

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 17th November 2009

Report Title. **Children's Centres – Phase 3 Review**

Report of: Peter Lewis
Director of the Children and Young People's Service

Signed :

Contact Officer : **Ngozi Anuforo, Interim Children's Centre and Extended Services
Strategy Manager
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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non -Key Decision**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. Outline proposals for the development of Haringey's Phase 3 Children's Centre programme were agreed by Cabinet in January 2009. The purpose of this report is to provide more details about the intended capital investments to ensure Haringey Council meet their target of delivering two designated centres and a number of children's centre link sites by March 2010.
- 1.2. In addition, this paper provides Cabinet with an overview of the strategic direction of the continued development of Haringey's children's centre services.
- 1.3. This paper provides Cabinet with information about the planned Children's Centre capital and revenue expenditure for 2010/11.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1. Provision of a network of well used good quality Children's Centres across the borough is key to delivering the newly agreed Children and Young People's Plan. Children's Centres have an important role in safeguarding, as well as supporting parents and meeting childcare needs more generally. They link families to a wide range of services and activities from other statutory and voluntary sector

organisations as well as direct local authority provision. The list of help available includes health, employment, benefits, ESOL, volunteering and support for local childminders.

- 2.2. This report updates Cabinet on progress to date and some changes which have been made to the proposals outlined to the January 2009 Cabinet meeting. I am happy that the changes proposed are in the best interests of meeting the needs of our most vulnerable children.
- 2.3. I would draw attention to the following link sites (Chettle Court in Stroud Green, Bruce Grove Primary school, Downhills Primary school and Tower Gardens) all of which will assist us in reaching more excluded and disadvantaged children.
- 2.4. A further report will be brought to Cabinet on the future sustainability of the centres once DCSF funding provision is announced.
- 2.5. A report will be brought to Cabinet in June 2010 on fee charging and funding for childcare places.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

The continued development of Haringey's children's centres is aligned to a number of key council priorities and reflects the fact that the delivery of children's centre services is integral to the Council fulfilling its early years outcome duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure the provision of integrated early childhood service (A summary of Childcare Act's key provisions is provided at Appendix 1).

- 3.1. The plans reflect the Council Plan vision set out in strategic priority 3 to "*Encourage lifetime well being*". The proposals address this priority by seeking to ensure there is integrated, good quality early childhood service provision available from the earliest point in a child's life.

- 3.2. In addition, the Phase 3 development programme links to the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 2020 priorities set out below;

Priority 1 – to improve health and well-being throughout life

Priority 3 – to improve safeguarding and child protection

Priority 4 – develop positive human relationships and ensure personal safety

Priority 5 – develop sustainable schooling and services with high expectations of young people

Priority 6 – engender lifelong learning for all across a broad range of subjects both in and out of school

Priority 10 – Empower families and communities

- 3.3. The programme also links with the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy - 2007-2016, in particular the outcomes;
-Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all
-Safer for all
-Healthier people with a better quality of life.

- 3.4. The programme has clear links to the Council's Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2011, namely;

- Objectives 1: Addressing worklessness and increasing parental employment in sustainable jobs
Objective 2: Improving the take-up of benefits and tax credits
Objective 3: Reducing educational attainment gaps for children in poverty

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That Cabinet notes the plans for capital investment to meet the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) target of delivering two new designated children's centres by March 2010. Further, Cabinet should note the additional plans in place to deliver universal access to children's centre services for children under 5 living in Haringey by March 2011.
- 4.2. That Cabinet notes the continued strategic development of children's centres and centres services as we progress towards the mainstream delivery of integrated early childhood services from April 2010.
- 4.3. That Cabinet receive a report setting out a sustainability strategy for children's centre services following an announcement from the DCSF on future funding arrangements for early years and children's centres.
- 4.4. That Cabinet receives a report in June 2010 following a review of the fee charging arrangements and funding for childcare places, including targeted provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Haringey.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. The development of Haringey's Phase 3 children's centre programme is well under way. The positive feedback received from DCSF about our plans, reflects the confidence in our ability to deliver to expectations. Given the strong performance of the Authority through the development of the first two phases, and the work that has been undertaken to establish the rationale for our Phase 3 programme, there is the scope to provide sufficient access to services through the realisation of our Phase 3 plans.
- 5.2. The Authority is awaiting feedback from the DCSF on *Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare* Grant funding arrangements post March 2011. We anticipate receiving information on future funding arrangements during the period April 2010 – March 2011.
- 5.3. The 2007 report to Executive "*Developing Sustainable Childcare*" noted a review was to be undertaken of funded nursery places with the intention of identifying new models for supporting our most vulnerable children to access, good quality early years provision. The Children and Young People's Service is now in a position to consider the provision of funded places through the children's centre programme as part of this wider strategic context.

