

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Agenda Item 48**

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** Children's Centres  
**Date of Meeting:** 28 January 2009  
**Report of:** Director of Children's Services  
**Contact Officer:** Name: **Caroline Parker** Tel: **29-3587**  
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**Wards Affected:** All

### **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

#### **1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report provides information on the profile and use of Children's Centres in Brighton and Hove

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 (1) To note the information in this report.
- 2.2 (2) To agree to consider the citywide summary of Children's Centre Self-Evaluation Frameworks when this is completed in the summer of 2009.

#### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

- 3.1 Children's experiences in their early years have a major impact on their life chances. Sure Start Children's Centres play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children and in reducing inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Children's Centre services vary across the city to reflect different levels of need and focus on children most at risk of poor outcomes because of deprivation and disadvantage.
- 3.2 The Children and Young People's Trust organises its services into three city areas – west, central and east to provide integrated health, social care and education services for children and young people of all ages. For children under five, children's centre services are managed by a Sure Start Area Manager. Each area includes a number of Children Centre Teams that provide health and family support services to all children under 5 and their families. Many services

are available from the city's 16 children's centres, with others delivered at places such as GP surgeries, health centres and community halls. Families may also receive services through visits to their homes.

### Children's Centre Services

- 3.3 All children under five and their parents (including fathers) have access to services, the level of which is based on their needs. All parents and children are entitled to:
- The Child Health Promotion Programme including midwifery and health visiting and immunisations
  - Good quality information and advice on looking after young children and childcare options,
  - Information and advice on training and employment including links with Jobcentre Plus
  - Free good quality part time early learning for 3 and 4 year olds and childcare that parents pay for – either in a Children's Centre nursery or one of the many school or private, voluntary or independent providers in the city, including childminders
- 3.4 Where children are at risk of poor outcomes parents and children are given additional services including:
- Enhanced health visiting support
  - Parenting and family support including group programmes and home visits
  - Activity groups for young children including support for speech and language
- 3.5 Children's Centres work together with other CYPT services including the Family Information Service, the Pre-School SEN Service and support for early years childcare providers.

### Children's Centre Buildings

- 3.6 There is a citywide network of children's centre buildings with 16 open so far and three more planned for 2010. Three more Children's Centres are planned to open by March 2010 in Preston Park, Withdean and Saltdean. The size and services offered in each children's centre varies according to local needs. The hub children's centres are based in more disadvantaged areas of the city, include nursery provision, and offer a wider range of services than the gateway children's centres. Annex 1 includes a list of Children's Centres and annex 2 includes a map showing Children's Centre areas.

### Profile of Children's Centres

- 3.7 Children's Centres and the services offered are promoted to all families with young children. All families with new babies receive a leaflet about Children's Centres and their health visitor will explain the services that are available. Some services are universal and open to all parents, for example

child health clinics, and others are more targeted on the children who are most disadvantaged or are needs specific, for example speech and language groups or the postnatal depression groups. Promotional timetables are given out to all new families, and are also available in other places such as Seaside View Child Development Centre, health clinics, libraries and GP surgeries. Information about Children's Centres is also available from the Family Information Service and from the on-line Family Service Directory.

### Use of Children's Centres

- 3.8 The use of Children's Centres is monitored as part of the performance management arrangements for Children's Centres. The Government's key concern is that Children's Centres should be used by families whose children are least likely to achieve good outcomes without additional support. The national Every Child Matters Framework includes a range of performance indicators that are relevant to Children's Centres. These are set out in annex 3. Each year a Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) has to be completed for Children's Centres to show the impact of Children's Centres in improving children's outcomes. A first round of SEFs was completed last year for those Children's Centres that had been open the longest. Since then a lot of work has been done to improve the collection and quality of data. A further round of SEFs will be completed by the end of this financial year and a citywide summary will be available in the summer. This summary will include performance against the indicators in annex 3.
- 3.9 The most recent performance information that is available on the use of Children's Centres for this financial year covers performance in the first six months of the year. This showed that there were 7287 contacts in families' homes and 5923 in Children's Centre buildings in the first six months of the year.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 In accordance with Children's Centre Phase 3 Planning and Delivery Guidance existing private, voluntary, independent or statutory services for children and families have been asked to express an interest in hosting Phase 3 Children's Centres. Local families will be consulted on the final venue.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families has allocated Brighton & Hove capital funding of £1,882,000 between April 2008 and March 2011 to fund both new Children's Centres and maintenance for existing Children's Centres. The revenue funding for Children's Centres will increase from £3.69 million in 2008/9 to £5.23 million in 2010/2011. This increase is to fund the new Centres and to increase funding for outreach workers and parenting support in existing Children's Centres. Although grant allocations have only been announced as far as 2010/11 it is anticipated that this funding will be ongoing.

