

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SUB-GROUP

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

Date: Tuesday, 11 October 2005

Time: 11.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Appointment of Chairman for the ensuing year.
2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
3. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
4. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th April, 2005 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 8)
6. Children's Centres Progress (report attached). (Pages 9 - 13)
7. Children's Centre Outreach Development Project (report attached). (Pages 14 - 17)
8. Early Education and Childcare Inclusion Support Grant (report attached). (Pages 18 - 22)
9. Dates of Future Meetings:-
 - Tuesday, 3rd January, 2006 11 am
 - Tuesday, 4th April, 2006 11 am

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SUB-GROUP
19th April, 2005

Present:- Councillor Gosling (in the Chair) and Councillor Boyes.

Mary Smith, Early Year and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement Section.

Paula Williams, Training and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator, Education, Culture & Leisure Services.

Rachel Clarke, Social Services.

Julie Bates, Co-ordinator, Play & Learn Bus Charity.

Steve Chapman, Project Manager, Rotherham Children's Inclusion and Support Services.

Apologies were received from Councillors Austen, Jack, Littleboy and Robinson.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 2005

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

9. EXTENDED SCHOOLS

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement Section, introduced a report by the Extended Schools Co-ordinator relating to a change to the Education Act 2002 to allow School Governors to provide activities and services to children, young people, parents/carers and the wider community. Schools would be encouraged, in consultation with users and partners, to take the lead in co-ordinating activities such as childcare, sports, arts, study support, adult learning, family learning and the integration and co-location of other specialist workers on a school site.

The report set out proposals and details as follows:-

Extended Schools

An Extended School is one that provides a range of services and activities often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.

Across the country many schools are already providing some extended services including adult education, study support, ICT facilities and community sports programmes.

Schools and their partners can build on existing provision and consider what additional services or activities schools might provide, or how they could be organised. Working with local partners, schools can develop as little or as much provision as they think suitable for their own community.

Other activities and services schools could provide

- Childcare – including breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, holiday and weekend activity.
- Community Learning, such as adult, family learning and study support.
- Health and Social Care – health promotion/co-location of services/early intervention.
- Sports and Arts development.
- Parenting/Family support.
- Greater community use of School buildings and grounds.

The Role of School Governors

The Governing Body has ultimate responsibility for deciding whether the school should offer additional activities and services and what form these should take.

Before making decisions, Governors need to be aware of any additional responsibilities that may result from providing additional services through the school. As with existing school activities, Governing Bodies can delegate the practical delivery of services to others, but they will keep ultimate legal responsibility.

Progress in Rotherham

The Government has provided funding to Local Authorities over recent years to nominate a school which will become a 'full-service school'. This means that they have to deliver a prescribed range of services and activities for their pupils, parents/carers and the wider community. Rawmarsh Community School was nominated and is in the 2nd year of a 3 year programme. They deliver successfully against all the identified strands and attainment levels have increased on the previous year.

In April, 2005 the Local Authority received a Standard's Fund one year grant of £418,000 to support the central and school co-ordination of Extended Schools. We have produced an electronic audit for all schools to complete which will indicate:

- what activities and services are already taking place
- who the users of the activities and services are
- who is delivering them
- when they are being delivered (after school/during holidays etc)

- the involvement of pupils, parents/carers, governors in the planning
- whether extended activities and services are included in the School Improvement Plan
- whether schools wish to develop new activities and services.
- the schools training needs on Extended Schools
- what other establishments are within walking distance of each school, e.g. Children's Centres, Libraries, Community Centres etc.

A summary of the findings of the audit will be retained by each school, and the analysis will be available for all schools to access in order that they may plan together and benchmark against other schools. The audit will also support the Council's strategy for supporting all schools to co-ordinate extended services and activities.

A Toolkit for Schools was being developed to support their Extended School developments. A model 'partnership agreement' is being developed for schools to use with the providers of services. We are awaiting some final Government Guidance and will then arrange for Schools staff and Governor training in localities across Rotherham.

The strategy to date has been to raise awareness with all stakeholders, to promote an approach which involves pupils and parents/carers in the shaping of the provision, and partner organisations in contributing to the cohesive planning and delivery.

An Extended Schools Steering Group has been established which has representation from stakeholders and supports the strategy in Rotherham.

Funding is already available through a variety of sources to provide extended schools services and activities, such as Surestart, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Learning and Skills Council. A Standard's Fund Grant of £416,000 is allocated to support both central and school co-ordination of Extended Schools, however it is unclear whether this funding will be continued beyond 2005-2006.