5.4. The advent of a new single funding formula from, April 2010, for the provision of the free, flexible nursery education entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds provides us with the opportunity to address inconsistencies in how the free entitlement offer is currently funded across the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors (including children's centres).

6. Other options considered

7. Summary

7.1. Universal Children's Centre Service provision in Haringey

The national roll-out of the children's centre initiative concludes with a Government target of 3,500 children's centres designated by the end of March 2010. In December 2009, it is anticipated that children's centres will become statutory, following Royal Assent. This establishes children's centres as statutory entities, alongside schools. What is not yet clear is how, or to what level of funding will be made available by Government.

By March 2010, Haringey will have 19 designated centres and four link sites. It is anticipated that by 2011, all centres and link sites will be fully operational and providing access to services for Haringey estimated 16,080 children under 5 and their families.

Our intention now is to provide a clear strategic context for Haringey's children's centres service delivery following the conclusion of our three development phases by April 2010, and in light of the duties placed on the Authority under the Childcare Act (2006).

Moving forward, strategic priorities include the provision of good quality, integrated early childhood services, with an emphasis on the early identification of needs and the engagement of vulnerable and excluded parents and children in services. We are seeking to improve access to services for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged young children and their families and ensure there are effective systems in place for measuring impact and tracking outcomes for children.

7.2. Targeted Early intervention and Prevention

7.2.1 Outreach Strategy

A key role for children's centres is their outreach to families with young children. Of particular importance is the outreach to families with young children where there is a risk of social exclusion or they are living in the most disadvantaged areas. Section 3 of the Childcare Act (2006) places a duty on Local Authorities to improve the outcomes for all children up to 5 and reduce inequalities between them.

In fulfilling this duty, the Council must *"take steps to identify parents who are unlikely to take advantage of early childhood services that may benefit them, and to encourage them to take advantage of those services. In many cases, this will be*

inextricably tied to the duty to narrow the gaps between those achieving the poorest outcomes and their peers, and thereby reduce inequality”.

(Section 3: Specific duties of local authority in relation to early childhood services, Childcare Act 2006)

This function is supported by the DCSF guidance for the Phase 3 development of children’s centres which suggests that priority should be given to reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families within all communities. The intention is that children’s centres should play a key role in identifying families with additional needs early to prevent problems escalating further.

The location and development of the additional children’s centres link sites as part of our Phase 3 programme reflects an intention to improve access to children’s centres services within key areas. The data collected from our operational centres suggests that there is still work to be done to ensure we are able to reach children and families from our priority and most excluded groups.

In Haringey, an outreach approach is adopted by all centres but there remains a need to develop more consistency in some aspects of our approach. The outcome of this is that, to date, the engagement of some of our most excluded and disadvantaged children and families has been variable. A key feature of our outreach approach is to establish a dedicated outreach workforce for all children centres to achieve the following aims;

1. To increase the engagement of communities with children’s centres and early childhood services.
2. To identify and support vulnerable children at the earliest possible point in their lives (including prior to birth) by connecting children and their families into services to:
 - Safeguard children and promote their welfare
 - Promote children’s health and well-being
 - Tackle and reduce the impact of inequalities
 - Enable children to achieve their full potential
 - Support communities to support children and families

The children’s centre outreach approach is being developed in partnership with representatives from across the Children and Young people’s service, the Council, Children’s Centres, Job Centre Plus, health, schools, and voluntary sector agencies.

