TBC	Bids from schools to be reviewed when RBK allocation confirmed (programme oversubscribed nationally)
(iii) New kitchens	0.75m + 0.75m RBK match funding	New hub kitchens confirmed at Castle Hill Primary and Coombe Hill Juniors – other schools to be confirmed following meals contract procurement
TOTAL – All Sources	£30.57m	

The Department for Children, Schools and Families occasionally announces new targeted capital funds for specific initiatives and if this occurs the local authority will circulate information to schools, and co-ordinate any bidding process.

For further information on the above please contact: Anne Redparth, Head of Resources and Commissioning, on 020 8547 5276 or email anne.redparth@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The new Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-2013 has been through a period of informal consultation with schools and other partners, and the final draft will be available for wider consultation in early June. There is an expectation that schools take account of the Plan in setting school improvement plans. Our aim is to ensure there is wide agreement about our priorities for improving the outcomes for children and young people, and the services we provide for families.

Our agreed outcomes are:

- All children and young people will have the benefit of living in a supportive home
- All children and young people will go to a good school, achieve well and benefit from community support to enable them to make good progress and be successful
- All children and young people will be able to achieve and maintain emotional and physical well-being
- All children by age 5 will be well developed and ready to make a successful start at school
- All young people will be able to make a successful transition to adult life, continuing education and employment
- All children and young people will be well protected from being physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected
- No families in Kingston will be living in poverty and no children will be affected by impacts of poverty
- All children and young people who are disadvantaged will achieve outcomes as good as other children in the local area, and those who need it will benefit from multi-agency integrated package of support

- All disadvantaged young people at age 14+ will benefit from education, employment or training (to age 19) and participate positively in the local community
- All children and young people who leave care will be well educated, healthy and able to lead a fulfilling and independent life
- All children and young people at risk of offending or re-offending will achieve outcomes as good as their peers
- All children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities will have the same equality of opportunity as other children and make good progress educationally, emotionally, physically and socially

We have set challenging targets to improve attainment and other outcomes, and our aspiration is to take our practice and performance from good to outstanding in all respects. Governors are asked to consider and respond to the draft Plan and ensure, in time, that the school's improvement plan makes an effective contribution to improving the outcomes.

For further information on the above please contact: Patrick Leeson, Strategic Director, Learning and Children's Services on 0208 547 5220, or email patrick.leeson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

5. CHANGES TO OFSTED FRAMEWORK

From September 2009 Ofsted expects to implement a new statutory inspection framework for schools. There are key significant changes, including a greater emphasis on observing the quality of teaching and learning and combining evidence of progress, attainment and provision to form a judgement about pupils' achievement. In particular the framework places more emphasis on the quality of governance.

The framework has not been published yet and Local Authorities are invited to training in June. Consequently training for schools and governors will take place from the Autumn Term onwards.

Courses for helping governors to understand the changes are planned for:

- Autumn Term – 15th October 2009
- Spring Term – 25th February 2010
- Venue - KCC, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

The Aims of the course is for governors:

- To have knowledge of the new Inspection Framework
- To recognise the important changes for Governing Bodies
- To understand how to evidence their role in the SEF

For further information on the above please contact: Tina Herring, Service Director Learning & School Effectiveness on 020 8547 5288 or email tina.herring@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

6. SUCCESSION PLANNING

Succession planning is a priority for the Local Authority, so that we continue to secure the very best quality of leadership in our schools. The picture in Kingston is:

- More than 45% of Headteachers are due to retire by 2012
- A high number of Deputy Headteachers are due to retire by 2012
- 68% of Primary Headteachers are aged 50 and over
- 8% of Special and Secondary Headteachers are aged over 60
- 46% of Special and Secondary Headteachers are aged between 55 and 59

The local picture of Headteacher shortages in the next few years is sufficiently serious for Kingston to design and implement a succession planning strategy and develop local solutions to finding, developing and retaining excellent Headteachers.