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

(2) That the Extended Schools Strategy in Rotherham be welcomed and that every support be given to Governing Bodies where there is minimum capacity within the school.

10. SOUTH YORKSHIRE CHILDCARE SECTOR BROKERAGE

The Training and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator submitted a report about the proposal for a South Yorkshire Childcare Sector Brokerage. The proposal was for the four South Yorkshire Training Officers from the Early Years and Childcare Services to take on this role and form the

management committee working alongside the Learning Skills Council (LSC) and Action 4 Employment (Managing Agent for Invest in Skills).

The proposals and details set out in the report were :-

The South Yorkshire brokerage will have a borough wide role across Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham covering two main strands:

- New entrants to the Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector workforce
- Existing Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector workforce

Within these strands the key activities will be:

- Work with strategic partners, LSC, Managing Agent (A4E Consult), Colleges/SYFEC, 0-19 Partnership/Children and Young Peoples Partnerships, to influence access to funding at a strategic level and meet identified training needs
- Identify issues at local level to feed into the wider strategic workforce development agenda across the local authority and wider sub-region of South Yorkshire
- Advocate, influence and monitor the quality of provision to ensure training providers are delivering the training required to meet the needs of the sector
- Collection, collation and analysis of training needs/workforce data
- Matching people with training opportunities
- Identify and match funding to people

Each local authority (LA) has Government targets relating to qualification levels within the early years and childcare sector and progress towards these are monitored at local level through an audit process. The introduction of a brokerage role will allow a more consistent approach across the sub-region to be adopted leading to more comprehensive information being gathered. This information will identify skills needs and shortages within the sector to feed into the local LSC enabling each LA to address local priorities to inform strategic planning decisions and enhance current practices.

The improved research across the sub-region will identify skills needs in much more detail. This will enable each LA to develop an annual delivery plan encompassing LA targets and LSC specific targets relating to basic skills, employability, leadership and management skills thus supporting the development of a more responsive training provider base across the sub-region.

Delivery Arrangements

The four local authorities with responsibility for the South Yorkshire Childcare Workforce Development Programme will tender for Sector

Brokerage for the Early Years and Childcare sector. Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, will provide the brokerage service with Barnsley acting as the lead authority on behalf of all four Authorities for contracting the service directly with the LSC.

Each local authority will work through a local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) or Children and Young People's Partnership, consisting of representatives from childcare providers, parents, social services, education and health services, maintained schools, private and voluntary training providers, colleges, special educational needs groups, Job Centre Plus, New Deal Partnerships, local LSC, and Objective 1.

The Training Coordinators in consultation with their EYDCP or Children and Young People's Partnerships support employers in this sector through training, business support, business start-up, assistance with developing quality provision, and recruitment. Links are also made with employers outside the Early Years and Childcare sector to promote worklife balance practices to enable people, particularly women, to return to work by ensuring there is good quality childcare available.

All four local authorities are responsible for managing the Sure Start Workforce Development Grant. In addition Sheffield draws down LSC (FE) funding for their NVQ programme.

Representatives from the four Local Authorities, alongside other stakeholders, will form the Steering Group for the Brokerage Service, thus allowing equality and fair management of the service.

It was also reported that the total amount of funding available for this role within Rotherham was £16,000. Funding would be supported through Objective 1 but the identified risks were that funding may be withdrawn if the Brokerage Role was unsuccessful in stimulating demand for the Invest in Skills training fund.

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

(2) That officers be thanked for the good work undertaken so far and that a progress report be submitted to the July meeting of this Sub-Group.

(3) That a report be submitted to The Rotherham Children and Young People's Board at the appropriate time.

11. ROTHERHAM "QUALITY IN ACTION - INVESTORS IN CHILDREN" ENDORSED QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME

The Training and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator submitted a report about the launch of Quality in Action, a locally produced quality assurance scheme which had been successful in gaining endorsement through the National Investors in Children Award Scheme.

The proposals and details set out in the report were:-

The development of high quality early education and childcare services is a key element of the Sure Start agenda. An important route towards improving quality is supporting childcare providers to undertake a Quality Assurance scheme. Quality Assurance schemes enable childcare providers and childminders to develop and achieve high standards of care and early education which exceed the minimum standards set by Ofsted in the National Daycare Standards. The schemes support practitioners through mentoring, advice and self - reflection about the services they offer and how they could improve.

