

Phase 2 Children's Centres

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Phase 2 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 families. However, due to limited capital funding and following early feasibility work it is now proposed to develop seven Phase 2 Children's Centres rather than eight as in the consultation paper, subject to Sure Start unit approval, and to review existing Sure Start Local Programme boundaries.
- 1.2 The outcomes of the Phase 2 Children's Centres consultation are outlined in this report along with the proposed plans.
- 1.3 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the outcomes of the consultation.
- 2.2 To approve locations for 4 of the 7 proposed Phase 2 Children's Centres and a review of Sure Start Local Programme boundaries.
- 2.3 To approve consultation to develop a further three Children's Centres in Alvaston, Arboretum and Sinfen to reach the target of 7 centres by 2008.
- 2.4 To approve scheme commencement reports for the proposed Children's Centre projects outlined in Appendix 3.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Within the General Sure Start Grant, we have allocated £2,129,205 capital funding and £2,926,118 revenue funding to develop Children's Centres in Phase 2 between April 2006 and March 2008. There is no other source of capital funding to develop these new Children's Centres.
- 3.2 With the limited capital funding, a strategy to develop outreach to communities will be sought to ensure access for children and families, meeting the core offer of Children's Centres.



Phase 2 Children's Centres

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The consultation on the development of the next phase of Children's Centres has now been completed. This follows on from a report to Council Cabinet on 29 November 2005.
- 1.2 The Sure Start Children's Centres programme began in 2003, based on the concept that providing integrated education, care, family support and health services are key factors in ensuring good outcomes for children and their parents. The core offer of services to be provided then included:
 - Integrated early education and childcare for children from birth to 5
 - Child and family health services, including ante-natal care, support with breastfeeding and smoking cessation
 - Family support and parental engagement
 - Advice and information about childcare
 - Advice and support for parents to take up training and employment opportunities.
- 1.3 Derby was set a target of reaching 4,382 children under 5, of whom a third should not be covered by existing Sure Start local programmes, and of creating 293 new full time education and childcare places in the centres, in addition to existing targets for creating new childcare places across the city. The four existing Sure Start programmes already covered 3,409 children based on the reach figures included in their original plans.
- 1.4 Derby originally aimed to develop nine Children's Centres in Phase 1 to ensure all the priority areas of the city were covered. However, because of the relatively small footprint of the city and dense population, it became clear very quickly that this would substantially exceed the reach figure of 4,382. The programme was reduced to seven centres consisting of the existing four Sure Start programmes, and three new builds on school sites – Asterdale Primary, Ashgate Nursery and Becket Primary. The revised plan still produced a reach of 6,192 under 5s compared with the target of 4,382.

- 1.5 The report to Cabinet on 29 November 2005 outlined a proposal to develop eight Children's Centres as part of the second phase of centres. However, following Sure Start Unit capital announcements, it is clear that the level of capital funding allocated to the Council is not sufficient to develop eight centres. Other local authorities are experiencing similar difficulties. The proposal now is therefore to develop seven Children's Centres between 2006 and 2008.
- 1.6 This is subject to agreement with the Sure Start Unit, but initial discussions indicate this is possible. This will include a commitment to review existing Sure Start Local Programme boundaries to ensure no small areas of disadvantaged wards are left without access to services, and that the size of "catchment" areas is more equitable for delivery of services.
- 1.7 The phase 2 Children's Centre consultation paper (Appendix 2) was circulated widely to seek as many responses as possible, including all schools and the private, voluntary and independent childcare providers in the city. 34 written responses were received during the consultation period, from a range of settings including schools, governors, parents and private providers. A number of Governing Body meetings were also held.
- 1.8 The consultation responses generally indicate support for the planned development of Children's Centres, but there were some specific concerns. Some parents and governors at Carlyle Infant School were concerned about the impact of additional parking at the school and security with an increased number of visitors. Concerns were also expressed about inadequate funding and increased workload for school staff, and one parent did not want a Children's Centre at the school. Ravensdale Junior School raised similar concerns relating to increased use of the school building for even longer hours, and associated site implications, particularly security.
- 1.9 Cavendish Close Infant School were keen to develop a Children's Centre on site which could deliver different services, but expressed concerns about funding and governance / management.
- 1.10 The response from governors, staff and headteacher at Brookfield Primary School welcomed the opportunity to develop a Children's Centre and acknowledged that Brookfield's location will enable multi – agency outreach services to be developed to meet needs in both Littleover and Mickleover .
- 1.11 The governors of Oakwood Infant and Junior School were extremely supportive in developing a centre on their site. The governors and staff at Boulton Primary School were also very keen to have a Children's Centre developed at their school. They saw it as an opportunity to extend services to their local community. However, both schools recognised that after this consultation, a centre could only realistically be developed at one school.
- 1.12 Two private day nurseries expressed concerns about the viability and sustainability of developing new childcare provision and the effect on other local providers, but two other private day nurseries were keen to be involved as partners in Children's Centre developments and welcomed the opportunity to work together with local children and their families.

