



**Surrey County Council
Local Committee**

Children's Centres in Runnymede

February 8th 2008

KEY ISSUE:

The Government has given local authorities the strategic responsibility for delivery of children's centres.

SUMMARY:

This report outlines progress towards delivery of children's centres in targeted areas within Runnymede, incorporating an outline of the range of services to be included in the children's centre offer for children under 5 years.

REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1.1 “Children’s Centres in Surrey are where services work together in partnership with children, families and communities to make a difference to all.”

Developing 77 Children’s Centres across Surrey by 2010 will help to make this vision a reality.

1.2 A multi professional strategy group was set up to inform and influence the strategic direction, on the development of Children’s Centres across Surrey. Its aim is to work effectively with key partners and organisations to ensure that Centres developed in Surrey meet the needs of all children, families and communities, taking into account the five broad target outcomes for all children and young people set out in the Children Act 2004:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well being

A particular aim is to increase the life chances of Surrey children who are disadvantaged by their social, economic, geographical and family circumstances through providing enriched early intervention.

2 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2.1 The target for Surrey is to have seventy-seven Children’s Centres designated by Sure Start by 31st March 2010. This will be achieved in three phases: in Phase 1 four centres were designated, and in Phase 2 a total of 46 centres are planned for designation. In Phase Three there will be twenty-seven centres. There will be differentiation in the levels of services:

- Full Core Offer
- Graduated Offer

Runnymede	Woking	Surrey Heath
0 full core	2 full core	0 full core
5 graduated	6 graduated	6 graduated
5 total	8 total	6 total

- 2.2 The Children's Centre Core Offer comprises:
- Integrated early years provision
 - Integrated education and childcare for a minimum of 48 weeks per year, 10 hours per day, 5 days per week.
 - Childminder's Network
 - Family support, parenting education and parental outreach
 - Child and family health services
 - Parental involvement
 - Education, training and employment services including links with Job Centre Plus
 - Access to wider services
- 2.3 Under the Children's Centre graduated offer, the integrated early years provision offer will depend on the level of need and the ability of existing good quality provision to meet those needs. The Centres will provide information on childcare choices for parents including childminding, and link to other local early years provision including pre-schools and full day care nurseries. They will open at times to meet local need.
- 2.4 Under the minimum level of service, seven Centres will have a role in the co-ordination of integrated services provided through outreach, as part of the local authority framework for children's services. The minimum level of service to be provided will be as follows:
- Information on childcare and early years provision
 - Information and support to access wider services
 - Information and advice to parents
 - Support to childminders
 - Drop in sessions or early years provision
 - Links to Job Centre Plus and health services
- 2.5 Areas 1 – 10, including Phase 1 centres, will receive the full core offer. In Areas 11 – 77 there will be a graduated approach, from close to the full core offer with a reduction in levels of service, down to the minimum level of service.
Children's Centre services must reflect level of need in the area but should not duplicate existing provision or provide unnecessary levels of service.

3. Children's Centres in the Borough of Runnymede

3.1 **Area 24 Addlestone & New Haw**

In discussions with Sayes Court Junior School.

The Early Years and Childcare Service is having initial discussions with the school regarding developing the children's centre and awaiting the outcome of the school governors meeting in March.

Area 26 Virginia Water & Englefield Green

Designated The Haven Sure Start Children's Centre

Integrated care and education will be signposted from the Children's Centre to existing provision in the area. Area 32 to co-ordinate this offer: They will link up with all the schools and Early Years provision and the other services in the area.

The community police office will be the main site and share facilities for the co-ordinator's 2x 3hour sessions in the week, while discussions take place with Runnymede Borough Council about other possible sites.

Running from local venues we have a childminder play and learn sessions and a stay and play for parents and carers.

Area 29 Chertsey & Thorpe

Chertsey Nursery & Pycroft Grange Primary School

Designated Chertsey Sure Start Children's Centre

0-2 yrs Childcare delivered through childminders and integrated care and education for 3-5 to be delivered by nursery. Home Start is on site and various rooms are available for training and family support. Adult education will be run from Pycroft Grange Primary School in the IT suite. A steering group has been formed and some community consultation has taken place. The refurbishment work should be completed end of January and services will be operating from the centre.

Area 32 Egham

The Hythe Community Primary School

Designated The Haven Sure Start Children's Centre

Integrated care and education will not be delivered through the children centre but will be signposted to existing provision in the area. A Multi use room, consultation room, reception area and a shared sensory room are available at the centre to delivery the services required.

The sensory room is for bonding sessions with the health visitor's foster carers and parents with children that have special educational need or have a disability.

Various clinics are run by health such antenatal and baby clinics.

The centre runs lots of parental support sessions from family links courses with crèche facilities to ICT, cookery and family literacy. These are run with the help of the child and family development worker based at the school funded by the children's fund.

There is also a drop in session for parents to receive information and advice.

Area 70 Chertsey South & Woodham

Potentially All Saints Church New Haw.

Integrated care and education will not be delivered through the childrens centre but will be signposted to existing provision in the area.

This centre will have a major role in linking into and signposting to services in the area. This Children's Centre is working towards early designation before March 2008. We have submitted this centre for designation.

CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 A meeting was held at the Runnymede Centre in the summer term 2007, to inform all Early Years settings and schools on the mapping of children's centre areas in phase three. This included details of how to express an interest in being involved. Once the settings and schools had expressed their interest they were asked to complete a business plan.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The development of children's centres will be of particular benefit to lone parents in need of support, childcare and skills development to enable them to get back into work. Each centre will need to demonstrate that they are having a positive effect on the community through the self-evaluation form.

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