



**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
SERVICES MEETING  
30 January 2007**

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

## **CREATION OF PLACES AND SUSTAINABILITY OF CHILDCARE**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. To agree and approve the funding grant applications for the creation of childcare places and sustainability funding.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The council is the accountable body for the Childcare and Family Learning Service.
- 2.2 The service has been awarded grants from the Sure Start Unit for the creation and sustainability 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 creation of places allocation is in line with the strategy for the extended schools, and Children's Centre initiative, and is a Local Area Agreement target.
- 3.4 The sustainability grant supports the local authority's new legal duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient affordable childcare for all families who wish to access it and particularly for children with additional needs and disabled children.
- 3.5 All the awards allocated are promoted openly and fairly city-wide and fit within the approved criteria for the allocation of funding.
- 3.6 A panel of representatives of the early years and childcare profession nominated through the Early Years and Childcare Partnership made up the appraisal panel.

- 3.7 The total £101,700 creation of childcare places funding and £132,000 sustainability funding is included in the local area agreement.
- 3.8 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.

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**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 - Implications  
Appendix 2– List of allocations

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

- 1.1 The Sure Start unit indicated that money for creation of places and sustainability grant funding should be allocated out of the General Sure Start Grant. Derby City Council through the Local Area Agreement has allocated Derby for 2006/2007 a total of £101,700 for creation of childcare places. £64,200 revenue funding and £37,500 capital funding. This report will allocate £40,956. The sustainability grant is a total of £132,000 of which £50,000 is available for single awards. This report will allocate £34,938.
- 1.2 Sustainability grants are awarded to organisations who are identified as in need of some short term support to allow continuation of their service. The Childcare Service continues to work with them to ensure grants are spent within the time scales and additional business support is offered to continue to deliver sustainable services.
- 1.3 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 quotes for works over £1,000 are obtained from the providers to ensure best value procedures are followed.
- 1.4 The initial Sure Start guidance for allocation of the funding has been followed to allocate a maximum ie £642 per place created and all creation of places allocations have been allocated using this unit figure and are based on the needs identified in the individual business plans and cash flow forecasts provided as a condition of the funding.
- 1.5 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.
- 4.3 Allocation of a proportion of this funding will support disabled children to access mainstream services.

## 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
First Friends	Out of School provision	24	Oakwood	yes	24 x £642 = £15,408
Oakhouse Private Day Nursery	Full day-care	9	Mickleover	No	9 x £642 = £5,778 Revenue 9 x £342 = £3,078 Capital Total £8,856
Pride Park (Revive Centre)	Full day-care	26	Chaddesden	No	26 x £642 = £16,692 Revenue
YMCA	Holiday playschemes and childcare for disabled children	60	Alvaston	Yes	£16,938 Sustainability grant
Number 1 community project	Out of school playgroup	26	Arboretum	No, walking distance	£18,000 Sustainability grant