

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 40

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Sure Start Capital and Fairlight Children's Centre		
Date of Meeting:	4 January 2010		
Report of:	Director for Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline Parker	Tel: 29-3587
	E-mail:	caroline.parker@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	Forward Plan: N/A	
Wards Affected:	Hanover and Elm Grove		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The paper proposes a new Children's Centre venue to be based in Fairlight Primary School. The new children's centre will act as a linked site for the City View Children's Centre to provide more accessible services for the local area. It will not be designated as a separate children's centre. The paper also recommends changes to the status of the Saltdean and Goldstone Children's Centres.
- 1.2 Work is now well underway on the Sure Start capital strategy and adjustments need to be made to budgets for individual projects.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to creating a new Children's Centre venue at Fairlight School at a cost of £100,000 by converting an existing classroom and creating a separate entrance to be funded from the reduction in funding for Shenfield Way from £200,000 to £100,000 – Surestart Capital Programme to be amended accordingly.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to changing the status of the Saltdean and Goldstone Children's Centres so that they are not designated centres that will be inspected by Ofsted. They will continue to be known locally as Children's Centres and offer services in the same way as Bevendean and Coldean Children's Centres.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Member agrees to some changes in the Sure Start capital programme including reducing the funding for Shenfield Way from £200,00 to £100,000 and increasing the funding for Hollingbury Park (from £500,000 to £600,000) from the unallocated balance of Quality and Access Sure Start grant – Sure Start Capital Programme to be amended accordingly.

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.
- 3.2 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act received royal assent in November. It requires local authorities to make arrangements for sufficient provision of Sure Start Children's Centres to meet local need (a sufficiency duty). The statutory guidance will be published in the new year. It is expected to say that Children's Centres should cover catchment areas of between 600 and 1200 children under 5. Ofsted will start a programme of inspections of children's centres in 2010 and will expect all children's centres to deliver the same core offer of services tailored to meet local needs. Together for Children have advised local authorities to review their children's centres to ensure that they will meet the sufficiency duty and to be sustainable in the long term.
- 3.3 The location of the City View Children's Centre is not easily accessed by families who live by the Lewes Road. The proposal is to create a small linked site children's centre at Fairlight School and to relocate to the children's centre the child health clinics that take place at the Salvation Army hall at The Level. The combined catchment area will cover 1322 children.
- 3.4 Goldstone Children's Centre is one of the smallest Children's Centres in the city and is limited because it does not have a one to one room. Generally parents have chosen to attend the much larger Children's Centre in Hangleton which has better facilities. The proposal is to change the status of Goldstone Children's Centre to become a linked site to the Hangleton children's centre rather than a separately designated children's centre. This will create a combined catchment area of 1321 children.
- 3.5 It is also proposed that the Saltdean Children's Centre should become a linked site for the Deans Children's Centre because of the small number of children (415) in Saltdean and Rottingdean. There are 551 children in Woodingdean so the combined catchment would cover an area of some 966 children.
- 3.6 Capital funding of £200,000 was agreed by the CYPT in April 2009 to refurbish and extend Shenfield Way to allow staff to relocate from leased offices in Clyde Road. Feasibility work has now been completed and has shown that this can be achieved for £100,000 rather than the original budget of £200,000.
- 3.7 Plans are well underway for a new building for the Hollingbury Park Playgroup. The new build is expected to cost a total of £600,000 rather than the original £500,000. The additional funding will come from unallocated funding.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Fairlight School have been consulted and are keen to have a children's centre at their school. The change in status for Goldstone and Saltdean will be discussed with the host venues and local children's centre advisory groups.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Further to the approval of the projects to be funded by the Sure Start grant in April 09 , it is proposed that the estimated £100,000 cost for the new Fairlight Children's Centre be funded by a reallocation of the budget on the Shenfield Way Project . As detailed at section 3.6, this project is now expected to cost £100,000 less than originally estimated. There is already a Children's Centre team which covers the area and can therefore support the new Children's Centre although additional revenue funding will be needed to ensure that the Children's Centre delivers the core offer. This is expected to be in the region of £20,000 and will need to be met from children's centre revenue funding.

The increase in cost of £100,000 for the Hollingbury Park project can be funded from the unallocated balance of Sure Start Quality and Access funding which currently stands at £491,530.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington

Date: 25/11/2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Childcare Act 2006 introduced a duty on local authorities to both improve all young children's outcomes, and to reduce inequalities between them, through integrated early childhood services. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act received royal assent in November. It requires local authorities to make arrangements for sufficient provision of Sure Start Children's Centres to meet local need.

Lawyer Consulted: Sandra O'Brien

Date: 04/12/2009

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Good quality early years provision improves outcomes for all children and particularly those who are most disadvantaged. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for early years and childcare.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Provision of early years provision in local communities supports the sustainable communities goal, as well as reducing climate change and energy use.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Research shows access to good quality childcare supports children and young people's learning and achievement in later life.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The "I do RM" tool will be used for new projects.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The relevant corporate and CYPT objective are: Reduce child poverty and health inequality and Promote health and well-being, inclusion and achievement.

Health Implications

- 5.2 The Early Years Foundation Stage supports children to take exercise and eat a healthy diet. Children's Centres include a range of service to promote children's health.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Not developing a children's centre at Fairlight School would mean that Brighton and Hove would not meet its new statutory duty to ensure sufficient children's centres and that families along the Lewes Road would not have easy access to a children's centre.
- 6.3 The size and location of the Goldstone and Saltdean children's centres mean that they are unlikely to be sustainable as separate children's centres in the longer term and may not receive positive Ofsted inspections.
- 6.2 The original objectives for Shenfield Way can be achieved at a lower cost. If the budget for the Hollingbury Park building is not increased then the building will not be fit for purpose.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To meet the sufficiency duty for children's centres and to improve access to children's centres services for families near the Lewes Road.
- 7.2 To follow the latest advice on size of the catchment areas for children's centres and their future sustainability.
- 7.3 To reflect the latest information from feasibility studies on the costs of capital projects.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. None.