

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SUB-GROUP

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham**

Date: Monday, 28 February 2005

Time: 11.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th October, 2004 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Children's Centres - Progress Report (copy attached). (Pages 5 - 8)
5. Early Education and Childcare Activity in areas outside Children's Centre (report attached). (Pages 9 - 13)
6. Rotherham Out of School Strategy (report attached). (Pages 14 - 17)
7. Ten Year Government Childcare Strategy (report attached). (Pages 18 - 20)
8. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday, 19th April, 2005 at 11 am

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SUB-GROUP
12th October, 2004

Present:- Councillors Boyes, Gosling and Jack.

Ruth Johnson – Pre –School Learning Alliance

Julie Bates – Rotherham Play & Learn Bus

Mary Smith - The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, Inclusion

Paula Williams – Training and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator

Apologies were received from Councillors Austen, Littleboy and Robinson; Sue Walker, Senior School Improvement Adviser – Early Years.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.

Resolved:- That Councillor Gosling be appointed Chairman of this Sub-Group.

(Councillor Gosling in the Chair).

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Resolved:- That Councillor Boyes be appointed Vice-Chairman of this Sub-Group.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the above meeting be received and agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) Minute No. 2 - Matters arising - Children's Information Service

Mrs. Johnson reported that three people had expressed an interest in becoming a non-voting representative on this Sub-Group and that, following assessment, nominations would be submitted to this Sub-Group for consideration.

(2) Minute No. 3 – Beacon Council Scheme Application 2003/2004

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement, reported that a letter had been submitted to the local Members of Parliament conveying this Sub-Group's disappointment at not receiving Beacon Council status and drawing attention to the fact that Rotherham's Service was very involved in supporting other local authorities in disseminating information and advising on good working practices and that the letter had been acknowledged.

(3) Minute No. 6 – Early Years and Childcare Recruitment and Training

Discussion ensued on the significant issues regarding the above and it was suggested that an update report on the position would be beneficial for all concerned.

Resolved:- That a report on the position regarding training and childcare for learners, improving learning needs and workforce development links with the Learning and Skills Council should be submitted to the Cabinet Members for Education, Culture and Leisure Services and Social Services.

5. CHILDRENS CENTRE OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement, introduced a report relating to the Children's Centre Outreach Development Project which affected ten Wards in the Borough.

It was reported that £95,983 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund had been awarded for an Outreach Project for 2005-2006. The funding would support the participation of hard to reach families in areas where Children's Centres were not yet meeting the full range of core services.

The proposals and details of the project were outlined it being noted that the project would pilot and evaluate innovative methods of delivering integrated services within targeted areas, ensuring they were inclusive, accessible and flexible to meet the needs of all local children and their families:-

- Rotherham Play and Learn Bus will be used as a mobile base to deliver services to parents, targeting hard to reach families, prior to Children's Centres delivering core services
- Play and Learn Bus will be scheduled for 2 sessions per week, to work in selected areas for blocks of 6 or 8 sessions over 6 or 8 continuous weeks, 2 areas per week on a rolling programme
- Services that could be offered from Play and Learn Bus include:
 - Children's Information Service
 - Family learning
 - Family support including drop in group sessions and 'stay and play' sessions
 - Job Centre Plus
 - Health services
 - Consultation on the way services are to be offered from the Children's Centres and information about developments
- Successful services will be integrated into each Children's Centre as it opens and shared as an example of 'best practice' with other areas and initiatives.
- Services will be available continuously in all areas. At periods where the Play and Learn Bus is not scheduled to work in a particular area these services will be offered using existing

community resources. However, the Play and Learn Bus will remove barriers to accessing services and encourage participation from hard to reach families.

Early support for families and building self confidence, will give parents the opportunity to make informed choices about the way initial services are delivered, ensuring that their own and their children's needs are being met to give their children the best possible start in life.

This project will lay the foundations for the Children's Centres and ensure the early involvement of families.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and approved.

(2) That the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services, be provided with an update on developments that take place in other Wards of the Borough.