To support the expansion of quality assurance the Sure Start Unit developed "Investors in Children" to endorse quality assurance schemes that meet ten rigorous criteria. Investors in Children endorsement enables childcare providers to choose a good quality assurance scheme and helps parents to identify good quality nurseries, childminders, after school clubs, crèches and playgroups.

"Quality in Action" Rotherham's early years education curriculum guidance document was revised in to include the childcare quality assurance element and submitted to the Sure Start Unit for endorsement. Successful endorsement has been achieved enabling Rotherham's high quality early years and childcare provision to be recognised and accredited through "Quality in Action" an "Investors in Children" endorsed scheme.

In March, 2005 the scheme was officially launched at Hellaby Hall. All Foundation stage units and early education funded settings were given a free copy of the new pack. The pack can be used as a tool for raising quality or to support the setting to undertake the accreditation process.

The Sub-Group welcomed the excellent work done so far on this scheme and expressed the view that the scheme merited some good publicity . It was noted that arrangements were in hand for an article to be published the Partnership Matters Newsletter and a leaflet was being produced for parents. .

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

(2) That an article about the Investors in Children endorsed Quality Assurance Scheme be put in Council Matters and that the Head of Communications be asked to do a suitable Press Release.

12. CREATING MORE BALANCE PROJECT

The Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, School Improvement Section, submitted a report on Rotherham's progress, in partnership with Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley, towards the promotion of flexible working and childcare options to employers in the area.

The proposals and details set out in the report were :-

The Early Years and Childcare Service has worked in partnership with the Early Years and Childcare Services of Doncaster and Barnsley and the Children's Information Service in Sheffield to successfully access funding from Objective 1 to promote work life balance and family friendly policies to employers in South Yorkshire. This has enabled each authority to employ a project officer to support this role as part of the Creating More Balance (CMB) project.

The project supports the vision in the Government's 10 year strategy for childcare published in December, 2004: *to ensure that every child gets the best start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life.*

The remit of the project is to provide 35 hours of free consultancy support to employers. This can include support on any aspect of work life balance/family friendly policies including developing work life balance policies and practice, supporting employers to offer childcare vouchers to staff, provision of information to parents and development of links with childcare providers. Since August, 2004, 236 employers have contacted and are currently working with 56 of these.

One of the key tools used to support the work life balance initiative is the promotion of childcare vouchers and the benefits for parents. The project officer is currently raising awareness of childcare vouchers to parents, childcare providers and employers across Rotherham.

The remit of the CMB project allows time for the project officer to promote the benefits of the childcare voucher scheme within RMBC and offers a direct contact for employees who have any queries about the scheme and how it can benefit them. The parent fact-sheet sent out to RMBC employees recently highlighting the changes for April, 2005 attracted over 35 enquiries, a large number from school-based staff, and has resulted in additional people signing up to the scheme.

The use of childcare vouchers to pay for high quality childcare encourages the use of childcare provision within Rotherham contributing towards the sustainability of local childcare provision. This will impact on the economy as a whole as it assists people who have childcare requirements with the costs enabling them to return to work. It also plays a key role in supporting the retention of existing staff.

March, 2005 saw the official launch of the CMB project, and was attended by 62 delegates from 47 companies based throughout South Yorkshire. Additional companies who registered and were unable to attend on the day are currently being contacted to follow-up their interest in the project. The project also carried out a survey with all childcare providers to find out what sustainability issues local providers face.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and progress being made be welcomed.

(2) That any feedback from employers on the work life balance policies and practice be reported to this Sub-Group at the appropriate time.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of this Sub-Group be held on Tuesday, 19th July, 2005 at 11 a.m.

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| ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SUB GROUP MEMBERS |
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| 1. | Meeting: | Children & Young People’s Sub Group |
| 2. | Date: | 11th October 2005 |
| 3. | Title: | Children’s Centres Progress Report |
| 4. | Programme Area: | Children and Young People’s 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 high quality 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.

Progress on Rotherham Children’s Centres

Children’s Centres receive designation from the Sure Start Unit once integrated early education and childcare is in place and overseen by the involvement of a qualified teacher; the centre is open a minimum of 5 days a week, 10 hours a day, 48 weeks a year and links are in place with Job Centre Plus.