Finance officer consulted: Susan Coleman. Date: 17 December 2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The local authority has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to improve early years outcomes and to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged children by providing integrated early years services. The authority's partners in health also have a statutory duty to work with the authority to make such arrangements. The report sets out how Brighton and Hove have based the hub children's centres in the more disadvantaged areas of the city, in accordance with national guidance. It also sets the proposals for creating universal access to Children's Centres and the plans to open three more Centres by March 2010.

Lawyer consulted: Hilary Priestley 15/12/08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Children's Centres must focus on children and families at risk of social inclusion, fathers, teenage parents and children and families from minority ethnic groups.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Provision of childcare in local communities supports the sustainable communities goal, as well as climate change and energy. Capital developments will take place in accordance with sustainable consumption and production, as well as natural resource protection and environmental impact assessment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Research shows access to integrated early years services and good quality childcare supports children and young people's learning and achievement in life.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 "I DO RM" tool will be used for any new projects.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The relevant corporate and CYPP objectives is: reduce inequality by increasing opportunity

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Location of Children's Centre Buildings
2. Map of Children's Centre Areas
3. Children's Centres Performance Management Framework

**Documents In Members' Rooms:** None

**Background Documents:** DCSF Guidance on Phase 3 Children's Centres

## Annex 1 – Children’s Centre Buildings in Brighton and Hove

Area	Hub Children’s Centres	Linked Gateway Children’s Centre/s
<b>West</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Portslade Children’s Centre, The Rise: with early learning and childcare at Acorn Nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Portslade Children’s Centre at Portslade Library</li> <li>Goldstone Children’s Centre at Goldstone Primary School</li> <li>Hangleton Park Children’s Centre, Harmsworth Crescent</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conway Court Children’s Centre, Clarendon Road: with early learning and childcare at Honeycroft Under Fives Centre and in partnership with local network childminders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Hove Children’s Centre at West Hove Infant School</li> </ul>
<b>Central</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hollingdean Children’s Centre, Hollingdean, with early learning and childcare at Cherry Tree Nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hollingbury and Patcham Children’s Centre at Carden School</li> <li>(Preston Park – to open 2010)</li> <li>(Westdene – to open 2010)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tarner Children’s Centre, Ivory Place: with early learning and childcare at Tarnerland Nursery School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cornerstone Children’s Centre at Cornerstone Community Centre</li> <li>City View Children’s Centre at Brighton General Hospital,</li> </ul>
<b>East</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moulsecoomb Children’s Centre, Hodshrove Lane: with early learning and childcare at Jump Start Nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bevendean Children’s Centre at Bevendean Primary School</li> <li>Coldean Children’s Centre, Coldean Primary School</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roundabout Children’s Centre, Whitehawk Road: with early learning and childcare at Roundabout Nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City View Children’s Centre at Brighton General Hospital</li> <li>The Deans Children’s Centre, Rudyard Kipling Primary School</li> <li>(Saltdean – to open 2010)</li> </ul>

## Annex 3

### **Performance Management Framework for Sure Start Children's Centres**

<b>ECM Outcome</b>	<b>Recommended Key Indicators</b>
Enjoy and Achieve	NI 72 – Percentage of children who achieve a total of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFSP) with at least 6 points scored in each of the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and communication, language and literacy (CLL) scales. (PSA 10)
	NI 92 - Percentage gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and the rest (PSA 11)
Be Healthy	NI 53 – Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks from birth (PSA 12)
	NI 55 – Percentage of children in reception year who are obese (PSA 12)
Achieve Economic Wellbeing	NI 116 - Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in households dependent on workless benefits (PSA 9)
	NI 118 – Percentage of eligible families benefiting from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit; (DWP DSO)
Stay safe	NI 70 - Rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people (PSA 13)
Access for the most excluded groups	Percentage of members of the following groups in the children's centre reach area, with whom the children's centre establishes contact Teenage mothers and pregnant teenagers; Lone parents; Children in workless households; Children in Black and Minority Ethnic groups; Disabled children; children of disabled parents; and fathers. Other priority groups in the CC area.
Parental Satisfaction	% of parents of children aged 0 to 5 in the children's centre area satisfied with services