



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(SPELTHORNE)**

SELF RELIANCE IN STANWELL – EARLY YEARS PROJECT

10TH DECEMBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To consider whether self reliance funding in the sum of £14,940 previously earmarked for the SCC Early Years Service could be granted to the Surrey Care Trust for the same purpose of providing an Early years intervention project in the two primary schools in Stanwell.

SUMMARY

In September 2006 the Local Committee approved the principle that the self reliance monies for Stanwell should be used to bolster SCC services in particular to help children and families. Four projects were therefore identified and it was agreed that financial allocations for those should be made to the SCC Children and Families Service and the Early Years Service.

One of the projects being proposed was an Early years intervention project for Stanwell Primary Schools which was to have been co-ordinated by SCC's Early Years Service. In the event it has not proved possible for the Early Years Service to undertake this and the request is that the Stanwell Children's Centre Co-ordinator hosted by Surrey Care Trust should take responsibility for the project instead. The Early Years Service is supportive of this and suggests that at some point this work might form part of the mainstream funding for Children's Centre work in Stanwell.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to agree that the Surrey Care Trust receive the sum of £14,940 spread over the two financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09 to enable the project to proceed.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Self reliance monies of £150,000 to be spent over the three years of 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 were awarded for Stanwell and at the Local Committee in September 2006 it was agreed that the monies should be used to bolster SCC services working in that area. Four main projects were identified in the report and an update on progress of three of the projects was reported to the 8th October 2007 meeting of the Local Committee. Regrettably no progress had been possible for the early years intervention project as the SCC Early Years Service had indicated that it would not be able to undertake this task. A proposal has therefore been received from Surrey Care Trust that it manages the project through the Children's Centre Worker employed for Stanwell.

As reported in September 2006 the Early years intervention Project would be an attempt to address issues of low expectation and aspiration of parents regarding their own and their children's educational and personal attainment, self-esteem and well being. It would be aimed at parents with children under five years of age and the children in this age group. The project would provide an early intervention strategy to limit the severity or eradicate potential problems such as language delay and behaviour in children, whilst promoting confidence, self-esteem and achievement with parents. Such improvements in parents will benefit the children considerably and ensure they are ready for school, thus maximising their chances and opportunities for learning. The project was intended to be a precursor to the work of the Children's Centre, and would lay sound foundations for the Children Centre initiative.

2 ANALYSIS

The project is a valuable one and is supported by the Head teachers. Given the Surrey Care Trust has undertaken to deliver this instead of the Early Years Service it is recommended that this be approved. The project also complements the other self reliance projects working with children aged seven upwards and families because it supports pre schoolers and their families.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 One option is not to proceed with this project but consider alternative ways of using the remaining funding of £14,950. The option in this report is to enable the project to commence but co-ordinated through the Surrey Care Trust instead of the SCC Early years Service. It would also complement the other projects which have commenced.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Discussions have taken place with the Surrey Care Trust and SCC Early years Service who support this proposal as does the Head teacher of Town Farm School.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of the project is £14,940 which will be funded over the two years of 2007/08 and 2008/09.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The project will support children from families who themselves may have found engaging with education difficult and will enable children to be better equipped to start mainstream school and thereby help to secure regular attendance.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is none.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This project would complete the proposed self reliance programme for Stanwell and will of course be kept under review by the officers Steering Group which meets quarterly to ensure appropriate progress is being made and targets achieved.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Early Years Service is unable to co-ordinate the project as was first hoped and instead the Surrey Care Trust could take on this responsibility.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 If approved the Surrey Care Trust will be informed and the project will be able to commence.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: