



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
19 February 2008

ITEM 10

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and
Young People

Phase 3 Children's Centres

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Phase 3 children's centres complete the roll out of the government's target for 3,500 children's centres across the country by 31 March 2010. They are a key driver for the government's target of narrowing the gap.
- 1.2 By August 2008 Derby will have 14 designated children's centres across the city and will be required to develop a further four to meet its total target of 18 to cover the whole city by 31 March 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To agree in principle the identified areas for Phase 3 children's centres.
- 2.2 To approve the consultation process to proceed with the development of the centres and the engagement of required partners.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 The Sure Start Early Years and Childcare grant for 2008/2011 includes a capital grant of £1,426,853. This is the only source of capital available to develop these new centres and includes £224,691 for maintenance of existing children's centre buildings.



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ITEM XX

Report of the Corporate Director for Children
and Young People

Children's Centres Phase 3

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Since commencement of the children's centre programme in 2003 Derby has developed seven children's centres in Phase 1. These centres covered the areas of the city identified as in the 30% most disadvantaged priority areas. They were developed around existing local sure start programmes, neighbourhood nurseries, full service extended schools our early excellence centre and three new builds on school sites.
- 1.2 Seven Phase 2 children's centres have been developed to complement phase 1 primarily on school sites (six) and one conversion of a former private day nursery into an integrated children's centre and youth provision. With the exception of the children's centre sited at Brookfield Primary School all are within the 30% most disadvantaged areas of the city.
- 1.3 Phase 1 and 2 children's centres will reach a total of 12,153 children across the city and provide all children's centre core offer services to families with under-fives. Phase 3 children's centres will reach 2,292 children and, with the exception of the planned Babington children's centre, are in the 70% least disadvantaged areas of the city and will provide an appropriate level of children's centre services. The Babington centre is in a 30% most disadvantaged area and will provide all children's centre core offer services.
- 1.4 Phase 3 children's centres will need to build on the firm foundation already formed in Derby City of working in partnership with schools and other agencies to deliver core services.
- 1.5 **Proposed Phase 3 Children's Centres**

Four children's centres are proposed for development between April 2008 and March 2010 covering the Chaddesden, Oakwood, Chellaston and central Derby areas. The boundaries for all the children's centres areas, including Phase 3 were reviewed and adjusted in 2007 to ensure citywide coverage by the end of this phase.

1.6 Chaddesden and Oakwood

The development of these two centres will complete the children's centre provision in Area 1 and will be closely linked to the existing Phase 1 and 2 centres in the area. Both centres will be in less disadvantaged 70% areas, so will not directly provide the full core offer. They will not provide integrated early years and childcare provision which is a requirement in the more disadvantaged areas.

The service offer for both centres will be developed following an audit of existing relevant services by the Locality planning officers in conjunction with the Area 1 locality team, local schools and other partner agencies and will take into account the findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment due to be launched in April 2008.

1.7 Chellaston

The development of this centre will complete the children's centre provision in Area 2 and will be closely linked to the existing Phase 1 and 2 centres in the area. The centre will be in a less disadvantaged 70% area, and as in area 1 will not need to provide the integrated early years provision.

The service offer for the centre will be developed as in area 1 by the Locality services planning officer in conjunction with the new locality team, local schools and other partner agencies and taking into account the findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

1.8 Central Derby

The inclusion of the Babington children's centre, covering the remainder of the Normanton area will complete the children's centre provision in Area 3 and has been the subject of detailed discussion with local head teachers and other partners for some time. The centre is in a 30% more disadvantaged area and will provide all the children's centre core offer services. These will be co-ordinated closely with the Phase 1 and 2 centres in Area 3 to avoid duplication but ensure families who do not currently access services are reached.

The service offer for the centre will be developed as in the other areas following an audit of existing relevant services by the locality services planning officer in conjunction with the new locality team, local schools and other partner agencies and taking into account the findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Following local consultation with schools and others in the immediate area and those adjoining it, it is proposed to develop additional space at Stonehill Nursery School to provide a base for the children's centre.

The Babington centre will be the first children's centre developed in Phase 3, reflecting the level of need in the area and the timescale for developing the additional space at Stonehill.

1.9 Consultation

It is proposed that by the end of April 2008 local consultation will have been carried out in each Phase 3 children's centre area, drawing in all local schools, the existing and emerging locality services teams and other partners. Open meetings with partners in each area will be co-ordinated by the Locality Services Planning Officers and the views of local families will be sought through existing partners.

Following the consultation process, recommendations will be made for the sites for the Chaddesden, Oakwood and Chellaston children's centres. (The location of the Babington centre has already been agreed with local partners.) Consultation with local partners will continue throughout the development period to ensure services are locally appropriate and sustainable within the resources available.

1.11 Capital scheme commencement

Any minor capital works which may be needed in the Chaddesden, Oakwood and Chellaston areas will be identified following the consultation period and agreement on sites. Feasibility studies will be conducted if necessary and plans submitted to the Sure Start Unit for approval for funding from the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant capital allocation £1,426,853.

A feasibility study has been commissioned into the options for an extension to Stonehill Nursery School to provide a base for services and activities for the Babington children's centre. The scheme to be completed by January 2009 at a provisional cost of £250,000 which would be fully funded through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant capital allocation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2 No other options meet the requirements for every family to have access to children's centre services by April 2010.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The estimated budget cost for the four new sites will not be in excess of the £1,200,000 available from the Sure Start Grant an additional £224,691 is available in the capital grant for the maintenance of existing and new children's centres.
- 1.2 Revenue funding for 2008/09 is £2,976,638, this is sufficient to continue services in existing centres and to develop new posts for the four new centres and once sites have been agreed and the service offer confirmed posts in the new centres will be recruited to. This year sees the removal of the Sure Start Early Years and childcare Grant from the local area agreement and a return to being ring-fenced for children centre services.

Legal

- 2 The funding is made available to the local authority on the understanding that it will be used to develop children's centre services and ensures that the target of 18 children's centres is reached.

Personnel

- 3 New posts will be created within locality services. These include family visitors co-ordinators and administrative support.

Equalities impact

- 4 Children's centre services will be available to all children and families in the city. Children's centres are a key driver to the government's target of narrowing the gap between those who are disadvantaged and others and children's centres strive to provide a better start for all children.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5 **Making us proud of our neighbourhoods**
 - Provide opportunities to get involved in decision making
 - Create job opportunities**Supporting everyone in learning and achieving**
Helping us to be healthy active and independent
Giving excellent services and value for money