7.2.2 Sign-posting and referral

In Haringey, the draft strategy for family support includes an identified family support worker for each designated children’s centre. The family support worker provides targeted support where, in most instances but not exclusively, a need for such intervention has been identified through the Common Assessment Framework(CAF). Family support is a fundamental part of the children’s centre core offer and is also available within children’s centres in our neighbouring boroughs. It is widely acknowledged that children’s centres services will be accessed by families through location as well as personal choice. We are aware, from contact data, that families will

often access children's centre services outside of the ward in which they live as well as outside of their borough of residence. To this end, the intention is to have agreed protocols in place with our neighbouring boroughs by April 2010. This will ensure there are clear arrangements in place for addressing cross-borough referral, sign-posting to services and access to family support.

Working with health colleagues, the intention is also to establish clear protocols to support the access to health services for children and their families who may access children's centre services outside of their borough of residence.

Joint working with our NHS partners means that the provision of midwifery, speech and language, psychology and health visiting services are in place across children's centres and support sign-posting and referral to and from children's centre services. We continue to work strategically with Health partners around the implementation and integration of the child health promotion programme as part of the children's centre core offer.

7.3 Childcare

The Childcare Act (2006) places duties on Local Authorities to assess the level of childcare need and ensure there are sufficient services provided in response to parental needs. A priority within this is meeting the needs of low-income families and those with children with disabilities. The Council's strategic commissioning role encompasses the planning, support and development of flexible childcare that is sustainable, high quality and affordable.

The offer of integrated childcare and education remains an essential part of the core children's centre services offer for centres serving the 30% most deprived super out areas. The development of such childcare was a requirement during the first phase of children's centre development. All phase one centres are expected to offer childcare for 10 hours per day, 48 weeks of the year. In addition to this, there is a requirement to provide new childcare places for under 3's.

The intention and expectation from DCSF is that such childcare provision is self-sustaining and not subsidised using children's centre revenue funding¹

The future development of childcare aligned with the children's centre programme will be informed by the findings of Haringey's Childcare Sufficiency Audit and subsequent action planning. The assessment of the demand for, and availability of, good quality, affordable childcare for children under 5, across the borough, will remain an area of focus to ensure that we continue to address any inequities in the quality of provision for all children, whether they access a childcare place within a children's centre or not.

7.4 Commissioning

Work is being undertaken to establish clear commissioning arrangements to address key priorities within the delivery of children's centre services.

In strengthening our relationship with partner providers, including the community and voluntary sector, the Children and Young People's service is developing a framework

¹ DCSF (2007) Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and delivery, Chapter 4

for the commissioning of targeted outreach to the community.

The appointment of a Childcare Commissioning Officer will support the Council to meet some of its duties under the Childcare Act 2006, particularly in relation to the establishment of the Council as a commissioning agent for childcare.

7.5 Children's Centre Phase 3 Development Programme

Following Cabinet's approval of Haringey's children's centre Phase 3 plans; as set out in the January 2009 paper, Haringey has gained approval from the DCSF for our plans to develop two new designated children's centres and four children's centre link sites.

Extensive work has been undertaken to refine the proposals and ensure that by March 2011, Haringey will have met the requirement to provide universal access to children's centre services for 16,080 children under 5.

As part of the Phase 3 development programme, an assessment of the performance of Phase 2 centres was undertaken. The findings suggest that the newly operational centres have made progress in making contact with children and their families. By the end of March 2009 10,790 children under five had been contacted by the seventeen children's centres. Appendices 2- 4 shows, in map format, the latest data on the number of children reached by our current portfolio of designated centres.

Although they have been operating for less than a year, we have begun to see the impact of the Phase 2 centres reflected in the numbers of children accessing their services. In consolidating Phase 3 plans, consideration was given to what progress was being made in contacting priority groups, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable and where they may be gaps in provision. A review of the contacts made by our operational centres highlighted, in more detail, the gaps that currently exist in centres reaching some of our priority groups. Addressing these gaps forms an important part of our approach in Phase 3.

We are currently procuring a children's centre database system that will not only ensure that we have a more robust system in place for capturing and tracking the progress of centres in reaching children but will support the future planning and shaping of service delivery to maximise impact on outcomes for children and engage those more excluded groups in services. Sections 99-101 of the Childcare Act 2006 allow for the collection of information about young children to inform funding, and support the local authority duties under the Act. We believe our approach will support the Authority in achieving this.