6. MEN WHO DARE CHILDCARE PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report by the Training and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator detailing information about a new project called Men Who Dare Childcare Project.

The Project aims to support men to access training and employment opportunities within the childcare sector by challenging the traditional stereotypical belief that childcare is a career for women only. The project will also promote the benefits to children gained through the employment of male childcare workers. Currently there are very few male childcare workers; this is partly due to the stereotypical image of childcare as a female profession and the barriers which may be faced by men, such as, no peer support and negative attitudes from early years and childcare providers and parents.

Details of the duties of a full-time Project Co-ordinator/Manager were outlined.

Once the project had been signed up work would commence in January, 2005.

Resolved:- That the report be approved and future updates welcomed.

7. WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS - "CREATING MORE WORK - LIFE BALANCE" PROJECT

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement, introduced a report relating to a new project to raise awareness of Work Life Balance and Family Friendly Policies with particular reference to childcare initiatives and links with employers. Funding had been secured through a successful joint South Yorkshire Objective 1 funding bid.

The joint project “Creating More Balance” would work with employers to enable them to explore ways of supporting their employees’ childcare needs and work-life balance.

The key aim of the Project is to:

Promote work-life balance and family-friendly policies and practices to employers across different sectors and throughout the sub-region, including promoting Children’s Information Service and developing links between employers and existing/new childcare providers. This will support the sustainability of existing/new childcare provision and contribute to the regeneration of communities.

Each local authority area will have a Project Officer responsible for developments within their locality. The Project Officer for Rotherham, Ms M. Hunt, is based with the Early Years and Childcare Service. There will be a particular focus on promoting Tax Credits, childcare vouchers and the Children’s Information Service as well as encouraging links between employers and new and existing childcare providers.

Resolved:- That the report be received and approved.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of this Sub-Group be held on Tuesday, 18th January, 2005.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children & Young People’s Sub Group
2.	Date:	28th February, 2005
3.	Title:	Children’s Centres Update Wards affected: Dinnington Ward Boston Castle Ward Rotherham West Ward Rotherham West Ward Maltby Ward Rawmarsh Ward Wath Ward Valley Ward Hoover Ward Silverwood Ward
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary

Rotherham is making progress towards the establishment of Children’s Centres by the 31st March 2006.

6. Recommendations

That members receive the report and note progress made.

7. Proposals and Details

Previous reports have informed members about Rotherham's Children's Centres Strategy. Children's Centres will serve children and families in Rotherham's most disadvantaged communities across the borough and will provide integrated education and care for young children, health services, and family support. In addition, they will also act as a service hub within the community for parents and providers of childcare services for children of all ages - offering a base for childminder networks and a link to other day care provision, out of school clubs and extended schools. Centres will also have links with local training and education providers, Jobcentre Plus and Children's Information Services. The centres will bring together locally available services and integrate management and staffing structures but will not necessarily be developed on one site.

Implementation plans were submitted to the Sure Start Unit for Ministerial approval. Approval has been received for the following areas:

- Central – Ferham Primary School and the Ferham Sure Start Centre
- Dinnington - Dinnington Community Primary School
- Dalton - Dalton Folijambe School
- Herringthorpe – Arnold Centre
- Thybergh – Thybergh Primary School
- Wath – Wath Victoria Primary School
- Greasbrough - Rockingham Junior and Infant School.

We are awaiting approval for the Maltby proposal to establish a Children's Centre at the Maltby Sure Start Centre.

Guidance from the Sure Start Unit for approval of Capital Build Projects has been received. A web-based system will be used to collect data about each capital project. The role of the Local Authority will involve

- Active project management of the capital programme.
- Ensuring advice, guidance and support to individuals, organisations and agencies involved in development of provision – practical support re: buildings, capital and business planning, pre-registration advice.
- Commissioning processes that ensure accountability and delivery across the sectors.

The original purpose of the Children's Centres Strategic Steering group to identify

- Proposed projects for Children's Centres development
- Support the establishment of local implementation planning groups

has been achieved. The Steering Group membership has been reviewed to establish a Children's Centres Executive Group which will report directly to the Children and Young People's Executive. The first meeting will take place on the 19th January 2005.

