

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 23 July 2009

RE: Building Schools for the Future – Transforming Learning in Walsall

Purpose

Scrutiny Panel has requested an update on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Building Schools for the Future progress update

Remit Meeting announced – we are now planning for a remit meeting date in September. Remit is the formal entry into the BSF programme. Diaries are currently in the process of being finalised and attendees confirmed.

Client Design Advisers/Technical Advisers – appointments to these key roles are imminent. These advisers will play a key part in the development of the education vision into annotated design drawings for each of the six schools in Wave 6a.

Sports and Leisure, Ben Percival, Sport and Recreation Manager has now become a member of the Transforming Learning Programme Team representing the PE and sports Stakeholder Group to ensure that the Sports and Leisure strategy is fully aligned with the wider programme.

PCP & BSF – the Department of Children, Schools and Families has issued a press release on 16 June regarding the transfer of management and delivery of all school building and refurbishment programmes to PfS included in this will be the Primary Capital Programme (PCP). Therefore it is PfS's understanding that the processes for both BSF and PCP should be aligned and joined up. Walsall had already decided that these two major investment programmes should be aligned within the wider overarching Transforming Learning in Walsall banner to ensure coherence and economies of scale.

Stakeholder Group – a more focussed BSF stakeholder group is currently being established with an inclusive membership as defined by PfS guidance. The first meeting is on the 14 July 2009. This will allow the 3is group to concentrate on the wider innovation in education agenda feeding into the education workstream.

Strategy for Change Part 2 (SfC2) - Strategy for Change Part 1 which was completed earlier this year provides an introduction to 'what' the Transforming Learning in Walsall strategy is. Our document is now with colleagues from PfS for review. Any matters which need to be addressed will be set out in our Remit letter. SfC2 contains the 'how' the strategy will be delivered and an initial meeting was held on the 17 June to launch the process for writing and the developing the document.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Panel to note the progress made on the Building Schools for the Future project.

Author

Alison Butcher

Project Director – Transforming Learning in Walsall Programme

✉ butchera@walsall.gov.uk