

**REPORT TO:** Council Committee for Education

**MEETING DATE:** 16 March 2010

**BY:** Executive Director of Education & Children's Services

**SUBJECT:** Place2Be

---

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the introduction of Place2Be into 6 primary schools in East Lothian and for the Committee to note the benefits of the service to primary school children in East Lothian. Also to inform Committee of the interest of the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Harry Burns, in carrying out a longitudinal study of early intervention with children in P1 and the links between this and Place2Be.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- i. Approve the proposal for East Lothian Council to go into partnership with Place2Be for a period of three years.
  - ii. Note the interest of the Chief Medical Officer in carrying out research in East Lothian as part of a further extension of the work around Support from the Start.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Place2Be is a multi-award winning charity. It was founded in 1994 and it delivers school based counselling services to over 50,000 children. In Scotland it is currently working in the City of Edinburgh.

- 3.2 It offers:

- One to one support to individual children on a weekly basis.
- A referral drop in centre for all the children in the school.
- Advice and support to parents.
- Training, advice and support to school staff.

- Group work.

### 3.3 The benefits of the service are:

- It is on site, low stigma and easily accessible.
- Referrals can be made by teachers and parents.
- It is staffed by trained volunteer counsellors who are supervised by a school based project manager.
- It is open to all children within the school.
- It is estimated that 60%-70% of a school population use the service.
- Critically it also provides support to parents and to school staff.

3.4 Harry Burns, the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland is already involved in East Lothian as part of the Support from the Start initiative. Leading on from this and from international research he is currently working with a small group of staff to develop a research project around early intervention with children in P1. The purpose of this is to look at nurturing approaches and how they can help a child's readiness to learn. Evidence from abroad suggests that a difference can be made.

The introduction of Place2Be is seen as a key component of this. The plan in East Lothian is to link the Place2Be with the Support from the Start initiative and the six schools will be chosen from within the test site area.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Place2Be links into the strategic priorities set by Education & Children's Services in that it promotes early intervention for all children alongside a targeted service for the most vulnerable. It links in with the Council's drive to make all our primary schools "nurturing schools".
- 4.2 It will also underpin the Council's commitment to the provision of a positive educational experience to all children in East Lothian.

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – Place2Be provides a third of the costs of the project through fund raising from the business sector and trusts. They have already identified the finances from these sources to enable the work to commence in East Lothian. Education & Children’s Services and NHS Lothian would be expected to each contribute one third of the funding. The participating schools are expected to contribute to the costs from their predictable needs budget (circa £6,000). Place2Be have found that this encourages ownership of the project. The sum of £95,000 has been identified as the Council’s contribution for 2010/11.
- 6.2 Personnel - there are no personnel implications as Place2Be recruit and employ their own staff and recruit their own volunteers.
- 6.3 Other – None

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

<b>AUTHOR’S NAME</b>	Marion Wood
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Quality Improvement Manager (Inclusion and Equality)
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	01620 820116 E-mail <a href="mailto:mwood@eastlothian.gov.uk">mwood@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
<b>DATE</b>	23 February 2010