

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee

Cabinet

Date of Committee

12 January 2006

Report Title

Developing Children's Centres

Summary

This report contains an update on proposals for developing Children's Centres across Warwickshire. The report was considered by the Sure Start Policy Panel at their meeting on 23 November 2005.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?

No.

Background papers

- Children's Centres consultation 1.7.03 – 15.9.03
- Children's Centres Start Up Guidance, February 2003
- Strategic Plan for Children's Centres, Cabinet report 9.10.03
- Individual Plans for Children's Centres, April 2004
- Warwickshire Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004/06
- Developing a strategy for Children's Centres across Warwickshire, Cabinet report 13.1.05

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

☒ Sure Start Policy Panel

Local Member(s)

☒

Other Elected Members

☐

Cabinet Member

☒ Cllr John Burton, Cllr Peter Fowler, Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Chief Executive

☐

Legal

☒ Richard Freeth

Finance

☐

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Chris Hallett – “Progress Report is noted”. |

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Further consideration by
this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Agenda No

Cabinet - 12 January 2006.

Developing Children's Centres

Report of the Chair - Sure Start Policy Panel

Recommendations of the Sure Start Policy Panel:

That the Cabinet approve that -

- The draft outline proposals are forwarded to the GOWM;
- Further detailed work is undertaken to develop the outline proposals into full projects.

1. Views of the Sure Start Policy Panel

The Sure Start Policy Panel considered the report of the County Education Officer, which updated Members on proposals for developing Children's Centres across Warwickshire at their meeting on 23 November 2005.

Elizabeth Featherstone stressed that it should not be underestimated how much work was involved for the authority to complete Phase 1 by 2006.

Norma Smeaton advised that work was continuing towards completion of Phase 1 of the Children's Centre development. She highlighted that that there might be some difficulty with some building programmes and completing all of the projects on time.

It was noted that –

- 5 out of the 12 Centres were completed;
- The provision of Centres within "pram pushing" distance was the underlying principle of the Government's proposals but this was not always feasible;
- A way forward was currently being explored with regard to provision at Kingsway and Lillington;
- There was no budget pressure on the authority with regard to Phase 2 as funding was ring fenced and came from the Government;

- Whilst the budget was tight, and there were concerns that prices might increase, she was confident that the programme could be delivered on target;
- The decision not to proceed with Bedworth Heath and Goodyers End capital refurbishment was based on estimated expenditure exceeding what was considered value for money in terms of the building;
- Lessons could be learnt from this process in terms of costs exceeding early estimates.

The Sure Start Policy Panel –

(1) Recommend that Cabinet approve -

- the draft outline proposals being forwarded to the GOWM;
- further detailed work being undertaken to develop the outline proposals into full projects;

(2) ask for further reports to be presented to the Policy Panel on the phasing of the projects to ensure the Local Authority meets its targets for 2006/08;

(3) note the invitation to attend the opening of the Atherstone Early Years Centre, Kings Avenue, on 9th December 2005 at 10:00 a.m. (Elizabeth Featherstone to provide Members with location map and post code).

2. Background/Introduction

The Steering Group meets regularly and reports to the Sure Start Early Years Partnership, Joint Management Team, Sure Start Policy Panel and ultimately to the Cabinet, to achieve the goals of access to a Children's Centre for all children in Warwickshire, in accordance with the phasing directed by national government.

3. What Children's Centres are required to provide

3.1 The following information was included in a report to the Sure Start Policy Panel paper of 16th December 2004 and is included partly for the convenience of Members and partly to make the point that the services identified here are required in Phases 1 and 2 but not necessarily in Phase 3. The development of Children's Centres is also crucial to the delivery of the Ten Year Childcare Strategy and meeting the Every Child Matters outcomes.

3.2 A Children's Centre must provide a range of services for parents and young children in one location and includes:

- integrated services to young children and their families
- support for parents and children with special needs to access specialised services.