Since January, initial Phase 3 plans have been developed further and it is anticipated that the projects set out below will ensure that the objective of delivering universal access to children's centre services by March 2010.

The proposals agreed by Cabinet in January have been developed as follows;

Table 1

Project	Project Objective
Rokesly Infant School - Crouch End Ward (Main Site)	The January report proposed Coleridge Primary School as an option for the development and designation of a main children's centre. Following further analysis of this option, an alternative option, Rokesly Infants School is now proposed as a main children's centre due to its more suitable location in relation to need. The project will include a new build children's centre incorporating a permanent nursery provision and a basis for supporting childminders and local PVI providers.
Fortis Green Ward (Main Site)	The January report suggested Coldfall Primary School would be an appropriate site for designation. – A cluster model is now proposed for the delivery of children centre services within the Fortis Green ward. North Bank Methodist Church offers the scope and range of services to be proposed as the designated main site, working closely with Coldfall Primary school and Barnet's Coppetts Wood Children Centre to ensure adequate access to services is available across the ward.
Chettle Court Neighbourhood Community Centre	Planned designation as a children centre link site to Stroud Green Children's Centre which includes the proposed adaptation of the existing community centre for delivery of children centre services in Stroud Green ward.
Muswell Hill Ward.	Initial proposal suggested Muswell Hill Community Centre. Planned designation as a children centre link site which is intended to support Stonecroft Children's Centre's delivery of children centre services.
Downhills Primary School	Planned designation as a children centre link site which includes the proposed adaptation of early years office accommodation for enhanced delivery of children centre service delivery within West Green ward.
Bruce Grove Primary - Bruce Grove Ward	Planned designation as a children centre link site to Pembury Children's Centre and offering improved access to services for the children and families living in Bruce Grove ward.
100 Tower Gardens Road	Re-establishment of the site as a link site to Rowland Hill children's centre, working with partners in White Hart Lane ward to ensure improved access to services for children and families.

The model for the delivery of the centres in Fortis Green and Crouch End wards is intended to build on existing provision and ensure that we are able to deploy resources as efficiently as possible, whilst maximising the benefits to the two communities. We are working closely with Islington and Barnet Council's to develop shared protocols and, where, appropriate, partnership arrangements which can support families to readily access their most local children's centre and enable effective referral and sign-posting into services to take place.

7.6 Financial Implications

7.6.1 Revenue Funding: Cost Analysis and Projections

The cost of the additional Phase 3 centres and link sites will be met through Haringey's 2010/11 *Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant* allocation. The additional cost of our increased portfolio will need to be met within the funding provided. Table 4 below shows the revenue funding streams available to support the delivery of children's centre services.

Revenue Funding	2009 -10	2010 -11
Children's Centre Revenue	5,741,233	6,693,144
Sure Start Revenue	3,058,589	2,923,740
Sufficiency & Access	577,881	586,000
TOTAL (Excluding ring-fenced streams)	9,377,703	11,035,884

Sure Start revenue is ring-fenced and can only be spent on centres located in previously designated Sure Start Local Programme areas. Current grant conditions place restrictions on the use of the Children's Centre revenue stream to fund centres located within Sure Start programme areas. The anticipated reduction in the Sure Start revenue stream will be taken into account in the review of the formula funding arrangements for 2010/11.

The priority for the use of revenue funding is to meet the direct delivery costs for each designated centre and link site. The intention is to ensure that resources are used to maximise the impact of children's centres in their community and enable the council to improve outcomes for children by providing high quality early childhood services.

We have built on our already strong partnership working with health and other agencies to deliver the children's' centre core offer. (**See Appendix 5**) Given the need to consider the limitations on grant funding and also the need to establish sustainable early childhood services, we are continuing to work strategically with colleagues to ensure the full core offer can be met across the portfolio of main centre and link sites and resources can be maximised through joint planning and the re-structuring of existing provision.

There is not an expectation that children's centre revenue is expected to meet the costs of child and family health services or those intended to directly support parents back into work.

