

Linking health, equity and sustainability in schools

International Centre of Excellence for
Community Schools

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Plan

- Local issues impact on the classroom and children's ability to learn
- Community Schools' role in addressing issues
- Practical examples
- Protecting and extending this work
- Strategic need: Coordination and intelligence, leadership and quality,
- Networking from ICECS



Global issues /local impact

- Migration
- Economic transition/depletion of natural resources
- Poor health outcomes
- Conflict in neighbourhood
- High unemployment/low family income/access to learning
- Chronic illnesses, poor health literacy, unhealthy behaviour



THE GAP

What does this mean and what is its significance?

Outcomes are related to differences WITHIN a country, not BETWEEN countries.

Community Schools

- an essential mechanism to tackle the issues at local level
 - Collaborative leadership
 - Partners with parents
 - Social inclusion and extension of access
 - Relevant curriculum
 - Open school climate
 - Services delivered in partnership e.g. Health services, public health promotions services, safety of children, inter-cultural understanding – lifelong learning
- ***'Schools alone cannot break the link between disadvantage and achievement ... research stresses the need for holistic and broad based approaches that involve a number of agencies working together to address community based issues.'***
(Estyn Report: Tackling child poverty and disadvantage in schools, January 2010)



Examples of how they work

- **Ministry of Education and Sport, Slovenia**
- *Šoštanj Primary School offers a learning process which can enrich traditional forms of schooling. It demonstrates how a school, including its infrastructure, can influence family life and the environment, creating new social patterns and a local identity. Pupils and teachers are involved in different thematic projects and programmes, together with parents and the wider community.*

Example activities

- <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/about-us>
- Skilled for Health
- Healthy eating
- Going for goal
- Obesity
- Community cohesion
- CAGE and access for girls in Africa

So how can we protect this work?

- Guard against the vagaries of politics



- Coordination – national, regional and local
- Intelligence



Strategic Level Work (2)

Leadership – collaborative, devolved

Quality – International Standards

- Leadership
- Partnership
- Social inclusion
- Services
- Volunteering
- Lifelong learning
- Community development
- Parent engagement
- School culture



Networking and ICECS' work

- Exchange of information
- Practical examples and support
- Raising quality
- Ensuring focus
- Not re-inventing wheels or duplicating mistakes
- Meetings, websites, newsletters



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