



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

INFORMATION
COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY

STRATEGIC
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN

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1. Executive Summary

The world is changing; ICT is a pivotal part of our futures. Meeting the needs of the digital landscape set before us will be crucial to prepare for the journey ahead. The menu of choice is growing so there has never been a more important time to have a shared vision and direction for ICT in schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners.

This plan sets out the foundations of that journey and closely aligns itself with the strategies shown in section 3. Built on shared values, the plan through its lifetime will continue to enhance the learning experience whilst providing the transferable skills required. The strategic plan whilst flexible will focus on its core aims of promoting life long learning, equality and well being offering greater inclusion, access and engagement opportunities for schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners.

2. Vision for ICT

“To empower and provide opportunities for the children and young people of North Somerset to achieve their aspirations in an ever changing digital world”.

3. Links to other plans

This vision complements the following Council strategic documents:

- Single Plan for Children & Young People – 2010-2014
- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan 2008-2011
- Corporate ICT Strategy 2009-2012
- School Improvement Team 2009-2010
- 14-19 Partnership 2009-2010

4. Audience

Fulfilling this strategy will require the full support and approval from a number of groups/individuals/officers within the Children & Young People’s Services Directorate and external bodies. In translating the themes into reality all partners and stakeholders will need to be clear about the resources that will be required.

Consultation on this strategy takes place each year as part of the annual review with the following:

- ICT Consultative Steering Group
- Primary Heads Association in North Somerset (PHANS)
- Secondary Heads in North Somerset (SHINS)
- Heads Association in North Somerset (HANS)
- Special Heads in North Somerset (SENS)
- Governor Executive Forum
- Executive Member for Children & Young People
- Strategic Schools Forum
- Children & Young People’s Services Senior Leadership Team
- Corporate IT Strategy Group
- Children & Young People’s Services ICT Strategy Group

5. Themes

The Vision and Strategy for Children & Young People's Services will be progressed through a number of actions detailed within the following key themes:

Theme 1: Support leadership and management within schools to embed effective and safe use of ICT

Theme 2: Implement an effective e-communications infrastructure between schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners

Theme 3: Optimise investment in ICT ensuring best value and sustainability

Theme 4: Increase the effectiveness of Management Information Systems and services utilised by schools, the Directorate and its partners.

Theme 1: Support leadership and management within schools to embed effective and safe use of ICT

Context and Rationale

ICT Self Review is well established in North Somerset schools and is seen as pivotal to underpinning ICT developments and raising standards. The online North Somerset ICT Toolkit has been continually improved with input from stakeholders. Regular support visits for Head teachers and subject leaders offer challenge and rigour to the process informed by; national, regional and local agendas. Successful network opportunities for Primary, Secondary and Special school ICT subject leaders are included in CPD events. Planning and target setting has been informed by examination data relating to a range of ICT KS4 courses. Best practice in ICT assessment is promoted. E-Safety resources have been developed for schools.

In order to meet the many challenges over the next five years, ICT Self Review will continue to be central to informing strategic decisions. Critical reflection of practitioners will be essential in order to inform teaching practices and changing pedagogical approaches. A wide range of approaches will ensure dissemination of good practice to increase parental engagement and involve learners in their education to improve outcomes and standards. A programme for promoting good practice in e-safety will ensure all schools have access to quality training and resources.

Actions

- Improve and further develop school leadership, management teams and governance in the use of ICT to raise standards through assisted ICT Self Review
- Improve and further develop the quality of teaching and learning in ICT through support and training
- Raise awareness, provide resources and embed best practice in e-safety
- Promote critical reflection and dissemination of good practice

Resources

- Maintained Online ICT Self Review Toolkit
- Targeted e-Safety resources and training materials

- Quality Professional Development Programme

Summary

ICT Self Review toolkit and support will continue to support strategic developments. Flexible, quality professional development opportunities will support changing pedagogical approaches. Access to an appropriate e safety programme will embed best practice.

Theme 2: Implement an effective e-communications infrastructure between schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners

Context and Rationale

E-communication has become an essential part of our everyday lives. ICT is reshaping our choices in the way we engage and communicate. It is the tool that provides new opportunities to enhance the way we learn, work, share and socialise.

In this ever-changing digital world North Somerset Council has continued to support schools in reaching and delivering against the previous Government's E-Strategy targets. Through the duration of the previous ICT Strategic Plan 2007-2010 significant achievements have been met.

With infrastructure at the core, the focus has been and will continue to be improving the links between schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners. Broadband connectivity will be improved for all schools by the end of this academic year; a new wide area network (WAN) with greater resilience has been completed on time and to budget to support the needs of 14-19. The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) under the direction of schools and local authorities has completed the procurement of a new managed service which will support the needs of its clients for the next ten years.