'Family and community health services, such as the delivery of the child health promotion programme, employment and training advice for parents are not funded through children's centre revenue. We expect these services to be provided by the NHS and Jobcentre Plus, reshaping existing resources where necessary, and working in partnership with local authorities within children's trust arrangements'

DCSF (2007) *Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and delivery*, Chapter 4: 16

The funding formula model introduced in 2008/9 has provided the basis for funding designated centres in Haringey. The need to review this model was highlighted in the January 2009 Cabinet paper and is being undertaken to ensure that resources are

allocated appropriately across the entire portfolio. The review takes into account; the additional children’s centres and link sites from 2010/11, the need for more intensive resources and funding for centres serving our more disadvantaged areas and the anticipated annual reduction in the Sure Start stream within the overall Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant.

Although it is too early to comment on the detail of the changes, given the anticipated budget reduction shown in Table 4, there will inevitably be an impact on the funding allocations. The prioritisation of areas of greatest need within the borough will be integral to our approach to the allocation of funding.

Table 5 below provides an overview of the expenditure projections for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Children’s Centre Profile	2009/10	2010/11
Designated main centres	£6,196,637	£6,730,390
Link Sites	£218,000	£600,000
Total	£6,414,637	£7,330,390

7.6.3 Capital funding

The capital allocation for Phase 3 is significantly less than in the previous two phases.

It should be noted that there is an expectation that capital allocations are spent by the end of March 2011. Given the likelihood that a limited amount of projected expenditure on retention costs will fall within the 2011/12 financial year, we are currently reviewing the issue of anticipated 2011/12 retention costs with the Children and Young People’s Service Finance team and the DCSF.

The projected capital expenditure for 2009/ 2010 and 2010/11 is outlined in **Appendix 6**.

7.7 **Sustainability**

7.7.1 Children’s Centre Buildings: Maintenance

The capital allocation for maintenance will be fully utilised by March 2010 (**See Appendix 7**) From April 2010, we do not have an identified capital funding stream to address future children’s centre maintenance issues.

The future maintenance needs of all Haringey’s Children’s Centres will need to be addressed in order to ensure sustainable service delivery from all designated and link sites. By March 2010 the Children’s centre estate will comprise a total of 19 designated centres and four link sites. Centres are provided in a variety of physical settings, comprising a mix of new build purpose built centres of various types and a number of centres established by adapting existing buildings ranging from the Victorian era to the 1970’s. By the end of Phase 3, 13 children’s centres will have been established on existing primary and nursery school sites, and a further 4 will eventually be directly managed by existing primary schools. Across the portfolio of centres, a total of 2 children’s centres will remain as “stand alone centres” or are

otherwise housed as part of a local community centre.

Settings attached to primary schools may benefit from investment via the school's devolved capital grant depending on the priorities established by the school in relation to its overall asset management plan. Stand alone centres however are wholly reliant on centrally retained Council resources to secure their future maintenance needs, and this fact needs to be recognised in the CYPS capital programme prioritisation in the future.

In relation to planned maintenance of the main structural, mechanical and electrical systems of the buildings occupied (also known as lifecycle works), across the whole Children's Centre estate, the DCSF is currently providing additional capital support through a specific capital allocation within the Children's Centre capital funding allocation. The total support provided for this purpose between 08/09 and 2010/11 is just over £300k. However, as mentioned earlier, there is no guarantee of further specific funding for this purpose beyond March 2011.

The Council's Capital Strategy for 2006-2011 set out an estimated shortfall against known investment requirements for Children's Centres of £750,000. Condition surveys are being commissioned in 09/10 of the primary school estate and children's centres estate in order to update the information supporting the asset management plan. A provisional estimate of the lifecycle maintenance requirements for the current Children's Centres estate from 11/12 onwards is approximately [£200,000] per annum.

There are various funding streams supporting the CYPS capital programme which the Council is encouraged to use in a joined up way to support its overall strategy for Children's Services. Amongst these funding streams are formula funding allocations and grant funding to support the Primary Strategy for Change. The Primary Strategy for Change clearly signalled the Council's desire to ensure sustainability of the network and support the extended role of schools within their communities by continuing to create strong management links between primary schools and Children's Centres where appropriate.

