

SureStart Early Years Development & Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To approve the SureStart Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006.
- 1.2 To agree the conditions for awarding SureStart New Childcare Places Funding as recommended by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- 1.3 To refer the report to the Education Commission prior to submitting the plan to full Council, as part of the budget and policy framework.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is the accountable body for the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).
- 2.2 The EYDCP has been awarded significant funding from the SureStart Unit to continue the development of early years and childcare provision within Derby City.
- 2.3 The EYDCP must recommend appropriate guidance and criteria for allocation of any grant funding for Cabinet approval, as the accountable body.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The EYDCP's strategic plan for 2001-2004 has now come to an end. The following table reflects the Partnership's performance against the key targets set by the DfES:

	Target by March 2004	Achieved
1.	Create 330 neighbourhood nursery places	330 places
2.	Create 111 out of school childcare places	1,071 places
3.	Convert 48 pre-school playgroup places to full day care	52 places
4.	Provision of universal nursery education for all 3 year olds	Achieved by 2001
5.	Make available 4 days training each	Achieved

	year to all early years and childcare staff	
6.	1 qualified teacher to every 10 non-maintained settings	Working towards achievement of this ratio.
7.	“Steps to Quality” quality assurance scheme to be developed and nationally approved	Achieved Investors in Childcare status August 2003
8.	15% of providers to achieve accreditation with a national scheme	Working towards achievement of this. 16 registered settings out of 74 working towards this.

3.2 The SureStart Unit has set each local authority new targets for the delivery of early years and childcare from 2004 - 2006. There are four key priority areas:

- integrating services for young children and their families
- creating and sustaining childcare places
- ensuring quality access and inclusion
- developing the workforce.

3.3 The EYDCP will in future report to the Children’s Strategic Partnership to bring it into the Council’s framework of partnership working. The EYDCP Strategic Plan for 2004-2006, which can be accessed at <http://ngfl.derby.gov.uk/llc/EarlyYears>, reflects the four key SureStart priority areas.

3.4 The SureStart Unit allocates funding to Derby City Council towards the costs of implementing that plan (appendix 2). However, in return for that funding it also sets targets which includes the delivery of 880 new childcare places. 293 of these new places will be created in the children’s centres previously reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2003. This table shows the targets set by the SureStart Unit:

Category	Target number of new places: Disadvantaged areas	Target number of new places: Other areas
Revenue funded childcare places	231	238
Playgroup/pre-school conversion: Capital funded	70	48
Children’s Centres	293	
Total new childcare places	594	286
Out of school places: Capital funded	130	

3.5 SureStart new childcare place funding is ring fenced within the General SureStart grant and cannot be used other than to create new childcare provision, as outlined in the SureStart guidance.

3.6 The types of provision to be created will include:

- full day care.
- conversion of pre-school playgroups into full day care
- childminders.
- home child-carers

- out of school childcare to include before school, after school, holiday schemes and wraparound care.

Support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Team will be made available to voluntary, private and maintained settings, including schools who wish to provide the above types of provision.

- 3.7 Substantial funding for out of school places was previously managed and approved by the New Opportunities Fund. However, from 2004 this is now available within the grant allocated by SureStart to the Council. This requires Cabinet to agree the criteria for that funding taking into account the recommendations of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- 3.8 The creation of any new places will be dependant on the results of an ongoing mapping exercise of current childcare provision within the city undertaken by the Early Years Development and Childcare Team. The funding will be used to create childcare where gaps in provision have been identified and are in line with the targets set by SureStart.
- 3.9 The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership recommends the new childcare places funding be allocated as detailed in appendix 3. The maximum amount of funding for each new place is in line with the recommendations given by the SureStart Unit (appendix 4).
- 3.10 The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership has established criteria for the allocation of funding. These comply with SureStart guidance 2004/2006.
- 3.11 These criteria and the proposed process for endorsement of the grants by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership are detailed in Appendix 4 & 5, together with the proposed monitoring and audit procedures to be followed. All awards over £1,000 will be formally submitted to Cabinet for approval.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4 The Council could have turned down the funding but this could result in loss of childcare places in the city against a climate of expansion of childcare opportunities.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 Implications
- Appendix 2 Breakdown of SureStart Grant Funding 2004/2006.
- Appendix 3 Sure Start new childcare places targets and grant funding.
- Appendix 4 Criteria for grant funding.
- Appendix 5 Appraisal and approval process for grants.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The SureStart Unit has allocated Derby City a total of £5,164,205 for the delivery of the SureStart EYDCP's 2004-2006 strategic plan. A breakdown of this funding is attached as appendix 2. This is payable in arrears via the quarterly childcare claim.
- 1.2 The overall grant includes an allocation of £376,131 for the financial years 2004-2006 for the creation of 587 new childcare places. A breakdown of how this funding is to be allocated is detailed in appendix 3. This has been based on the guidelines suggested by the SureStart Unit for the maximum amount of revenue & capital funding per place. The EYDCP will recommend funding based on need.
- 1.3 An additional 293 full daycare places will be available as part of the Children's Centre Plan, previously reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2003, bringing the overall childcare place target to 880.

