

20 July 2010

Performance of Serco Education Contract

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor R. Andrew – Children's Services

Purpose

To inform the Panel on the themes within the Serco contract and to provide a short presentation on Theme 4 'Services Supporting & Providing ICT'.

1. The 8 Themes

1.1 The current contract consists of 8 themes of activity as set out below.

1. Strategic and Corporate Leadership

Provision:

- To act as a strategic and corporate agent on behalf of the Director of Children's Service and Walsall Council in all matters relating to these output specifications;
- To take responsibility and accountability for the provision of high quality, innovative, future focused, and cost effective education within Walsall Children's Services and those aspects of integrated Children's Services required by the Director of Children's Services and the council;
 - Promote choice, diversity, high standards of learning and teaching, and the fulfilment of every child's educational potential;
 - Implement organisational structures that are open, transparent and flexible to the needs of young people in Walsall as determined by Walsall Children's Services in so far as such structures relate to the services for the delivery of the contract.

2. Services supporting the welfare of children and young people

Provision:

- Support services for safeguarding of children and young people
- Support the provision of Extended Services to schools and the provision for Early Years
- Provide a Special Educational Needs Service to schools
- Provide the educational component for the support for Looked After

Children

- Provide a service to support the behaviour management of children and young people
- Provide a service to support improved pupil attendance at school
- Ensure the delivery of the statutory and local requirements for pupils' travel and standards in school food.
- Support schools in meeting healthy schools standards.

3. Services providing advice, guidance, support and challenge for schools, governors and other partners

Provision:

- **School Improvement Service, including:**
 - Support to develop high quality teaching and learning in all schools within innovative and future focused curricula;
 - Support for effective school leadership, including for succession planning;
 - Guidance and advice for teachers, school leaders and governors;
 - Challenge and intervention, including through multi-agency activity.

4. Services supporting and providing ICT

Provision:

- Developing strategic leadership and vision for learning through ICT
- Providing a reliable and adequate infrastructure to Walsall schools and centres
- Support for Management Information Systems
- Support for the curriculum
- Technical support for schools and Children's Centres
- Developing communication technology

5. Services supporting education beyond the classroom for Walsall schools.

Provision:

- Engage in strategic partnership and leadership for the development and promotion of educational and leisure activities beyond the classroom for children and young people in Walsall;
- Support educational and leisure activities beyond the classroom for children and young people in Walsall.

6. Services supporting

a) asset management

b) leadership of health and safety functions for schools

Provision:

- Work as a partner with the Corporate Landlord (Walsall Council) in the strategic leadership for the management and development of the building capital within Walsall Children's Services, as part of the council's Property Estate giving value for money for the council and for schools;
- Support the implementation of the building schools for the future programme;
- Provide a health and safety service to schools: guidance, support, monitoring and intervention in relation to the health, safety and welfare of those who work in schools and Children's Centres, pupils and others.

7. Services supporting the resourcing of education**Provision:**

- Provide a resourcing service to schools under the direction of the Director of Children's Services ;
- Support the work of the Schools' Forum;
- Provide a core HR service to schools.

8. Assessment Service and Support Services for children with disabilities and their families**Provision:**


- Provide or Commission an Assessment Service and Support Services for children with disabilities and their families.

1.2 A short report or presentation on one or two of the themes will be brought to each meeting.

2. Theme 4 – Services supporting and providing ICT

A short presentation will be given on activity within Theme 4. This will include the use of ICT to support teaching and learning, together with the use of ICT to improve communication and reduce bureaucracy.

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