

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE Tandridge

DATE: 11 December 2015



LEAD OFFICER: Phil Osborne, Head of Early Years and Childcare Service

SUBJECT: EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE SERVICES AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES.

DIVISION: All Tandridge Divisions

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides an overview of early education and childcare services and children's centre services in the district of Tandridge.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee asked to note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report provides information and data on the quality and availability of early education and childcare services across the district and provides an opportunity for the local committee to comment on this provision for residents. The report sets out a series of key indicators of high quality services as a measure of performance for services in this borough and the action that Surrey County Council's (SCC) Early Years and Childcare Service is taking to make improvements.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's (SCC) Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) operates within a legislative framework that places statutory duties on local authorities to:
- improve outcomes for all children up to age five and to reduce inequalities
 - reduce inequalities by integrating early childhood services
 - ensure sufficient childcare places for children under five and for those of school age for parents who need a place for their child
 - ensure sufficient early education for three and four year olds and for eligible two year olds
 - provide information to parents so they can access a full range of information they may need for their child
 - ensure all settings and schools are implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
 - ensure there are sufficient children's centres to meet local needs and to consult on any significant change.

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- 1.2 EYCS provides advice, guidance and support to the early years and childcare sector in order to meet these statutory duties and to ensure that children can access high quality provision. Access to high quality early education and childcare improves outcomes for children and sets the foundations for learning and development throughout a child's journey through education and into adulthood.
- 1.3 SCC does not directly provide any childcare, though a small proportion of childcare places for under fives are provided in schools and in children's centres managed by schools. Schools provide childcare places for school aged children and during school holidays. Borough and District Council's providing Holiday Playschemes also support this latter aspect of childcare provision.
- 1.4 Consequently, the majority of childcare and early education places are provided by the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in Full Day Care, group settings and with childminders. For any time required over and above the free early education entitlement for eligible two year olds and for all three and four year olds, parents have to pay and may receive financial assistance, through tax credits, the childcare voucher scheme or through specific grants linked to accessing employment or training.
- 1.5 The current average costs of childcare and payments made for the free entitlement are indicated in the table below:

Age	Average cost of childcare	Free entitlement payments
Under two's	£7.02	Nil
Two year olds	£6.68 *(£5.46)	£6.00
Three to Five Year Olds	£6.68 *(£5.46)	£4.15

*Figures in brackets are for the cost of childcare with a childminder

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 This report provides details on the quality of the early education and childcare sector based on 4 key measures:
- Access and take-up of early education and childcare places
 - Outcomes at the end of Reception Year within the EYFS for Surrey including those for vulnerable groups
 - Ofsted inspection outcomes for childcare and early education settings
 - Levels of qualifications of staff in the sector
- 2.2 The report also provides information on the take-up and range of services provided by children's centres in the district as follows:
- Registration and attendance rates
 - Percentage of children registered and supported
 - Parents and children attending or benefitting from children's centre activity in the last year

Full details of the data are contained in the annexes to this report.

2.3 Access and take-up of early education and childcare places: all three and four year old children are entitled to fifteen hours of free early education. Since September 2013, this entitlement has been extended to two year olds who meet certain criteria and, in September 2014, this was further extended to approximately 40% of all two year olds where parents have a household income below £16,000 (free school meals criteria). Parents can take-up their entitlement in a variety of settings that are registered to provide early education. Tables 1-4 in **Annex 1** contain details of the availability and take-up of places in the district. There are sufficient early education places in the district and take-up is excellent though slightly lower than the Surrey average. The Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2014 indicates that there may not be sufficient childcare in Godstone. To address insufficient places Early Years staff seek to identify new premises to tender and encourage existing provision to expand to meet need. There are 54 settings offering free early education places for two year olds (FEET) and 112 children were funded in the 2015 summer term.

2.4 Outcomes at the end of Reception Year within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for Surrey including those for vulnerable groups: The EYFS is the statutory framework that sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. A new EYFS framework was implemented in September 2012. The EYFS framework governs teaching and learning for children up to the end of the Reception Year and at this point all teachers are required to assess each child's development in the following key areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics.