Legal

- 2.1 A service level agreement approved by Derby City Council's legal department will be put in place before any provider can draw down any funds.

Personnel

- 3.1 A number of jobs in the statutory, private and voluntary sectors will be created by the development of new childcare places. The EYDCP will encourage recruitment and training within the direct locality to assist with the regeneration of areas.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Access to new place funding will be open to applications from all childcare providers within the city. Successful applicants must satisfy the EYDCP in the application process that they are committed to inclusion.
- 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. 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.

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.**

SureStart Grant Funding 2004-2006

Delivery Support Fund	£855,145
Children's Information Service	£169,120
Workforce Development (Recruitment and Training)	£591,648
Nursery Schools Development	£131,673
Extended Schools	£79,000
New Places (Revenue) Disadvantaged areas	£148,004
New Places (Revenue) Other areas	£81,389
New Places (Capital for Out of School Childcare)	£43,192
New Places (Capital for Playgroup Conversion) Disadvantaged areas	£77,000
New Places (Capital for Playgroup Conversion) Other areas	£26,546
SEN and Disability Development	£247,387
Children's Centres (Revenue)	£646,971
Children's Centres (Capital)	£1,975,127
Additional rural allocation	0
Support Childminder Scheme	£92,004
Total	£5,164,205

SureStart New Childcare Places and Financial Breakdown 2004 - 2006

Target Area	Disadvantaged Areas	Non-Disadvantaged Areas
Childminders - places	80 (27 new minders-3 places)	120 (40 new minders-3 places)
Start Up Grant for Childminders	£9,450 (Max £350 x 27 new minders)	£10,000 (Max £250 x 40 new minders)
New OOS/FDC Places	151	118
Revenue Funding- New OOS /FDC	£149,763 (Max £991 per new place)	£60,180 (Max £510 per new place)
Capital Funding New OOS (must create 130 new places)	£43,192 (Max £332 per new place)	
Total New Childcare Places	231	238
Pre-School Conversion Places	70	48
Pre-School Conversion Capital Funding	£77,000 (Max £1100 per place)	£26,546 (Max £553 per place)
Total New Childcare Places	301	286
Citywide Total	587	
Total revenue funding	£159,213	£70,180
Total capital funding	£120,192	£26,546
Grand total revenue	£229,393	
Grand total capital	£146,738	
New Children Centre Places	293	
Revenue funding	£646,971	
Capital Funding	£1,975,127	

CRITERIA FOR GRANT FUNDING

Childminding Start Up Grant 2004 – 2006

Criteria for Application

- Applicants must have submitted an application to Ofsted for registration as a new childminder.
- Applications will only be accepted from existing childminders moving to Derby City from another area if they are intending to increase registration or varying the age group for which they were originally registered.
- Applications will not be accepted from anyone who has previously received the grant.

Process of Applications

- Grants will only be paid after the Ofsted Registration visit and issue of an action letter. If an action letter is not issued, EYDCP will require clarification that Ofsted intends to register that childminder.
- Any childminder ceasing operation within 1 year of registration will be required to return any equipment purchased.

Start up grant will fund

- NCMA Quality Start package – Insurance, membership, paperwork and fire blanket.
- Alternative Insurance - if requested by Childminder
- First Aid training
- Safety Equipment – safety gates, fire guard, socket covers.
- Other equipment as specified in action letter or as agreed with EYDCP designated officer.

Appendix 4

Childcare Start up Grant 2004 - 2006

The grant is only available to settings that comply with the following criteria. Please read them carefully.