- 3.2 As a minimum Children's Centres must offer a "core" service as follows:
- good quality early education and full day care for 0-5 year olds
 - parental and family support services
 - child and family health services, including ante-natal services and support for parents/children with special needs
 - links with Job Centre Plus and Children's Information Service.
- 3.3 Centres are part of the government's anti-poverty strategy as well as providing a good educational start and health care for children under six. Strategic targets include reducing the number of mothers who smoke in pregnancy, increasing the number of young children with satisfactory speech and language development at age two and reducing the number of young children in workless households.

4. Strategic Plans

In October 2003 the strategic plan for Phase 1 of the development of Children's Centres was approved on the basis that it would focus on the 20% most disadvantaged wards in the county. At the time it was envisaged that the Atherstone Early Years Centre and the Sure Start Mini Programme at Mancetter would fall in the second phase but in order to allow them to access revenue funding from April 2006, they were added to Phase 1. A strategic plan for Phase 2 is being drawn up in accordance with guidance issued by the Sure Start Unit.

5. Phase 1

The identified Children's Centres within Phase 1 (2004/06) are as follows.

5.1 Stockingford

The Stockingford Early Years Centre and Library was officially opened as a designated Children's Centre on 1st February 2005. The build is complete and the core criteria are met although considerable further development is still planned.

Capital spend – £150,000.

5.2 Camp Hill

The building work Camp Hill Early Years Centre has now been completed. Designation as a Children's Centre was achieved in October 2005.

Capital spend – £50,000.

5.3 Abbey Ward /Hatters Space

The Children's Centre in Abbey ward Nuneaton is to be located upon two sites managed directly by the Local Authority. The Neighbourhood Nursery is

already in place on the site of Abbey C of E Infant School alongside the Local Authority nursery class. In addition, the extension to Hatters Space will incorporate the necessary health and family support services enabling the centre to meet the full Children's Centre criteria.

Capital spend – £163,500.

5.4 Bedworth Heath

Two Children's Centres are to be based within Bedworth Heath at Newdigate Primary School and Bedworth Heath Nursery School, with a firm commitment to working in addition with Goodyers End Primary School and Bedworth Heath Community Centre. Spurgeons Childcare has been appointed to take responsibility for the management of the Children's Centre services. Capital refurbishment was to take place at each of the four sites but the Goodyers End project had to be withdrawn when estimated expenditure rose to a point where it was no longer value for money. (The original budget for refurbishment of a temporary classroom was £50,000 and it was withdrawn when the estimates reached £94,500.) The capital project management for the Community Centre is the responsibility of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is therefore not included in the capital programme (value £125,000).

Capital estimate – Bedworth Heath Nursery School – £127,200

Capital estimate – Newdigate Primary School – £91,900.

5.5 Newbold

The Children's Centre development in Newbold is to be located on the site of Newbold Riverside Primary School. A small extension to the school building was originally envisaged but the brief was later increased to allow the provision of a crèche on site. This, inevitably, increased the estimated costs but was agreed by the steering group as there was enough money in reserve to cover the costs. It is anticipated that a childminding network will have a presence and support the wrap-around childcare to be created upon the site.

Capital estimate – £299,000.

5.6 Bishopton (Rural Children's Centre, Stratford)

The rural Children's Centre was to be based next to Bishopton School, Drayton Avenue on the site of the Bishopton Community Centre. This site is being redeveloped to provide the Rural Children's Centre, a new Community Centre space and a Home for older people. However, recent information indicates that there have been planning concerns and that there are further discussions taking place regarding the site as a whole.

Although the building would not have been available until after the March 2006 deadline, we had made a clear business case to Government Office that this project would meet the community need and they had agreed that the Authority could extend our deadline by three months on this project if core services could be established prior to capital completion, although we would incur financial penalties for any childcare places not created on time. This further delay has meant that it will not be possible to complete within the renegotiated timescales and on this premise officers had entered into

discussions with GOWM to remove this project from Phase 1 and place it in Phase 2. They, however, feel that the core offer is being met and that the Children's Centre can be designated now. Further discussions will take place about the building work and whether this can be moved to Phase 2 once the centre is designated.

Capital estimate – £100,000 contribution to overall project.