To date Rotherham has had **three** Centres designated. These are:

- Aughton Early Years Centre - A partnership between Barnardos and Aughton Early Years Centre outreaching to Thurcroft, Treeton and Catcliffe
- Rawmarsh Children’s Centre – A partnership between Rawmarsh Nursery School and Rawmarsh Sure Start Programme

- Sure Start Rotherham Central Children's Centre – A partnership between Ferham School and Central Sure Start Programme

It is anticipated that the following Centres will be designated by 31st March 2006

- Dinnington Community Primary School
- Dalton Foljambe School
- The Arnold Centre
- Thybergh Primary School
- Wath Victoria Primary School
- Rockingham Junior and Infant School
- Maltby Sure Start Children's Centre
- Kimberworth Primary School
- Coleridge Primary School

Job Centre Plus links with Children's Centres have been established through representation on working groups. A pilot project is currently being delivered until 31st March 2006 to support access to Job Centre Plus services via a Children's Centre. A worker has been appointed and undertaken an induction programme with Job Centre Plus. Their role is to raise awareness of Job Centre Plus services, provide training to Children's Centres staff and work with Children's Centres and other partners to support and prepare individuals to access training or employment opportunities.

Pilot work is currently being undertaken with Opportunity Links to evaluate a number of approaches to deliver a Children's Information Service within a Children's Centre. Rawmarsh, Aughton and Central Children's Centres are involved in the pilot.

Two of the centres will have direct access to Rotherham Children's Information Service (CIS) database. In these centres staff will be trained to deliver the full range of CIS information and provide advice and guidance directly to parents.

In the third centre staff will undertake awareness raising training on the role of Rotherham CIS, the range of information available and the use of the Childcarelink website. This will enable centre staff to access information for parents, connect parents directly to Rotherham CIS (based at Norfolk House) or provide signposting information as appropriate.

Based on the evaluation of the pilot a programme will be developed for all Children's Centres to ensure that all parents have access to information, advice and guidance on services for children and their families in order to make informed choices.

An Outreach Information Officer has been recruited through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to deliver Children's Information Services within local communities. Equipped with a laptop with remote internet access, a portable, rechargeable printer and a range of information leaflets, information can be delivered anywhere within the borough. The Officer is also working closely with Health Visitors, Family Support Workers, Women's Groups and Parent and Toddler groups to raise awareness of the service and availability of information for parents/carers. Working with Rotherham Play and Learn Bus, the Officer is able to provide information directly to parents accessing other services from the bus.

The Children's Centres Leadership Group has established three key mandate groups:

1. Children's Centres service entitlement for Rotherham children, young people, families and communities. This group will identify a service delivery entitlement across Rotherham through Children's Centres and other agencies.

2. Quality Service Delivery. This group will identify quality measures for service delivery and establish a framework to share good practice across all Children's Centres.

3. Behaviour/Relationships/Culture. This group will identify the underpinning core values, principles, policies and practices needed to support multiagency working and the involvement of parents, carers, children, young people and communities.

It is anticipated that this work will inform the planning and delivery of Children's Centres and contribute to the reshaping of services to achieve the outcomes identified in the document "Every Child Matters".

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

Children's Centres will:

- will provide high quality integrated education and care for young children, health services, and family support.
- Work with vulnerable families and help reduce health inequalities by both interaction with families and by helping to reduce child poverty
- Help build self esteem and raise the personal aspirations of families.

They will impact on priority themes within the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy and the outcomes for children and families identified within Every Child Matters

| Corporate Plan / Community Strategy | Every Child Matters | |
|--|---|---|
| Priority Theme | Outcomes for children and families | Impact |
| Achieving | Achieving Economic Well-being | Integrated services will support parents and carers in accessing training and support to take up employment opportunities. |
| Learning | Enjoy and Achieve | High quality integrated early education and childcare, health and family support services will help parents and children raise personal aspirations and educational achievement. |
| Alive | Be Healthy | Activities delivered in partnership with health professionals aim to reduce health inequalities. Activities aimed to raise self esteem and personal aspirations also promote mental well-being. |
| Safe | Stay Safe | Access to parenting support and information will increase the ability of parents to provide for the differing needs and the safety of their children. The increased number of professionals from different agencies working together will enable the earlier identification of child protection issues. |
| Proud | Make a Positive Contribution | Raising self esteem and personal aspirations amongst local families will enable parents to make informed decisions and participate in the planning, and ultimately, the delivery of local services. |

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Children's Centre Strategy
Sure Start Guidance 2004 – 2006
Every Child Matters Outcomes