Children are considered to have reached a good level of development if they reach certain early learning goals in all these areas. The outcome of these assessments is provided in the EYFS profile at the end of the summer term and the first results on the new EYFS were published in 2013. Table 5 in **Annex 1** contains details of the outcomes at the end of EYFS. Outcomes for children in this district are excellent with an average result of 74.7% compared to the Surrey average of 66.2%. To ensure Good Levels of Development (GLD) continue to improve across Tandridge, EYCS staff held GLD conferences across the county in order to cascade information and best practice to practitioners. EYCS staff also visit settings to offer bespoke support and advice around children's learning areas and offer settings termly cluster meetings in Tandridge to update on strategy, legislation and practice. In addition, there is an Early Language package delivered settings to help improve outcomes for children with speech and language difficulties.

2.5 Ofsted inspection outcomes for childcare and early education settings: Ofsted inspect all registered childcare and early education settings and table 6-

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8 of **Annex 1** contain details of the outcomes of these inspections for settings in this district. Good and outstanding inspection outcomes for these settings are higher than the Surrey average (table 6), are the same for non-domestic premises (table 7) and higher for childminders (table 8).

- 2.6 Levels of qualifications of staff in the sector:** the minimum requirement for a leader of a group setting is the equivalent of a level 3 qualification or above. 50% of staff in group settings are required to have the equivalent of a level 3 qualification and there are no minimum qualification requirements for childminders. The Department for Education (DfE) are supporting the sector to raise the levels of qualifications across the sector and EYCS provides support, including bursaries, to improve performance in this area. Table 9 in Annex1 contains details of the levels of qualifications of staff in this district. The levels of qualifications for group leaders are very good at 91% at level 3 and above and are good for other paid staff at 59%.
- 2.7 Children's Centres.** There are 4 children's centres covering this district:
- Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre
 - Hamsey Green Sure Start Children's Centre
 - Hurst Green Sure Start Children's Centre
 - St Piers Sure Start Children's Centre
- 2.8 Partnership working:** Sure Start children's centres bring together services for young children from birth to five years and their families in a multi-professional way.
- They work with children and families across the community and also make direct contact with vulnerable families not accessing services.
 - In order to reach the neediest children, children's centres take services into family homes and community settings used by families as well as offering them from the centre.
 - Children's centres ensure that universal services are accessible to all but focus on supporting the neediest children and families.
 - Children's centres play a significant role in early intervention and prevention services and make an impact on the life chances of children and their families.
- 2.9 Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance:** The DfE issued guidance in April 2013 which describes how the core purpose of children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:
- child development and school readiness
 - parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
 - child and family health and life chances.
- 2.10 Child development and school readiness:** Children's centres will:
- use the results of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for the centre reach area and provide activities to improve areas of development
 - provide play and learn sessions, focusing on the prime areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage for universal and targeted families
 - work with local schools and early years providers to focus on the developmental needs of young children in the area
 - provide or signpost to early education and childcare,
 - promote the Free Entitlement for Early Education for eligible 2yr olds (FEET) and all 3 and 4 year olds
 - provide parenting support to families whose child is eligible for FEET

- provide activities to promote the home learning environment
- develop early language groups, supporting speech and language for children with developmental delay
- promoting and link with Library sessions and programmes
- provide links to the Portage and Traveller Education Service.

2.11 Parenting aspirations, self esteem and parenting skills: Children's centres will :

- provide evidence based parenting programmes
- deliver parenting support programmes
- deliver adult and family learning courses - for example, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), GCSE's in literacy and mathematics
- provide employment support - for example, CV writing, Job Club, volunteering opportunities
- work with Job Centre Plus to promote job opportunities
- provide home visiting for vulnerable families referred by agencies or self referred
- provide parenting groups - for example, young parents and lone parents.

2.12 Child and family health and life chances: Children's centres work in partnership with health services, adult learning, providers and others, to run:

- ante-natal and post-natal maternity services
- breast feeding support - for example, Baby Cafe and support sessions
- cook and eat courses with parents/carers and their children
- cooking on a budget courses
- health, exercise and nutrition for the really young (HENRY)
- supporting health visitors 2.5 yr developmental checks held in the centre
- pram walks
- outdoor activity sessions and promoting use of local spaces and parks
- smoking cessation programmes
- adult learning courses - for example, first aid and safety in the home.

