



## Scrutiny and Overview Committee

### Report from the Director of Children & Families

For Information

Wards Affected:

ALL

## Wembley Study Support Centre

### 1.0 Summary

This paper updates members on the development of the Study Support Centre to open within Wembley National Stadium on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to notes progress in the development of the Wembley Study Support Centre.

### 3.0 Details

3.1 The Wembley Study Support Centre will provide an inspirational learning environment for children and young people in Brent out of school hours. It is a partnership project between Brent Council, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and Wembley National Stadium (WNS).

3.2 The initiative is known as Playing for Success ("PfS") and has its origins in the Government's 1997 manifesto commitment to develop a new scheme with the Premier League to attack under-achievement in urban areas. Since then 132 study support centres have opened within sport settings.

3.3 Enabling children and young people to access Study Support opportunities is a key factor in raising attainment. Many Brent schools offer access to out-of-school-activities and Brent has two City Learning Centres. A Study Support Centre based at Wembley National Stadium will provide an opportunity to further develop the Council's range of out-of-school-hours-activities and will provide a unique learning environment for local children and young people.

- 3.4 The Study Support Centre will focus on:
- Raising standards of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills in Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils who are underachieving or at risk of doing so;
  - Motivating pupils to learn, raising self esteem and re-engaging them in education;
  - Offering a supportive environment to enhance study skills.
- 3.5 Each year the centre will work with a minimum of 12 secondary and 12 primary schools, reaching at least 360 children a year. Groups will attend after school, one session a week for 10 weeks. At the end of each term there will be a celebration day and pupils, mentors, family members, link teachers, head teachers and centre staff will be invited. This will be an opportunity for pupils to be presented with certificates and awards.
- 3.6 The Centre itself will operate as dual use – during term time on weekdays it will operate as the Study Support Centre, and on event days WNS will use it as their 'Coach Driver's Lounge'. The Centre is large, 374m squared with its own secure entrance and reception, kitchen and toilets and the curriculum designed for the children will enable them to use other parts of the stadium, for example, the Press Room for practicing interviewing techniques.
- 3.7 The centre will be accountable to Brent Council, through the Children and Families Directorate and will be managed by a steering group which will reflect representation from key stakeholders. The day-to-day running of the centre will be the responsibility of the centre manager who will be line managed by the Head of Children's Partnerships.
- 3.8 In addition to the centre manager there will be a part-time teacher on site and a volunteer and mentoring programme will be established to enable a wider audience to develop skills and knowledge in delivering study support and will ensure there is a low staff-pupil ratio within the centre.
- 3.9 Funding for the project is based on a three year, three way agreement between the DCSF, WNS and Brent Council and it is capped at £150,000 total revenue expenditure. The proportions are:
- the Council - 1/6
  - WNSL - 2/6
  - DCSF - 3/6
- 3.10 The Council's contribution will be met by a growth bid of £25,000 which was agreed in April 2006. WNS's contribution will include notional rental and utilities costs for the centre, security costs and logistical support associated with operating the centre.
- 3.11 In order to support capital costs Brent Council is working closely with Microsoft who has agreed to sponsor some of the IT equipment that will be used to help deliver the curriculum.
- 3.12 The official opening date of the centre will be 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007, where senior ministers have agreed to attend.

#### **4.0 Contact Officers**

Susan Mackenzie, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley Middlesex HA9 7RW.  
Tel: 020 8937 3382. Fax: 020 8937 3023  
Email: susan.mackenzie@brent.gov.uk

**Director of Children & Families - John Christie**