

EXTENDING SUCCESS IN DEVON SCHOOLS: THE DEVON EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2002 - 2007)

1 FOREWORD

1.1 This is the second Devon Education Development Plan (EDP) - the school improvement programme of Devon County Council as Local Education Authority. It covers the period April 2002 - March 2007. It sets the priorities and provides the framework for LEA activities which directly support schools in raising the level of pupil attainment during that period - and specifies the activities which the LEA will undertake during 2002 - 2003, the first year of the five-year programme.

1.2 The EDP comprises

- Section 2: LEA targets for pupil achievement at the end of Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 for 2003 and 2004; targets for achievement by children in care, and targets for higher pupil attendance
- Section 3: the information and processes which are used to set school and LEA targets - and how the school and LEA targets fit together
- Section 4: an evaluation of the first EDP (1999 - 2002)
- Section 5: an Audit of local data and evidence which bears on school improvement
- Section 6: an analysis of the LEA's strengths and weaknesses in relation to National Priorities
- Section 7: the School Improvement Programme, incorporating a summary of EDP activities in 2002 - 2003

1.3 In addition, the EDP has the following Annexes:

- Annex 1: Tables showing the pupil performance targets for 2003 which have been set by each maintained school
- Annex 2: An action plan for each activity in the 2002/2003 school improvement programme
- Annex 3: The resources to be allocated to the school improvement programme in 2002/2003
- Annex 4: The arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the EDP
- Annex 5: A report on the LEA's consultation about the EDP

1.4 The EDP does not set out to cover every task which the LEA undertakes - or every task in relation to raising standards which it would wish to undertake if additional resources were available.

The tests for inclusion of individual activities within the EDP are whether

- ◆ they are expected to make a real difference to standards of performance and the quality of education;
- ◆ they meet the national and local priorities which are defined in Section 5;
- ◆ they are necessary in order for the LEA to discharge its statutory duties, and
- ◆ their cost is reasonable in relation to the benefits expected.

Some activity programmes assume that continuing matched funding is available under Standards Fund or similar grant allocations made by the Secretary of State.

- 1.5 By themselves, setting targets and casting this EDP will change nothing. What will make a difference lies in the skill and knowledge of teachers in the classroom; in the effectiveness and vision of Headteachers and Governors in managing their schools as environments in which teaching and learning may securely and efficiently take place, and in the extent to which pupils are motivated to learn by the ethos of the school and by a rich and stimulating curriculum.

The EDP will support Devon schools in each of these aspects. Further, EDP activities are designed to mesh wherever possible with the support which schools receive from partners in the Education Service, including Parents' and Governors' organisations, the Diocesan Education Authorities and Early Years providers, and to build upon the consultative and partnership structures - for example, the Academic Councils and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership - already in operation.