Action Planning sessions have been completed by the individual Children's Centres and progress will be monitored on a regular basis. A Leadership Programme is being undertaken by Children's Centres Leaders and key change agents to:

- explore what they want for their community and how this will be achieved
- facilitate community leadership
- facilitate change in the way services are delivered

This will support the development of Children's Centres at a local level and ensure local involvement in the planning and delivery of services.

Discussions are taking place with the Council's Legal Services to develop Partnership Agreements between the Children's Centres and private or voluntary childcare providers to operate childcare services on behalf of Children's Centres. It is proposed that after taking into consideration the operation costs for the childcare service that 95% of additional income generated would be re-invested into the Children's Centre. Alternatively schools may wish to run the childcare themselves, through the extended schools route. Guidance will be offered by the Early Years and Childcare Services.

Maltby, Central and Rawmarsh Sure Start local programmes form part of the Children's Centres Strategy. Rawmarsh has already received Sure Start Children's Centre designation. Maltby and Central Sure Start will also be developed into Children's Centres. The Sure Start Unit has advised that whilst it is not yet in a position to provide specific details of future funding arrangements for the Sure Start local programmes, there are a number of key messages it wishes to promote

- all Sure Start local programmes, Early Excellence Centres and Maintained Nursery Schools are expected to become Children's Centres
- The longer term aim is that Sure Start local programmes funding will be via the Local Authority and will form part of the General Sure Start Grant. No date for this change has yet been decided.
- It is important that Programmes can demonstrate and evidence best practice and lessons learned in achieving the best outcomes for young children

8. Finance

- Total indicative revenue funding 2004-06 - £1,156,231
- Total indicative capital funding 2004-06 - £2,724,334
- Funding through General Sure Start Grant

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Capital costs to meet the full strategy are challenging. Plans may need to be reviewed to keep within budget and Sure Start criteria. Other funding streams have been identified to support some capital build. It is important the quality of provision remains central to the development of the strategy and services are truly integrated. Bringing together locally available services and integrating management and staffing structures will be challenging and will require openness and flexibility from all agencies involved. The mainstreaming and sustainability of funding will need to be planned within the overall framework of Children and Young People's Services. The childcare targets are challenging. Demand for childcare in some communities can be low, particularly where there is high economic inactivity amongst women. Robust monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure areas with low numbers of childcare places or high parental demand are prioritised for development work.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The work of this project will impact on improvements as detailed in both the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

Corporate Plan:

- Corporate Priority: Investing in the Economy – improving employment rate.

- Corporate Priority: A Place which Cares – Targeting the most vulnerable.

Community Strategy:

- Priority: Wealth – Reduce the gap between Rotherham's working age population in employment (68%) and Great Britain.
- Priority: Safe and Inclusive Communities
 - Reduce the number of wards in Rotherham within the top 10% most deprived in England
 - Increase the percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live
 - Increase the percentage of people who participate in local community and voluntary organisations

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:

- Strategic Priority: Improving the life chances of children and young people
- Strategic Priority: Enabling everyone to achieve functional skills for life.
- Strategic Priority: Improving the economic position of the unemployed, economically inactive and low earners.

The Project will:

- Provide quality play activities for children
- Open up opportunities to employment and training for parents, particularly women and lone parents.
- Help to reduce child poverty and increase the prosperity of individual families, communities and society as a whole, contributing to present and future regeneration.
- Help build self esteem and raise the personal aspirations of families.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Children's Centre Strategy
Sure Start Guidance 2004 - 2006

Contact Name :

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children & Young People’s Sub Group
2.	Date:	28th February, 2005
3.	Title:	Early Education and Childcare Activity in areas outside Children’s Centre Wards affected: All
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary

Early Years and Childcare Services are actively supporting the development of new and existing early education and childcare provision to increase the availability of quality, accessible, affordable provision to enable parents and carers to take up employment or training opportunities.

6. Recommendations

That members receive and approve the report.

