1. **Meeting:** Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel

2. **Date:** 5th September 2008

3. **Title:** Rotherham Children’s Centres – Progress Update

4. **Directorate:** Children and Young People’s Services

5. **Summary:**

   Sure Start Children’s Centres are at the heart of the Government’s commitment to improving outcomes for young children and reducing inequalities. They are a key vehicle for providing services that families need and tackling child poverty. As part of a phased programme (2004 – 2011) Rotherham will have 20 Sure Start Children’s Centres across the borough. At this stage we can be confident that the impact of their work on the communities they serve has generally been positive. Although it must be stressed that building the confidence of communities is a slow process and may take time to demonstrate the major changes we need to see.

   This report provides an overview of the current progress made in Rotherham and although still in the early stages of development some examples of the impact of Children’s Centres services.

6. **Recommendations:**

   (a) That the report is received.

   (b) That members of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel celebrate the positive foundations being laid and the real lessons to be learnt from Rotherham Children’s Centres.
7. Proposals and Details:

7.1 Background

(a) Central Government Vision

‘Children’s Centres will play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children and in reducing the inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Although they need to reflect different local needs, in all areas they will be a central part of a Local Authority’s provision for young children and their families.’

Local Authorities (LA) are charged to deliver this vision.

In Phase 1 (2004 – 2006) Rotherham was given a Children’s Centres target of reaching 6,044 children under 5 and creating an additional 404 childcare places. In Phase 2 (2006 – 2008) Rotherham had a target to create an additional 8 Centres and reach an additional 6094 children under five years and their families. Unlike Phase 1, these Centres did not have a target to create additional childcare. However, if feasibility studies showed a demand for childcare this should be provided through working in close partnership with the private, voluntary and statutory sectors. Phase 3 (2008 – 2011) will create additional Children’s Centre provision to reach the remaining 1,547 children under five in the borough.

Phase 1 covered the 20% areas of most disadvantage and Phase 2 covered the 30% Super Output Areas. All Centres are expected to deliver the Children’s Centre service core offer of:

- Integrated education and childcare
- Family support
- Health Services
- Link to Job Centre Plus and Families Information Service

Further details of the core offer are provided in Appendix A

(b) Present Position

Children’s Centres are part of a journey in offering a new, universal mainstream service for all children and families whilst keeping a clear focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

To receive Sure Start designation Children’s Centres are required to have in place integrated education and childcare, employ a qualified teacher, have links with Job Centre Plus and Families Information Service, a co-ordinated Childminder Network and an implementation plan for delivery of health and family support services.
Rotherham is one of the first Local Authorities nationally to have all of its Phase 2 Children’s Centres designated within the Government timescales as highlighted in the Local Authority’s Annual performance Assessment (APA).

Rotherham has 20 designated Sure Start Children’s Centres (Appendix B). The table below details the location and designation date of all centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase (2004 – 06)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Designation date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aughton Early Years Centre</td>
<td>Aughton Early Years Centre</td>
<td>1st September 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawmarsh CC</td>
<td>Rawmarsh Nursery</td>
<td>1st September 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Central CC</td>
<td>Ferham J&amp;I</td>
<td>19th September 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arnold Centre</td>
<td>The Arnold Centre</td>
<td>8th March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wath Victoria CC</td>
<td>Wath Victoria J&amp;I</td>
<td>8th March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepping Stones CC</td>
<td>Maltby Sure Start</td>
<td>24th March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinnington CC</td>
<td>Dinnington Primary</td>
<td>30th March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockingham CC</td>
<td>Rockingham J&amp;I</td>
<td>21st September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Tree CC</td>
<td>Dalton Foljambe Primary</td>
<td>25th September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberworth Community CC</td>
<td>Kimberworth Primary</td>
<td>26th September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrybergh Rainbow Centre</td>
<td>Thrybergh Primary</td>
<td>26th September 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleridge CC</td>
<td>Coleridge Primary</td>
<td>23rd February 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 2 (2006 – 08)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Designation date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valley CC</td>
<td>Broom Valley Infant</td>
<td>21st December 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Birch CC</td>
<td>Flanderwell Primary</td>
<td>21st December 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meadows CC</td>
<td>Catcliffe Primary</td>
<td>6th February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park View CC</td>
<td>Redscope Primary</td>
<td>6th February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortonwood CC</td>
<td>Brampton Cortonwood Infant</td>
<td>14th February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Walker CC</td>
<td>Kiveton Park Meadows</td>
<td>14th February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Brookfield CC</td>
<td>Swinton Brookfield Primary</td>
<td>14th February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorpe Hesley CC</td>
<td>Thorpe Hesley Infant</td>
<td>14th February 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to note that the Children’s Centres are at different stages in their development with Rawmarsh Children’s Centre, Aughton Early Years Centre, The Arnold Centre, Rotherham Central and Maltby Stepping Stones being the most established. The good practice and lessons learned through the development of these Centres, Sure Start national evaluations and guidance has been used to inform the development of the other Centres. Much of the work over the past few years has concentrated on consultation, capital development of the buildings and establishing a service delivery infrastructure for Phase 1 Centres which will be rolled out to Phase 2.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) expects to see changes to practice in a range of areas, including:

