

## **Parent Forum Briefing**

### **For your information**

This is a briefing from Education Services. It is being sent to each Parent Council in the region as a means of informing parents \* about the savings that have to be made by Education Services in Dumfries and Galloway and to support discussions throughout the consultation phase.

The purpose of this briefing is to explain to parents about the 2-18 Service Review that the Council's Education Services are carrying out and how parents/carers can get involved and have their say.

### **What is the 2-18 Service Review?**

Education Services have been asked by Dumfries and Galloway Council to carry out a Service Review of 2-18 Education in order to identify £3.4M savings by 2017/18

This breaks down to £1.4M in 2016/17 and a further £2M in 2017/18. This saving is 11% of the total amount to be saved by Dumfries and Galloway Council by 2018.

There has already been a 'Supporting Learners' review which took place last year. This is being followed by a further review of Education Services called '*2-18 Structural Delivery Service Review*'.

### **Who decides there's going to be a Service Review?**

It is Elected Members of Dumfries and Galloway Council (your locally-elected Councillors) who make this decision.

The Elected Members look at how much money the Council has as a whole and how it's divided up between the different Council Directorates. The Elected Members asked the Education Directorate to carry out service reviews and then return to Committee with a set of proposals for Education Services. The Elected Members will then consider these proposals and decide whether to agree them.

### **What is the aim of the Service Review?**

The aim is to have services that:

- Help all children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Are high-quality
- Are within budget and sustainable for the future

This review will look at all the Education Services for children from the age of 2 to 18 across all Dumfries and Galloway. By looking at everything from age 2 to 18 it is possible to find ways of re-arranging services to ensure there is fair access to them and they make the best use of the money that's available.

### **What happens in a Service Review?**

The reviews look at each of the service areas and ask questions like:

- Is the service making the most of the resources it has to support children and young people?
- Is the service helping the Council to meet its priorities?
- How much does each aspect cost every year?
- Are the right people accessing the right services for them?
- Is the service delivered differently across Dumfries and Galloway?
- Are there other services that are doing something very similar?
- Are there examples of good practice from other local authorities which could help?

The reviewers collect and analyse information about the way the services are organised and delivered. Then they develop a set of savings proposals based on their findings. The savings proposals are then presented to Elected Members at Dumfries and Galloway Council who will consider then take a decision about them.

### **Why do these Service Reviews have to happen?**

The Council has to make big savings over the next 3 years. Services for children are being protected as far as possible but the Education Directorate still has to save money as it is the biggest department in the whole council

### **Who carries out the reviews?**

Each review is carried out by a Service Review Team comprising primary and secondary Headteachers and central officers all with expertise in a range of aspects that affect children and young people. The Dumfries and Galloway Parent forum have been involved in the review process.

### **What do these Service Reviews mean for Parents and Carers?**

There is a likelihood that services will change due to the reduction in budgets over the next few years. The savings proposals are based on a range of evidence, professional knowledge and experience and research into what makes the biggest positive difference to children's learning.

### **Is it all just about making cuts?**

No. However, we do have savings to make. It makes much more sense to look at the big picture and how we may need to change what we do in order to make the service sustainable

### **How are parents/carers getting involved?**

Parent Councils are expected to meet during the consultation period to discuss the savings proposals which have been identified this year. Parent Councils will be sent the relevant materials and resources to support discussion and provide their response.

Responses should be emailed to: [Education-2-18ServiceReviewConsultation@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Education-2-18ServiceReviewConsultation@dumgal.gov.uk).

Parents who might wish to respond individually can do so by clicking on the following survey: <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9649> or by collecting a Respondent's Form from the school office and returning it to Resources Team, Woodbank, 30 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NW.

\* parents mean anyone who has a parental responsibility