

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 November 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Children's Centres Phase 2 Developments

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the second phase of Children's Centre Developments; and
- 1.2 To propose sites for the development of 3 new Children's Centres to be completed by March 2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDED that

- 2.1 The proposed sites for the new Children's Centres are approved (3.7) and that capital development schemes are progressed within the available funding.
- 2.2 The proposal for inclusion of the virtual children's centre opportunity as part of phase 2 developments is endorsed (3.8).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In phase 1 of the children's centre strategy, Halton was given an indicative target of 9 new children's centres to complete by September 2006. The capital build element of 8 of the 9 will be complete within this time frame. Five of the centres are already formally designated and the other three will be designated as they start to deliver the full core offer of services in the Autumn of 2006. The final centre (Halton Brook) has had formal approval to be carried forward as an additional element of phase 2 (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 For Phase 2 developments the number of new children's centres to be created in the period April 2006 – March 2008 is 3, with a reach target of 1,860 under 5's. For children's centres development, Local Authorities (LA's) must plan capital investments and phase capital programmes so that all children living in the 30% most disadvantaged areas, as measured by Super Output Areas, have access to the core children's centre offer of services by March 2008. A summary of the core children's centre offer to be provided in the 30% most disadvantaged areas is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.3 In line with Government guidance, children's centres will ensure that families with young children will have easy access to these services. Where possible Children's Centres will be developed from existing

settings, including primary schools as well as other early years settings which have benefited from the Government's recent significant investment such as Sure Start programmes.

- 3.4 In November 2005, Executive Board agreed that feasibility studies should be carried out with a view to developing children's centres in Castlefields Ward, Hough Green Ward, and Appleton Ward. A number of issues and obstacles to the development of a site within the Appleton area were raised, and a subsequent feasibility study has led to a revised proposal based on needs analyses for children's centre developments in Castlefields, Mersey and Hough Green wards.

3.5 Needs Analysis

The needs analysis (Appendix 3) is an abstract, specific to children's centre core services, drawn from the wider work being undertaken for advice on service need for area networks (Halton Needs Analysis 2006/09). There are key issues for the three wards studied. These are listed within the appendix supplementary to the ward needs analysis information. An analysis of all proposed sites has been carried out resulting in the following proposals for Phase 2 developments:

3.6 Proposed sites

Castlefields ward:

It is proposed that a children's centre campus model is created comprising

- Acorn Lifelong Learning Centre,
- Acorn Community Nursery,
- Astmoor Primary School,
- the Park Primary School, and
- Inglefields Centre which has already benefited from significant Sure Start investment.

This campus would enable the provision of the full core offer of services including full day childcare. The campus would also be located within short distance of local health and community centres, Woodlands Play Centre and the Braemar Centre, which is due for imminent development.

Hough Green ward:

It is proposed that an extension is built onto All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School to facilitate the provision of core offer services. Childcare is already available at this site. The proposed centre at All Saints school would work in close partnership with:

- St Basil's School,
- Upton Community Centre, and

- Ditton library, which currently operates as an outreach site for Ditton Children's Centre.

Mersey ward:

It is proposed that a children's centre is developed at Runcorn All Saints CE Primary and that existing provision within the school is developed to provide facilities for the core offer. Childcare is available in the immediate locality allowing for this element of the core offer to be developed in partnership with private and voluntary provision.

A map of all existing children's centres completed as part of Phase 1 developments and the prospective children's centres to be developed as part of Phase 2 developments is attached as Appendix 4.

3.8 Proposed Virtual Children's Centre Opportunity

The establishment of new Children's Centres creates the opportunity to provide an alternative and additional method of service provision through the borough's proposal to develop a virtual children's centre. This would enable disadvantaged and vulnerable communities to access interactive service provision via cutting edge technology methods. This area is currently being explored in conjunction with AIMEs and 4Children and will be presented in greater detail at a later date.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following Executive approval, the local authority is required to create each capital project on the Government web-site: SureStart-on, and enter the required information details for each project. For building capital projects, submission should be at RIBA stage D which reflect costings submitted as part of the cost breakdown. The capital project information will then be reviewed and a decision will be made on the capital

Funding is available for the development of Children's centres through the Sure Start Capital Grant. In the 2006/08 spending round authorities have been given discretion and flexibility of how the capital allocation is spent. Authorities can decide based on local need to allocate part or all of their capital allocation to:

- Children's Centres
- Extended Schools
- Sustainability projects
- Integration projects (combination of the above).