In March 2005, the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) introduced their E-Strategy. The target to deliver a personalised online learning environment for all staff and pupils has been met with the continued implementation of SWGfL Merlin (the foundation for a school's learning platform). Merlin is continually evolving to meet the needs of schools and the wider community, supporting the secure exchange of data, parental engagement, transition and the glue to enable personalised access to content and tools in an e-safe environment.

Actions

This theme requires a sustained involvement in each year of the plan in a number of key areas, namely:

- The need to sustain and maintain an e-safe infrastructure to enable and facilitate improved communications for all users
- The provision of reliable information to users via a safe and secure set of online services and tools
- The continued provision of reliable web based email for all users
- The continued development and implementation of a managed learning environment for all schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners
- The continued development of an online environment to support the North Somerset 14-19 partnership.
- Deliver stronger links between the many data systems across schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners using Interoperability.

- Using the open standards to provide a managed interoperable experience to the North Somerset virtual school to support their needs and those of our looked after children.
- The provision of greater anywhere anytime broadband connectivity,

ICT enables greater access to the tools, data and content used in our daily lives. The Managed Learning Environment (MLE) will be the foundation to bring together these elements; delivering the collaborative, e-safe, accessible, personalised experience. Partnered with an evolving, and adaptable infrastructure (and the strong governance this will require) encapsulates the goal for theme 2 over the life of this plan.

Resources

The Implementation and embedding of a personalised online learning space continues to require additional resource and expertise. The change management process requires a significant commitment from schools over a period of years. The ICT E-learning Specialist post is currently in place until September 2011 at which time continued support would need to be assessed but it is recommended this support be maintained.

Funding for the future development of the MLE and the core elements within are currently met through the Harnessing Technology Grant and will continue to be delivered this way based on the expectation of the grant continuing.

Summary

In this ever-changing digital world the implementation of an adaptable e-communications infrastructure will remain a significant challenge.

Interoperability and integration when complete will enable all schools and the wider community, the Directorate and its partners to have the capacity to access the tools, content, services and data whenever and wherever it's needed through a safe and secure personalised online environment.

Theme 3: Optimising investment in ICT ensuring best value and sustainability.

Context and Rationale

The previous Government's vision for ICT has historically focused its capital expenditure into a restricted number of areas. The ongoing focus and funding levels are uncertain but we need to continue to invest in order that we do not slip backwards.

The Primary Capital Program (PCP) within North Somerset underpins our Primary Strategy for Change by providing state of the art facilities and ICT infrastructures to allow 21st century teaching and learning to be delivered. PCP is achieved by joining up other funding streams, local authority resources, school's devolved capital (where possible) and private sector funding. The long-term aim of the PCP is to improve the outcomes for children and young people in North Somerset in line with the Council's aim of promoting lifelong learning.

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme has been concluded. With a new Government in place the future of capital programmes is currently under review, however it is anticipated that the new Academy and Free School's programme will play a significant part in the future of capital funding. These programs will form a major part of education investment for the foreseeable future and as such will require significant investment of project management resource to ensure that best value is achieved and delivered.

The past few years has seen a significant investment from the previous Government with regard to the provision of broadband connected kit to pupils from low-income families. The latest home access initiative has significantly benefited local families. Ensuring that this kit can connect to schools systems and databases allowing any time anywhere learning will be key moving forward.

Actions

The ICT provision for Locality Hubs will vary dependant on the scope of each centre but will need to be tailored to meet the needs of the professionals that will be based in or working from it. Integration with Schools, Children's Centres, Youth Centres and other local authority or partner facilities on the same sites will be crucial. The connectivity from these and other locations, including staff working from home, should allow access to all data and systems that staff require. This connectivity will need to meet the current, and developing challenges with regard to: data protection, data security, integrated working.

We will seek to have early involvement in the visioning and design of all Academy and PCP developments. Our aim is to ensure that the provision of ICT to all CYPS led locations is robust, cost effective, and meets the needs of all users. This will be particularly challenging where multiple agencies are sharing a facility.

We will continue to monitor the marketplace, identify best practice and technologies, and promote the use of these as appropriate within schools and settings as well as throughout the wider community. Action will be required to align the information access requirements of the schools with the security and data management standards of the authority.

The offer of technical, procurement and project management support to the ICT aspects of school driven projects will be continued at the level defined in the ICT SLA ahead of its review in March 2011, two of the key features of which include:

- A core entitlement for advice on ICT project management and procurement. 1.0 day sec / 0.5 day primary and special.
- Specific technical advice or support from Corporate ICT for all schools. 1.0 day sec / 0.5 day primary and special.