- reaching the most excluded families and children
- increasing consistency in the level of support services offered
- grounding Children’s Centre practice in evidence
- improving multi-agency working
• raising the quality of early years provision
• employing more highly trained and qualified staff

7.2 Developing Services

(a) All Centres

Rotherham Children’s Centres are based on school sites with the exception of Maltby Stepping Stones. As well as in the Centre, services are delivered in the community and through home visiting. Each Children’s Centre has a multi-agency steering group which is responsible for the planning and delivery of services. A Children’s Centre Leadership Group enables Children’s Centre Heads to share good practice and work together to support the delivery of services across the borough as well as within their individual reach areas.

Health Visiting services and the Children’s Centre outreach team are important in reaching the most vulnerable and excluded groups. The Child Health Promotion programme will increasingly be delivered through the Children’s Centres. Using the ‘Redbook’ system Health visitors are able to register families with their local Children’s Centre, although families are able to access any Centre which they feel is appropriate to them. Speech and Language Therapy services can be accessed through Children’s Centres as part of mainstream provision.

Children’s Centre staff are trained to deliver the full range of Families Information Service (FIS) support through access to the central database and the Directory (of services for children, young people and families). Touch screen information kiosks are available in all Children’s Centres providing local access to a wide range of information. Centres also enable access to childcare for parents and carers wishing to take up training or employment opportunities. A national target has been set to have an Early Years Professional (EYP) leading on the Early Years Foundation Stage in each Children’s Centre by 2010. Currently of the 13 Lead Teachers, 5 have achieved their EYP status and 5 are starting the course in September 2008.

Individual centres deliver a variety of activities for children under five and their families based on consultation with the local community. The following table provides a snapshot of some of the services delivered by individual Rotherham Children’s Centres over a one month period.
# Family Support and Outreach Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drop-in and bookable Groups Operating - September 07</th>
<th>Number of times group has met</th>
<th>Number of carers attending</th>
<th>Number of children attending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Club (drop in group)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home visit</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busy Bees (drop in group)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua Babies Swimming</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learners (bookable group)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Dance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer - Advice/Meeting/Telephone</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Kids (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tots to Twos (drop in group)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent &amp; Toddler</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Group, Treeton</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mish Mash Mondays (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tot Tastic (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosehill Drop in (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-Walkers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Feeding Support</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bumps and Babes (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer &amp; Toddler Mon AM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay and Play Group</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play &amp; Learn Bus, Aston</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC-FC-Time Out For Parents</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer &amp; Toddler Tues AM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scallywags (drop in group)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents Group (drop in group)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Massage Group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play &amp; Learn Bus, Treeton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dads Group</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepping Together</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read With Me</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of other key developments relating to Rotherham Children’s Centres include:

(b) Specific Areas of Work

(i) Community Childcare and Inclusion Project - This short term, Objective 1 funded, project provides Community Inclusion Workers in 9 Children’s Centre areas during April 2007 to July 2008. The focus of these workers was to ‘outreach’ and engage families. Between April 2007 and July 2008, Community Inclusion Workers registered the following parents and children with Children’s Centres:

- 227 new teenage parents
- 213 children aged 0 – 4 from BME groups
- 254 new lone parents
- 1004 new workless families
- 19 new families with a disabled child

As a result of the end of project evaluations showing very positive results the workers were mainstreamed and incorporated into the Children’s Centres Outreach Team.