7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham has agreed targets with the Sure Start Unit to create 1676 new childcare places (not including places in Children's Centres) in the period April 2004 to March 2006. Using local population figures, availability of existing provision and local demand, priority areas have been identified for the development of the new places. (Please refer to the attached template).

Action towards meeting these targets include:

- Promotion of the benefits of out of school childcare to schools
- Promotion of the benefits of extended care to existing playgroups
- Activities e.g. summer fayres, to raise awareness of and stimulate demand for childcare.
- Promotion of tax credits.
- A support package for all new childcare providers including; help to conduct feasibility studies, develop business and financial plans and to complete the Ofsted registration process.
- Kid's United - a network to support the out of school clubs in Rotherham has been developed. They were constituted in March 2004 and 5 clubs are currently represented on the network.
- Rotherham Childminding Association was launched in January 2004 and currently has 12 childminders on the Board.
- Support for local childminder networks across the borough
- Access to training courses to support professional development of early education and childcare workers
- Promotion and support for childcare providers to undertake quality assurance schemes

8. Finance

Activity is funded through the General Sure Start Grant.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- The targets set are challenging. Demand for childcare in some communities can be low, particularly where there is high economic inactivity amongst women. Funding for any childcare places not opened will be returned to the Sure Start Unit.
- Robust monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure areas with low numbers of childcare places or high parental demand are prioritised for development work.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The work of this project will impact on improvements as detailed in both the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

Corporate Plan:

- Corporate Priority: Investing in the Economy – improving employment rate.
- Corporate Priority: A Place which Cares – Targeting the most vulnerable.

Community Strategy:

- Priority: Wealth – Reduce the gap between Rotherham's working age population in employment (68%) and Great Britain.
- Priority: Safe and Inclusive Communities

- Reduce the number of wards in Rotherham within the top 10% most deprived in England
- Increase the percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live
- Increase the percentage of people who participate in local community and voluntary organisations

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:

- Strategic Priority: Improving the life chances of children and young people
- Strategic Priority: Enabling everyone to achieve functional skills for life.
- Strategic Priority: Improving the economic position of the unemployed, economically inactive and low earners.

The Project will:

- Provide quality play activities for children
- Open up opportunities to employment and training for parents, particularly women and lone parents.
- Help to reduce child poverty and increase the prosperity of individual families, communities and society as a whole, contributing to present and future regeneration.
- Help build self esteem and raise the personal aspirations of families.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Out of School Strategy

Early Years and Childcare Services Business Plan

Sure Start Guidance 2004 - 2006

Contact Name :

Sandra Wright

Early Years and Childcare Partnership Coordinator

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	New Places		New Places		New Places		New Places		New Places	
	Childminder - places as at 31/03/04	Target - March 2006	Actual - Nov 2004	Sessional Care - places at 31/3/04	Target - March 2006	Actual - Nov 2004	Full Day Care - places as at 31/3/04	Target - March 2006	Actual - Nov 2004	New Places
Other areas										
00CFFA Anston and Woodsetts	73	6	4	64	0	0	80	9	0	0
00CFFB Aston	51	12	5	54	0	0	49	0	0	0
00CFFD Bramley	91	6	2	117	0	0	33	0	0	0
00CFFF Brinsworth	50	12	3	52	0	0	0	24	0	0
00CFFG Broom	43	6	3	30	0	0	34	0	0	0
00CFFM Kimberworth	29	6	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
00CFFN Kiveton Park	50	6	6	98	0	0	48	26	26	26
00CFFT St. John's	44	6	10	26	0	0	30	0	0	0
00CFFW Thorpe Hesley	45	18	0	50	0	0	30	0	0	0
Other areas total	476	78	33	515	0	0	304	59	0	0
Disadvantaged wards										
00CFFC Boston	19	6	6	32	0	0	150	38	0	0
00CFFE Brampton	21	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
00CFFH Central	12	6	0	0	0	0	295	0	0	0
00CFFJ Dalton	31	6	3	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
00CFFK Greasbrough	8	6	3	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
00CFFL Herringthorpe	4	6	3	20	0	0	34	0	0	0
00CFFP Maltby	65	6	1	102	0	0	114	0	0	0
00CFFQ Park	27	6	0	18	0	0	250	0	0	0
00CFFR Rawmarsh East	6	34	1	28	0	0	24	0	0	0
00CFFS Rawmarsh West	14	6	5	20	0	0	157	0	0	0
00CFFU Swinton	61	6	5	18	0	0	20	0	0	0
00CFFX Thurcroft and Whiston	29	1	2	36	0	20	0	24	0	0
00CFFY Wath	51	1	0	0	0	0	156	0	0	0
Disadvantaged wards total	348	96	34	349	0	20	1,200	62	20	0