Resources

The resources required to meet this plan will vary dependant on the number of projects that the local Authority initiates, but in principle these will be met by the two ICT Project Managers who currently reside in the Business Improvement Team. Approximately 40% of their costs are funded directly by CYPS the remainder of their costs will be recovered by direct charges to the capital projects on which they are working

Summary

The areas that will be worked within to meet the demands of this theme are as follows:

- Support for the Academy build process
- Individual project support via the PCP program
- Support for schools undertaking procurement
- Children's Centres ICT infrastructure supporting the delivery of the services they offer.
- Locality hubs ICT infrastructure supporting the delivery of the services they offer.

- Children & Young People's Services staff access to the data and systems that they need to work effectively.
- Completion of the expansion of the primary school broadband facility schools
- A single support structure for ICT in each school
- A framework contract structure for the procurement of ICT equipment is in place for use by all educational settings

Theme 4: Increase the effectiveness of Management Information systems and services utilised by schools, the Directorate and its partners

Context and Rationale

With the Children Act 2004 and subsequent development of Children and Young People's Services embracing the Change for Children Agenda, the drive now is to broaden the access to and sharing of information as appropriate with the wider range of professionals and settings who are our partners.

The agenda covers access to information for all professionals working with individual children and young people. Ideally we need to be able to provide access to anyone with a "need to know" working with student/pupil not just about the other professionals working with the child, but also seeing contextual pupil information from an MIS via secure, accessible adequate reporting. The key is creating access to all of the factors affecting Children & Young People; demographic/welfare/education and existing support information. Key to the success of this is a commitment to sharing between all front-line professionals across all services working with children, young people and their families.

The exploration and development of social networking, MLE (managed learning environment) or SMS feeds for children, young people and their families will provide a school community the opportunity to maximise access to information either on demand or within an agreed time frame.

Actions

Implement a 'hub' solution to provide a data warehouse to support multi-agency reporting and information collation for children and young people. A technical solution has been identified, however, that does not solve everything, good quality data feeds and clear information governance agreements will be required to achieve this.

Work with school communities to identify the most appropriate solution to facilitate parental engagement with schools using IT.

Resources

Summary

The actions required to deliver this theme are realistic and once achieved will provide a model for other areas of our service to provide quality information in a secure and timely manner, maximising the use of information contained across individual Management Information Systems.

6. Reporting Mechanisms

Annual reviews of the plan will be completed presented to the following groups, in no particular rank order these will include:

- Executive Member for Children & Young People
- Executive Member for Finance & Performance
- Strategic Schools Forum (SSF)
- Children & Young People's Services Senior Leadership Team
- Corporate IT Strategy Group
- Children & Young People's Services ICT Strategy Group
- ICT Consultative Steering Group
- Primary Heads Association in North Somerset (PHANS)
- Secondary Heads in North Somerset (SHINS)
- Heads Association in North Somerset (HANS)
- Special Heads in North Somerset (SENS)

Appendix 1

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Primary/Special Schools	£1400 + £9 pupil	£1500 + £10 pupil	£1600 + £11 pupil	£1700 + £12 pupil	£1800 + £13 pupil
Secondary Schools	£3000 + £12 pupil	£3250 + £13 pupil	£3500 + £14 pupil	£3750 + £15 pupil	£4000 + £16 pupil

Expenditure	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Broadband Charges	£780,000	£855,000	£880,000	£905,000	£930,000
Primary upgrade - capital costs	£350,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
Primary upgrade - revenue costs	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
SWGfL Management Fee	£48,392	£50,812	£53,353	£56,020	£58,821
SWGfL Development Budget - E-Safety/projects	£24,994	£26,244	£27,556	£28,934	£30,381
Online Learning Software Support	£181,660	£0	£0	£0	£0
Merlin ongoing costs	£65,000	£68,250	£71,663	£75,246	£79,008
Merlin - management & training costs	£78,750	£25,750	£0	£0	£0
VLE (Capital) Implementation in all schools/PRUs incl. SIF	£40,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
VLE Revenue Costs in all schools/PRUs	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Espresso Costs - 3 years primary/special paid in 2009/10	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Secondary Espresso equivalent	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Centrally supported school projects	£35,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Easymail staff accounts	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
EMS Management	£16,106	£16,106	£16,106	£0	£0
TOTAL	£1,624,903	£1,052,162	£1,058,677	£1,075,200	£1,108,210
Income					
Carry Forward SWGfL	£22,587	£0	£0	£0	£0
Carry Forward NSC	£779,483	556,246	148,084	0	0
Pooled Technology Fund	£360,000	0	0	0	0
SSF Funding	£190,000	£190,000	£419,593	£547,200	£543,209
Income from Schools for Broadband	£413,330	£454,000	£491,000	£528,000	£565,000
Additional Income from 14-19 Broadband	£415,749	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL	£2,181,149	£1,200,246	£1,058,677	£1,075,200	£1,108,209
(Balance)/Shortfall	-£556,246	-£148,084	£0	£0	£0