(ii) Speech and Language Services - A positive evaluation of speech and language services delivered initially through Sure Start Local Programmes resulted in the services being rolled out across Children’s Centres as part of mainstream delivery funded by the PCT.

(iii) Families Information Service (FIS) toolkit - Coleridge Children’s Centres took part in the filming of video clips for a toolkit which the DCSF are creating to support FIS's to deliver the Information Duty of the Childcare Act (2006). The video clips show Rotherham FIS staff and customers demonstrating how the Information Duty is delivered locally through Children’s Centres, outreach, free-phone and information kiosks. The video will be available to all local authorities to enable them to create their own promotional video about FIS’s.

(iv) Increasing the take-up of Childcare by BME families – Rotherham was one of six authorities invited to take part in a DCSF project to increase the take-up of childcare by BME families. Part of this activity included offering six free childcare sessions to parents in pilot areas. 4 Children’s Centres took part in this activity and 95 children within the reach area of those centres benefited access to childcare. Parents who completed feedback forms stated that the six free sessions gave them the confidence to use childcare again with 92% of respondents stating that they would use childcare again either to take up their
child’s free early education place or to enable them to return to work.

(v) **Business Enterprise** - Rotherham was invited by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to be the national pilot for making enterprise information and advice available in a family friendly environment through Children’s Centres. The Children’s Centres work with Business Link to engage with traditionally hard to reach groups. The main aims of the pilot are to:

- Deliver business support to women and under-represented groups via larger Children’s Centres.
- Provide information about business start up and sign post to local delivery through Employment and Training points.
- Improve links between the Local Authority, Children’s Centres and Business Link to provide evidence to ensure childcare provision meets business needs.

GROW, a local voluntary organisation, has been identified as a delivery partner to:

- Develop an outreach approach that will target predominantly young women with children aged 5, enabling participants to be aware that starting up a business/becoming self-employed is a possibility and realistic option for them;
- Develop peer support activity e.g. around business development ideas, provide information sessions, action planning sessions, self employment specific training, welfare rights information, sessions with local role models etc.;
- Facilitate a range of support and learning opportunities around confidence building, the gathering and sharing of information plus specific employment/self employment/entrepreneurial issues;
- Work to develop an exit strategy from the pilot that will ensure support for beneficiaries to link into other GROW activity, partners support packages etc. e.g. Princes Trust/Youth Enterprise programmes, Business Link activity, Job Centre Plus support, Women’s Network, GROW Financial Capability Project, GROW training.

The pilot will be evaluated in March 2009 with lessons learned in Rotherham used to extend the pilot across England.
7.3 Monitoring Performance and Measuring Impact

In 2006 it was identified that an activity and performance management system was needed for Children’s Centres to ensure a consistency of approach to the recording of all activity. By September 2007 all Centres were transferred to the web version, a monitoring framework is now in place and the foundations for the consistent recording of registrations and activity established. Phase 2 Centres are currently being inducted to the e-Start system as relevant staff are recruited.

To enable Centres to plan and deliver services which support and meet parental needs, a full demographic profile was provided to each Children’s Centre. This contains statistics by super output area to support Centres to focus services to meet the needs of specific target groups e.g. lone parents. Work is currently underway within Children and Young People’s Services to develop a central source of demographic information which is updated regularly.

Each Centre is supported to develop a Business and Marketing plan to identify actions they need to take to meet the Children’s Centre Core Offer including identifying ways to reach the most excluded groups. This Business Plan will form part of the planning cycle as described in ‘Sure Start Children’s Centres Planning and Performance Management Guidance’.

Examples of Reaching Children/Families and Impact:

The Children’s Centre guidance is clear that access to Children’s Centre services should be universal. However, hard to reach groups should be proactively targeted and supported to access services.

