

COUNCIL CABINET
11 JUNE 2002

SURE START MACKWORTH/MORLEY

Report of the Director of Education

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Partnership for Sure Start Mackworth/Morley is required to submit to the Government its Delivery Plan for 2002-2012. Derby City Council and other partner agencies have contributed to the development of the plan. The Council specifically has to agree the figures for Council spending given in the plan's Existing Money Checklist (paragraphs. 4.2 - 4.4).
- 1.2 The checklist sets out the amount of Council and other funding that currently provides services for children aged 0-3 years and their families who live in the area defined by the Sure Start Mackworth/Morley programme. By agreeing the checklist, the Council will be committed to maintaining its current level of funding for 0-3s in the area for the duration of the Sure Start Mackworth/Morley programme, i.e. until 2012 (paragraphs. 4.5-4.8).
- 1.3 This report is identified as an urgent key decision as the Plan must be submitted to the Sure Start Unit by 26 June 2002.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the figures in the Existing Money Checklist indicating Council funding of services for 0-3s and their families in the Mackworth/Morley programme area in 2001-2002.
- 2.2 That the Leader of the Council signs Sure Start Mackworth/Morley's Delivery Plan and confirms the Council's commitment to maintaining this level of funding for the duration of the programme.
- 2.3 That the responsibility for agreeing the figures for annual updates of the Existing Money Checklist be delegated to the Director of Education as is the case with the existing Sure Start programmes.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In submitting this Sure Start delivery plan the Council guarantees to continue to spend at least the same amount of money in real terms on services for children and their families in the Sure Start programme area. The estimated current relevant expenditure for Education, Social Services, Housing and Development and Cultural Services in 2001/02 amounts to £573,715. For the guarantee to sustain expenditure levels, the Council will secure £290,500 of external revenue funds in 2002/03

- and £3,065,500 in total until year 5 of the programme. Additionally capital expenditure of up to £750,000 can be claimed.
- 3.2 The Sure Start contribution declines from year 6 (2007-08) and reaches zero as the programme is integrated with reshaped mainstream services by year 10 (2012). The Council, and each department, must contain expenditure within its overall cash limits for expenditure. The commitment to continue resources in this area at or above existing levels will therefore have to be reflected in the Council's and individual departments' budget strategies over the lifetime of the scheme.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 A cornerstone of the Government's drive to tackle child poverty and social exclusion, Sure Start aims *to work with parents and children to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of preschool children – particularly those who are disadvantaged – to ensure they are ready to flourish when they get to school*. Locally based programmes must work with parents and parents-to-be before and from birth to improve children's life chances through better access to
- Family support
 - Advice on nurturing
 - Health services
 - Early learning.
- 4.2 Two existing Sure Start programmes have already been established in Derby, Sure Start Osmaston/Allenton and Sure Start Rosehill. At its meeting on September 5th 2001, the Policy Committee agreed to submit plans for two further programmes. The first of these two new programmes, Sure Start Austin/Sunnyhill, was submitted to the Sure Start Unit by March 6th. The second of the fifth wave programmes, Sure Start Mackworth/Morley, is due to be submitted to the Sure Start Unit by 26 June 2002.
- 4.3 A Programme Manager and administrative assistant have been appointed. The programme has been developed following intense consultation with local parents and providers of services for young children. The draft delivery plan for Sure Start Mackworth/Morley was presented to the Management Board on 27 May 2002.
- 4.4 The delivery plan must include the Existing Money Checklist (Form F11), which sets out the amount of non-Sure Start money that currently funds particular activities for 0-3 year-olds who live in the Sure Start programme area. Its aim is to give a baseline of local resources so that the Government's Sure Start funding can be identified as additional.
- 4.5 The existing funding is categorised under three main local sources: (1) Derby City Council, (2) Greater Derby PCT, and (3) other sources such as the National Lottery and charitable trusts from which the voluntary sector brings money into the area.

- 4.6 The relevant council departments – Education, Social Services, Housing and Development and Cultural Services, have calculated the figures for Derby City Council including that coming via Derby City Early Years Development and Childcare Plan. The following are the council wide totals which it is now proposed to submit to the Government in the final version of the checklist:

Existing local services for 0-3s under national activity categories	Spending by Derby City Council 1.4.01-31.03.02	
	Revenue £	Capital £
Outreach & home visiting	27,301	
Support for families and parents	165,415	
Play, learning & childcare	291,064	
Primary & community healthcare		
Special needs support	4,500	
Action on teenage pregnancy		
Relevant crime prevention and reduction		
Relevant improvement to parents' employability	3,750	
Improvements to buildings and to other capital assets used to deliver these activities		
Relevant improvements to local housing		
Relevant improvements to local environment		62,500
Building community involvement in services		
Programme management	18,960	
Evaluation of these activities	225	
Totals	511,215	62,500
Grand Total	£573,715	

- 4.7 The Government does not provide definitions for the activity categories. It does give guidance that the table should include “all mainstream services that are specifically provided for young children and their families.... But not rent support through Housing Benefit...or services that are consumed by under 4s along with other members of the community, e.g. refuse collection or road maintenance” (Sure Start national guidance, Fifth Wave Edition, Annex 8). The Government recognises that it is impossible to calculate exactly what proportion of council spending reaches a particular age group within a particular geographical area, so the figures are inevitably estimates.

- 4.8 By signing the Sure Start Mackworth/Morley plan, Derby City Council will be:
- Agreeing that the figures shown in the Existing Money Checklist are a reasonable reflection of council spending on 0-3 year-olds in the Mackworth/Morley programme area in 2001-2002.
 - Making a commitment to continue spending at least the same amount of money in real terms on services for children under four and their families in the catchment area for the duration of the Sure Start programme, that is until 31st March 2012.
 - Making a commitment not to use Government Sure Start funds to replace existing local funding or to re-allocate existing funding to other areas.
- 4.9 The Sure Start Mackworth/Morley Management Board will ask Greater Derby PCT and voluntary sector providers in the area to make a similar commitment to maintain the current level of resources in the area.
- 4.10 The Government requires each Sure Start programme to give an annual update of the checklist. This requirement applies to Sure Start Osmaston/Allenton, Sure Start Rosehill and Sure Start Austin/Sunnyhill. At its meeting on 26 February 2002, the Executive agreed to delegate the responsibility for agreeing the updates of the Council's spending figures to the Director of Education, on the assumption that the amounts will increase at approximately the rate of inflation. If the amounts vary to a greater extent, the Director of Education will bring the issue back to the Council Cabinet. It is proposed that the Council Cabinet also delegates this function to the Director of Education in respect of the Sure Start Mackworth/Morley programme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The Sure Start programme will generate significant external funding as set out in paragraph 3. Current spending by the Council is summarised in paragraph 4.6. By making a commitment to continue to spend at least the same amount of money in real terms on these services until 2012, the Council could be reducing its flexibility in making future budget decisions. There could be significant pressures in the second half of the programme if the Council is expected to absorb the eventual decline in Sure Start funding within its overall budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. As a non-executive body, the Sure Start Mackworth/Morley Partnership has limited legal status. Having agreed to be the lead and accountable authority for the partnership, Derby City Council is acting on its behalf in relation to the management of finance, the employment of staff and the

ownership of Sure Start premises. This is necessary in order to meet the demands of the Sure Start programme.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. Programme staff will be employed by Derby City Council for the duration of the programme.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None arising from this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. The aim of the national Sure Start programme is to secure greater opportunity for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Background Papers:

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