



Report of the Acting Chief Officer for Early Years and the Youth Service to Executive Board

Date: 14th May 2008

Subject: Phase 3 Children's Centre Programme

Electoral Wards Affected:

Roundhay, Wetherby, Harewood
Crossgates and Whinmoor, Temple
Newsam, Garforth and Swillington,
Kippax and Methley, Guiseley and
Rawdon, Calverley and Farsley

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Leeds has successfully commissioned 49 Children's Centres in Phase 1 and 2 of the Children's Centre Programme. All phase two centres will be open by August 2008 and will provide integrated early education, childcare and family support services to localities in super output areas in the lowest 30% across the nation. Many of the 49 centres are located on school sites and a mixed economy of maintained, private and community sector partners provide services. The Comprehensive Spending Review has allocated funding sufficient to support the leadership, service quality, outreach and family support capacity of the centres. A background paper provides more detailed information on the development of the phase 1 and 2 programme
2. The final phase of the children's centre programme will be delivered between 2008-11. Leeds has been allocated £3.6 million over three years to build at least nine children's centres in more advantaged areas and localities not 'reached' by the 49 centres constructed by August 2008 in phase 1 and 2 of the programme.
3. This report provides Executive Board with the outcomes of detailed work and consultation on the location of the final children's centres in Leeds. It seeks approval to inject £3,610,487 into the capital programme to build at least nine centres in those localities and in the order specified in the report

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Executive Board on the success of the phase 2 and 3 children's centre programme that has opened and designated 49 centres on time and within budget
- 1.2 The report outlines the statutory guidance for the planning and delivery of the phase 3 children's centre programme, detail of the allocation made to Leeds, the caveats upon these allocations and the outcomes of the consultation work on the location of the final centres.
- 1.3 The report seeks approval for the location of the centres, the order in which they will be constructed and to inject £3,610,487 into the capital programme to implement the plan

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 By August 2008 Leeds will have opened and designated 49 children's centres, 23 in phase 1 of the programme from 2003 – 06 and 26 in phase 2 of the programme within budget and on time. The capital spend to deliver the centres in phase 1 and 2 has exceeded £20 million. A number of centres have won or been nominated for prestigious architectural awards and two have been deemed outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. The 49 centres provide almost 3000 integrated early education and childcare places and have a reach of 30,000 families. More detailed information about centres opened can be found in appendices 1 and 2. A background paper highlighting issues the local authority has resolved with construction, governance, funding, sustainability and outreach is attached as appendix 3 of this report.
- 2.2 The statutory guidance for the planning and delivery of the phase 3 children's centres programme was issued by the DCSF in the summer of 2007. Leeds have been allocated £3.6 million over three years to build at least nine children's centres. The phase 3 programme differs from the earlier phases in a number of important ways. The capital funding allocation has been phased over three years, Local Authorities can carry underspend forward in year one and two but can only draw down on the allocation in annual installments. As a result of this the programme will need to be phased carefully. The Department for Children, Schools and families (DCSF) has reduced the scope of the core offer to be provided and removed the emphasis on building on school sites as a default position. Copies of the DCSF guidance document are available on the DCSF website at www.surestart.gov.uk/publications reference 00665-2007BKT-EN or in hard copy from the Early Years Service.
- 2.3 The Early Years Service has been working closely with Education Leeds since the publication of the guidance to plot the reach of the current centres and locate those areas where a phase 3 centre should be developed. Since September 2007 extensive consultation had been underway in these localities with the Area Childcare Planning networks and the clusters of Extended Schools to develop locality based plans for implementing phase 3 of the children's centre programme.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Phase 3 children's centres must offer a range of services reflecting demand in the locality. There must be a hub centre that is staffed and open to provide families with information, support and services. They are not required to provide early education and childcare within the centre, but may do so if demand is sufficient. Outreach

services must be provided and focus upon those pockets of disadvantage that exist in all localities. Support must be provided for childminders in the locality and a range of high quality activities that promote good outcomes for young children and families must be available. There must be quality information services and centres must be linked to Jobcentre Plus to support parents who wish to consider training or employment. Phase 3 centres must also demonstrate access to community health services, including antenatal and the child health promotion programme led and delivered by health visiting teams.

3.2 Between 2008 – 11 the local authority will have the statutory responsibility to open and designate at least nine such children’s centres to complete the children’s centre programme for the city. Careful work with Education Leeds School Organisation team identified the following localities not reached by an existing children’s centre and the number of children within that locality. Based upon this information we recommend the development of ten children’s centres in the following nine localities: Roundhay 2 centres, Boston Spa and villages south, Wetherby and villages west, Crossgates and Manston, Colton and Halton, Garforth, Villages east, Guiseley, Calverley and Farsley. Detailed data for these localities not currently reached by phase one or two children’s centres is attached as appendix 4

3.3 Each of the nine localities identified above have been developing plans to implement the core offer of the phase 3 children’s centres and a real sense of partnership and enthusiasm is growing. As noted earlier the centres must be phased as the capital cannot be drawn down ahead of the year of allocation and revenue funding to support the work of the centres may only be available on designation. The Early Years Service is seeking ways to ensure all localities receive at least two years revenue funding to develop integrated services for children aged 0 to 5 and their families. The need to balance capital spend across refurbishments, extensions or new modular builds must be taken into account. Education Leeds and the Early Years Service recommend that the phase 3 centres be developed in the following order. This recommendation is made with care and mindful that there will be inevitable disappointment. More detailed information about reach, other schools in the planning area, and proposed hub sites where these have been identified is attached as appendix 5

Children’s Centre location and year of capital and revenue allocation

Location	Proposed year of capital works	Proposed year of revenue allocation
Roundhay 1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2
Boston Spa and Villages south	1	1
Wetherby and Villages west	2	2
Crossgates and Manston	3	2
Colton and Halton	3	2
Garforth	2	2
Villages east	1	1
Guiseley	3	2
Calverley and Farsley	2	2

4.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 4.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to develop and designate at least a further nine children's centres in those more advantaged areas not currently served by a children's centre. The authority must be confident that services can be accessed by all children aged 0 – 5 and their families in the 59 centres that will have been developed in the city by 2011.
- 4.2 The government has announced as part of the 2008 – 11 Comprehensive Spending Review a phased capital allocation to support the centres. The following table shows the phasing of the funding.

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£830,964	£1,717,253	£1,062,270

It is anticipated the revenue costs of these centres will be in the region of £1 million per annum. This cost will be met from the Children's Centre Revenue Grant.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The information presented in this report and the appendices to the report show how Leeds can deliver the statutory duty referred to in paragraphs 3.2 and 4.1 above. This will require approval to be given to the phased development of a further ten children's centres over the next three years. Capital and revenue funding sufficient to complete the children's centre programme has been allocated as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 – 11.
- 5.2 Robust data analysis and consultation in localities, including elected members, has resulted in the development of a phase 3 children's centre implementation plan for Leeds to build an additional ten children's centres

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to approve:
- the Phase 3 Children's Centre Implementation Plan
 - the phasing of the centres as recommended by Education Leeds and the Early Years Service
 - the injection of £3,610,487 into the capital programme to design and construct the phase 3 centres approved.