

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES
DATE: 19 January 2010
SUBJECT: EVERY CHILD A TALKER
WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS
REPORT OF: PETER MORGAN
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES
CONTACT OFFICER: JENNY REID (0151-934 3430)
**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report is to provide information on the national Every Child a Talker (ECaT) programme which Sefton is due to implement in April 2010.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

This report is for information only as the approval for post creation and implementation is subject to a Chief Officer's Report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member, Children's Services is aware of the LA's involvement in the national programme Every Child a Talker and the actions being take in its implementation.

KEY DECISION: No
FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Member meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

The financial implication for Sefton would be to provide additional funding to the funding allocated by the DCSF (as below).

| <u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u> | 2008/ 2009 £ | 2009/ 2010 £ | 2010/ 2011 £ | 2011/ 2012 £ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure | | | | |
| Funded by: | | | | |
| Sefton Capital Resources | | | | |
| Specific Capital Resources | | | | |
| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | | |
| <u>IMPLICATIONS</u> | | | | |
| Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure | | | <u>£109,358</u> | <u>£109,358</u> (subject to pay review) |
| Funded by: | | | DCSF and Surestart | DCSF and Surestart |
| Sefton funded Resources | | | | |
| Funded from External Resources | | | £109,358 | £109,358 |
| Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y | DCSF 31.03.2011 | | | |
| How will the service be funded post expiry? | | | | |

Legal: There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

Risk Assessment: Not appropriate.

Asset Management: Not appropriate.

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| CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS |
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| As detailed in this report. |
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CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | ✓ | | |
| 2 | Creating Safe Communities | | ✓ | |
| 3 | Jobs and Prosperity | ✓ | | |
| 4 | Improving Health and Well-Being | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Environmental Sustainability | | ✓ | |
| 6 | Creating Inclusive Communities | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | ✓ | | |
| 8 | Children and Young People | ✓ | | |

LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

The proposals will link to ensuring integration by contributing towards the following priorities in the CYPP:

- To reduce inequalities in the Foundation Stage whilst improving the outcomes for all children.

IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

The proposals will impact on the priorities in the CYPP as noted above and on the NI/LAA targets below:

- **NI 72** Achievement of at least 78 points across the EYFS with at least 6 in each of the scales in PSED and CLL
- **NI 92** Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in EYFS profile and the rest
- **CYP013** Percentage of children achieving point 6 levels of attainment in PSED at the end of the Foundation Stage in Sefton apart from those children living in areas within the top 30% IMD.
- **CYP014** Percentage of children achieving point 6 levels of attainment in CLL at the end of the Foundation Stage in Sefton apart from those children living in areas within the top 30% IMD.
- **CYP015** Reduction in the gap between the percentage of children achieving point 6 levels in PSED at the end of the Foundation Stage living in areas within the top 30% IMD and those children living in other areas of Sefton.
- **CYP016** Reduction in the gap between the percentage of children achieving point 6 levels in CLL at the end of the Foundation Stage living in areas within the top 30% IMD and those children living in other areas of Sefton

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

BACKGROUND:

1 Every Child a Talker Programme (ECaT)

1.1 The national Every Child a Talker programme is designed to improve the skills and

expertise of Sefton's Early Years workforce in early language. It will increase practitioners' understanding of early language development and support best practice, leading to improvements in children's language acquisition. The programme will also increase the involvement of parents in their children's learning and will help to develop stronger home learning environments.

- 1.2 The programme aims to raise children's achievement in early language so that the proportion of children aged 5 achieving 6 scale points or more in Language for Communication and Thinking (in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) improves in Sefton by 2012.
- 1.3 The programme will identify Early Years settings to work with in an intensive way. The settings will represent the private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI) as well as the maintained sector. The range of settings will include day nurseries, nursery classes, children's centres, childminders. It is critical that ECaT serves children from disadvantaged areas.
- 1.4 Sefton will receive funding from the DCSF to recruit an Early Language Consultant (ELC) to deliver the programme to 20 settings. Following consultation with the Interim Director for Integrated Services, Olive Carey, it is proposed to use Surestart funding to appoint a second Early Language Consultant to deliver the ECaT programme in Children's Centres. This approach will ensure that we are having a wider impact on more children, especially those in disadvantaged areas (fulfilling the requirement in 1.3 above).
- 1.5 At least 20 of the settings will receive additional funding to develop a member of staff to become an Early Language Lead Practitioner (ELLP).
- 1.6 The ELCs will spend 0.8 of their time working directly with settings and practitioners to support young children's language development, and 0.2 of their time working with key partners in Sefton in order to promote alignment across the LA. These partners will include the Early Years and Quality Inclusion Service, Speech and Language Therapy Service, Children's Centres Strategic Leaders and the Primary Care Trust.
- 1.7 Monitoring the impact of the programme will be a duty of Sefton's Early Years Outcomes Duties (EYOD) steering group.

2. REVENUE

- 2.1 ELC Post 1, to work with EY settings, will be funded by the DCSF for two years from April 2010.
- 2.2 ELC Post 2, to work with Children's Centres, will be funded from the Surestart Grant from April 2010.
- 2.3 All funding would be covered from the DCSF allocation and the Surestart Grant. There would be no additional costs to be found within the LA.

3. FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The ELC posts will be fixed term for two years. It is expected that identified members of the Early Years and Inclusion Team will also be involved in the training so that there will be future sustainability of the ECaT programme on a universal level with all settings.
- 3.2 The training programme over the two years will be aimed at developing skills and enhancing the capacity for early language expertise across all practitioners and key partners in the LA.

- 3.3 There will be funding for at least 20 settings to identify an Early Language Leading Practitioner who will provide support to other linked settings, therefore cascading expertise.