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| ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SUB GROUP MEMBERS |
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|-----------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Meeting: | Children and Young People’s Sub Group |
| 2. | Date: | 11 October 2005 |
| 3. | Title: | Children’s Centre Outreach Development Project Wards affected: Dinnington Ward Boston Castle Ward Rotherham West Ward Maltby Ward Rawmarsh Ward Wath Ward Valley Ward Hoover Ward Silverwood Ward |
| 4. | Programme Area: | Children and Young People’s Services |

5. Summary

The Children’s Centre Outreach Project has been operating for six months. £95,983 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is being used to fund activities aimed at supporting the participation of hard to reach, families in areas where Children’s Centres are not yet meeting the full range of core services.

6. Recommendations

That members received and approve the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Children's Centre Outreach Project commenced on 1st April 2005.

The Project aims to support local families to participate in local services, within the Children's Centre initiative, in designated areas where Children's Centres are not yet meeting the full range of core services. Activities undertaken to date include:

- Play and Learn Bus
Rotherham Play and Learn Bus have a proven track record of removing barriers to access hard to reach groups by taking services into the community in a non threatening environment. From 1st April 2005 to 30th September 2005 they have delivered sessions in: Wath, Dinnington, Greasbrough, Meadowbank, Dalton/Thrybergh and Canklow. From 1st September the service was extended into Swinton. Within the first three months of the Project over 200 adults and 200 children accessed the Play and Learn Bus. These sessions will continue to be funded until 31st March 2006.
- Children's Information Service Outreach Project
The Project has funded a Children's Information Service Outreach Officer, until 31st March 2006, to provide information about childcare and other child and family services and activities, to families within each designated Children's Centre area. This Officer works closely with The Play and Learn Bus, attending selected sessions and providing information and raising the profile of childcare in Rotherham. The Play and Learn Bus have developed their facilities to include internet access on the Bus, and workers have been trained to access the national Childcare Links website.
- Family Support
Four Family Support Workers have been funded through the Project since September 2005, to enable families with young children who are in significant need to enhance their self esteem and parenting skills and support them to access good quality childcare services. They are based at Wath Victoria Junior and Infant School, Dinnington Community Primary School, Rockingham Junior and Infant School and Kimberworth Infant School. Priorities for the first four months of the Project are to make links with local families, groups and agencies, promote their local Children's Centre within these groups and gather information about future services and activities that are needed within the community.

A fifth Family Support Worker to be based at Thrybergh Primary School / Dalton Foljambe Infant School is in the process of being recruited.

This Project is fundamental to the future impact Children's Centres will have in their community. It ensures the early involvement of families, and will support them to develop self esteem and raise personal aspirations, laying the foundations for the Children's Centres to play a major role in the regeneration of the community and the government's pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

8. Finance

The total cost of the Outreach Project will be £224,083

This will be funded through:

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £95,983

Children’s Centre Initiative £128,100

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- Should the Play and Learn Bus be unable to deliver the service delivery will take place at community venues.
- Robust monitoring arrangements will be in place to ensure successful outcomes.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Project will:

- Provide quality play activities for children
- Work with vulnerable families and help reduce health inequalities by both interaction with families and by helping to reduce child poverty
- Help build self esteem and raise the personal aspirations of families.

The work of this Project will impact on priority themes within the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy and the outcomes for children and families identified within Every Child Matters

| Corporate Plan / Community Strategy | Every Child Matters | |
|--|---|---|
| Priority Theme | Outcomes for children and families | Impact |
| Achieving | Achieving Economic Well-being | The Project will help to raise the self esteem and personal aspirations of families, break down barriers preventing parents from accessing employment, thus improving the quality of life for families and contributing to the regeneration of the community. |
| Learning | Enjoy and Achieve | Family support and access to good quality services and activities will help parents to help their children, increase personal aspirations and educational achievement. |

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| Alive | Be Healthy | Activities delivered in partnership with health professionals aim to reduce health inequalities. Activities aimed to raise self esteem and personal aspirations also promote mental well-being. |
| Safe | Stay Safe | Access to parenting support and information will increase the ability of parents to provide for the differing needs and the safety of their children. The increased number of professionals from different agencies working together will enable the earlier identification of child protection issues. |
| Proud | Make a Positive Contribution | Raising self esteem and personal aspirations amongst local families will enable parents to make informed decisions and participate in the planning, and ultimately, the delivery of local services. |

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Children's Centres Strategy
Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

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**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SUB GROUP MEMBERS**

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Meeting: | Children & Young People’s Sub Group |
| 2. | Date: | 11th October 2005 |
| 3. | Title: | Early Education and Childcare Inclusion Support Grant |
| 4. | Programme Area: | Children and Young People’s Services |

5. Summary

Rotherham has been allocated £141,000 from the Sure Start Unit to support early education and childcare providers to include children with special educational needs and disabilities within settings. The funding period runs from 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2006.

