

## **Report for the Schools Forum**

### **Proposed Consultation on the Future of Gilbrook Outreach Service and Behaviour Support for Primary Schools**

#### **Introduction**

1. In January 2010 the Schools Forum considered a report from a working party which had been established to review the funding of Gilbrook Outreach Service. The report highlighted problems concerning the long-term funding of the service and its viability.
2. The Gilbrook Outreach Service has a staffing establishment of 1.8 teachers and 2 teaching assistants. The total cost of running the service is £150,000. The service operates through service level agreements and currently 38 schools participate. The income which is generated from schools purchasing support is approximately £85,000 in 2010-11, clearly there is a shortfall. In the past the service was subsidised through the residual Behaviour Improvement Project grant, this was no longer be possible from 2010.
3. In January 2010 The Schools Forum agreed that the shortfall in funding of the service be found from the contingency fund for 2010-11. This was seen as a temporary measure as the Forum also asked that the long term future of the service be the subject of further consultation. The purpose of this paper is to provide the opportunity for further consultation.
4. Gilbrook Outreach Service has played in important part in supporting primary schools in dealing with pupils who present behaviour problems. All of the schools who purchase support value the service they receive.

The outreach service offers support in a number of ways, some examples are provided below but these are not exclusive.

1. Specialist advice on the presenting behaviour of individual pupils and the provision of a support plan.
2. Advice at TAC meetings.
3. Provision of anger management, circle of friends strategies.
4. In-service training for all staff teachers, teaching assistants and mid-day supervisors.
5. Contributing to the development of schools behaviour policies.

Although only approximately half of schools have seen the need to purchase support through service level agreements other schools would benefit from the service. Although a school may not routinely experience problems concerning behaviour, difficult individual cases can arise in any school.

5. As evidence of the important role Gilbrook Service plays, we can cite the reduction in primary permanent placement exclusions from 8 in 2008-09 to 2 in 2009/10. The availability of funding from standards fund to support pupils at risk of permanent exclusion and the excellent provision at the Key Stage 1 bases at Riverside Primary and St. Michael's RC School have also been very important. The exclusion base at Gilbrook School for pupils who are subject to fixed term exclusions, has been an important facility in helping headteachers manage some very difficult cases.
6. The provision of the support and specialist advice from Gilbrook Outreach has assisted many headteachers in the management of pupil behaviour. We have also been able to assist headteachers by providing temporary support for individual pupils at risk of permanent exclusion funded currently through standards fund.
7. The Schools Forum working group considered various funding methods for the service but it is fair to say concluded that the most sensible way forward would be to consider funding the service centrally from the DSG. The working party considered the option of raising the charges to the level needed to cover all costs however this would double the charges to individual schools, and would make the service too expensive. More importantly it is clear that all schools would benefit from having access to the specialist knowledge available at some time, although clearly the frequency varies from school to school.
8. A review of the future of the Gilbrook Outreach Service inevitably raises issues concerning the Authority's arrangements for providing general support and advice on 'behaviour issues' in the primary sector. Whilst support has been available from a number of different services and individuals in the past, the support needs to be more systematic and better coordinated. Unlike many Authorities there has never been a Behaviour Support Service and although the Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP) was successful the funding was temporary. In considering proposals for the future funding of Gilbrook outreach we have also considered those elements of behaviour support which all schools need access to. This paper outlines a plan to offer behaviour support to all primary schools from a coordinated team of professionals. The proposal can only be successful if the Gilbrook outreach service is secured as an important component of the Authority's arrangements for behaviour support. We have briefly described below what support would be available to schools if the service were centrally funded.
9. All primary schools would have access to the services described briefly below although they may not need all at the same time. These services would be provided by combining the expertise of the staff who currently provide support through Gilbrook outreach with those of other colleagues in the service, e.g. educational psychologists, admissions and exclusions officer and behaviour support coordinator. Through support, advice and consultation they could provide:

- a. Access to a team of professionals who would receive and respond to requests for support from individual schools. In the main these would be pupils who are the subject of an Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), at school action plus and for whom the school has exhausted strategies. The response would need to be prompt and specialist advice would be made available either from Gilbrook staff, an Educational Psychologist, or other officers depending on the referral. In some cases it will be appropriate to refer pupils to the bases at Riverside School and St. Michael and All Angels.
- b. Advice and guidance on writing a school behaviour policy and its implementation, monitoring and review.
- c. Access to a coordinated multi-agency inset programme on issues of behaviour management for teaching and non-teaching staff.
- d. Currently the outreach service is able to provide temporary individual support for pupils through deploying trained T.A.'s. This support is limited to 2 Teaching Assistants. Whilst the Authority has been able to assist schools with funding to appoint teaching assistants in a small number of cases by using standards fund this resource will no longer be available from 2011. (This has been made available only where there is clear evidence that the pupil is at risk of permanent exclusion). The Schools Forum has already set aside a sum of £45,000 to provide assistance for schools receiving pupils who had been permanently excluded. In view of the reduced number of such pupils it is suggested that this sum be combined with the non-teaching support available through the Gilbrook Service to be deployed by the team referred to in (a).
- e. Advice on the CAF and attendance at TAC meetings when appropriate, combined with advice on drawing up IBP's and provision mapping with a framework of graduated response, facilitating links to area teams.
- f. Not all pupils presenting behaviour problems have special educational needs but some may have disabilities such as ADHD. The 'team' would be able to ensure that advice and support was made available to school particularly where disability and exclusion issues were closely related.
- g. Provision of specific intervention at school level e.g. anger management, restorative justice.
- h. In-service training on restorative justice and exclusion procedures, and other relevant behavioural issues. A programme will be devised in consultation with headteachers.
- i. Providing training and advice to schools to enhance the social and emotional aspects of learning and facilitating strong links with parents.
- j. Access to the Key Stage 1 bases for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties through referrals in 3 and continued access to the exclusion unit at Gilbrook School.

## **The Proposal**

If the Schools Forum were to agree to centrally fund the outreach service for Gilbrook School it would enable the Authority to provide more effective support for schools. It is proposed that all primary schools are consulted on the following proposals.

- (1) That the Schools Forum should agree that £150,000 from the Direct Schools Grant should be used to fund the current Gilbrook Outreach Service from April 2011.
- (2) That the £45,000 currently set aside for permanently excluded pupils money to new schools should also be used to assist schools supporting pupils at risk of permanent exclusion.

The results of the consultation will be reported to the next meeting of the Schools Forum.