5.7 Our Lady of the Angels / Sure Start Nuneaton

Negotiations with the Birmingham Diocese have led to partnership working with Sure Start, Nuneaton, and Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Infant School. The childcare element of the centre is to be developed on the school site with joint funding arrangements between Sure Start and the Diocese. The Diocesan architects will manage this project

Capital spend – £130,000 from Children's Centre budget – other funding through the Diocesan Authorities.

5.8 Sure Start, Leamington – 3 sites (detailed below)

All core services are developing well across the whole of Sure Start, Leamington sites at Whitnash, Kingsway and Lillington. The Sure Start Local Programme at Leamington is run by NCH and they have been developing their own capital strategy. GOWM has approved the capital monies (£1,000,000) available to build the Sure Start Leamington facilities to come to the Local Authority and Cabinet approval has also been given. The Sure Start capital projects will not, therefore, be liable for VAT and do not need a 30 year lease to be set up as would have been necessary under previous requirements.

5.8.1 Whitnash (Sure Start, Leamington)

Sure Start and Whitnash Nursery School have joined their capital resources to enable an extension to the nursery to be built. This will accommodate a crèche and parents' room and will be used by both the nursery and Sure Start (see Cabinet report for meeting on 16th June 2005 for full details).

Capital estimate – £225,000.

5.8.2 Kingsway (Sure Start, Leamington)

Sure Start are exploring the option of moving into vacated school premises and are discussing the options with Kingsway Primary School. A Neighbourhood Nursery (Sure Stars) opened in September 2004 on the Kingsway site so the integrated care and education core service is now well established.

Capital estimate - £105,000.

5.8.3 Lillington (Sure Start, Leamington)

The Sure Start team have now vacated the existing Community Centre to go into flats above Lillington library. The Community Centre site will shortly be totally redeveloped and should provide a high quality environment for local families when it is completed in 2006. The building will include a 30 place

day-care facility and once this is complete all core services will be in place in the Lillington area. This build is on Warwick District Council land and requires Warwickshire County Council taking the 50-year lease that was previously negotiated by NCH.

Tender documents have recently been returned for this project with the lowest of them coming in considerably higher than budget. A value engineering process is currently taking place for this project to be built within the budget.

Capital spend – £930,000.

These costs of Lillington and Kingsway have increased significantly from original estimates and both of these proposed developments will need to be carefully value engineered to ensure they come in within budget. A review will need to be undertaken on the extent and scope of these projects.

5.9 Atherstone Early Years Centre

The building work on the Atherstone Early Years Centre is now complete and is fully occupied. This impressive new building already hosts the core services of a Children's Centre apart from care of children under two for whom a childminding network will be established. Services will continue to expand as staff settle into their new environment.

No capital allocation from Children's Centre funds.

5.10 Mancetter Mini Sure Start Programme

Mancetter is a rural Sure Start Programme and Neighbourhood Nursery working together to address issues of rural isolation within a pocket of deprivation. The core services for a Children's Centre have been delivered over the last two years during which there has been good partnership work with North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust. The Neighbourhood Nursery is offering a very much needed and well-used childcare service and early education. Mancetter Children's Centre was designated in October 2005.

6. Phase 2

- 6.1 The Sure Start Unit has calculated our Phase 2 requirement for development based on the numbers of children in our 30% most disadvantaged areas, divided by 800 which the optimum number of children to be reached per centre, minus the numbers already included in the centres we are developing in Phase 1. The Authority, therefore, is required to develop 20 new centres, all of which must meet the core offer.
- 6.2 Our priority within the county was set out in the Cabinet report of 13th January 2005, i.e. to build on existing provision like nursery schools and parents' centres before going on to set up entirely new centres. The final mapping of the sites for development is still being finalised. In order to maximise opportunity, officers are working, where possible, with other funding strands, e.g. Extended Schools.

An outline of the proposed areas for development is included at **Appendix A**.