In doing so authorities must ensure that they meet all their set targets related to this capital allocation.

The capital allocation for Halton is:

- 2006/2007 £490,051
- 2007/2008 £995,865

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 There is a need to gain approval for the development of Children's Centres on the proposed sites as a matter of priority, in order to avoid any delay in securing government approval for the capital developments. The local authority is required to enter each stage of the capital project onto the Sure Start-on web-site, and the government architectural consultant will monitor progress of the project towards completion. Funding allocated for capital projects during 2006-2008 cannot be carried forward.
- 5.2 In the period 2006-2008 the revenue costs of Children's Centres can be met through the General Sure Start Grant, which includes a Children's Centre Revenue allocation. Future funding levels will be determined during the Comprehensive Spending Review in Autumn 2007.

6.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 Children Centre developments are central to all wider policies covering social exclusion.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

DOCUMENT	PLACE OF INSPECTION	CONTACT OFFICER
Main Capital Funding Guidance	Grosvenor House	G Derby
Ten Year Strategy for Childcare	Grosvenor House	G Derby

Appendix

1. Phase 1 Capital Profile
2. Core offer for Children's Centres in 30% most disadvantaged areas
3. Needs Analysis
4. Map of existing and prospective children's centres

Appendix 1

Phase 1 Capital Profile

Children Centre Capital Budget Projections/Costs 2004/2006

Children's Centre	Total Building Cost	Funding Source					Comments
		Children's Centre	SSLP	BIG Lottery Fund/NNI	ERDF	Other	
Kingsway	£1,540,000	£0	£500,000	£340,000	£100,000	£600,000	Operational 2005
Brookvale	£905,726	£0	£735,726	£120,000	£50,000	£0	Operational 2005
Ditton	£838,000	£0	£300,000	£150,000	£60,000	£328,000	Operational 2005
Halton Lodge	£976,051	£0	£619,051	£107,000	£250,000	£0	Operational 2005
Warrington Road	£1,940,587	£1,033,560	£361,800	£0	£69,700	£475,527	Due for completion by November 2006
Windmill Hill	£469,562	£200,562	£269,000	£0	£0	£0	Project complete June 2006
Halton Brook	£200,000	£176,700	£0	£0	£0	£23,300	Carried forward to 2006/2007
Palacefields	£468,409	£230,409	£238,000	£0	£0	£0	Project complete June 2006
Our Lady's	£150,000	£150,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	Due for completion by 30 September 2006
Total	£7,488,335	£1,791,231	£3,023,577	£717,000	£529,700	£1,426,827	

* Halton Brook £200,000 contribution from Sure Start/Nursery project to total Kingsway projects

* Our Lady's £150,000 revised costings re delivery in phase 2

Appendix 2

'Core Offer' for Children's Centres in 30% most disadvantaged wards

What must children's centres offer in the 30% most disadvantaged areas?

These following services must be offered in the 30% most disadvantaged areas (Super Output Areas):

Early Years Provision

- Integrated early learning and childcare for babies and children until they are five years old.
- Childcare suitable for working parents/carers for a minimum of 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day.
- Childcare places will be open to all, with a priority around disadvantaged families, but not just families in the immediate area (admission and fee policies will be determined locally).
- Support for childminders.
- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families.
- Links to local schools (extended schools and Healthy Schools) and out-of-school activities (holiday play schemes, before/after-school play and learning).

Family Support and Parental Outreach

- Visits to all families in the catchments area within two months of the child's birth (through the Child Health Promotion Programme or agreed local arrangements).
- Information for parents/carers about the range of family support services and activities available in the area.
- Support and advice on parenting including support at significant transition points for the family (e.g. pre-birth, early days, settling into childcare).
- Access to specialist, targeted services for those families which need them, e.g. support for parents/carers of disabled children.
- Activities, which increase parents/carers understanding of their child's development.
- Specific strategies and activities, which increase the involvement of fathers.