- 1.13 Other parents and schools welcomed the opportunity to develop a range of new services to meet local needs, especially health, and for children with additional needs and both Stonehill Nursery School and St Chad's Infant School were keen to be involved in developing services in Arboretum ward.
- 1.14 A voluntary organisation, National Children's Homes, which currently offers family support across Mackworth, Littleover, Mickleover and Blagreaves wards had been anxious that if they were to redefine their areas of work, Littleover, Blagreaves and Mickleover might not receive outreach from them. The development of a Children's Centre in this area would ensure family support was available to identified families in the area. A second voluntary organisation, Children First Derby, was much in favour of localised services and would be interested in working with Children's Centres to extend their own family support service.
- 1.15 Following this extensive consultation and comments received, either through formal responses or meetings held with interested parties, the proposal is to develop four centres, at Central Nursery, Cavendish Close Infants, Oakwood Infant / Juniors and Brookfield Primary in 2006 /07, with a further three centres to be developed in the Alvaston, Sinfyn and Arboretum wards in 2007/08.
- 1.16 It is proposed to conduct a further consultation exercise for the locations of centres to be developed in 2007 /08, subject to further discussions with the Sure Start Unit on reach targets and a review of Sure Start Local Programme boundaries.

Proposed Children's Centres – 2006/07

- 1.17 Feasibility work on the use of capital funding has been conducted alongside this consultation. This was necessary due to the very tight Sure Start timescales for completion of any capital work. This has highlighted that with the limited capital funding, only three major builds for Children's Centres are possible.
- 1.18 **Central Nursery School** (Darley Ward, Area 5), which will reach children and families who live around the nursery school and in the Chester Green area, which is in an identified pocket of deprivation. Outreach will support children and families who live in Allestree and Darley Abbey which are not deprived areas. The 0 – 5 population is 1,232. There is no need for capital development and most of the core offer of services is already available and an early designation should be possible.
- 1.19 **Cavendish Close Infant School** (Chaddesden Ward, Area 1), which will serve Chaddesden Ward and adjoin the areas served by Derwent and Asterdale Children's Centres. Outreach will support children and families in Oakwood Ward. The total 0 – 5 population is 1,997.
- 1.20 **Brookfield Primary School** (Mickleover Ward Area 4). It is proposed to develop one Children's Centre which will serve both Littleover and Mickleover wards. The initial plan was also to develop a Children's Centre based at Carlyle Infant School. However, following further investigation on service delivery, an outreach model can be developed to deliver to both wards from Brookfield Primary School. The responses from Carlyle Infant School raised some concerns about the possible impact of a children's centre around the school's site. It is anticipated that as these are more advantaged wards, the demands for services will be less. The total 0-5 population is 1,637.

