



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
31 October 2006

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Children's Centre Development Phase Two

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Phase two Children's Centres need to be developed within the allocated Sure Start capital funding and timescales and in locations which meet the needs of local children and their families.
- 1.2 Feasibility work has commenced on the sites and locations of phase two, year one Children's Centres following Council Cabinet approval on 6 June 2006.
- 1.3 The proposals for the sites of phase two, year two Children's Centres are outlined in the report.
- 1.4 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the locations of two of the Children's Centres in phase two, year two in Sinfen ward and the Normanton/Pear Tree area and the start of feasibility work.
- 2.2 To await the outcome of the bid submitted to the DfES for additional PFI credits before a final decision on the Children's Centre proposed for Alvaston/Boulton ward, but to begin a feasibility study for a possible alternative.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Within the General Sure Start Grant, we have an allocation £1,985,486 to develop seven Children's Centres between April 2007 and March 2008.
- 3.2 The development of phase two, year two Children's Centres will ensure local access to a Children's Centre for all children and families in the most disadvantaged areas of the city.



Children's Centre Development Phase Two

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Phase two of the Children's Centre development for Derby has been split into two separate years; year one 2006/07 and year two 2007/08. Council Cabinet approved the sites for capital development in Phase two, year one Children's Centres on 6 June 2006.
- 1.2 It was agreed by Council Cabinet on 6 June 2006 to begin to identify possible sites of three further Children's Centres to be completed in Phase two of the development by March 2008.
- 1.3 The Sure Start Children's Centre programme began in 2003 and is supporting the delivery of integrated services to children and their families. The core offer of services to be delivered by Children's Centres include
 - integrated early education and childcare for children 0-5
 - child and family health services, including ante-natal care and support with breast feeding and smoking cessation
 - family support and parental engagement
 - advice and support about childcare
 - advice and support for parents to take up training and employment opportunities.

Phase One

- 1.4 Phase one Children's Centres had a reach target of 4,382 children aged 0-4, which was exceeded with 5,998 reached (figure from GP register June 2006). The phase one Children's Centre areas are now all completed, open and are beginning to deliver the core offer. These centres include the four Sure Start Local Programmes (Osmaston/Allenton, Rosehill, Austin/Sunnyhill and Mackworth/Morley), plus three new centres: one combining service delivery at Stepping Stones and Beaufort Primary School in Derwent; Asterdale Primary School in Spondon; and Becket Primary school in Abbey ward. In addition, Ashgate Nursery School has been extended to provide 0-3 daycare in the Mackworth ward as part of Mackworth/Morley Children's Centre.

Phase Two Year One

- 1.5 There is a new reach target of 6,530 for this next phase. Funding is available for the programme, Derby has been allocated £2,169,735 capital funding to develop the phase two centres and £2,746,118 revenue funding to support delivery of services in all Children's Centres across the city up to March 2008. On completion of the programme Derby will have 14 Children's Centres.
- 1.6 Phase two Children's Centres have to be designated by March 2008 to secure the allocated funding from Sure Start Unit. The Phase two planning guidance from Sure Start Unit has removed the requirement to provide on-site daycare for children aged 0-3. This service has to be provided through locally identified providers and childminders. This will significantly reduce the cost of the buildings and the revenue funding implications.
- 1.7 The approved the sites for Phase two, year one Children's Centres are at Oakwood Infants School (Alvaston ward), Cavendish Close Infants School (Chaddesden ward), Brookfield Primary School (Mickleover/Littleover) and Central Nursery School (Allestree and Darley wards). The design work needed to develop the Children's Centres at the proposed sites is now nearing completion.

Phase Two, Year Two

- 1.8 Further work has now been undertaken to identify possible sites for the final three Children's Centres in this part of phase two. The areas identified were Sinfin ward, Arboretum and Normanton wards and either Alvaston or Boulton wards. There are already Children's Centres in Arboretum and Alvaston wards, but these are areas of disadvantage and high population density and require additional Children's Centres.

