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

Date: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

Subject: Update on the locations for Boston Spa and Wetherby Children's Centre

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### Electoral Wards Affected:

, Wetherby, Harewood

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)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third and final phase of the Children's Centre Programme will be delivered between 2008 -10. 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.

A report to Executive Board in May 2008 identified a number of potential locations for phase three sites which were still subject to consultation. Executive Board approved the recommendation to build ten centres.

A report to Executive Board in January 2009 provided the final outcomes of detailed work and consultation on the location of the phase three children's centres in Leeds. The location of Wetherby Children's centre remained unresolved due to the school review process.

A Design and Cost Report for Boston Spa Children's Centre on the site of Deepdale Community Centre was approved in January 2009. Further consultations with elected members, Parish Councillors and local residents indicate that a revised location of the centre within that site may present enhanced service possibilities.

This report identifies the preferred location for the development of Wetherby Children's centre and the possible revised site location of Boston Spa Children's centre

### 1. Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Executive Board on the proposed location of Wetherby Children's centre to be built by April 2010
- notify Executive Board of a possible change to the exact location of Boston Spa Children's centre on the site of Deepdale Community Centre
- seek approval to progress on the proposed sites.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 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 has been allocated £3.6 million over three years to build at least nine children's centres. Copies of the DCSF guidance document are available on the DCSF website at [www.surestart.gov.uk/publications](http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications) reference 00665-2007BKT-EN or in hard copy from the Early Years Service.
- 2.2 A report to Executive Board in May 2008 identified a number of potential sites for phase three children's centres. A further report in January 2009 identified the location of nine of the ten centres proposed. The Acting Chief Officer for Early Years and Integrated Youth Support Services undertook to provide a further report to Executive Board on the outcome of the consultation process for the location of Wetherby Children's Centre. This report provides details of the consultation and proposed site for Wetherby Children's centre
- 2.3 The Executive Board report of January 2009 identified the location of Boston Spa Children's Centre on the site of Deepdale Community centre. Executive Board approved a Design and Cost report that located the centre on the site of the current Youth Centre. Further consultation has identified the potential for more effective utilisation of the entire site with a minor adjustment to that location. This report informs Executive Board of the proposal to develop Boston Spa Children's Centre in a slightly different location on the same site subject to final consultation and planning permission. All other details approved in the Design and Cost report remain unchanged.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 The Executive Board report of January 2009 identified the sites for nine of the ten phase three children's centres. In January 2009 it was not possible to provide details of the hub site for Wetherby Children's Centre as consultation was placed on hold pending the outcome of the school review process in the locality. The review process was completed in January and consultation resumed on the location of the children's centre which will need to be completed and designated by April 2010. This places a significant time pressure on delivery. The outcome of the consultation identifies that a site within the grounds of Wetherby High School is the preferred location for the children's centre. The options considered and details of the consultation process undertaken are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Executive Board report of January 2009 identified Deepdale Community Centre site as the location for Boston Spa Children's Centre. The site is sufficiently large to allow a number of options for the exact siting of the centre. The Design and Cost report for Boston Spa Children's Centre approved in January specifically stated that the centre would be located on the site of the current youth centre which would be

demolished. The exact placing of the centre on the site may change as a result of further consultation.

#### **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 from the 59 children's centres that will have been developed across the city by April 2010.

#### **5.0 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Executive Board approved the phased development of a further ten children's centres over the next two years in May 2008. 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. This report provides Executive Board with the final outcome of that consultation process for Wetherby Children's centre and seeks approval for a centre to be developed on the site of Wetherby High School. It asks Executive Board to note a possible revised siting of Boston Spa Children's Centre.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to approve the location of Wetherby Children's Centre on the site of Wetherby High School and note the possible revised siting of Boston Spa Children's Centre within the site of Deepdale Community Centre.

#### **Background papers**

Executive Board report May 2008: **Phase 3 Children's Centre Programme**

Executive Board report January 2009: **Update on Phase Three Children's Centre programme**

Executive Board Design and Cost report January 2009: **Boston Spa Children's Centre**

Statutory guidance for the planning and delivery of the phase 3 children's centres programme. [www.surestart.gov.uk/publications](http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications) reference 00665-2007BKT-EN