



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN TANDRIDGE

6 March 2009

KEY ISSUE

Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's Every Child Matters Programme to improve outcomes for all young children from birth to five years and their families. In Surrey there will be 77 Sure Start children's Centres set up by March 2010. It is often difficult for those living in rural areas to access services. To address the situation, Surrey County Council has a Rural Sure Start Children's Centre Strategy, which includes the commissioning of two new buses to provide extra support to families in these areas.

SUMMARY

This is not a comprehensive report but an update briefing of progress in Tandridge to alert Members and the public to the imminent implementation of a rural bus in south Tandridge. In March 2009, staff were still waiting for the operator's license to be issued so that the planned service programme could begin. However as this did not happen by 6 March, it was not possible for Members and the public to view the new vehicle and this report was postponed. The service is now fully operational.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tandridge Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the briefing note for information and take this opportunity to view the vehicle.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's Every Child Matters Programme to improve outcomes for all young children from birth to five and their families. In Surrey there will be 77 Sure Start children's Centres set up by March 2010.
- 1.2 Provision will vary at each children's centre, but will provide local information and support for young children and parents, improve access to child and family health services and offer links to training and employment and advice for parents.
- 1.3 Many children's centres run additional activities including providing childcare and early education, on site baby massage classes, young parent groups, breast feeding support and groups for dads. If an activity isn't offered the children's centre will signpost parents to local services.
- 1.4 It is often difficult for those living in rural areas to access services. To address the situation Surrey County Council has a Rural Sure Start Children's Centre Strategy, which includes the commissioning of two new buses to provide extra support to families in these areas.
- 1.5 The buses offer parents most of the services and activities a normal children's centre does but on a smaller scale. There is a consultation room so parents can talk privately to health visitors and access Jobcentre Plus.
- 1.6 The buses will visit the following areas in East Surrey.
 - Nutfield and Bletchingley
 - Hurst Green and Oxted
 - Warlingham
 - Brockham, Betchworth and Walton on the Hill
 - Burstow, Lingfield and Dormansland
 - Leigh and Charlwood
 - Leith Hill, Westcott and Okewood
- 1.7 Each area is likely to receive a visit once a fortnight, but this is being developed prior to the final timetable being made available to the public.
- 1.8 There are 2 rural bus co-ordinators one in the south-east and one in the south-west.
- 1.9 The south-east co-ordinator is Karen Pallot who is also the children's centre manager for St Piers Sure Start Children's Centre. The bus will be parked when not in use on the site of NCYPE in Lingfield. The south-west co-ordinator is Karen Ayrton based at Losely Fields Children's Centre. Their bus is currently garaged at Gomshall Fire Station.

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