



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Children and Young People Commission
15 December 2010

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People

ITEM 7

The function of Children's Centres in Derby

SUMMARY

- 1.1 There are 18 Children's Centres in Derby, all managed and run by the local authority (LA). Children's Centres have been developed in the city since 2004 and originally grew out of Sure Start Local Programmes, early excellence centres, neighbourhood nurseries (NNI) or from partnerships with local schools. There is no fixed delivery model that covers all 18 centres.

All meet the Children's Centre current core offer of:

- Integrated Early Years and Childcare
- Child and Family Health Services
- Family Support
- Adult Learning and access to Jobcentre Plus
- Outreach Services
- Families Information Service and access to childminders.

Integrated early years and education was a foundation for the development of the first phase of centres and of the 18 centres:

- three offer full day care 0-5 (part of the NNI initiative) subsidised by the LA
- three Children's Centres offering 0-5 integrated early years and childcare including registered full day care for 0-3s. These are small units which are costly to run as the ratio of staff to children is high
- two Children's Centres providing wrap-around care for three- and four-year-olds, which again is very costly to run as the number of staff required to cover the day is high
- six Children's Centres providing 0-5 care through partnership arrangements with the PVI sector at no cost to the LA
- four are not required to offer childcare as they are in the 70% more affluent areas

- 1.2 Strategic responsibility sits with the Early Years and Childcare service who manage the development, inspection and performance management of centres. Operational management sits with locality teams in most instances.
- 1.3 Each centre has an identified reach of children under five in their area and these figures were agreed with the DfE at time of designation. In total, centres reach target is over 14,000 under fives. Currently, centres are reaching on average 60% of these children and their families, with one centre reaching 100%.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To acknowledge the work carried out across the city in Children's Centres.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This report is a result of a Commission request for further information.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 All Children's Centres in the city are fully designated to meet the current Children's Centre core offer detailed in the summary and are open five days a week within the hours of 8am until 6pm.
- 4.2 Activities across centres are varied dependent on the needs of the centres' communities, but there are standard activities which happen in all centres. This includes Peers Early Education Partnership (PEEP) which is delivered by centre staff and is part of the Early Years Outcomes' duty to support the increased attainment at Foundation Stage profile, stay and play activities and delivery of parenting programmes, family visiting and health clinics.
- 4.3 The core offer is supported by partner agencies including Health, Adult Learning and Jobcentre Plus who run a variety of activities and training courses. There is good partnership working with other agencies, particularly Health who deliver stay and weigh clinics and child development assessments in 17 of the 18 centres. Midwifery is delivered in eight of the centres and signposting to additional services takes place in all.

Alvaston Children's Centre was part of the 0-7 Partnership Programme, which focused on support for children's speech and language skills and whilst the partnership is no longer funded, Alvaston still remains the hub for speech and language support.

Family Visitors play a key role in delivering Children's Centre services and each centre has 2.5 FTE in the 30% Super Output Areas and 2 FTE in more affluent areas.

Part of their role is to visit or make contact with all new parents in the area to introduce and signpost to centre services. In addition, centres take referrals from Social Care, Health, schools and other agencies involved with families. Family visitors offer both support in families' own homes and or in accessing centre services. Often referrals come through vulnerable children's meetings, which are chaired by Social Care under-11 teams and this is often the most targeted approach to supporting those most vulnerable.

Each centre, through their own self-evaluation document and Ofsted's SEF, has identified who their most vulnerable groups are. In all centres this includes:

- teen parents
- children identified as in need or with a protection plan in place
- families where English may be a second language
- children or parents with disability
- fathers

Each centre has an identified teen parent champion who acts as an advocate and support for all teen parents in their area.

In addition, dependent on where a centre is located, there is specialist support in place for Traveller families, asylum seekers, Roma communities.

- 4.4 Each centre completes its own needs assessment and develops a delivery plan based on this and also in line with the recommended core offer.

All centres have access to Families Information Service and provide a base for local childminders to meet.

- 4.5 Centres each have their own advisory board, which should have an independent chair. This board supports user engagement and parents' forums and is the critical friend to the operational managers in Children's Centres. All evaluations of activities proposed developments are agreed by this board.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Robin Constable Alison Parkin Alimun Nessa Rita Silvester
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Name Fiona Colton 01332 716867 e-mail Fiona.colton@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications 2- Centre details
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Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The Early Years Sure Start Grant funds the delivery of Children's Centre services.

