

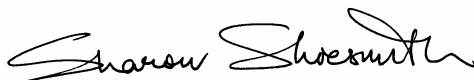
<p>Title: Children's Centre Development: Supporting the Orthodox Jewish Community in Seven Sisters Area</p>	
<p>Report of: Director of the Children's Service</p>	
<p>Wards(s) affected: Seven Sisters</p>	<p>Item for: Key Decision</p>
<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>1.1 This paper provides an outline proposal to enable Haringey Children's Service to respond to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish Community living in the Seven Sisters ward by providing access to Children's Centre Services.</p> <p>1.2 The development of these proposals has been undertaken through consultation with the Interlink Foundation, Yesodey Centre, Agudas Israel Community Centre, Lubavitch Foundation, High Cross and Stamford Hill Sure Start Local Programmes.</p>	
<p>2. Introduction by Executive Member</p> <p>2.1 The Charedi Community of Orthodox Jews makes up nearly 1% of the population of Haringey and in particular 15% of residents in the Seven Sisters ward. They are a significant community group who feel unable to access our childcare services which as they require a single gender non-mixed setting for their children.</p> <p>2.2 The proposal outlined within this report seeks to work in partnership with the LB of Hackney and the Lubavitch Association to provide a dedicated Children's Centre to cater for their needs.</p> <p>2.3 By contributing £300k to the £1.2m scheme we will not only be able to cater for the needs of a significant part of our community but also offer value for money services which we would be unable to do without this proposed partnership.</p>	
<p>3. Recommendations</p> <p>3.1 The Children's Service seeks to work in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney and the Lubavitch Foundation to support the needs of the Jewish community in Seven Sisters ward as part of the second phase of the Children's Centre development.</p> <p>3.2 Through contracting with London Borough of Hackney Learning Trust, it is</p>	

recommended that a maximum contribution of £300,000 of Phase II Children's Centre capital is made to the £1.2m Children's Centre development to support the needs of the Charedi Orthodox Jewish Communities in Seven Sisters ward. The funding is continued within the current £3.4m Phase II capital programme for Haringey

3.3 The contract with LB Hackney will outline the range of children's centre services to be delivered in line with the children's centre core offer. A maximum of £45,500 in year 1 and year 2(3% inflation to be allowed).

3.4 These recommendations are made subject to a legal agreement with the Hackney Learning Trust who will undertake all contractual arrangements with the voluntary sector children's centre provider, including monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Authorised by:



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Director
The Children's Service

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4. Executive Summary

4.1 Consistent with the principles of the Every Child Matters, Change for Children Programme, children's centre services must include support those in most need, and should be tailored to meet the particular needs of individual children, their families, and the communities in which they are based.

4.2 By March 2006 there will be 10 Children's Centres (4 already designated) and a further 8 by 2008. Together they will target almost 15,000 children under 5. The capital grant funding for Children's Centres for Phase I (2004-2006) is £3.4m and for Phase II (2006-2008) is £3.3m.

4.3 Through long term partnership working with the neighbouring authority, London Borough of Hackney, and the Lubavitch Foundation, an opportunity has been identified to develop a Children's Centre which will meet the needs of Orthodox Jewish families living in the Seven Sisters area.

4.4 By contributing to a new Children's Centre, including nursery provision, there will be opportunities for Haringey's Orthodox Jewish families to access high quality early education, family support, health and children's services.

4.5 The £1.2 million scheme involves building a multi-purpose building adjacent to the existing nursery facility. The centre will provide the children's centre core offer services that meet the cultural and religious needs of the Orthodox Jewish families and a range of universal services that will be accessible to all local families. In addition 25 new full-time daycare places and 9 childminder places will be created from 6 months upwards.

4.6 Without a specific and tailored Children Centre, there is a risk that young Orthodox Jewish children and parents will not access early learning and family support services.

5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

5.1 This proposal would support the authorities commitment to the "Every Child Matters" agenda.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 *Every Child Matters' and subsequent publication 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' (the 2004 Children Act is the legislative basis)*

6.2 *DfES Guidance on Children's Centres (February 2003)– outlining core offer and targets*

6.3 *DfES letter (May 2003) : funding for Haringey of £1.192 revenue and £3.4m capital for 2004-06 with targets of 505 childcare places and 7,559 children under 5 to be reached*

6.4 *The Ten Year Strategy for Childcare*

6.5 *DfES letter (4th April 2005) outlining 2006-08 funding of £3.3m capital and £4.7 revenue*

7. Background

7.1 All Children's Centre Service areas must offer access to the following core services: early education integrated with childcare, family support and outreach to parents, as well as child and family health services. Centres will act as a service hub within the community for parents and providers of childcare services for children of all ages – offering a base for childminder networks and a link to other day care provision, out of school clubs and extended schools. There will be close links with local training and employment opportunities, schools and other community provision.

7.2 In Haringey funding for Phase I (2004-06) is targeted to the 20% most deprived wards. Central government funding is £1.192m revenue and £3.4m capital for those developments to provide a target of 505 childcare places. Funding for Phase II (2006-

2008) will ensure coverage of the 30% most deprived areas (wards and Super Output Areas). Central government funding is £4.7m revenue and £3.3m capital.