It is recommended therefore that a budget for the future maintenance of the Children's centre estate is established within the CYPS capital programme to be funded by a mix of funding derived from formula allocations and primary capital grant. Unless specific additional funding streams are ring fenced to the programme by DCSF in the future, the budget allocation will necessarily compete against other priorities within the CYPS programme, including providing for additional primary places, improving community access and extended school provision, and the overall assessment of condition and suitability need across the CYPS estate. The overall prioritisation of the programme is reviewed annually during the PBPR process and setting and approval of the capital programme.

7.7.2. Childcare

Children's centre childcare currently receives subsidy through allocations of funding from the Early Years, Sure Start and Childcare grant stream; Childcare Sufficiency and an allocation of Dedicated School Grant (DSG) funding of £1.6m per year.

CHILDCARE COSTS

Revenue	2009/10	2010/11
TOTAL CHILDCARE COSTS	4,694,124	4,833,006
INCOME FROM CHILDCARE	2,526,791	2,609,441
NET CHILDCARE COST	2,167,333	2,223,565

SOURCES OF CHILDCARE FUNDING

Revenue	2009/10	2010/11
Sufficiency & Access	219,333	232,000
DSG	1,654,000	1,654,000
CHILDREN CENTRE FUNDING	294,000	337,565
NET CHILDCARE COST	2,167,333	2,223,565

Current levels of DSG funding cannot be guaranteed with the advent of single formula funding arrangements from April 2010. In addition to this, the Childcare Sufficiency stream of funding is a grant allocation only available until the end of March 2011.

The expectation from DCSF is for childcare to be sustained through fee income and subsidy received by parents directly, through childcare tax credits. The challenge for the Council remains being able to offer high quality, flexible childcare that is affordable to parents, in the absence of such levels of subsidy. In addition, children's centre services have no identified funding source beyond 2011. We await a clear steer from central government on what levels of funding will be allocated to support children's centres and the childcare offer from April 2011.

There is a need to review the funding arrangements for childcare places in Haringey, taking into account the current fee charging policy which sets a maximum fee level of £175 per week per child and does not allow sufficient income generation to enable childcare places to be sustained without high levels of subsidy and to meet the actual costs of delivering childcare from ages 0-5.

7.7.3 Longer Term Funding

Confirmation of revenue grant funding to support the overall portfolio of children's centres and services has only been received to 2010-2011 financial year. The review of the funding formula for children's centres takes into account this uncertainty and will seek to introduce a greater degree of prudence in committing revenue resources drawn from the Early Years, Sure Start and Childcare grant. Work is continuing to

establish a picture of the sustainability of the entire children's centre portfolio past March 2011 and will be informed by anticipated announcements from DCSF during 2010 regarding future funding. A more detailed report to Cabinet on the sustainability of children's centres is proposed for 2010.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

The estimated revenue implications of creating the new build Children's Centre and the additional link centres referred to in this report, are to be met through the increase in the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) identified in Table 4. This indicates an increase of £1.658m (at 2010-11 prices). Table 5 indicates the estimated effect (at 2009-10 prices) of meeting the revenue costs of these new centres, through the Children's Centre Funding Formula. This increase amounts to £916,000 suggesting that there is an unallocated element of the SSEYCG of around £742,000, before the effect of inflation is taken into account.

There are considerable uncertainties surrounding the level and demands of future funding available for Early Years, including the effect of the single funding formula for the (3 and 4 year old) free entitlement which takes effect from April 2010. However, it is also important that the authority maximises the use of this grant as any unspent allocation must be returned to the DCSF and cannot be carried forward into later years.

Section 7.7.2 sets out the arrangements for childcare which states that the Government expects this to be self financing, through parental fee income supported by childcare tax credits. Currently the fee levied on parents is capped at £175 per week which it is understood has not been revised since September 2007. There is clearly a balance between childcare services being accessible widely, particularly in areas of greatest need, and recipients making a reasonable contribution towards these non-statutory services. At present there is a subsidy, met largely from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which amounts to £2.167m; in determining this subsidy, income of £2.527m has been assumed. It is essential that these fee levels are reviewed with a view to implementing any changes from September 2010 at the latest and taking into account the level and any changes in the childcare tax credits.

