Education and life long learning

There are three schools in the town -Hungerford Nursery School, Hungerford Primary School and the John O'Gaunt Community Technology College, which all work closely together. The Nursery in the Croft has just benefited from a new building which is a welcome improvement. The schools have received one year's worth of funding to expand the facilities and learning opportunities to everyone in the community. A result of this has been the formation of the Hungerford Schools Community Partnership (HSCP). Clubs and activities will run before and after the current school day, and for up to 50 weeks in the year. Many new classes and opportunities are emerging from the improvements which are being made.

HSCP is an integrated community project bringing together education, childcare, leisure, youth and community, advice and support services. These aspects will be coordinated across the schools, those with the expertise will lead in the appropriate areas. John O'Gaunt will lead life long learning, the Nursery School will lead on childcare and the Primary School on computer skills.

Many services are already provided across the three schools, and with help from the West Berkshire Lifelong Learning Partnership they can seek to engage the wider community in life long learning. Working together with the West Berkshire Education Business Partnership and the Lifelong Learning Partnership, the focus will be on areas such as easier access to learning opportunities for all, improving skills and knowledge, and helping people to improve their work prospects. All agencies must be sustainable both financially and in terms of the services they offer. Funding is a concern, particularly as the HSCP is currently funded only for the initial year.







Policies

Encourage the development of life long learning for all in Hungerford.

Develop and maintain the partnership approach with all schools working together.

Encourage residents to be healthier and fitter with improved sporting facilities and programmes.

Increase levels of achievement by improving the range and quality of learning opportunities.



Key Actions

• Work to make the Hungerford Schools Community Partnership a success.

• Increase the contribution to the physical well-being of the whole community by providing a wide range of sporting activities.

• Ensure family support workers are provided for all three schools.

• Develop preventative services to include health, wellbeing and advice from the police. Continue initiatives such as drug education, heart-start and healthy eating.

• Use any available free places in classes run at schools as part of a drive to encourage life long learning amongst all sectors of the community.

• Set up holiday play schemes plus breakfast and lunch clubs to provide more child care provision.

• Develop and publicise links to the Children's Information Service which is promoted through the family support workers and computer networks in schools.

• Encourage the different agencies to work together and communicate between their different groups to improve access and awareness amongst families who may need these services.