

Agenda Item No. 9 (III)

Sure Start Children's Centres in Trowbridge

Sure Start Children's Centres provide a 'one-stop shop' of integrated services for children under five and their families. There will be 30 Sure Start Children's Centres in Wiltshire by March 2010. To date twenty nine children's centres are providing the basic framework of services and they have been designated. Building work will continue until December 2010.

The Sure Start Children's Centre programme is based on the view that providing high-quality integrated services (health, education, family support and care) leads to positive effects for children, families and their communities, including:

- Improved educational outcomes for children and parents
- Enabling parents to study and work
- Helping lone parents to access work and training opportunities
- Reduced crime rates by encouraging community involvement
- Improved health outcomes
- A reduction in child poverty

What do they do?

Children's centres serve children and their families from the antenatal period onwards. Each centre will offer a range of the following services to families with babies and pre-school children:

- Good quality early learning integrated with full day care provision (a minimum of ten hours a day, five days a week, 48 weeks a year) with qualified teacher input to lead the development of learning within the centre.

or stay and play sessions where there is not childcare in the centre

- Information about early years provision in the area
- A sensory room
- Outdoor play
- Family support services and parenting groups
- A base for a childminder network
- Access to child and family health services, including antenatal services and health visitor drop-ins, advice on healthy lifestyles and oral health.
- Support for children and parents with difficulties and disabilities
- Effective links with Jobcentre Plus and local training providers with help in writing CVs, making job applications or applying for benefits.
- Advice and support around managing household budgets
- Close links with the extended services being provided in and around local schools

Services are free but parents will need to pay for childcare, if it is above and beyond their free entitlement. If parents are on a low income they may be able to get some extra help through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

In Trowbridge Community Area there are three children's centres.

Studley Green Children's Centre, Studley Green Primary School, Westfield Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 9JQ	Centre Co-ordinator Paula Wood Managed by Wiltshire Council Paula.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk 07504 776134
Longfield Children's Centre, Longmeadow Primary School, Broadcloth Lane, Trowbridge, BA14 7HE Phase Three under development ready for August 2010	Centre Co-ordinator Claire Palmer Managed by Wiltshire Council Claire.palmer@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 785680 Roz Lambert is the Programme Manager overseeing Studley and Longfield
Bellefield Children's Centre, Windermere Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 8TE	Centre leader Adele Radice Managed by school governors adele.radice@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 763274

Building work has begun on the new children's centre, based on the Longmeadow Primary School site. It will include space for children's centre services and a full day-care nursery with the existing staff from the nursery already on the school site. Stepping Stones Opportunity Group, the district specialist centre for children with difficulties and disabilities will be moving from its present home in Polebarn Road, into the new building. The children's centre will open in September 2010.

A new building for Studley Green will be handed over on 5 January 2010. This provides much needed additional accommodation for the children's centre on the Studley Green Primary School site.

From April 2011 the management of all 30 children's centres is required to go out for competitive tendering. This process has already begun with present providers being consulted about possible ways to cluster children's centres, enabling best value for money and better access to services for their customers.

For further information about children's centres in Wiltshire contact the Early Years and Childcare Team 01225 785660 or Russell.martin@wiltshire.gov.uk