In addition to the capital funding set out in Appendix 6 from the Children's Centre phase 3 resources, the authority has allocated £600,000 from the Early Years Quality and Access capital funding and £100,000 from the general Primary Capital Programme resources, in order to support expenditure of £1m at Rokesley Infant School.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and has no specific comment to make. The proposals follow the relevant duties and requirements of the Children Act 2004 and the Childcare Act 2006.

10. Head of Procurement Comments – N/A

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

- 11.1 The approach set out in this report places an emphasis on ensuring services can be accessed by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families through the provision of targeted services and service delivery.
- 11.2 The development of an outreach strategy is a priority for the continued development of children's centres in Haringey. The approach being taken seeks to ensure that the early identification of vulnerable children is a key function of children's centre outreach and service delivery. Working with key partners such as health, children and families and the voluntary and community sectors, the intention is to improve access to children's centres services and outcomes for all children under five, particularly those we are most concerned about.
- 11.3 Analysis of the performance of children's centres to date, suggests that, whilst significant progress is being made in the number of children and families contacted by children's centres, there are some priority groups for whom there appears to be barriers to accessing children's centres services. It is anticipated that the development of children's centre outreach approaches will include targeted outreach and close working with community partners to ensure all sections of the community are able to benefit from children's centre services.

12. Consultation

- 12.1 Consultation with stakeholders and partners is on-going and is instrumental to the strategic direction set out in this report.

13. Service Financial Comments

[Please see financial implications at section 7.6.](#)

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- 14.1 Appendix 1: Childcare Act 2006 – Summary
- 14.2 Appendix 2-4: CC contact maps profiled by Children's Networks
- 14.3 Appendix 5: CC Gap Summary
- 14.4 Appendix 6: CC Core Offer
- 14.5 Appendix 7: Phase 3 Children's Centre Capital expenditure 2008-2011
- 14.6 Appendix 8: Phase 3 Children's Centre Maintenance capital expenditure 2008-2011

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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CHILDCARE ACT 2006 - SUMMARY

The Childcare Act has four parts: duties on local authorities in England (Part 1); duties on local authorities in Wales (Part 2); regulation and inspection arrangements for childcare providers in England (Part 3); and general provisions (Part 4). Key provisions are as follows.

Sections 1-5 require local authorities and their NHS and Jobcentre Plus partners to work together to improve the outcomes of all children up to 5 and reduce inequalities between them, by ensuring early childhood services are integrated to maximise access and benefits to families - underpinning a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community

Sections 6, 8-11 & 13 require local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. Childcare will only be deemed sufficient if meets the needs of the community in general and in particular those families on lower incomes and those with disabled children. Local authorities take the strategic lead in their local childcare market, planning, supporting and commissioning childcare. Local authorities will not be expected to provide childcare direct but will be expected to work with local private, voluntary and independent sector providers to meet local need.

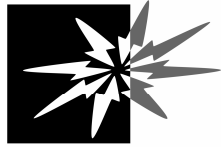
Section 7 re-enacts the duty for local authorities to secure a free minimum amount of early learning and care for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents want it.

Section 12 extends the existing duty to provide information to parents, to ensure parents and prospective parents can access the full range of information they may need for their children right through to their 20th birthday. Local authorities will be required to ensure that this service is available to all parents and that it is pro-active in reaching those parents who might otherwise have difficulty accessing the information service.