	Childminder places as at 31/03/04		New Places Target - March 2006		New Places Actual - Nov 2004		Out of School Group provision as at 31/3/04		New Places Target - March 2006		New Places Actual - Nov 2004	
	places as at 31/03/04	New Places Target - March 2006	New Places Actual - Nov 2004	New Places Target - March 2006	New Places Actual - Nov 2004	School Group provision as at 31/3/04	New Places Target - March 2006	New Places Actual - Nov 2004	School Group provision as at 31/3/04	New Places Target - March 2006	New Places Actual - Nov 2004	
Other areas												
00CFFA Anston and Woodsetts	64	9	9	0	88	24	24	24	88	24	24	
00CFFB Aston	43	15	15	5	40	48	48	48	40	48	0	
00CFFD Bramley	70	9	9	1	16	48	48	48	16	48	0	
00CFFF Brinsworth	43	15	15	4	16	48	48	48	16	48	0	
00CFFG Broom	29	9	9	3	0	48	48	48	0	48	0	
00CFFM Kimberworth	22	9	9	0	50	50	50	50	50	50	0	
00CFFN Kiveton Park	44	9	9	9	10	52	52	52	10	52	16	
00CFFT St. John's	35	9	9	5	30	32	32	32	30	32	0	
00CFFW Thorpe Hesley	32	21	21	0	0	48	48	48	0	48	0	
Other areas total	382	105	105	27	250	398	398	398	250	624	40	
Disadvantaged wards												
00CFFC Boston	15	9	9	3	190	24	24	24	190	24	24	
00CFE Brampton	19	9	9	5	24	48	48	48	24	48	24	
00CFH Central	10	9	9	0	46	32	32	32	46	32	0	
00CFJ Dalton	28	9	9	1	65	72	72	72	65	72	0	
00CFK Greasbrough	6	9	9	1	0	48	48	48	0	48	0	
00CFL Herringthorpe	3	9	9	3	60	56	56	56	60	56	0	
00CFM Maltby	52	9	9	3	0	80	80	80	0	80	0	
00CFQ Park	26	9	9	0	96	48	48	48	96	48	0	
00CFR Rawmarsh East	5	37	37	2	30	48	48	48	30	48	0	
00CFS Rawmarsh West	9	9	9	5	54	48	48	48	54	48	0	
00CFU Swinton	52	6	6	5	36	24	24	24	36	24	0	
00CFX Thurcroft and Whiston	18	3	3	3	18	48	48	48	18	48	0	
00CFY Wath	39	9	9	0	28	48	48	48	28	48	0	
Disadvantaged wards total	282	136	136	31	647	624	624	624	647	624	48	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Children & Young People’s Sub Group
2.	Date:	28th February, 2005
3.	Title:	Rotherham Out of School Childcare Strategy Wards affected: All
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary

Rotherham has been allocated £882,423 from the Sure Start Unit to create 1284 new childcare places (not including places to be created by Children’s Centres for the 0 – 5 year olds) within the period April 2004 to March 2006. A further £293,798 has been awarded from the New Opportunities Fund to create 392 additional new places.