Sinfin

- 1.9 The 0-4 population in Sinfin is 664 (GP Register 2006). The area is a priority area in terms of neighbourhood renewal. Households with dependant children and lone parent households are much higher than average for the city as a whole. The most effective option in this area, taking into account available sites, is to pursue an option to develop a Children's Centre on a privately owned site in Sinfin. This is currently being considered with an initial option appraisal. A feasibility study, which will include identification of any internal remodelling required and the potential running and maintenance costs, is also currently underway. This could develop to provide a range of services in addition to the core offer.
- 1.10 The service delivery plan could therefore include:
 - a single site Children's Centre with multiple uses
 - a base for outreach to other parts of Sinfin
 - a base for the integrated locality team in the future
 - use for the Adult Learning Service, Youth Service, local delivery of training for parents with on site crèche provision etc
 - a base for health and family support services
 - provision for holiday and after school care for local schools, especially Redwood Infant and Junior, within the extended services agenda.

- 1.11 It will be necessary to secure joint commitment for on-going funding to deliver these additional services from identified partners and to develop a service plan. The 0-3 day care could be provided by local partners at Sinfin Community Childcare and by a network of local childminders. There is a range of other groups which meet in Sinfin to deliver parent and toddler groups which would be supported by the Children's Centre team and used to provide outreach services. The local schools are working well together in a network to develop extended services.
- 1.12 **Normanton/Pear Tree Area**
- The total 0-4 population in this area is 2,487 (GP Register June 2006). The area covers Normanton and Arboretum wards, and is a priority area. Only 1,279 of the under 4 population is covered by the existing Children's Centre at Rosehill and the level of need in the area is high enough to justify an additional two Children's Centres. A phase one Children's Centre has been developed from the Rosehill Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP). This has involved a build which houses both the SSLP services funded by the Sure Start capital programme and day care facilities funded through the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. There are concerns about the viability of the day care provision. Identifying this resource as the link for the required day care provision for the 0-3s in the phase two Children's Centres will support future viability.
- 1.13 As part of the development work for phase two a review of the existing Children's Centre boundaries has taken place taking into account the full service extended school being created at Pear Tree schools to include Harrington Nursery, which was in the original Rosehill SSLP area.
- 1.14 It is therefore proposed to develop a Children's Centre which includes Pear Tree Infant and Junior Schools, Harrington Nursery School, St Chad's Infant School, and Stonehill Nursery School. These schools are all currently delivering a range of services which would constitute the core offer meeting the needs of their own local community. The two nursery schools have recently undergone some refurbishment and extension work to allow them to further extend their services to local families. This would link naturally into the full service extended services being developed and funded in the Pear Tree family of schools. There is no demand for new centre-based childcare places in the area.
- 1.15 This proposal would not involve a major capital development, but would mean careful co-ordination of the services by an integrated services manager. A smaller home base would need to be found and could even be within the Rosehill SSLP to ensure some joining up of service delivery to meet the very different and varied cultural needs of the two wards. It has been the experience in the phase one development at Rosehill, that the local families are reluctant to travel any distance to access services. This approach will ensure much more local access and make most effective use of existing community based facilities in the area. Health services are already delivered from Pear Tree Clinic and a building on Pear Tree Road. Currently housing services delivered by Rosehill Children's Centre could provide a base able to house the core team. This would need some capital work to bring up to standard.
- 1.16 This option enables all families in the area to receive Children's Centre services by March 2008 and allows consideration, if resources are available, of further splitting the Phase two area to provide separate centres focused on the Pear Tree and St Chad's parts of the area.