- 6.3 In some cases, it may not be possible to site all services in one building. It is acceptable for a centre to incorporate two or three buildings on the same site or next to each other. Outreach services (e.g. health and family support, etc.) can be provided in satellites in locations that are convenient for children and families. There are allowances for more flexibility in rural areas.
- 6.4 It is not acceptable for children to have to move physically between premises to access learning or day care. The two must be integrated. The consultation on the Childcare Bill suggests that the distinction between 'care' and 'learning' should be abolished and the two should be interchangeable.
- 6.5 Sure Start Planning Guidance – Phase 2 (2006/08) advises us that there should be a full-time teacher involved in every Children's Centre by March 2008. Officers are currently working towards that and have recently appointed 2.5 FTE advisory teachers to provide expert advice to the settings that already have qualified teacher input. Their contribution to the discussions on how best to meet this target across the county will be extremely valuable.
- 6.6 As soon as locations for Phase 2 centres are agreed by the steering group, a consultation exercise will be undertaken with parents, carers and local communities to ensure that they have the opportunity to voice their opinions.

7. Phase 3

The third phase of development, for completion by 2010, will ensure that every child in the county has access to a Children's Centre. However, in this phase any centres developed will not necessarily have to meet the requirement to deliver the full core offer. There will be much more signposting and collaborative working with other Children's Centres as well as the other agencies involved to ensure that services are delivered appropriately. The Guidance does make it very clear that a needs analysis must be undertaken to ensure that the needs of the most disadvantaged children are met, regardless of where they live.

8. Future developments

- 8.1 Sure Start Guidance on general delivery 2006/08 is due in January 2006 and at that time a new Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Plan will be drawn up and submitted to the Policy Panel for approval. This guidance had been promised by October but has been delayed because of the Childcare Bill consultation.
- 8.2 The outcome of the Nursery Education Grant consultation is also awaited. The closing date was in September. It is likely that the outcome will impact on provision in the maintained, private and voluntary sectors and work will continue with WSSEYCP to ensure that the Authority is to address any issues that arise as a consequence of new proposals.

9. Conclusion

The Authority continues to work towards the completion of Phase 1 of the Children's Centre development but acknowledge that there may some difficulty in completing all of the projects on time. Phase 2 is underway and firm proposals for specific sites will be in place by the end of November 2005. If the Sure Start Unit advises of any changes to the guidance we will ensure that they are incorporated into the planning process and that Members are kept informed.

CLLR HELEN MCCARTHY
Chair - Sure Start Policy Panel

Shire Hall
Warwick

05 December 2005

Proposed Phase 2 Children's Centre Sites 2006 - 08

Proposed Location of Centre	Wards Covered - 2001	No. of 0-4 year olds in Ward or SOA	Total Reach	Notes / Comments
North Warwickshire				
1. Polesworth	Dordon Newton Regis +Warton Polesworth East Polesworth West	214 204 185 213	816	The exact location of the centre in Polesworth has not been decided. A meeting with all local schools and partner agencies will be convened to explore the options for Children Centre development in the area to meet community needs.
Kingsbury Primary School	Kingsbury Wood End and Hurley	212 214	426	This smaller Children's Centre will be based at Kingsbury School with outreach services to Wood End, Hurley and Piccadilly.
Nuneaton and Bedworth				
2. Park Lane	Galley Common Fillongley	553 160	713	
Exhall	SOA data used to define the catchment for this CC Exhall Grange	 65	384	SOA data used to define the catchment for this CC

	Keresley Newland North & Newlands Keresley Newland South & Ash Green Exhall West Exhall East	108 64 55 92		
St Michaels Primary School, Bedworth (Furnace Fields) 3.	Poplar Bede	417 369	786	
Bulkington Village Centre 4.	Bulkington Wolvey Also includes Shilton/Ansty, Bramcote, Barnacle, B/Hastings	240 141	381	Bulkington Village Centre is currently delivering most core services of a Children's Centre. This smaller centre will meet the local community need and support the traveller families in the area.
<i>Rugby</i>				
Rugby Parents Centre 5. 6.	Newbold Town Centre Newbold Cattlemarket Caldecott (half of ward) Benn	89 108 125 445	767	The Newbold areas listed are SOA's.
Hillmorton Primary School 7.	Hillmorton Paddox	246 237	483	This will be a smaller Children's Centre.
Boughton Leigh Infant School 8.	Brownsover North Brownsover South	322 355	677	This Children's Centre meets the priorities of the Rugby Forward Partnership and will work with other community groups.