6. Recommendations

That members receive and approve the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Sure Start strategy requires local authorities to develop an integrated strategy of social care, health, and education with childcare as a bridge or gateway to these services. The Sure Start Out of School Programme is a new government funded programme. Rotherham has been allocated £882,423 from the Sure Start Unit to create 1284 new childcare places (not including places to be created by Children's Centres for the 0 – 5 year olds) within the period April 2004 to March 2006. Funding is included within this amount for Start Up Grants for new childminders and capital funding to enable playgroups to extend their opening hours to over 4 hours per day.

In addition to the funding awarded to create new places, a further £293,798 has been awarded from the New Opportunities Fund to create 392 additional new places. Expressions of interest have previously been received to open these places and groups are now in the process of forming voluntary management committees, recruiting staff and completing the Ofsted registration process.

Rotherham Targets

FUNDING STREAM	TARGET	FUNDING
NOF	392	293,798
Sure Start Out of School including capital allocation and carry over	912	734,077
Playgroup conversion including carry over	172	118,346
Childminder Start up Grant (brought forward)	200	30,000
TOTAL	1676	1,176,221

The Sure Start Out of School Fund will be used support projects that show a diverse range of approaches to childcare in response to local needs. To ensure that projects are successful in both the short and long term, it will be necessary for all projects to be well planned. Projects will also need to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

- Have a strong management structure, capable of fulfilling it's legal and financial responsibilities.
- Provide good quality childcare in an appropriate environment and comply with Ofsted's standards. Groups which are exempt from registration with Ofsted will still be expected to meet certain standards in order to ensure good quality standards of care.
- Preference will be given to new places which meet the needs identified within the Rotherham Out of School Strategy. Further information is available from the Early Years and Childcare Services.
- Meet the needs of parents outlined in the feasibility study of the project, showing links between demand and supply in terms of affordability, opening times and any other considerations which may be individual to the area.
- Are accessible. Consideration must be given to the needs of children and families in disadvantaged communities and those who are experiencing social

exclusion, including children with special educational needs and disabilities and those from minority ethnic communities.

- Are supported by their local community which has, where possible, been involved in the planning and delivery of the service.
- Are additional to existing provision and create extra childcare places which would not normally be funded from another source. The project must demonstrate that there is a demand for further places. The planned places should not duplicate, undermine or compete with other local provision.
- Have viable plans for sustainability. Applications should show careful business planning beyond the life of the funding, to ensure that places created by the Sure Start Out of School Fund will be maintained.
- Demonstrate that there is a genuine need for additional funding and that they offer value for money, showing that the amount requested is appropriate to what is needed.
- Demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunity, showing clear policies promoting equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination.
- Demonstrate clearly how the work of the project will be monitored so that benefits to parents and children can be measured, and any areas which may need improving can be identified.
- (If appropriate) will offer holiday care for at least 8 weeks a year, at least 3 weeks of which will run consecutively through the summer holidays.
- Have demonstrated good, professional management and monitoring of the project, (if have received previous funding from Rotherham LEA).
- Agree to undertake a recognised quality assurance programme.

8. Finance

Start up grants will be funded from the Sure Start Out of School Fund and from approved New Opportunities Fund.

Before funding is approved for any group they will have completed a Business and Financial Plan showing how their income from the Sure Start Out of School Fund, parental fees and any other sources will cover their projected annual expenditure.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- The targets set are challenging. Demand for childcare in some communities can be low, particularly where there is high economic inactivity amongst women. Funding for any childcare places not opened will be returned to the Sure Start Unit.

- Robust monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure areas with low numbers of childcare places or high parental demand are prioritised for development work.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The work of this project will impact on improvements as detailed in both the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

Corporate Plan:

- Corporate Priority: Investing in the Economy – improving employment rate.
- Corporate Priority: A Place which Cares – Targeting the most vulnerable.

Community Strategy:

- Priority: Wealth – Reduce the gap between Rotherham's working age population in employment (68%) and Great Britain.
- Priority: Safe and Inclusive Communities
 - Reduce the number of wards in Rotherham within the top 10% most deprived in England
 - Increase the percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live
 - Increase the percentage of people who participate in local community and voluntary organisations

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:

- Strategic Priority: Improving the life chances of children and young people
- Strategic Priority: Enabling everyone to achieve functional skills for life.
- Strategic Priority: Improving the economic position of the unemployed, economically inactive and low earners.

