

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SERVICES MEETING**

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

DATE 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

**CREATION OF PLACES AND EXTENSION OF THE 3 AND 4  
YEAR OLDS FREE ENTITLEMENT FUNDING****RECOMMENDATION**

1. To agree and approve the funding grant applications for the creation and extension of childcare places. (see table appendix 2)

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The council is the accountable body for the early years and childcare service.
- 2.2 The service has been awarded grants from the Sure Start Unit for the creation and sustaining of childcare places across the city and has the responsibility for allocating funding as agreed in cabinet report Sure Start Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006, 18 May 2004 and Local Area Agreement targets 2006.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Affordable accessible childcare is a cornerstone of the government's target to reduce child poverty.
- 3.2 The allocation of creation of places funding contributes to both local and national targets for the creation of childcare in the city and fits within the Early Years and Childcare strategic plan.
- 3.3 The extension of the free entitlement to foundation stage funding for all 3 and 4 years olds is part of the 10 year childcare strategy and is working towards 15 hours free foundation stage provision by 2008, 20 hours by 2010.
- 3.4 This grant will allow traditional nursery schools and classes to offer a more flexible service to existing children and families and to offer integrated early years and childcare provision on a single site. It will work towards the extended requirements of the 10 year childcare strategy. It will not create new childcare places but extend existing places.
- 3.5 The creation of places allocation is in line with the strategy for the extended schools, children's centres and extension of the free entitlement to foundation stage provision agendas within the city.

- 3.6 All the awards allocated are promoted openly and fairly city-wide and fit within the approved criteria for the allocation of funding.
- 3.7 A panel of representatives of the early years and childcare profession nominated through the Early Years and Childcare Partnership made up the appraisal panel.
- 3.8 The total £101,700 creation of childcare places funding is included in the local area agreement.
- 3.9 All grants paid in this report will relate to activities and expenditure for 2006/2007.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. The Council could have refused or returned the funding but this would result in a loss of childcare places in the city against a climate of expansion of childcare opportunities.

**For more information contact:** Fiona Colton / 01332 716867 / [fiona.colton@derby.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.colton@derby.gov.uk)

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 2– List of allocations

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 The Sure Start unit and Local Area Agreement have allocated Derby for 2006/2007 a total of £101,700 for the creation of childcare places. £64,200 revenue funding and £37,500 capital funding. This report will allocate £19,435.49
- 1.2 In line with the Council's usual procedures, invoices will need to be produced for any capital works before draw down of funding will be allowed. We will ensure three tenders for works over £1,000 are obtained from the providers to ensure best value procedures are followed.
- 1.3 The initial Sure Start guidance for allocation of the funding has been followed to allocate a maximum ie £642 per place created (areas of disadvantage), £342 (other areas). However the allocations for individual grants have been based on the needs identified in the individual business plans and cash flow forecasts provided as a condition of the funding.
- 1.4 A summary appraisal sheet detailing how the above activities would specifically benefit the provider was provided to an appraisal panel before each element of the funding was approved.

**Legal**

2. Service level agreements already approved by legal services will be put in place before draw down of funding is allowed.

**Personnel**

3. Posts within the maintained private, voluntary and independent sector will be created and secured.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 Access to new places funding is open to all childcare providers in the city.
- 4.2 A proportion of the funding is specifically targeted at areas of disadvantage as a means of reducing the gap in childcare provision between disadvantaged areas and others.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of **job opportunities, strong and positive neighbourhoods, education and integrated cost effective services.**
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of **tackling under-achievement in schools and enhancing our community leadership role through partnership working and listening to, and communicating with, the public.**

## Appendix 2

### Creation of Places Funding

2006/2007

Provider	Type of Provision	No. of places	Ward	On School Site	Amount of Funding
Rydale Children's Centre/ Reigate Primary School	Out of School Provision	17	Mackworth	No walking distance.	£10,914 revenue £5,814 capital £16,728 total
Stonehill Nursery School	Extension of 3&4 year old entitlement	40 existing places extended	Abbey	Yes	£2,707.49 capital