Children’s Centres in Tandridge

29th September 2006

KEY ISSUE
To update the Committee on the establishment of Children’s Centres in Tandridge.

SUMMARY
As part of a ten-year Childcare Strategy, Choice for Parents, the Best Start for Children, the Government’s objective is to see a Children’s Centre for every community equating to 3,500 across the country by 2010. The second phase of these developments will see the creation of 2500 centres by 2008, with 46 centres to be established in Surrey.

Surrey County Council has a role in addressing affordability, sustainability and quality provision, brokering and partnership working and ensuring access to these services by families.

Four sites have been identified in Tandridge as part of phase two. They are: Area 33 NCYPE in Lingfield, Area 34 Hurst Green School, Oxted; Area 40 Hillcroft School, Caterham and Area 46 Kestrels at Marden Lodge School. Area 3 Furzefield school Merstham covers Bletchingley and Nutfield

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS
The Committee is asked to:

(i) Note the programme to develop Children’s Centres across the county and the specific sites identified in Tandridge;

(ii) Consider ways in which to support successful delivery of these services at a local level in the future.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 As part of a ten-year Childcare Strategy, ‘Choice for Parents, the Best Start for Children’, the Government’s objective is to see a Children’s Centre for every community equating to 3,500 across the country by 2010. The first phase of these developments will see the creation of 2500 centres by 2008, with 46 centres to be established in Surrey.

1.2 The vision of the Strategy is to: ‘Ensure that every child gets the best start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life’.

1.3 The childcare strategy is to: ‘Create a sustainable framework for high quality integrated early years and childcare services for all children and families, with an aim to mainstream early years and childcare provision’.

2 THE ROLE OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

2.1 To realise the Government’s Every Child Matters’ strategy, Surrey County Council, working with other local authorities and central government bodies, seeks to develop mainstream early years services.

2.2 The county council has a role in addressing affordability, sustainability and quality provision, brokering and partnership working and ensuring access to these services by families.

3 THE PROGRAMME FOR DELIVERY

3.1 In Phase One of the programme, four initial locations have included Guildford, Leatherhead, Tadworth and Woking.

3.2 Services offered from these centres need to include the following:

- Early years provision
- Family support and parental outreach
- Child and family health services
- Parental involvement
- Links with Job Centre Plus.

3.3 Other sites are now been identified elsewhere as part of Phase Two. A map (Annex A) and a list of sites (Annex B) is appended.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Surrey County Council has been successful in receiving funding of £14.8million from central government for the development of Children’s Centres.

5 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Surrey County Council will consider sustainability as part of the delivery of each of the Children’s Centres.
6 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Surrey County Council will consider crime and disorder implications as part of the delivery of each of the Children’s Centres.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Surrey County Council will consider equalities implications as part of the delivery of each of the Children’s Centres.

8 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Children’s Centres will be established across the county in agreed locations, supported by Surrey County Council and other appropriate agencies. Members’ support is sought in ensuring the aims and objectives of these services are met at a local level.

Members are asked to note the programme to develop Children’s Centres across the county and the specific sites identified in Tandridge and to consider ways in which to support successful delivery and provision.

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