The Project will:

- Provide quality play activities for children
- Open up opportunities to employment and training for parents, particularly women and lone parents.
- Help to reduce child poverty and increase the prosperity of individual families, communities and society as a whole, contributing to present and future regeneration.
- Help build self esteem and raise the personal aspirations of families.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Out of School Strategy

Early Years and Childcare Services Business Plan

Sure Start Guidance 2004 - 2006

Contact Name :

Sandra Wright

Early Years and Childcare Partnership Coordinator

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Children & Young People's Sub Group
2.	Date:	28th February, 2005
3.	Title:	Ten Year Childcare Strategy Wards affected: All
4.	Programme Area:	Education, Culture and Leisure Services

5. Summary

The Government has released its Ten Year Childcare Strategy for consultation.

6. Recommendations

That members receive and approve the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Government launched its 10 year childcare strategy for consultation on 2nd December for 2004. The strategy sets out a bold vision for flexible, accessible, affordable and high quality childcare for all parents who need it.

In the document the Government identifies some outstanding challenges around the availability of childcare to fit the needs of parents and children; the affordability and quality of childcare; the need for greater flexibility to allow parents to spend more time with their children; and the use of childcare and family support to tackle poverty and worklessness.

Three principles underpin the strategy:

- The importance of ensuring that every child has the best possible start in life
- The need to respond to changing patterns of employment and ensure that parents, particularly mothers, can work and progress their careers
- The legitimate expectations of families that they should be in control of the choices they make in balancing work and family life.

Priorities within the strategy include:

- Extended maternity leave
- A Sure Start Children's Centre in every community by 2010
- Childcare for five to fourteen year-olds available based in schools, offering all parents with children aged five to eleven affordable school-based childcare on weekdays between the hours of 8am and 6pm. By 2010 ensuring that secondary schools will be open on weekdays between the hours of 8am to 6pm all year round offering a range of activities, such as music and sport
- A new duty on local authorities to secure sufficient provision to meet local childcare needs
- A Transformation Fund of £125m a year from April 2005 to support investment by local authorities in childcare.
- A strategy to ensure quality through a workforce reform strategy to include plans to ensure that all full daycare settings are led by graduate qualified early years professionals
- To increase the maximum eligible childcare costs that the Working Families Tax Credit will cover from April 2005.
- To increase the maximum proportion of childcare costs covered by the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit from April 2006.
- To ensure that all three and four-year olds get a full 38 weeks of free early education and childcare from 2006, and to extend this to fifteen hours for 38 weeks a year for every three and four year-old by 2010, as a step towards a goal of twenty hours a week for 38 weeks a year.

8. Finance

Awaiting details from the DfES

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Reliant on Government funding

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The work of this project will impact on improvements as detailed in both the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

Corporate Plan:

- Corporate Priority: Investing in the Economy – improving employment rate.
- Corporate Priority: A Place which Cares – Targeting the most vulnerable.
- Corporate Priority: Investing in People – improving Early Years (Foundation Stage) attainment.

Community Strategy:

- Priority: Wealth – Reduce the gap between Rotherham's working age population in employment (68%) and Great Britain.
- Priority: Learning – rationalising and extending early years provision to meet the needs of children or adults wishing to increase parenting skills, or return to learning or work throughout the borough.
- Priority: Health
 - Reduce Infant Mortality
 - improving the life chances of vulnerable young people
 - improving family support
- Priority: Safe and Inclusive Communities
 - Reduce the number of wards in Rotherham within the top 10% most deprived in England
 - Increase the percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live
 - Increase the percentage of people who participate in local community and voluntary organisations

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:

- Strategic Priority: Improving the life chances of children and young people
- Strategic Priority: Enabling everyone to achieve functional skills for life.

Strategic Priority: Improving the economic position of the unemployed, economically inactive and low earners.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Ten Year Strategy for Childcare: "Choice for parents, the best start for children"

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