Oakfield Primary School	Overslade New Bilton	347 383	730	This Children's Centre will build on the existing work of the Healthy Living Centre.
<i>Warwick</i>				
Kenilworth Nursery School 9.	Abbey Parkhill	378 495	873	
Warwick Nursery School 10.	Warwick West Warwick North	529 487	696	SOA data used to define the catchment for this CC in order to have more detail. Includes: Packmores West & the Cape 113 The Cape & Wedgenock 132 Emscote & Spinney Hill 67 Wedgenock & Woodloes 87 Woodloes North 57 Woodloes East 104 Woodloes South East 64
Westgate School?			350	Warwick West East 115 Town Centre & Racecourse 113 Kingsmeadow & Longbridge 50 Priory Park & Packmores 72 <i>May need further refining with Warwick NS for more even distribution of numbers</i>
Sydenham Primary School/ Leamington Parents Centre	Willes Clarendon	430 234	664	

St Johns Primary School	St Johns Leek Wootten Lapworth	365 122 151	638	
<i>Stratford District</i>				
Lighthorne Heath School 11.	Burton Dassett Kineton Harbury	135 272 286	693	
Alcester 12.	Alcester Studley Sambourne	364 338 102	804	The exact location of the centre in Alcester / Studley has not been decided. A meeting with all local schools and partner agencies will be convened to explore the options for Children Centre development in the area to meet community needs
Southam	Southam Stockton and Napton Long Itchington	457 174 150	781	The exact location of the centre in Southam has not been decided. A meeting with all local schools and partner agencies will be convened to explore the options for Children Centre development in the area to meet community needs
TOTAL			11,662	

Additional Reach added to Phase 1 centres

	Reach Phase 1	Additional Area added to Phase 1 centres	Additional Reach – Phase 2	TOTAL
Camp Hill	525			525
Surestart, Nuneaton	940			940
Abbey, Nuneaton	477			477
Stockingford	482			482
Bedworth Heath (2 approved Childrens Centres at Bedworth Heath Nursery School and Newdigate Primary School)	477	Slough	414	891
Newbold	270 (half of Newbold ward)	Lawford and Kings Newnham	219	489
Mancetter	174	Hartshill. Arley + Whitacre	225 331	730
Lillington	429	Manor	346	775
Whitnash	262 (half of Brunswick ward)	Whitnash	450	712
Kingsway	261	SOA's Milverton South West (75) & Milverton South West (50)	125	386
Atherstone	464	Baddesley & Grendon	220	684
Bishopton	153	Stratford Mount Pleasant Stratford New Town Stratford Guild & Hathaway	216 258 240	867
Total Phase 1	4,914		3044	7958

Background to developing Phase 2 Children's Centre

13. The development of Phase 2 centres has been done in consultation with partners and with reference to the guidelines from the SureStart Unit.

14. Guidelines for developing and locating the centres

- The centres in Phase 2 must cover the 30% most disadvantaged areas
- There must be consultation with Health Partners to fit in with the Choosing Health agenda
- Additional reach achieved in Phase 1 can count towards Phase 2 targets
- The centres must have joined up planning with the Extended Schools agenda
- Families should be able to reach services within "pram-pushing distance of their home"
- The use of Maintained Nursery provision for developments is strongly encouraged

Taken from Phase 2 planning guidance (2006-08)

The GOWM have set targets for the number of children to be reached in the development of Phase 1 and 2 Children's Centre developments.

Warwickshire's Targets

	Targets	Achieved	Totals
Phase 1	2282	4914	4914
Phase 2	15,917	Proposed Sites 14706	14706
			19,620

The proposed sites and additional reach to the current Phase 1 site means that we will have exceed our reach target once again.