(a) Maltby Stepping Stones Children’s Centre: The graphs below show the take-up of activity and family support at Maltby Stepping Stones Children’s Centre in April and May this year. This demonstrates that activity is being accessed by families living in the most deprived super output areas within Maltby.
The following table demonstrates the positive impact of volunteer training delivered by Maltby Stepping Stones Children’s Centre. Over a three year period 30 people have been helped to increase their skills and enabled them to progress and take up volunteering, further training or employment opportunities as detailed below:

Certificate in Community Volunteering participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No Completed Course</th>
<th>No previous qualifications</th>
<th>Went on to Employment</th>
<th>Further Children’s Centre Training</th>
<th>External Training</th>
<th>Volunteering</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>17 (57%)</td>
<td>12 (40%)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) **Rawmarsh Children’s Centre**: Between 01/08/2007 and 31/07/2008 the Centre midwives supported 80% of couples through evening parent craft classes out of a total of 185 live births. 45 women attended breast feeding workshops. 12 women, all from the Rawmarsh community are currently trained volunteers supporting women who have chosen to breast feed. Rawmarsh breast feeding figure is currently at 70% which is above the Rotherham average which is 54%. 26 breast pumps bought through the Sure Start grant are constantly out on loan. Learning from the success at Rawmarsh, the PCT have secured funding to roll out the breast pump loan scheme across all the Children’s Centres in Rotherham, The PCT also have a dedicated Infant Feeding Coordinator in post who is linking into the Children’s Centres across Rotherham with the aim of raising the numbers of babies who are breast fed at birth.

Weaning sessions. – the Centre has given additional one to one support to 27 carers and 22 babies.

Infant Massage sessions - 52 carers and 40 babies have attended infant massage which helps with attachment and bonding. 10 Family
Support workers from across other children’s centres will attend infant massage training starting in September 2008. This training course which will finish in February 2009 enables the staff to become fully competent teachers in infant massage.

Cook and Eat sessions - 17 carers and 10 children have been identified and referred for advice.

From 1/08/07 to 31/07/08 over 1577 people have had contact with a Rawmarsh Children’s Centre worker.

(c) **Children’s Centres General:** Key Indicators for Sure Start Children’s Centres *(DCSF Performance Management Framework for Sure Start Children’s Centres 2008)* include take-up of services by ‘most excluded’ groups including:

- Teenage mothers and pregnant teenagers
- Lone parents
- Children in workless households
- Children in BME groups
- Disabled Children
- Children of Disabled Parents
- Fathers

The graph below demonstrates the number of individuals from the most hard to reach groups who have accessed services during 2007 -08. (Please note that some of the Centres have been delivering services for a longer time period and are more established)
The graph below shows a further analysis of BME families accessing Children’s Centre services which highlights the number of BME families being reached by Children’s Centres.

The Childcare and Community Inclusion Project “Success Stories” book includes excellent examples of the impact of Children’s Centre services. The following parental comments demonstrate the real impact take-up of services has on families:

“The teaching assistant course has helped me understand better how to be with my kids. Now I’m a better parent and I’m more patient with them. I understand how they should be taught and I also know more now about how other people behave and why certain things happen.”

Kaltouma

“Now I have the confidence and I can go out there and find employment.”

Pat

“Doing these courses has helped me to help my kids with their school work.”

“I thought if they can do it so can I.”

“Being able to go with the children did make it easier for me.”

“We have all changed and things are so much better.”

Julie

“We can see improvements in our children’s skills.”

Playshops Group
“I had social services, my friends and relatives all on my back saying I wasn’t a good mother, but I wanted to prove to them I was and I could look after my children!”

Julie

“I like getting time on my own to learn and refresh things I’ve forgotten. Doing the courses is the only time I get away from the kids. Coming here has made me more confident around other people and less shy than I used to be.”

Kathleen

“As parents of children with special needs the group has give us opportunities to experience activities, which as individuals, we probably wouldn’t have accessed”

“Allowed us to form valuable friendships and a close network of friends where we don’t feel isolated from the normal parents and children.”

“Encore” group at Aughton Early Years Centre.

These examples provide a snapshot of the difference made to the lives of Rotherham children and families. Each Children’s Centre collects examples of qualitative impact on an ongoing basis.

7.4 Ongoing Development

The Local Authority performance management framework for Children’s Centres is being further developed to ensure that Children’s Centres are meeting agreed targets and that delivery is contributing towards narrowing the gap and improving outcomes for children and families. These measures will increasingly support Centres to focus their services on those children and families that would most benefit, enabling resources to be used more effectively in meeting the desired outcomes whilst providing value for money.