Alvaston/ Boulton

- 1.17 The combined 0-4 population for the Alvaston and Boulton Children's Centre areas is 1,511. 710 are in the Boulton area to be covered from the Oakwood schools, and 801 are in the Alvaston area, originally to be covered from Lakeside. Both areas fall within the 30% most disadvantaged wards. There is a Phase one Children's Centre based at Osmaston/Allenton whose boundary touches both wards.
- 1.18 There are plans to develop a Phase two Children's Centre at Oakwood Infants and Junior Schools with a capital scheme which is currently being planned. This will be accessible to local families in this area. A capital development funded by PFI credits is proposed for the site of the new Lakeside School. A formal bid has been submitted and the outcome will be known in December 2006.
- 1.19 If successful this would provide accommodation, some of which could house Children's Centre services, alongside support for young children with behavioural difficulties. This would provide outreach to Boulton ward, linking in 0-3 provision on Pride Park, on Shardlow Road and two extended pre-school playgroups and also at the Children's Centre at Osmaston/Allenton, which would support the sustainability of this provision. However, if this is not successful we need to have an alternative site which has been researched and costed in advance of the PFI decision.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 In the initial planning for Phase one it was proposed to develop a Children's Centre on a site at Grampian Primary School in Sinfin. This is still possible but would involve a major new build project. This will need to be considered following completion of the initial appraisal of a privately owned site in Sinfin that is also available. The Grampian Primary School site would not provide sufficient space for all the additional activities listed , but would be close enough for local families and parents to access some services.
- 2.2 Redwood Infant and Junior School sites have very limited potential for any major capital development.
- 2.3 A capital development based on the Pear Tree schools site would be an expensive development in the northern corner of the area and would mean other parts of the Children's Centre would have a long way to access services, particularly those families close to St Chad's and Stonehill Nursery School. This is likely to reduce take up of services by families in the northern part of the area unless outreach services are provided there.
- 2.4 A capital development at Boulton Primary School, subject to a detailed feasibility study is possible either as a refurbishment or a new build, but the school place planning review due to take place shortly in the area may reveal that existing accommodation is needed for a potential increase in pupil numbers as a result of proposed new housing in the area. There has been interest from the school to further develop the Foundation Stage to offer wraparound and extended hours care. This would help meet the core offer and 0-3 care and other services could be provided by other local providers, including Osmaston/Allenton Children's Centre which is close by, although the ring road forms a physical barrier to families.

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Background papers:

List of appendices: Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 A formal capital bid has been submitted for additional PFI credits for £2.1m, including whole lifecycle costs, for Children Centre services at Lakeside Primary School. The Council will be notified in December 2006 if this bid has been successful.
- 1.2 The Children's Centres capital allocation for 2007/08 is £1,985,486. The capital programme will be updated with this allocation.
- 1.3 The revenue funding within the General Sure Start Grant to support the development of services in Phase two Children's Centres from 2006-08 is £2,746,118. This is sufficient to fund staffing and running costs during these two financial years, but there is considerable uncertainty over funding after 2008. Concerns have been expressed at a national level over the longer-term sustainability of Children's Centres revenue budgets. The revenue element of the General Sure Start Grant is within the Local Area Agreement.

Legal

2. The Sure Start grant funding is made available to Local Authorities on the basis that it will be used to develop service delivery from Children's Centres in line with the development of integrated children's services.

Personnel

3. The creation of new Children's Centres will create new posts, especially in childcare, and some in administrative work.

Equalities impact

4. Children's Centres are available to all children and families who live in the area. A major purpose is to target disadvantage and provide a better start for young children and support for their families.

Corporate Priorities

5. **Improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods**, by:
 - reducing inequalities between neighbourhoods
 - providing greater opportunities for people to participate in decisions about the area they live in.

Encourage lifelong learning and achievement, by:

- improving educational attainment at Key Stage and GCSE levels
- raising skill levels to improve the chances of securing employment.

Build healthy and independent communities, by:

- improving the health of our communities

- delivering joined up services for children and young people that meet the needs of the local community.
- **Deliver excellent services, performance and value for money**, by:
- minimising Council Tax levels and increasing value for money.