

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Executive Summary

- 1.0 It has become necessary to update the Wirral guidance on sex education to reflect the latest developments in the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) and to meet the requirements of the DfES document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance'. The Authority's guidance has been revised and a draft is attached for the Select Committee's comments.

Background

- 2.0 The Authority's current guidance on Sex Education was published in 1998 and addressed the main issues regarding sex education at that time. Since then a number of developments have taken place which now need to be incorporated into a new guidance document.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)

- 3.0 The delivery of SRE is now recommended as an integral part of an effective Personal, Social and Health Education programme throughout all four Key Stages. The emphasis is on the relationships aspect of the subject. This provides a firm basis for younger pupils and is developed as they progress throughout their school careers.
- 3.1 The new document has a 'Key Points' section which can be accessed rapidly and provides the most important information relating to SRE issues. Further details to support the basic points are provided in the appendix to the guidance.
- 3.2 Consultations have taken place with a working party of teachers across all phases and including special schools. The Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator was consulted, as were the Chair of the SACRE, the Health Promotion Specialist from Birkenhead and West Wirral PCT, the Manager of the School Nursing Service, the Health Promoting Schools Scheme Co-ordinator and representatives from voluntary agencies involved with young people's sexual health. Copies have also been sent to the Diocesan Education Authorities.
- 3.3 A copy of the draft of the new guidance is attached at Appendix 1. The Select Committee's comments are sought.

Staffing Implications

- 4.0 There are none.

Financial Implications

- 5.0 The cost of printing the guidance and distributing it will be in the region of £5,000 which will be met from within the Department's budget.

Equal Opportunities Implications

6.0 Sex and Relationships Education as part of a Personal, Social and Health Education programme emphasises the importance of personal responsibility, individual decision making and mutual respect which are essential if all children whatever their backgrounds are to be enabled to achieve their potential.

Local Agenda 21 Implications

7.0 An effective PSHE curriculum which includes effective SRE will enhance young people's quality of life and in due course the quality of life of their children.

Other Implications

8.0 There are none.

Local Member Support Implications

9.0 There are none.

Background Papers

10.0 "Sex and Relationship Education" (DfEE, 0116/2000).

Recommendation

11.0 The Select Committee's comments are invited.

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