The DCSF has recently updated the Sure Start Children’s Centre Performance Management Framework and the Self Evaluation form. Based on a recent review the key messages for the coming year are;

• Embed performance management at individual centre level.
• Links with age 5 targets and childcare sufficiency
• Link effective performance management systems and financial management

Further DCSF guidance on managing and delivering Children’s Centre services, as they become established as part of mainstream provision, will be issued later this year. To ensure that Children’s Centres do achieve the desired impact the role of the Sure Start Local Programme Managers is being revised. They will have a lead role in supporting Headteachers to deliver the Children’s Centre core offer across a cluster of Children’s Centres within localities. They will also contribute to the monitoring and scrutiny of Children’s Centres to ensure the
delivery of the Children’s Centre Core offer and the achievement of the Early Years Foundation Stage Outcomes Duty.

Early Years & Childcare have been incorporated with Extended Services, Adult & Community Learning, Attendance & Parenting to establish a new service under the banner of Community Learning and Wellbeing within the Learning Services Directorate of Children and Young People’s Services. This brings together a wide range of partners, skills and expertise to co-ordinate and integrate activity, maximise funding streams and resources with the aim of improving outcomes for children and families.

Further areas for development include:

- Discussions taking place at a strategic level with the PCT and Maternity Services with the Children’s Centre strategic leadership team around joint working to improve outcomes for children and families, particularly around obesity, smoking, improving access to maternity services and health equality.

- Strengthening links with Locality Teams.

- Supporting individuals to access midwifery services through their local Children’s Centre and the Families Information Service.

- Expanding the Children’s Centre Outreach Team to reach more families, particularly those not currently accessing services.

- Increase the delivery of parenting programmes at Children’s Centres as part of Rotherham’s Parenting Strategy.

- Increase access through Children’s Centres to family learning programmes and programmes which support parents to engage with their child’s development and learning.

- Increase access to childcare for vulnerable children and children with disabilities.

- A proposal is presently being developed to support the roll out of enhanced nursery places across all twenty Rotherham’s Children’s Centres for Foundation Stage disabled children and children with special educational needs

**Sure Start National Evaluation**

The National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) was commissioned in early 2001. To date 26 reports have been published which can be access via the National Evaluation website at [www.ness.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.ness.bbk.ac.uk).
The most recent NESS evaluation, *The Impact of Sure Start Local programmes on Child Development and Family Functioning* (March 2008) provides the latest information available on the development of the Sure Start journey. For three year olds in the study and their families the evaluation found that SSLPs have made impacts on several of the outcomes investigated and a marked improvement on the findings of the earlier cross-sectional study published in 2005. The key findings are:

- Parents of three-year-old children showed less negative parenting while providing their children with a better home learning environment.

- Three-year-old children in SSLP areas displayed better social development with higher levels of positive social behaviour and independence/self-regulation than children in similar areas not having a SSLP.

- The SSLP effects for positive social behaviour appeared to be a consequence of the SSLP benefits upon parenting (i.e., SSLP - Parenting - Child).

- Three-year-old children in SSLP areas had higher immunisation rates and fewer accidental injuries than children in similar areas not having a SSLP.

- Families living in SSLP areas used more child- and family-related services than those living elsewhere.

- The effects associated with SSLPs appeared to apply to all of the resident population, rather than suggesting positive and negative effects for different subgroups as detected in the earlier (2005) report.

The report states that it is reasonable to conclude that both longer exposure to SSLP’s and the continued development of such programmes in response to the growing body of evidence has been responsible for the more positive results.

8. **Risks and Uncertainties:**

The responsibility for the delivery of core Children’s Centres services is shared across all children’s services. Without the commitment of essential partners particularly Health, Social Care and Job Centre Plus important services will not be delivered. This commitment needs to be both at a financial and a service delivery level, the reshaping of present provision must continue to be addressed if services are to be sustainable.

Without continued investment the Local Authority is at risk of not meeting the National Performance Indicators relating to children’s centres which contribute
towards narrowing the gap and improving outcomes for children and families. Uncertainty of future funding and temporary contracts may result in workers seeking other employment. This will lead to reduced capacity within centres and potential breakdown of relationships with the local community, in particular the “harder to reach groups”. Progress made in raising quality of the workforce and provision could also be at risk.