Child and family health services

- Antenatal advice and support for parents/carers.
- Child Health Promotion Programme.
- Information and guidance on breastfeeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety.
- Promoting positive mental health and emotional well being, including identification, support and care for those suffering from maternal depression, antenatally and postnatally.
- Speech and language and other specialist support.
- Support for healthy lifestyles.
- Help in stopping smoking.

Parental involvement

- Consultation and information sharing with parents/carers, including fathers, on what services are needed and systems to get user feedback on services.

- Ongoing arrangements in place to ensure parents/carers have a voice e.g. parents forums.

Links with Jobcentre Plus

- Centres will link with Jobcentre Plus to encourage and support parents/carers who wish to consider training and employment.

Appendix 3

Needs Analysis

Runcorn Castlefields ward

Demographic information

Castlefields ward is located in Runcorn and for the delivery of integrated and co-ordinated children's services the ward is located in Children and Young People Area Network 5.

Castlefields ward has been identified as the 3rd most deprived wards out of the total 21 wards in Halton. It falls at 2nd in the league of employment deprivation, 6th in education deprivation and 2nd in the deprivation league for health.

Population

The total population in Castlefields ward is **6,427**.

93 residents are from black or ethnic minority heritage

By age the distribution is as follows:

0-4 years	354
5-15 years	832
16-24 years	828
25-44 years	1,782
45-64 years	1,726
65-74 years	499
75+ years	406

Childcare

Within Castlefields ward there are:

163 0-4 FTE childcare places

50 after school childcare places

50 holiday childcare places

Housing

Residents of Castlefields ward are accommodated in 3,371 dwellings. The majority of these are flats and maisonettes with the remaining terraced and semi detached homes. Flats and maisonettes account for 43% of the housing within the ward.

Unemployment

Halton Census atlas identifies 362 residents of Castlefields ward as unemployed, 134 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are also unemployed with 16 young people not in education, employment or training. 42% of Castlefields residents have no formal qualifications.

Permanently sick and disabled / Long term life limiting illness.

The Halton Census atlas 2001 identifies 28% of Castlefields ward as having a life limiting long-term illness whilst 12% are permanently sick and disabled.

Lone Parents

278 households in Castlefields ward are headed by a lone parent. This is 8 % of the total number of households within the ward.

Education

There are **5** primary schools located within Castlefields ward.

751 children aged 5 – 11 years attend these schools.

An average of **35%** (Range 20% - 52%) of these children are from families eligible for a Free School Meal.

School attendance at school in Castlefields ward averages at **93.6%**

38 children attending these schools have a statement of Special Educational Need.

0 children from schools within Castlefields ward were excluded during the school year 2005/06.

Health

Substance misuse:

44 children in Castlefields ward live in families affected by parental substance misuse.

10 families are receiving support from ARCH

MMR uptake

It is estimated that **100%** of eligible children within this cohort attending the GP practice within Castlefields ward received the MMR vaccination

Breast screening

It is estimated that **56%** of eligible women attended Castlefields ward GP practice between the ages of 50 and 64 years attended for breast screening when invited to do so.

Cervical screening

It is estimated that **78%** of eligible women attended Castlefields ward GP practice between the ages of 25 and 64 years attended for cervical screening when invited to do so,

Decayed Missing and Filled teeth

NHS live project reports that **36%** of children living in Castlefields ward have decayed missing or filled teeth at 3 years of age.

Family Support

23 families from Castlefields ward were referred to Branches Family support service during 2005.

Teenage Pregnancy

Castlefields ward residents are reported as having a higher than the Halton average number of teenage conceptions.