- 1.21 **Oakwood Infants & Junior Schools** (Boulton Ward Area 2). It is proposed to develop a Children's Centre on the site of Oakwood Infant and Junior Schools. Although the staff, head teacher and governors at Boulton Primary School were very keen to be involved in the Children's Centre development and saw it as a positive way to develop the school, the school is very close to Osmaston/Allenton Sure Start Local Programme. If the boundaries were to be redefined subject to detailed discussions with the Sure Start Unit, services would be available by outreach from this centre, or from the Oakwood schools site..
- 1.22 Although there is space on the school site to develop a Children's Centre at Boulton Primary, it would involve significant internal remodelling to provide extensive space. There also needs to be careful consideration of the linkage to the Primary Place Planning Strategy with Boulton/Alvaston wards identified as a priority area for the first review.
- 1.23 The position is further complicated by the Council's expression of interest submitted to the DfES for additional PFI credits to develop a Children's Centre at Lakeside Primary School. If this were to be successful, then it would further weaken the case for development at Boulton Primary. To avoid duplication of services and to ensure longer term sustainability, it is judged that selection of Oakwood rather than Bolton makes better strategic sense.
- 1.24 Boulton Primary School will understandably be disappointed with this. However, it is intended that there should be detailed discussions with the school to ensure that existing and proposed Children's Centre services work very closely with the school to effectively support children and their families. There are a range of well established local family support services already in place.

Proposed Children's Centres – 2007/08

- 1.25 Currently it is proposed to develop Children's Centres at Lakeside Primary and Sinfin Primary School. This is subject to successful PFI credit applications and assessment of revenue implications. The Council is likely to learn from the DfES in July 2006 whether the expression of interest for PFI credits has been successful, and confirmation of the next steps, including developing an Outline Business Case
- 1.26 A further Children's Centre is proposed in Arboretum and Normanton Ward. The preferred option would be to re-define the Rosehill Children's Centre boundary to include most of Arboretum Ward and to create a new Children's Centre in the area. This will be subject to a careful review of needs and existing provision, including local consultation.

Capital Scheme Commencement

- 1.27 The significant accommodation required for a Children's Centre consists of community rooms for training purposes, reception area and interview rooms for multi-agency working. A crèche area is also required for 0-3 year olds. For the proposed Children's Centres at Cavendish Close Infant School and Oakwood Infant/Junior Schools, it is necessary to provide an additional day care area for 3/4 year olds, including external play areas. The Children's Centre at Brookfield Primary will be developed on Council owned land adjacent to the school.

- 1.28 The proposed centres will be standalone buildings in close proximity to existing school buildings, with separate access and car parking. Security aspects have also been considered in the feasibility study for these centres. These centres will be temporary/modular buildings, which is an approach strongly encouraged by Sure Start Unit from a cost and timing perspective. Permanent buildings are not affordable within the level of capital funding available and the requirement to build these centres by March 2007, or risk losing funding.
- 1.29 A detailed feasibility study has now been completed. The estimated budget cost for a centre at Brookfield Primary is £710,000, for Cavendish Close £665,000, and for Oakwood Infant/Junior Schools £679,000. The likely total cost for these three Children's Centres is therefore £2,054,000, to be funded from the Sure Start capital funding allocation of £2,129,205 for 2006/07. These schemes are now being discussed with schools. See Appendix 3 for funding breakdown.
- 1.30 These schemes will be discussed with Sure Start Unit pending formal submission for approval. Sure Start may request design changes, which may have a cost implication. Schemes cannot progress without Sure Start Unit approval. There is considerable pressure to build these centres for March 2007, and the Sure Start Unit timelines are extremely tight.
- 1.31 Feasibility work will commence shortly for the next phase of Children's Centres in Alvaston, Arboretum/Normanton and Sinfin.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 To create Children's Centres which serve only immediate neighbourhood areas of around 800 children. This would leave much of the city without access to a local Children's Centre and a larger future programme.
- 2.2 Limit the range of services and therefore personnel and need for space in each centre. This would not meet the core offer of Children's Centres.