Without continued investment in performance management and the commitment of all partners to have consistent systems and data input procedures it will be difficult to evidence impact and value for money.

9. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

The Sure Start Children’s Centre strategy has a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities

Rotherham Learning: integrated services and family support will lead to higher standards of achievement in areas of high social and economic deprivation.

Rotherham Achieving: the programmes focus on building the capacity of families to support themselves and to re enter the employment market.

Rotherham Safe: a crucial priority for the integrated services will be the safety of vulnerable children. Early identification stopping vulnerability.

Rotherham Alive: the partnerships with the PCT promotes healthy lifestyles through early intervention.

Rotherham Proud: the development of the Children’s Centres has enhanced provision in communities. This is already showing an impact on self esteem, raising the personal aspirations of families.

Fairness: the services within accessible buildings give equality of opportunity to the communities.

Sustainable development: partnership working and the reshaping of present services will enable sustainable development.

**Background Papers and Consultation:**

Consultation with Children’s Centres
Sure Start Children’s Centres – Phase 3 Planning and Delivery (2007)
The Sure Start Journey – A Summary of Evidence (2008)
The Impact of Sure Start Local programmes on Child Development and Family Functioning (March 2008)
Enterprise: unlocking the UK’s talent, March 2008 (BERR 3.71 – 3.73)
Contact Name:

Mary Smith - Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager
Community Learning and Wellbeing
Telephone 01709 822549 ex 2535
Fax 01709 823698
email mary.smith@rotherham.gov.uk
Appendix A - Children’s Centre Core Offer

Early education integrated with childcare

- Centre open a minimum 5 days a week, 10 hours a day, 48 weeks a year
- Support for childminders through a coordinated network
- Integrated care and learning for children from birth to five is being provided with qualified teacher input and is Ofsted registered
- Nursery places to be open to all, not just families in the immediate area, to provide the best educational outcomes for all children
- Early identification and intervention via a combination of inclusive services and The Common Assessment Framework for children with special needs and impairments and support for their families
- Support for children with special needs and impairments via the Early Support Programme.

Signposting and supporting family support and outreach to parents

- Information for parents/carers about the range of family support services and activities available in the area
- Support and advice on parenting including support at significant transition points for the family (e.g. pre birth, early days, settling into childcare)
- Access to specialist, targeted services for those families which need them e.g. support for parents/carers of disabled children
- Activities which increase parents/carers understanding of their child’s development
- Specific strategies and activities which increase the involvement of fathers

Signposting and supporting child & family health services

- Access to antenatal advice and support for parents/carers
- Child health promotion programme
- Information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety
- Promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing, including identification, support and care for those suffering from maternal depression
- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families
- Access to speech and language and other specialist support
- Support for healthy lifestyles
- Help in stopping smoking

Information to parents and carers

- Consultation and information sharing with parents/carers, including fathers, on what services are needed, and systems to get user feedback on services
- Links to schools, extended schools and out of school activities (holiday playschemes, before/after school play & learning)
- Information to parents/carers as per FIS
Links to training and employment

- Linking in with local arrangements for collaboration with Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership Managers
- Encouragement and support for parents who wish to consider training and employment
- Help with accessing training, work, advice and information and may well offer a range of other services including: Effective links with further and higher education institutions, and local training providers; training for parents, including English as an additional language where relevant, basic skills, or parenting classes; specialist services for children with disabilities; signpost to benefits advice, including maternity benefits; childcare and other services for older children
Appendix B – Map of Rotherham Children’s Centres

Rotherham Sure Start Children's Centre Reach Areas and Area Assembly Areas

- Wath Victoria Children’s Centre
- Rawmarsh Children’s Centre
- Thrybergh Rainbow Centre
- Dalton Willow Tree Centre
- The Arnold Centre
- Marby Stepping Stones Children’s Centre
- Dinnington Children's Centre
- Brampton
- Thorpe Hesley
- Swinton
- Kimberworth Park
- Kimberworth Children’s Centre
- Rockingham Centre
- Sure Start Rotherham Central
- Coleridge Children’s Centre
- Brinsworth & Catcliffe
- Broom
- Flanderwell
- Marby Stepping Stones Children’s Centre

Children's Centre Reach Area
Children's Centre
Children's Centres Opening Soon