



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
05 OCTOBER 2004**

Report of the Director of Education

**Affordable Childcare in Derby City****PROPOSED ACTION CONCLUSION**

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the availability of quality affordable childcare across the City of Derby

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The City Council's Early Years and Childcare Service has a responsibility to provide information on affordable childcare across the City of Derby City Council
- 3.1 Across the seventeen wards of the city there is a variety of provision offering parents a choice of care for their children. This includes foundation stage early education, full day care, pre-school care, before and after school care provided by the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors.
- 4.1 The Early Years and Childcare Service brings together Sure Start local programmes, the neighbourhood Nursery Initiative and the most recent initiative Children's Centre's and supports the development of quality provision.
- 5.1 Affordable and accessible childcare is the cornerstone of the government's target to reduce child poverty and to this end it continues to fund the creation of childcare places to include before and after school, childminding, full day care and the conversion of sessional pre-school into full day care.
- 6.1 Between April 2001 and March 2004 1,423 new childcare places were created in Derby.
- 7.1 The target for 2004/2006 is 880.
- 8.1 The Early Years and Childcare Service will support the development of the above places working within the guidance set down in the Early Years and Childcare Sure Start Strategic plan approved by cabinet on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 These places will be opened by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

- 9.1 The places will be allocated and funded according to the Early Years and Childcare Services strategic mapping of existing provision in the city. Places will be created across all types of early years and childcare provision.
- 10.1 The Children's Information Service has a statutory obligation to provide free, independent, accurate and unbiased information about children's services for all children in Derby City from 0-14 old.

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

- 1.1 None directly arising from this report

#### Legal

- 2.1 None directly arising from this report

#### Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from this report

#### Equalities impact

- 4.1 A proportion of funding is specifically targeted at areas of disadvantage as a means of reducing the gap in childcare provision between areas of disadvantage and others. This is intended to ensure that childcare is not a barrier to parents taking up employment opportunities and therefore should have a direct impact on reducing child poverty.

All childcare provision across the city needs to demonstrate to the Early Years and Childcare team through policies and procedures that they are committed to inclusion.

#### Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Affordable childcare provision allows parents to return to training and the job market and thus contributes to the corporate theme of **Education and job opportunities**.
- 5.2 Creating long-term sustainable childcare for families so that parents can access education and training will contribute to the corporate priorities of tackling **underachievement in schools and enhancing our community leadership role**.

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**List of appendices:**