<p>For more information contact:</p> <p>Background papers:</p> <p>List of appendices:</p>	<p>Chris Evans – Head of Early Years and Childcare Tel. 01332 716856 E-mail: chris.evans@derby.gov.uk</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Consultation Paper-Phase 2 Children's Centres Appendix 3- Development of Phase 2 Children's Centres – Proposed Schemes/Funding Details</p>
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The estimated budget cost for these proposed Children's Centres is £710,000 for Brookfield Primary School, £665,000 for Cavendish Close Infant School and £679,000 for Oakwood Infant and Junior Schools, totalling £2,054,000. The Sure Start Unit capital allocation for 2006/07 is £2,129,205. The unallocated balance of £75,205 provides a limited contingency for any modifications to respond to planning issues and Sure Start Unit approval, or other purposes within the remit of the General Sure Start Grant. A further report will be brought to Council Cabinet in due course. The capital programme will be updated with the figures outlined in Appendix 3.
- 1.2 The 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 2 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 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:
 - 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.



Consultation on Phase 2 Children's Centres

Introduction

This consultation deals with the important issue of developing the second phase of Children's Centres in the city, in particular the proposed location of the eight centres, between 2006 and 2008.

Children's Centres are intended to provide universal family services and should include some specific services for families with young children 0-5 who are most in need.

All Phase 2 Children's Centres could include the following core services:

- Integrated early years/childcare
- Family support
- Health visiting
- Midwifery
- Family learning
- Adult learning/training
- Crèche/stay and play
- Toy library
- Jobcentre Plus/benefits advice
- Children's Information Service

The extent of the services will depend on the needs of the community served by the Children's Centre and the identified level of disadvantage in the area.

Children's Centres are central to the delivery of integrated children's services which the Children and Young People's Partnership is currently planning to deliver, based in the five areas of the city. This will also include the development of extended school services, which will be consulted on at a later date.

Phase 1

Seven Children's Centres were located in the most disadvantaged wards in the city. These were based on

- Osmaston/Allenton Sure Start Local Programme and Lord Street Nursery School
- Rosehill Sure Start Local Programme
- Austin/Sunnyhill Sure Start Local Programme
- Mackworth/Morley Sure Start Local Programme and Ashgate Nursery School
- Becket Primary School
- Beaufort Community Primary School and Derwent Stepping Stones
- Asterdale Primary School

These will all be designated and operational by September 2006.

Phase 2

In planning this next phase, we have carefully considered the population of under 5s, disadvantaged areas as identified by the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, existing Sure Start Local Programme boundaries and school catchment areas to ensure city-wide Children's Centre access. Each Children's Centre neighbourhood should cover about 800 0-5's.

The Council is required to develop eight Children's Centres in Phase 2 between 2006-8 and this may require development of buildings. The Council has been allocated £2.1 million dedicated capital with some additional amounts for Extended Schools capital and the expansion of the free offer for 3 and 4 year-olds.

In planning this next phase, unlike Phase 1, there is no specific requirement for Children's Centres to be located in the most disadvantaged areas of the city. However, it is important for the Council to link proposed centres with the ongoing development of extended services in schools and local providers of childcare, including childminders. It is also important to co-ordinate proposed Children's Centre areas to ensure every family in the city has access to a local Children's Centre by 2010, to meet with central government agenda.

The Council's strategy is to develop local Children's Centres on school sites, where this is possible, because this makes best use of existing funding and buildings. Schools need to have existing Foundation Stage nursery units to be able to deliver integrated early education and childcare for 3 and 4 year-olds and will need to identify partners in the private, voluntary and independent sector able to provide those services for 0-3 year olds.

In order to move towards eventual city-wide coverage, our initial proposals for the development of Phase 2 Children's Centres are shown in the table below.