Children's Social Care

54 referrals to Children's Social care were made during 2005/06

20 children were removed from the ward into the care of the local authority during the same period

21 children were placed with foster carers during 2005/06

Key issues identified in Castlefields ward (Halton Needs analysis 2006/09)

- High number of residents from BME background in Castlefields
- High proportion of families without access to a car
- High number of residents with life limiting long term illness or permanently sick and disabled in Castlefields
- High number of households headed by lone parent
- Higher than the Halton average number of teenage conceptions
- Highest proportion of unemployed residents
- High numbers of children with statements of Special Educational Need
- High proportion of residents with no formal qualifications
- High proportion of FSM claimants
- Low attainment in Castlefields SOA
- High number of referrals to Children's Social Care
- High number of children removed from Castlefields into the care of the local authority
- High number of children in care of foster cares in Castlefields
- High proportion of dependant children living in flats or maisonettes
- Castlefields has the most deprived SOA in terms of the indices of deprivation employment domain
- Castlefields SOA has the lowest KS2 L5 attainment in English, Maths and Science
- Highest use of amphetamines and the lowest use of glues or solvents in Castlefields
- Low number of children with disability living with the ward (1)
- Low uptake of breast screening
- Highest rate per 100 of suicide/ death from an undetermined cause

Widnes Hough Green ward

Demographic information

Hough Green ward is located in Widnes and for the delivery of integrated and co-ordinated children's services the ward is located in Children and Young People Area Network 1.

Hough Green ward has been identified as the 12th most deprived ward out of the total 21 wards in Halton. It falls at 13th in the league of employment deprivation, 11th in education deprivation and 12th in the deprivation league for health.

Population

The total population in Hough Green ward is **7,067**
66 residents are from black or ethnic minority heritage
By age the distribution is as follows:

0-4 years	456
5-15 years	1,102
16-24 years	805
25-44 years	2,076
45-64 years	1,691
65-74 years	542
75+ years	395

Childcare

Within Hough Green ward there are currently
89 0-4 FTE childcare places

80 after school childcare places
0 holiday childcare places

Housing

Residents of Hough Green ward are accommodated in 3,094 dwellings. The majority of these are terraced properties with the remaining detached and semi detached homes. Flats and maisonettes account for 13% of the housing within the ward.

32% of Hough Green households have no access to a car

Unemployment

Halton Census atlas identifies **269** residents of Hough Green ward as unemployed, **81** young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are also unemployed with **21** young people not in education, employment or training.

35% of Hough Green residents have no formal qualifications.

Permanently sick and disabled / Long term life limiting illness.

The Halton Census atlas 2001 identifies **22%** of Hough Green ward as having a life limiting long-term illness whilst **7%** are permanently sick and disabled.

Lone Parents

355 households in Hough Green ward are headed by a lone parent. This is 11 % of the total number of households within the ward.

Education

There are **2** primary schools located within Hough Green ward.

545 children aged 5 – 11 years attend these schools.

An average of **27%** of these children are from families eligible for a Free School Meal.

School attendance at school in Hough Green ward averages at **94%**

3 children attending these schools have a statement of Special Educational Need.

0 children from schools within Hough Green ward were excluded during the school year 2005/06.

Health

Substance misuse:

30 children in Hough Green ward live in families affected by parental substance misuse.

- 30** families are receiving support from ARCH
- 3** families are receiving support from TCAC teams
- 5** families are receiving support from the Community Alcohol Team

MMR uptake

It is estimated that **70%** of eligible children within this cohort attending the GP practice within Hough Green ward received the MMR vaccination

Breast screening

It is estimated that **76%** of eligible women attended Hough Green ward GP practice between the ages of 50 and 64 years attended for breast screening when invited to do so.

Cervical screening

It is estimated that **83%** of eligible women attended Hough Green ward GP practice between the ages of 25 and 64 years attended for cervical screening when invited to do so,

Decayed Missing and Filled teeth

NHS live project reports that **50%** of children living in Hough Green ward have decayed missing or filled teeth at 3 years of age.

Family Support

19 families from Hough Green ward were referred to Branches Family support service during 2005.

Teenage Pregnancy

Hough Green ward residents are reported as **not** having a higher than the Halton average number of teenage conceptions.