In 2007 support was provided for NPQH graduates preparing for headship. Kingston, in association with Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth and Richmond (SWLSEP) successfully obtained a grant of £202,000 from the National College of School Leadership (NCSL) to support potential Headteachers to take up their first headship.

The subsequent project was extremely successful with 13 of the cohort gaining Headteacher positions within 7 months of the programme and 80% of the cohort feeling more confident to apply for a Headteacher post.

In 2008 NCSL gave a grant of £100,000 and each SWLSEP Authority contributed £10,000 giving an overall total of £150,000 for the project. The project has once again been extremely well received and although it is only just drawing to a close, 1 member of the Kingston cohort has gained a headship and another has gained a next stage promotion. It is intended to repeat the programme in 2009, alongside a project for aspiring Deputy Headteachers.

An Action Plan and a Model Governing Body Policy Statement for Succession Planning have been developed. These will be discussed at the Partnership meeting, and copies of these documents will be sent to all Chairs of Governors following the meeting.

For further information on any of the above items please contact: Barbara Chevis, Inspector, Inspection and Advisory Service, on 0208 547 5292, or email barbara.chevis@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

7. SAFER RECRUITMENT

There is a requirement, from the DCSF that at least one member of any interview panel within a school is trained in safe recruitment. It is proposed that from 1 January 2010 this will become a statutory requirement.

We are providing Safer Recruitment Training, this is regulated by the DCSF and has been written by the National College for School Leadership (NCSL). It is a requirement that we are trained, as Safer Recruitment trainers, by the NCSL and it is expected that the safer recruitment course will be run over a two day period.

In practise we have been able to satisfactorily cover the training in six and a half hours and we are happy to continue to offer one day courses. Unfortunately it is not possible to break this course down into small sections and run it during evening sessions.

Governors are being invited to the whole day sessions which are on the KIMS system. We will be running Saturday training sessions for Governors in the Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010 terms. Details of these courses will be included in the Governor Training section of the CPD booklet for 2009/10.

More details on Safer Recruitment can be found at: www.teachernet.gov.uk

For further information on the above please contact: Kate Cockle, HR Business Manager on 020 8547 4604, or email kate.cockle@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

8. VETTING AND BARRING

The full launch of the Vetting and Barring scheme, which was planned for 12 October 2009 has been amended, as follows;

From 12 October 2009:

- The creation of two new ISA barred lists. These lists will replace the existing List 99 and POCA, POVA Lists.
- Access to these new ISA lists will be available on request as part of an Enhanced CRB check.
- Eligibility for Enhanced CRB checks will expand to include more employment and voluntary positions; such roles will be known as *regulated positions*.
- Standard CRB checks will no longer be available for those working with children or the vulnerable.
- There is no change to the current application form or application process.

From July 2010:

- Individuals will be able, via Registered/Umbrella Bodies, to apply to the CRB for ISA-registration if they are applying to work with children and/or vulnerable adults

in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There will be a 5 year phased roll out for ISA registration of those individuals who currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

- Employers will be able to express an interest in a person's ISA-registration and informed of any changes to that person's ISA-registration status.
- The CRB will introduce a new application form to allow applications for ISA-registration and CRB checks to be made on the same form.
- Employers can carry out free, online checks of a person's ISA-registration status.

From November 2010:

- It will be a legal requirement for individuals to register with the ISA if they intend to work or currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will be running training events for Governors and details will be included in the Governor Training section of the CPD booklet for 2009/10.

Further information can be found on the CRB website: www.crb.gov.uk

For the latest information coming out from the ISA you can also visit the ISA's website: www.isa.gov.org

For further information on the above please contact: Kate Cockle, HR Business Manager on 020 8547 4604, or email kate.cockle@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

9. DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME (DES)

The Disability Equality Duty (DED) requires schools to identify those aspects of what happens at school that are preventing disabled pupils from participating fully and take action.

