



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Disabled People's Advisory Committee

17 March 2005

Report of the Director of Education

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PLACES FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the approval of new childcare places.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Early Years and Childcare Service has a responsibility for the creation of new childcare places and support of existing places across the city of Derby.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The creation of new childcare places falls within the SureStart Early Years and Childcare Strategic Development Plan. The target number of places to be created between April 2004 and March 2006 is 587. These places are to be created in the twenty percent most disadvantaged wards of the city and areas where it has been identified there is currently a lack of quality affordable childcare provision.
- 3.2 Revenue funding is available to support the creation of places.
- 3.3 The application process has been approved by Council Cabinet on 18 May 2004 and is managed by the Early Years and Childcare Service.
- 3.4 A strategic mapping exercise has been carried out to identify where there are gaps in provision in the city and places will be allocated and funded according to this. Places will be created across all types of early years and childcare provision.
- 3.5 Each applicant applying for funding undertakes a detailed application process. The application is considered and endorsed by an appraisal panel made up of early years and childcare specialists from across the sector before going to council cabinet for approval.
- 3.6 Places created to date: 31 childminder places, 61 full day-care places, 40 out of school places in areas of disadvantage. 74 childminder places, 52 full day-care places and 58 out of school places in other areas.

A total of 316 places have been created since April 2004, leaving a further 271 places to be created before the end of March 2006.

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Background papers:

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS


Financial

- 1.1 A total of £59,064 revenue has been allocated in areas of disadvantage for the period April 2004 to March 2005 and £62,928 in other areas for the same period of time.

Legal

- 2.1 None directly arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 The creation of childcare places will result in employment opportunities in the field of childminding and out of school. 

Equalities impact

- 4.1 A proportion of funding is specifically targeted at areas of disadvantage as a means of reducing the gap in childcare 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 must demonstrate through their application and through policies and procedures that they are committed to inclusion.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Affordable and accessible childcare 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 they can access education and training will contribute to the corporate priorities of tackling **underachievement in schools and enhancing our community leadership role**.