- 7.3 One of the Children's Centres to be established by March 2006 is the Plevna Under 5s Centre which is situated in the Seven Sisters area. Organisations working with the Charedi Community indicates that they will not access services in mixed settings and access to childcare is in single gender non-mixed settings. Statistics indicate that many Orthodox Jewish families living within South Tottenham / Seven Sisters area are currently using Hackney's early years services. The Charedi Community makes up 0.9% of the Haringey population, approximately 1934 people. 15% of residents in Seven Sisters ward are from this community. Haringey is committed to an expansion of services within the proposed children's centre development and would seek to provide appropriate services for the varied communities of the borough including, Orthodox Jewish children.
- 7.4 Research undertaken by Hackney Council indicates that the Charedi Community in Haringey see the Stamford Hill area as the heart of their community. For most families Stamford Hill is regarded as a natural community whose boundaries are increasing as families move into Tottenham where property prices are significantly lower.
- 7.5 Already Haringey children take 40% of places in some of the nurseries in Hackney, on average Haringey children's take up across all Hackney nurseries is around 15%. The Lubavitch Nursery currently has 32 children from Haringey or 23.7% of places. In addition to this there are 14 places for special needs children, funded by the Children's Special Needs & Disabilities Team in the Children's Service.
- 7.6 The family support services currently being provided in Stamford Hill area indicate a high take up rate from Haringey orthodox families. In addition to taking 24% of current nursery provision, families access 30% of the current parenting group places and 18% of ante and post natal group (JUMP) places. Although specialist health services are provided through Haringey Teaching and Primary Care Trust, many families access support services from the Sure Start programme in Hackney.
- 7.7 Therefore it has been concluded that the most effective way for Haringey to provide children's services for Orthodox Jewish families, would be to work in partnership with Hackney Borough Council and the voluntary association, the Lubavitch Foundation.
- 7.8 The new Children's Centre with its nursery could be pivotal to ensuring that young Orthodox Jewish mothers receive appropriate health care, and have a space to meet and gain confidence. Without specialist nursery provision, it is unlikely that this group of young children will be able to access early years learning and development opportunities. Given that the average family size in the Charedi Community is 5.9 (compared with an average of 2.4 in England) it is imperative that we address the needs of young children and their families. Also over 53% of families have 4 or more resident children under age of 16 in the Seven Sisters area.

8. Finance and resource planning

8.1 Funding for Children's Centres is currently provided by the DfES, both through existing funding plans for local Sure Start programmes, Children's Centre funding and elements of the "General Sure Start" grant which is provided to local authorities.

8.2 LB Hackney have in place a capital funding package for this scheme and copies of funding letters have been received which indicate the range of funders:

- £250,000 donation from the Albion Trust
- £150,000 from the Lubavitch Foundation
- £500,000 from LB of Hackney (subject to approval)

9.3 By contributing £300,000 LB Haringey would enable the £1.2m scheme to move forward. The scheme has already been recommended by the DfES architects as meeting value for money. Haringey capital funding allocated to this new Children's Centre will be within the 2006-2008 allocation for capital funding of £3.3m.

9.4A legal agreement with LB Hackney, to be established initially till March 2008, is to be drafted by legal services which will incorporate all subsidies required and planned outcomes:

- childcare places – total of 32 places made available to Haringey families
- children supported through outreach and family support – 150 children and their families provided with a range of family support services on an annual basis.

9.5 Revenue funding to support the delivery of these services will be contained within the two year allocation of Children's Centre Revenue of £4.7m (2006-08).

9.6 Hackney Learning Trust has developed a business plan which indicates the level of subsidy required from Hackney Learning Trust and Haringey Council to ensure the sustainability of childcare. The subsidy for childcare and children's centre services to be made by LB Haringey is:

- childcare places – capped at 32 places at a set rate of £250 per place p.a. (3% inflation for year 2)
- children supported through outreach and family support – 150 children at £250 per child per annum (capped at £250 for year 1 and increased by 3% for year 2)
- giving a total of £45,500 for year 1 and £46,180 for year 2.

9.7 The legal agreement will be clear that the risk of overspend (either capital or revenue) will not be borne by LB Haringey and that all the above contributions are capped. The Childcare Bill has indicated a further duty on local authorities to provide children's centre services (in the Bill the terminology is 'early childhood services') and further budget allocations are anticipated.

9.8 The agreement will have a formal review process and the level of funding for this Children's Centre after March 2008 will be subject to evidence of positive outcomes and the availability of funding.

10 Comments of the Director of Finance

- 10.1 Funding sources have been identified and approvals evidenced to the value of £1.2m, including the £300k from the London Borough of Haringey. The Director of Finance comments that this project should only progress if an acceptable legal agreement between the London Boroughs of Haringey and Hackney and, additionally, there is Executive approval by the London Borough of Hackney to the project.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 11 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that a local authority has the power to do anything that it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of all or any persons resident in that local authority's area. Section 2 also provides that this power may be exercised when the local authority acts outside its own boundaries provided that the intention is to benefit persons in its area.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 This is an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with a neighbouring authority and voluntary association to support the needs of a particular community as part of the first phase of Children's Centre development.
- 12.2 Without tailored services to meet the needs of the young Orthodox Jewish children and their families, there are concerns whether early years and family support services will be accessed by these families living in the Seven Sisters area.
- 12.3 In order to meet the needs of this community separate facilities are required for many activities. The current allocation of £3.3m is insufficient to build a similar Children's Centre in Haringey as part of its 10 centre development. It will be a very effective use of resources to partner other organisations and provide £300,000 towards the overall costs of the Children's Centre in Hackney.

13 Equality Implications

- 13.1 The development of a new Children's Centre in Hackney which directly serves the needs of the Orthodox Jewish Community will ensure the inclusion of this community within the overall provision of the Children's Service