Ward/Area	Proposed location
Darley Abbey, Allestree, Chester Green	Central Nursery School
Boulton	Boulton Primary School, or Oakwood Infant/Junior Schools
Mickleover	Brookfield Primary School (adjacent land), or Ravensdale Infant/Junior Schools
Littleover/Blagreaves	Carlyle Infant School
Chaddesden	Cavendish Close Infant School
Alvaston	Lakeside Primary – subject to additional PFI funding
Arboretum/Normanton	Under review
Sinfin	Sinfin Primary – subject to additional PFI funding/Grampian

Following initial discussions with the above schools, headteachers are supportive in principle, pending formal discussions with school governors as part of this consultation.

With the exception of Central Nursery School, additional accommodation may be required. In view of the funding timescale, it is necessary to start a feasibility study immediately with architects and planners to see if Children's Centres are possible on these sites. Where there are two proposed locations this feasibility will assess options, including planning issues.

For proposed Children's Centres in Alvaston and Sinfin, the Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) for additional Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding. This funding needs to be used at existing PFI schools – Lakeside and Sinfin Primary Schools. We are likely to learn if we have been successful in early April, together with confirmation of next stages, which are likely to involve submitting a detailed PFI business case.

We are currently considering possible options for another Children's Centre in the Arboretum and Normanton areas. This will augment services currently provided by the Rosehill and Austin/Sunnyhill Sure Start Children's Centres.

We will also be working with parents to find out about which services they most need in their local area.

We would welcome your thoughts and comments on these proposed locations using the response sheet at the end of this consultation paper.

Should you want any further general information about Children's Centres, this can be found on the Sure Start website address www.surestart.gov.uk. Further information about Integrated Services for Children and Young People in Derby can be found on website address www.derby.gov.uk/health and [social care/integrated children's services link](http://www.derby.gov.uk/social_care/integrated_childrens_services).

Timescale/contacts

If you have any comments you wish to make on the proposals included in this consultation paper please complete and return the attached response sheet. We would welcome your views. **The consultation period will run to Friday 12 May 2006.** By this time, all interested parties will have had six weeks to consider this paper. We will carefully consider all response sheets received.

We intend to report the outcome of this consultation to Council Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 6 June 2006.

Should you have any queries, or would like further information, please contact:

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Consultation Response Sheet

We would welcome your thoughts and comments on the proposed locations and services that should be provided by Children's Centres. We are also interested in hearing from private and voluntary sector providers who may be interested in delivering some of these services. Please use an additional sheet if necessary.

Name:

Organisation:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this response sheet. Please return response sheets to:

Chris Evans – Early Years and Childcare Service, Children & Young People's Services,
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e-mail: chris.evans@derby.gov.uk

Deadline for return: **Friday 12 May 2006**

Development of Phase 2 Children's Centres – Proposed Schemes/Funding Details

School Name	Project Description	Est. Cost of Scheme	Phasing: 2006/07	2007/08	Ward	Quarter
Brookfield Primary School	New Children's Centre including accommodation for community rooms, reception area, crèche, interview rooms/multi agency working, external play area and car parking.	£710,000	£681,600	£28,400	Mickleover	3Q06
Cavendish Close Infant School	New Children's Centre including accommodation for community rooms, reception area, crèche, interview rooms/multi agency working, external play area and car parking. Re-modelling space close to existing nursery unit to create day care area for 3/4 year olds.	£665,000	£638,400	£26,600	Chaddesden	3Q06
Oakwood Infant / Junior Schools	New Children's Centre including accommodation for community rooms, reception area, crèche, day care area for 3/4 year olds, interview rooms/multi agency working, external play area and car parking.	£679,000	£651,840	£27,160	Boulton	3Q06
	Total	£2,054,000	£1,971,840	£82,160		
	Sure Start Capital Funding 2006/07:	£2,129,205				
	Un- allocated funding:	£75,205 *				