1. Grants will only be made available to properly constituted groups and for 'new places'. It cannot be used to sustain existing places (an alternative source of funding for sustainability is available through the EYDCP).
2. Funding is available to new and existing providers creating new childcare places for children from the age of six weeks to 14 years.
3. The applicant must complete and forward to the EYDCP the following items:
 - a. Childcare start-up grant application form
 - b. Business plan (EYDCP standard template)
 - c. Three year cash flow forecast
 - d. Last two years audited accounts
 - e. Copy of bank statement less than three months old
 - f. Copy of the constitution of the group.
4. Funding will only be agreed to create new childcare places in those areas where there is under-provision of childcare as identified by the EYDCP's ongoing mapping exercise.
5. In order to be eligible for funding, summer holiday play schemes must run for at least three consecutive weeks.
6. Funding will only be made available where there is a demonstrated need for financial support.
7. This funding is currently unavailable to newly registered individual childminders or home child carers. Existing childminders who are expanding their service into out of school childcare may apply.
8. During its assessment of applications the EYDCP should focus its considerations on:
 - i. How it fits with local strategic planning
 - ii. the impact of the new places on existing provision
 - iii. the ability of the provision to meet the needs of local families
 - iv. the quality of the childcare to be offered
 - v. the affordability of the childcare to local users
 - vi. the accessibility of the childcare places created
 - vii. the prospects for long-term sustainability of the provision
 - viii. the existence of appropriate and robust monitoring systems.

9. Where required under the Children Act 1989, the group must be registered with OFSTED Early Years. A copy of the registration certificate must be provided before revenue funding will be released. Provision which is not required to be registered, i.e. for over 8 year olds or open for less than two hours, will be eligible for funding as long as it can demonstrate to the EYDCP that it is working to the National Standards for Day care.
10. The provider must supply full details of their provision to the Children's Information Service and keep this updated on a regular basis. This should include current occupancy levels and current pricing policies.
11. A signed application must be submitted to the EYDCP. Funding will not be released until the applicant has signed a formal funding agreement.
12. Applications must be supported by the Early Years Development and Childcare Team and endorsed by the EYDCP's Finance & Funding sub group before being submitted to Cabinet for approval if over £1,000.
13. Within six months of receipt of the funding the provider must commence an accredited an Investors in Children approved Quality Assurance scheme that is recognised by Derby City EYDCP. This should be completed within 18 months of opening the provision.
14. There is funding to help with both the initial capital and revenue costs for new places created in areas of disadvantage for a maximum of 3 years.
15. In areas that are not classified as areas of disadvantage, funding is available only towards the start up and running costs in the first year of operation. There is no capital funding for these areas.
16. The **maximum** funding available per place created suggested by the Sure Start Unit is shown in the table below. However, Derby City EYDCP will agree funding based on need as detailed in Appendix 3.

All funding is based on the maximum funding per place	Capital	Revenue Year 1	Revenue Year 2	Revenue Year 3
For places created in areas of disadvantage	£266	£570	£290	£140
For places created in areas of non-disadvantage	None	£510	None	None

17. Definitions of Out of School Care:

- **Holiday schemes**, provide all-day care during some or all of the school holidays. Summer holiday provision is only eligible if it lasts for at least three consecutive weeks.
- **Out of school childcare clubs**, provide term-time care for five days a week either before school (breakfast clubs) or after school or both.
- **All-year services** combine out of school care with holiday care.
- **Integrated care** provides care that is integrated with an early education session (i.e. wraparound care).

18. Capital applications cover building, land purchase, major refurbishment and outdoor play areas and **are not available** for non-disadvantaged areas.

19. Revenue funding can be used towards staffing costs, rent and other premises costs, insurance, administration costs, initial purchase of toys, games and other equipment as well as restocking costs etc., costs of providing snacks, advertising etc.

APPRAISAL AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Childcare start up Grant 2004 - 2006

- Applications for funding will be made via an application form and business plan.
- Applications must be supported by the EYDCP Development team.
- Requests for funding under £1,000 to include the Childminder Start up Grant will be endorsed and approved by the EYDCP Finance & Funding subgroup.
- Requests for funding over £1,000 will be endorsed by the EYDCP Finance and Funding subgroup before being submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- The grant will be paid on a quarterly basis in advance. However the EYDCP will require the completion of quarterly monitoring forms before the release of each subsequent payment.
- The agreement signed by the provider will specify that receipts/invoices paid using grant monies must be available upon request to the council and must be retained for at least 48 months.