Every school must have in place a disability equality scheme which has been developed with the involvement of disabled people, and set out how the school will promote equalities and encourage participation by children and adults with disabilities. The DCSF report that this will increasingly become a focus of inspections and the recent Lamb Enquiry into Parental Confidence recommended to Ministers that the Ofsted framework should be amended to give greater weight to the importance of DES.

The Governing Body must publish its scheme as a 3-year action plan and report on its progress annually. The DCSF expects schools to make their DES available as a download through their websites and is also expecting each LEA to signpost schools' DES through a link from its website.

Further information about the DED and templates provided to Kingston Schools during training can be found on the intranet in the Schools section containing SEN information.

For further information on the above please contact: Julie Ely, Strategic Manager Assessment and Support Learning on 020 8547 5269, or email Julie.ely@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

10. HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

ASBESTOS SURVEY REVIEW

A review of the asbestos survey information on schools has been undertaken to consider whether new surveys or professional re-inspections are needed to ensure that the most up-to-date information is held. The criteria used in the assessment process included consideration of factors such as the age of the buildings, the amount of asbestos remaining on site, the amount of building work undertaken since the previous survey and the location and ease of visually inspecting the asbestos. School-associated caretaker properties have also been included in the review. Letters will be sent to Schools advising them of the findings of the review with advice on what action is needed over the next few weeks.

The Health and Safety Executive's advice remains:

"If the material is in good condition and will not be disturbed then it does not pose a health risk"

All schools are asked to consider these questions and how they apply to their school:

1. Do you know the condition of any asbestos within your building(s)?
2. Have you informed the people who may disturb the asbestos that it's there?
3. Have you asked staff to refrain from pinning, stapling or tacking displays to any walls or ceilings containing asbestos?

DATA – D&T ACCREDITATION FOR SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

DATA – the Design & Technology Association - is a recognised professional organisation representing all involved in D&T education. DATA has developed a national accreditation scheme which provides a framework for competency skills and training standards, taking into account the D&T curriculum. To help ensure that RBK and schools comply with the legal requirements to provide staff with adequate training, RBK would like to introduce the DATA accreditation scheme for D&T and Food Technology staff within secondary and special schools.

A series of training events will be organised to take place within a number of the secondary schools – it is anticipated these events will start in September 2009. To support schools and staff, RBK will fund the training and the initial accreditation fee for each individual for the first year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE) VISIT

During 2008, the HSE visited RBK and a number of other Boroughs to consider the arrangements in place to support schools with issues including stress, violence, legionella, asbestos, health and safety advice, counselling, training and monitoring. The HSE were pleased on all accounts particularly in the support for staff with stress, provision of health and safety advice, and the work which Castle Hill Primary had undertaken with regard to pupils with challenging behaviour.

For further information on the above please contact: Caroline Woodliffe, Senior Health and Safety Adviser on 020 8547 5161, or email caroline.woodliffe@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

11. GOVERNOR UPDATES

CONSULTATION ON A SINGLE POINT OF FULL-TIME ENTRY INTO RECEPTION 2010

Governors will be aware of the current consultation being carried out with all primary schools and their governing bodies to consider offering all children the option to start full-time school in September, regardless of when they turn five during the academic year. The Rose Review Recommendation 14 states that “the preferred pattern of entry to Reception classes should be immediately following a child’s fourth birthday. However, this should be subject to well informed discussion with parents, taking into account their views of a child’s maturity and readiness to enter reception class.” A single point of full-time entry into Reception will offer all summer- born children the opportunity to start school full-time from September and improve outcomes for these children.

It is acknowledged that many children who attend school part-time until the summer term are disadvantaged socially and academically as they receive less access to high quality Early Years provision. Currently, there are significant gaps in attainment at the end of Reception between our autumn and summer born children. Enabling all children to have a single point of full-time entry would begin to address this irregularity.

