

## **Case Study evidence and Professional Reflections by Hertfordshire Extended Schools Spring 2011**



It is a pleasure to present a snapshot, and joint contribution by extended school co-ordinators, of the excellent and innovative work that has been taking place through the extended schools programme over the past three to five years.

Extended services provided by schools in Hertfordshire have grown extensively over the past few years.

All schools have provided a range of services that meet the needs of families in each area and include before and after school clubs, parenting support and family learning.

Hertfordshire County Council's transformation programme has provided the opportunity to reorganise children's services in the light of new priorities of the government and nationwide funding cuts. The challenge remains to continue to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Hertfordshire, particularly the most vulnerable, and to do so at a lower cost. The role of the local authority is to guide rather than provide services, with control transferred to a local community level for all services apart from some specialist provision.

The reallocation of funding streams does not mean the end of extended services – it is simply a new way of working. New arrangements within Hertfordshire meet the government's aim for schools to be more independent and for many to operate as academies or free schools. This supports a model currently under discussion with schools to rationalise the local partnerships and to find ways to plan, commission and deliver services for children and families in their own areas, probably grouped by district or more local boundaries. These proposals also fit in with the national agenda of localism and the vision of the 'Big Society'.

Although many changes are occurring in the structure of services to children and families, Hertfordshire County Council remains committed to improving outcomes for all children and young people.

The attached document "Celebrating Extended Services in Hertfordshire" reflects some of the positive and successful activities that have benefited children and young people in Hertfordshire over the past few years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Donovan', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Justin Donovan**  
**Director of Education and Early Intervention**  
**Children's Services**  
**Hertfordshire County Council**