Children's Social Care

- 53** referrals to Children's Social care were made during 2005/06
- 4** children were removed from the ward into the care of the local authority during the same period
- 4** children were placed with foster carers during 2005/06

Key issues identified in Hough Green ward (Halton Needs analysis 2006/09)

- Hough Green has higher number of residents from BME background
- High number of residents with no access to a car
- High number of lone parent households (11%)
- High unemployment figures including youth unemployment and NEET
- Low school attainment in Hough Green SOA
- Low uptake of MMR, breast and cervical screening
- High number of children with DMFT at 3 years
- High number of overweight children
- High number of children living in families affected by substance misuse

Runcorn Mersey ward

Demographic information

Mersey ward is located in Runcorn and for the delivery of integrated and co-ordinated children's services the ward is located in Children and Young People Area Network 4.

Mersey ward has been identified as the 10th most deprived ward out of the total 21 wards in Halton. It falls at 9th in the league of employment deprivation, 13th in education deprivation and 11th in the deprivation league for health.

Population

The total population in Mersey ward is **6,146**.

99 residents are from black or ethnic minority heritage

By age the distribution is as follows:

0-4 years	408
5-15 years	928
16-24 years	652
25-44 years	1,894
45-64 years	1,293
65-74 years	488
75+ years	483

Childcare

Within Mersey ward there are:

41 0-4 FTE childcare places

21 after school childcare places

21 holiday childcare places

Housing

Residents of Mersey ward are accommodated in 2,837 dwellings. The majority of these are terraced properties with the remaining flats and semi detached homes.

Unemployment

Halton Census atlas identifies 231 residents of Mersey ward as unemployed, 71 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are also unemployed with 19 young people not in education, employment or training.
36% of Mersey residents have no formal qualification.

Permanently sick and disabled / Long term life limiting illness.

The Halton Census atlas 2001 identifies **22%** of Mersey ward as having a life limiting long-term illness whilst **7%** are permanently sick and disabled.

Lone Parents

288 households in Mersey ward are headed by a lone parent. This is 10.5 % of the total number of households within the ward.

Education

There are 4 primary schools located within Mersey ward.

607 children aged 5 – 11 years attend these schools.

An average of **21%** (Range 11% - 33%) of these children are from families eligible for a Free School Meal.

School attendance at school in Mersey ward averages at **94.2%**

16 children attending these schools have a statement of Special Educational Need.

0 children from schools within Mersey ward were excluded during the school year 2005/06.

Health

Substance misuse:

12 children in Mersey ward live in families affected by parental substance misuse.

8 families are receiving support from ARCH

MMR uptake

It is estimated that **91%** of eligible children within this cohort attending the GP practice within Mersey ward received the MMR vaccination

Breast screening

It is estimated that **69%** of eligible women attended Mersey ward GP practice between the ages of 50 and 64 years attended for breast screening when invited to do so.

Cervical screening

It is estimated that **83%** of eligible women attended Mersey ward GP practice between the ages of 25 and 64 years attended for cervical screening when invited to do so,

Decayed Missing and Filled teeth

NHS live project reports that **54%** of children living in Mersey ward have decayed missing or filled teeth at 3 years of age.

Family Support

10 families from Mersey ward were referred to Branches Family support service during 2005.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mersey ward residents are reported as having a higher than the Halton average number of teenage conceptions.

Children's Social Care

8 referrals to Children's Social care were made during 2005/06

8 children were removed from the ward into the care of the local authority during the same period

1 child was placed with foster carers during 2005/06

Key issues identified in Mersey ward (Halton Needs analysis 2006/09)

- Mersey ward has the highest number of 0-4 year olds in CYPAN 4
- There are low numbers of link clubs and after school provision in Mersey ward
- Mersey ward has the highest number of residents from BME backgrounds in Halton
- The highest number of households headed by a lone parent in CYPAN 4 are in Mersey ward
- Mersey ward has higher than the Halton average of teenage parents
- Mersey ward has the highest unemployment, youth unemployment and NEET figures in CYPAN 4
- Low school attendance in Mersey ward
- Mersey ward has the highest number of children with DMFT at 3 years in CYPAN4

Appendix 4

Map of existing and prospective children’s centres