Current position

At present, governing bodies offer parents/carers two options to choose from:

- a) Schools can admit spring –born children (i.e. those born between 1 January and 31 March) full-time from the start of the Autumn term

And/or

- b) Schools can admit summer born children (i.e. those born between 1 April and 31 August) full-time from the start of the Spring term.

Currently, patterns of reception entry vary between schools and any requests to start earlier than the pattern of admission used by the school, are based on an individual child’s circumstances, and are considered separately.

Funding Implications

At present, the DSG funding received by the LA is based on numbers of FTEs on Plasc day in January, therefore the greater the number of FTEs on roll in January attracts a

higher level of funding. Currently, any part-time pupils on roll in January attract 0.5 unit of DSG funding but schools are given 1.0 FTE by the LA.

The funding formula for schools will be reviewed for 2011/12 onwards. It is likely that the LA will propose funding Reception places according to attendance (i.e. 0.5 or 1.0 FTE). This means that schools would lose funding on any part-time pupils compared to the present position described above.

The Funding consultation will take place during Autumn term 2010 and the School's Forum will be involved in the final decision.

Legal Requirement

Parents will continue to have the right to defer entry into Reception, provided that happens during the academic year of entry.

Position in neighbouring LAs

Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth offer the option to all children to start full-time school in September.

Responses to the consultation

Governing bodies and schools are requested to email their responses using the proforma attached to the consultation letter, by **Friday 26 June**, to school.admissions@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

THE APPRENTICESHIPS, SKILLS, CHILDREN AND LEARNING BILL

This Bill was published on 4 February 2009 and sets out to change the law on a wide range of issues affecting children, young people, local authorities, and employers. It is expected to become law in November 2009.

Part 10 of the Bill covers the following items which are relevant to governing bodies and schools:

- A new route for dealing with complaints against schools/governing bodies - complaints may be referred to a Local Commissioner.
- Inspections – remove the requirement for Ofsted to inspect all schools every three years.
- The setting up of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body which will take responsibility for the terms and conditions and pay of school support staff.
- Amendments to current legislation allowing staff to search pupils for prohibited weapons.
- Changes the name of "Pupil Referral Units" to Short Stay Schools.

In addition the Bill

- places a new duty on governing bodies to co-operate to improve well-being
- places Children's Centres on a statutory footing

More information and a copy of the Bill (254 pages) can be downloaded from: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsskillschildrenandlearningbill/>

SCHOOLS CHARGING POLICY

The DCSF published revised guidance on charging for school activities on 3 February 2009. A governing body or local authority may not charge for any activity unless they have drawn up a statement of general policy on charging.

Headteachers or governing bodies may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours
- school equipment
- school funds generally.

The contribution must be genuinely voluntary, though, and the pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute may not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled.

Schools must ensure that they inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of named benefits of the support available to them when being asked for contributions towards the cost of school visits.

A similar entitlement applies where the trip takes place outside of school hours but it is necessary as part of the national curriculum, forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination that the school is preparing the pupil to sit, or the syllabus for religious education.

Schools are permitted to charge for board and lodging during residential trips. The cost may not exceed the actual cost of provision. If the trip takes place wholly or mainly during the school day children who are in receipt of free school meals are entitled to have the charges remitted.

Details of the requirements and a copy of the guidance can be obtained from Teachernet:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/chargingforactivities/index.cfm?code=main>

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM

Sir Jim Rose was asked by the Secretary of State Ed Balls in January 2008 to carry out an independent review of the primary curriculum. The Review began in the spring term 2008. An interim report was published on 8 December 2008. The final report was published on 30 April 2009, and will be followed by a 12-week statutory consultation. From January 2010, the DCSF and QCA will offer guidance, and exemplification through case studies and other materials to help schools introduce the new primary curriculum from September 2011.

