

Subject:	Phase Three Children's Centres		
Date of Meeting:	20 April 2009		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline Parker	Tel: 293587
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Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No. CTB8682	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Brighton and Hove has to open three more Children's Centres as part of the national target of 3,500 Children's Centres to offer universal access for all young children and their families. All Phase 3 centres are to be located outside the most disadvantaged areas and will offer a less intensive level of support than Phase 1 and 2 centres. Local authorities have greater flexibility in deciding what level of service to offer based on local needs and do not have to include childcare. The DCSF expectation is that Children's Centres should build on existing private, voluntary, independent or statutory services for children and families for example schools, childcare providers and health centres. The CYPTB agreed in September that the three new Children's Centres should be based in Westdene, Preston Park and Saltdean.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree to develop the Westdene Children's Centre at Westdene Primary School (£260,000).
- 2.2 To agree to develop the Saltdean and Rottingdean Children's Centre at Boomerang Kids, Saltdean (£150,000).
- 2.3 To agree extensions to the Roundabout Children's Centre in Whitehawk (£350,000), the Hollingdean Children's Centre base in Shenfield Way (£200,000), and the Hangleton Park Children's Centre (£200,000).

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Children's experiences in their early years have a major impact on their life chances. Sure Start Children's Centres play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children and in reducing inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest. Children's Centre services vary across the city to reflect different levels of need and focus on children most at risk of poor outcomes because of deprivation and disadvantage. Services are available from the city's 16 children's centres, with others delivered at places

such as GP surgeries, health centres and community halls. Families may also receive services through visits to their homes. The hub children's centres are based in more disadvantaged areas of the city, include nursery provision, and offer a wider range of services than the gateway children's centres. Annex 1 includes a map showing Children's Centres and their catchment areas.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Existing private, voluntary, independent or statutory services for children and families were asked to express an interest in hosting the Children's Centres. In Westdene and Preston Park there was just one expression of interest by the deadline. There were four responses in Saltdean and local families were consulted on their views on the two leading options. Over 500 questionnaires were sent to all families living in Rottingdean, Ovingdean, and Saltdean and questionnaires were taken to Saltdean School, Boomerang Kids, G.P surgeries and all other childcare providers in the area. There were 139 questionnaires completed. Of those 70% said that the Children's Centre should be located with Boomerang Kids in Saltdean Barn. 30% favoured Saltdean Primary School. The Deans Children's Centre Team have also stated that they prefer Boomerang Kids as a location.

4.2 Further consultation will be carried out about future services in all three areas.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families has allocated Brighton & Hove capital funding of £1,882,000 over three years to fund both new Children's Centres and maintenance for existing Children's Centres. The CYPTB agreed funding of £300,000 to improve existing Children's Centres in September 2008 and £230,000 of work has been identified. The table below shows a summary of the proposed allocations.

Total budget 2008/11	1,882,000
2008/9 (approved & committed)	230,000
Westdene	260,000
Saltdean	150,000
Roundabout	350,000
Shenfield	200,000
Hangleton	200,000
Total	1,390,000
Unallocated/contingency	492,000

The revenue funding for Children's Centres will increase from £3.69 million in 2008/9 to £5.23 million in 2010/2011. This increase is to fund the new Centres and to increase funding for outreach workers and parenting support in existing Children's Centres. The capital cost of the recommendations in this report will be met from within the capital grant allocation. Any ongoing revenue costs will be met from within the revenue grant allocation for children's centres. Although grant allocations have only been announced as far as 2010/11 it is anticipated that this funding will be ongoing.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The local authority has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to improve early years outcomes and to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged children by providing integrated early years services. The authority's partners in health also have a statutory duty to work with the authority to make such arrangements. The report sets out how Brighton and Hove has initially focussed on disadvantaged areas, in accordance with national guidance. It also sets the proposals for creating universal access to Children's Centres, in accordance with assessed need, utilising funding allocated by DCSF.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 18/03/2009

Health Implications:

- 5.3 Children's Centres promote the Being Healthy outcome for young children by providing access to health services including antenatal services and the Child Health Promotion Programme.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 Children's Centres must focus on children and families at risk of social inclusion, fathers, teenage parents, children and families from minority ethnic groups, and children with disabilities and additional needs.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Provision of early years services in local communities supports the sustainable communities goal. Capital developments will take place in accordance with sustainable consumption and production, as well as natural resource protection and environmental impact assessment.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 Research shows access to integrated early years services and good quality childcare supports children's learning and achievement in life.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 "I DO RM" tool will be used for any new projects.

Corporate/Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The relevant corporate and CYPP objectives is: Reduce inequality by increasing opportunity

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 See sections 4 and 7.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Westene Primary School – the development will improve the reception area for the school and Children’s Centre and will include a large meeting room, one to one room and disabled toilet. The School has a nursery and is very keen to work more closely with the local community.
- 7.2 Preston Park – negotiations are still underway with a potential location.
- 7.3 Saltdean – Boomerang Kids is the recommended option because Boomerang Kids providers child care all year round for children 2-4 and has an outstanding Ofsted judgement. It is situated in the middle of Saltdean, is highly visible to, and can be easily accessed by the local community. The majority of parents prefer this option and the Children’s Centre will open in good time as the building work is already planned.
- 7.4 Roundabout Extension – The extension will provide office space for 11 staff. This will enable social work staff to be co-located into the Children’s Centre to facilitate more integrated working and therefore better service delivery for families. The increased space will allow staff to move from the ground floor to free up rooms for public access, groups and activities.
- 7.5 Shenfield Way refurbishment – Shenfield Way is a Council owned building close to and used by the Hollingdean Children’s Centre. The refurbishment will increase the amount of office space. This will allow staff to relocate from the Hollingdean building and free up space for parent and child activities. It will also accommodate the Preston Park team who are based in a leased building and save £10,000 a year in rent. Bringing together the two teams will strengthen the two teams and improve cover for staff leave.
- 7.6 Hangleton Park extension – the extension will increase the space in the group room to allow more parents and children to attend joint activities, improve the outside space for both the Children’s Centre and voluntary run playgroup next door and increase office space.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Map of Children’s Centres

Documents in Members’ Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

Sure Start Children’s Centres Phase 3 Planning Guidance