

## **APPENDIX 1: LOCATION OF WETHERBY CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

The third and 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. 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.

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 and to progress wide consultation on the location of each centre.

A report to Executive Board in January 2009 confirmed the address site for 9 of the 10 centres approved by Executive Board. The location of the children's centre in Wetherby had been put on hold so as not to compromise a formal school review process. The outcome of that review process was made public late in January 2009 and the consultation has resumed at full pace in order to ensure that the Children's Centre in Wetherby will be built within the time constraints of the programme and designated by April 2010.

### **CONSULTATION**

The following groups and stakeholders have been consulted on the location of Wetherby Children's Centre:

- NE Wedge Network : 14.01/08
- NE Extended Services: 22/01/08
- Area Childcare Planning Network: 26/02/08,13/06/08
- Wetherby and Villages West Cluster: 6/03/08,13/10/08
- Children Leeds NE 10/01/08, 6/05/08,
- Cluster Management group:29/01/08, 4/02/08, 28/04/08
- Area Management team- Asset Management group: 11/03/08
- Elected member meetings: 8/04/08, 14/04/08, 12/05/08, 9/10/08, 2/12/08, 12/12/08, 16/12/08, 21/1/09
- Children's Centre Development Group: 17/09/08, 10/11/08, 12/01/09

### **OPTION APPRAISAL**

The following site options for Wetherby Children's centre were considered:

#### **Option 1 The LIFT building on Wetherby High Street.**

*Advantages:*

- Central location
- Health site
- High quality space

*Disadvantages:*

- Revenue costs too high
- Sufficient space not available within the centre

## **Option 2 The caretaker's house on Wetherby High School**

### *Advantages:*

- The right location

### *Disadvantages*

- Two storey stone building. Difficult and expensive to extend or alter
- DDA compliance expensive- cheaper to demolish and re provide
- Not fit for purpose

## **Option 3 Clad volumetric unit on the Wetherby High School site**

### *Advantages:*

- Close to the Health Centre, promoting joint working
- Central location
- Utilising existing Services
- Situated in the most disadvantaged locality area
- Scope for all schools (primary) to use the facility

### *Disadvantages:*

- High School developments not certain

## **Option 4 All Primary Sites in the area**

All Primary School sites in Wetherby were reviewed and considered. In all cases there was either insufficient space, lack of appropriate facilities and parking. Primary schools would prefer a location on the High School site

## **PREFERRED OPTION**

The preferred option for the development of Wetherby Children's Centre is Option 3 the provision of a good quality fit for purpose unit on the site of Wetherby High School.

The rationale for this is:

- It is in a central location with good access to the Health Centre, promoting joint working
- The site is in the most disadvantaged area of Wetherby
- The high cost or lack of viability of other Wetherby options
- A clear majority of stakeholders were in favour of option three for reasons noted above.