Legal

- 2.1 There is a statutory duty under the Apprenticeship Bill for the Local Authority to provide sufficient Children's Centres for families under 5.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are over 200 full and part time staff employed in children's centres.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Children's Centres target those most vulnerable and support the narrowing the gap agenda for the 20% most disadvantaged in the city.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 All centres work within the constraints of LA policy and procedures and have an annual audit from the Health and Safety section.

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 In most cases children's centres are located in what's termed as pram pushing distance for families. New buildings all meet the relevant standards for climate change.

Value for money

- 7.1 All children's centre activities are unit costed to ensure there is value for money.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1
- To integrate and deliver our services with partners to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness (CYP4.1).
 - To deliver value for money across all services (COD2).
 - To address and review the financial impact of major projects, legislative changes and changes to local government funding (CPD3.7).

Local-ity	Phase	Children's Centre	Telephone	Ward(s) coverage	Centre Lead	Child care	Reach number	Registrations	Registrations as a %
1	1	Derwent Beaufort Community Primary School Hampshire Road Derby DE21 6BT	01332 208175	Derwent	Dawn Slater	yes	1312	145	11.1%
1	1	Spondon Asterdale Primary School Borrowash Road Derby DE21 7PH	01332 662323	Spondon	Dawn Slater	yes	676	219	32.4%
2	1	Osmaston/Allenton 60 Cockayne Street North Allenton Derby DE24 8SB	01332 715620	Alvaston/ Boulton/ Sinfen	Lindsay Difusco	yes	933	506	54.2%
3	1	Austin/Sunnyhill Browning Street Sunnyhill Derby DE23 8DN	01332 711340	Normanton/ Blagreaves	Kate Burton	yes	696	387	55.6%
3	1	Becket 35 Stockbrook Street Derby DE22 3WR	01332 380134	Becket/ Abbey	Libby Partridge	yes	621	395	63.6%
3	1	Rosehill The Big Building 17-19 Lowerdale Road Derby DE23 6WY	01332 641315	Arboretum/ Normanton	Donna Brooks	yes	1143	653	57.1%
5	1	Mackworth/Morley Reigate Primary School Reigate Drive Derby DE22 4EQ	01332 208175	Darley/ Mackworth	Stephanie Scarborough	yes	680	398	58.5%
1	2	North Chaddesden 3 Audrey Drive Chaddesden Derby DE21 4NP	01332 670634	Derwent/ Oakwood/ Chaddesden	Dawn Slater	yes	711	498	70.0%
2	2	Alvaston Lakeside Primary School 875 London Road Derby DE24 8UZ	01332 757991	Alvaston/ Boulton	Sarah Goodman	no	801	573	71.5%
2	2	Boulton 47b Holbrook Road Alvaston Derby DE24 0DD	01332 574902	Boulton/ Alvaston	Sarah Goodman	no	759	829	109.2%

Local-ity	Phase	Children's Centre	Telephone	Ward(s) coverage	Centre Lead	Child care	Reach number	Registrations	Registrations as a %
2	2	Sinfin Sinfin Lane Sinfin Moor Derby DE24 9PG	01332 718787	Sinfin	Lindsay Difusco	no	604	343	56.8%
3	2	Pear Tree Pear Tree Community Junior School Pear Tree Street Derby DE23 8PN	01332 774185	Normanton/ Arboretum	Donna Brooks	no	442	205	46.4%
4	2	Mickleover/Littleover 50 Brierfield Way Mickleover Derby DE3 9SA	01332 518661	Mickleover/ Littleover/ Blagreaves	Kate Burton	no	1318	1261	95.7%
5	2	West End Central Community Nursery School Nuns Street Derby DE1 3LR	01332 6342647	Allestree/ Darley	Stephanie Scarborough	yes	965	327	33.9%
1	3	South Chaddesden 138 Meadow Lane Chaddesden Derby DE21 6PB	01332 671591	Chaddesden/ Derwent	Dawn Slater	no	663	135	20.4%
1	3	Oakwood Springwood Drive Oakwood Derby DE21 2RQ	01332 831965	Oakwood	Dawn Slater	no	452	122	27.0%
2	3	Chellaston Maple Drive Chellaston Derby DE73 6PZ	01332 701086	Chellaston	Sarah Goodman	no	855	322	37.7%
3	3	Babington Stonehill Nursery School Stonehill Road Derby DE23 6TJ	01332 344109	Arboretum/ Normanton/ Abbey	Donna Brooks	no	774	234	30.2%