The key features of the primary curriculum put forward by this Review are:

- Recognising the continuing importance of subjects and the essential knowledge, skills and understanding they represent;
- Providing a stronger focus on curriculum progression;

- Strengthening the focus on ensuring, that by the age of seven, children have a secure grasp of the literacy and numeracy skills they need to make good progress thereafter;
- Strengthening the teaching and learning of ICT to enable them to be independent and confident users of technology by the end of primary education;
- Providing a greater emphasis on personal development through a more integrated and simpler framework for schools;
- Building stronger links between the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, and between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. in offering exciting opportunities for learning languages for 7-11 year olds.

In his report Sir Jim stressed the need for challenging subject teaching alongside equally challenging cross-curricular studies. Six areas of learning are proposed to give schools optimum flexibility for planning cross-curricular studies. The proposed six areas of learning are:

1. understanding English, communication and languages;
2. mathematical understanding;
3. scientific and technological understanding;
4. human, social and environment understanding;
5. understanding physical health and well-being;
6. understanding the arts and design

Details of the review and copies of the final report are available from the DCSF website: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/>

The consultation can be accessed from www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

EXTENDED SCHOOLS GUIDE

A new and improved edition of the TDA's Extended Services Toolkit for governors is now available. It reflects the changes to the agenda, as well as the new duties on well-being and community cohesion.

The toolkit was created by the TDA in partnership with the NGA, DCSF and extended services delivery partners. The toolkit is designed to help governors working with their schools, whether the school is 'full core offer' or not, to ensure the existing or planned services are meeting the needs of pupils, families and the community – and are aligned with the school's vision and priorities.

To order a copy of the toolkit or the brief (2 sheet guide) or for more information, go to www.tda.gov.uk/extended services for governors

BREAKING THE LINK BETWEEN DISADVANTAGE AND LOW ATTAINMENT

This is the first in a series of documents that will look in detail at ways of narrowing the gaps in outcomes for particular groups of pupils which is reflected in the DCSF's wider

agenda for children and families.

It is a summary document of international and national evidence of the link between deprivation and education. It highlights some of the good practice already shown by schools and LAs and signals future policy direction.

You can order or download the document from TeacherNet's Online Publications for schools website:

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00357-2009.pdf>

For further information on any of the above items please contact: Hatija Bhatia, Principal Admissions & Governance Officer on 0208 547 5284, or email hatija.bhatia@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

12. GOVERNOR TRAINING FOR SUMMER TERM 2009

Please find listed below the Governor training courses that are available during the Summer Term 2009. Please reserve your place by speaking to your CPD coordinator and/or Headteacher depending on the arrangements at your school. All governor courses can be viewed on KIMS at the following link:

[http://www.rbksch.org/KIMS/\(S\(jkvx1m45xs5xjwvk5kqfvmid\)\)/kHome.aspx](http://www.rbksch.org/KIMS/(S(jkvx1m45xs5xjwvk5kqfvmid))/kHome.aspx) click View Courses, click Governor Training and Development.

The venue for all training is the King Charles Centre, 19.00pm – 21.00pm unless otherwise stated.

SUMMER TERM

From Good to Outstanding 21/05/09
G08/019 (6.45pm – 9.00pm)

Monitoring the School Budget 02/06/09
G08/015

Induction Training – The New Governor 10/06/09, 17/06/09, 24/06/09
G08/016 (over 3 consecutive weeks)

CAF Level 1 Training for School Governors 23/06/09
G08/017

Governors if they wish may attend the following daytime courses at the KCC:

Safer Recruitment Training
M08/011B 08/6/09 9.00am – 5.00pm
M08/011C 07/7/09 9.00am – 5.00pm

Performance Management Training
M08/010B 11/6/09 1.00pm – 4.30pm
M08/010C 16/6/09 9.00am – 12noon

**For further information on any of the above items please contact: Hatija Bhatia,
Principal Admissions & Governance Officer on 0208 547 5284, or email
hatija.bhatia@rbk.kingston.gov.uk**