6. Recommendations

That members receive and approve the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Inclusion (disability) grant is a combination of previous strands of funding and is designed to facilitate greater inclusion of children with special educational needs/disability in early years settings. The grant is intended to augment and resource existing SEN activities at local level.

From September 2002 the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) applies to all providers of early years services. Part 3 of the DDA covers all providers that are not constituted as schools: day nurseries, Children's Centres, childcare centres, pre-schools, play-groups, individual childminders and networks of accredited childminders and other private, voluntary and statutory provision that is not established as a school.

In order to monitor and support the development of quality, inclusive provision in the non-maintained sector, a service level agreement to the value of £32,000 has been commissioned in partnership with Pre-school Learning Alliance. This provides for a special educational needs development worker to work towards achieving the following objectives:

- Facilitate access to Inclusion Support Grant for children on Early Action Plus.
- Publicise the Inclusion Support Grant with early years providers and relevant Health and Social Services Departments.
- Support providers to prepare to accept a child with special needs.

The Inclusion Support Grant has two main functions:

- To give each private and voluntary sector provider the opportunity to access a grant of up to £200.00 per term to contribute towards the cost of meeting their duties under the DDA 1995 and increasing the inclusive practices within their setting.
- To offer a financial contribution that enables settings to enhance their staff to child ratios in order to include children with multiple and complex needs within their setting.

IMPACT

| DATES (TERM) | NUMBER OF SETTINGS ACCESSING THE £200 GRANT | NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED WITH MORE COMPLEX NEEDS | NUMBER OF SETTINGS SUPPORTED TO INCLUDE CHILDREN WITH MORE COMPLEX NEEDS | TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Summer Term 04 | 0 | 35 | 21 | 11,961.00 |
| Autumn Term 04 | 56 | 25 | 16 | 19,007.00 |
| Spring Term 05 | 56 | 20 | 13 | 18,301.00 |
| Summer Term 2005 | 52 | 33 | 16 | 20,003.00 |
| | 41 (average number of settings supported per term) | 113 | 66 | 69,272.00 |

The remaining budget of £39,700 will be allocated during the autumn term 2005 and the spring term 2006.

8. Finance

The total cost of funding via the General Sure Start Grant is £141,000.

Funding will be allocated as follows:

Pre-school Learning Alliance £32,000 via a Service Level Agreement.
Direct support to settings £109,000

Access and Monitoring will be carried out via action planning for inclusion, application form and collection of evidence of any expenditure.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- The cost of inclusion can carry a high financial demand upon private and voluntary settings. It is made clear that the Inclusion Support Grant is a 'contribution only' towards their total expenditure in connection with inclusive practice.
- The demand upon the Inclusion Support Grant for children with multiple and complex needs can fluctuate. It can be difficult to predict the exact amount of funding needed for each term. Consultation with service providers has taken place in connection with this issue and

measure have been put in place should the demand drastically change.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The work of this project will impact on priority themes within the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy and the outcomes for children and families identified within Every Child Matters

| Corporate Plan / Community Strategy | Every Child Matters | |
|--|---|--|
| Priority Theme | Outcomes for children and families | Impact |
| Achieving | Achieving Economic Well-being | The Inclusion Support Grant will help settings to recognise that inclusion in early education and childcare is an aspect of inclusion in our wider society. |
| Learning | Enjoy and Achieve | Reducing barriers to play, learning and participation for all children not only those with impairment/special educational needs. |
| Alive | Be Healthy | Viewing the differences between children as resources to enhance the feeling of well being in the early years environment. |
| Safe | Stay Safe | Learning from attempts to overcome barriers for children whose play, learning and/or participation is a focus of concern, to make changes that benefit children more widely. |
| Proud | Make a Positive Contribution | Fostering mutually sustaining relationships between children, parents and settings. |

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

Sure Start Guidance 2004 – 2006

Every Child Matters Outcome Framework.

Rotherham Community Strategy

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