2.13 Identifying and supporting target families in need of additional support:

Children's Centres work with health visitors and other partners to identify those in need of support and offer targeted activities and home visits to improve children's outcomes. Target families could include:

- lone and/or young parents
- children on a child in need or child protection plan
- families suffering from domestic abuse, drug or alcohol problems
- families dependent on out of work benefits
- families on very low income.

2.14 Working in partnership: The new framework recognises that children's centres may work together collaboratively to achieve better outcomes for families and to provide more economical services. In Tandridge District the children's centres work closely together to deliver services such as:

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- The midwives provide information on pregnant women in Tandridge to Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre which is shared with the other centres and enables the centre to contact expectant parents.
- 'One step at a time' group for children with special needs which is held weekly at Hamsey Green Sure Start Children's Centre is a collaboration between Portage, Homestart, Hamsey Green Sure Start Children's Centre and Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre.
- Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre has recently secured adult learning through JACE training, the courses are held at the NAFFI in Caterham on the Hill all the other centres in Tandridge can signpost parents to this course.

2.15 **Performance data:** Tables 11 and 12 of **Annex 1** provide data on the number of children registered at the children's centres in the district, including those in the disadvantaged areas. This data is important as a measure of the centres performance which would be deemed as achieving a good outcome where 65% of children in the centre's reach area are registered. All of the centres in the district have achieved this benchmark. All of the centres have been inspected by Ofsted to date and this has been against an inspection framework that was introduced before the three centres other than St Piers Sure Start Children's Centre (SSCC) had been sufficiently prepared to meet the Ofsted requirements. St Pier's SSCC had its inspection under the previous Ofsted framework in 2011. The current Ofsted inspection outcomes for this district are:

- Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre (formerly Kestrel's SSCC) – Requires Improvement
- Hamsey Green Sure Start Children's Centre - Requires Improvement
- Hurst Green Sure Start Children's Centre – Requires Improvement
- St Piers Sure Start Children's Centre - Good

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 This is a report that is providing information to the local committee on early years and childcare services and consequently there are no options to consider.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 This is a report that is providing information to the local committee on early years and childcare services and consequently there are no consultations to consider.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 This is a report that is providing information to the local committee on early years and childcare services and consequently there are no financial implications to consider.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 This is a report that is providing information to the local committee on early years and childcare services and consequently there are no implications to consider under the Equality Act 2010 as these have been addressed when the centres were first established.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 Children's centres provide services to families across the district and their aim is to enable families to become more self-reliant.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	Set out below.

8.1 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Looked After Children are a target group for children's centres and social workers are asked to liaise with children's centres to consider how children can benefit from these services.

8.2 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Children Centres are required to follow Surrey Safeguarding Children's Boards procedures and comply with Ofsted inspection framework with regard to safeguarding children. Social workers are asked to liaise with children's centres to consider how children under five subject to Child Protection Plan can benefit from services provided by the children's centre. Children's centre staff act as the Lead Professional under the authorities Early Help arrangements.

8.3 Public Health implications

The Child Health Programme (CHP) is a core component of Public Health concerns and children's centres work in partnership with NHS services to implement all aspects of CHP.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 This report provides an overview of the early years and childcare services in the District of Tandridge and contains information on how services are supporting children and families to access early education and childcare services in order to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. The report indicates that there is a high level of take up for services and that for most children the outcomes are good but there is a need to provide focussed support for vulnerable children, including those that live in areas of disadvantage

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Any comments made by the Local Committee will be considered by SCC's EYCS to improve the services provided by early education and childcare providers and children's centres in the district.

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Consulted:

Not applicable.

Annexes:

- Data set.
- List of early education and childcare providers
- List of out of school childcare providers

Sources/background papers:

The Childcare Act 2006.

Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

DfE and Department of Health - Supporting Families in the Foundation Years 2011.

DfE Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance 2013.

Ofsted Framework for children's centre inspection 2013.