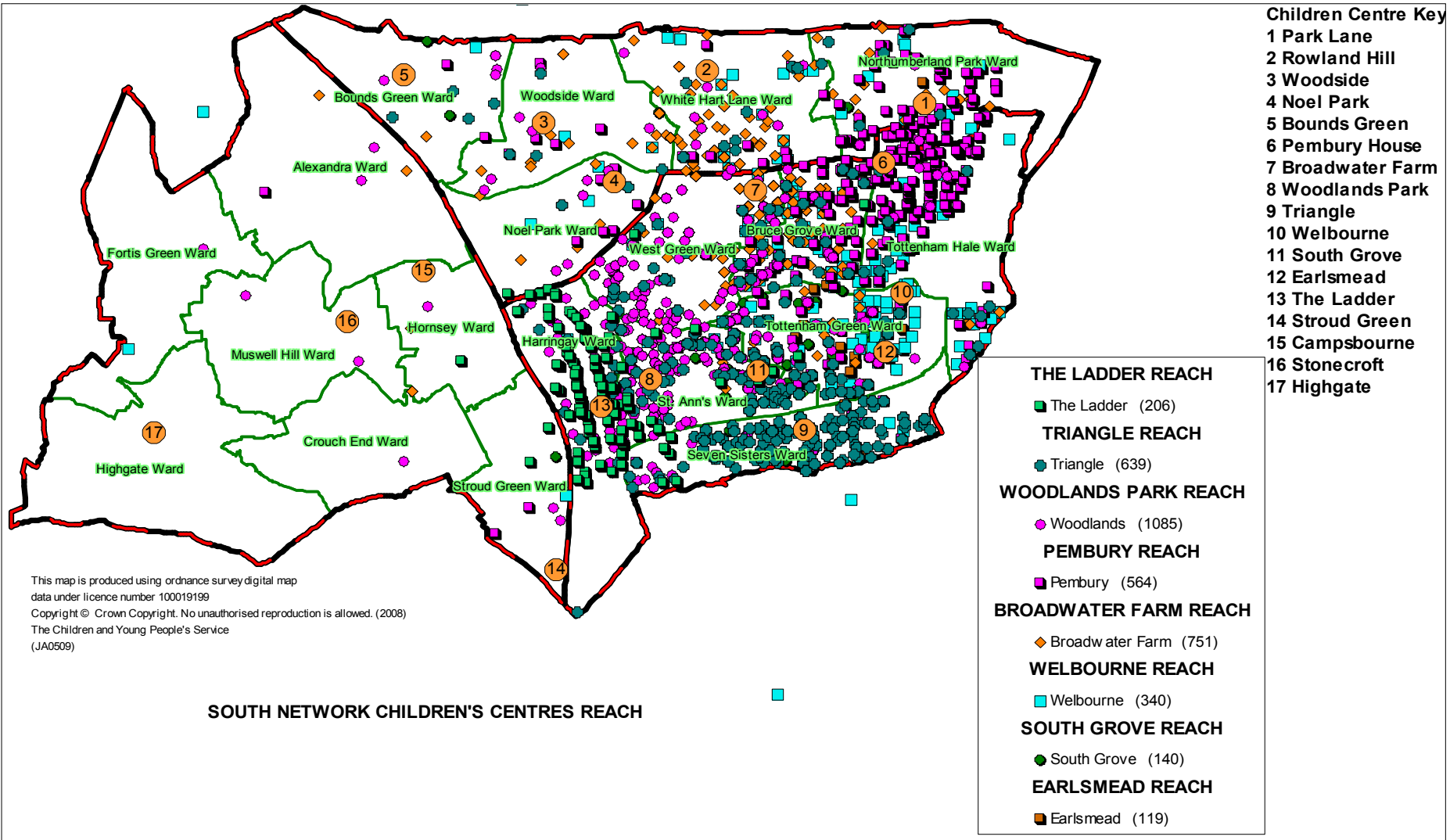
Sections 39-48 introduce the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which will build on and bring together the existing Birth to Three Matters, Foundation Stage and national standards for under 8s day care and childminding. The EYFS will support providers in delivering high quality integrated early education and care for children from birth to age 5.

Sections 31-98 reform and simplify the framework for the regulation of childcare and early education to reduce bureaucracy and focus on raising quality and standards. All providers caring for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday will be required to register on the Early Years register and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (unless exceptionally exempted). Childcare settings providing for children from the 1 September following their fifth birthday up to the age of eight must register on the compulsory part of the Ofsted Childcare Register (unless they are exempt.) The Act introduced certain requirements that all providers who are registering on the Ofsted Childcare Register will need to meet some of which are provided for in the Act but most of which are laid down in associated Regulations made under the Act.. Those childcare providers who are not obliged to register on the compulsory part of the Ofsted Childcare Register can choose to join the voluntary part of the Register. These providers will also need to meet certain requirements, which are laid down in Regulations made under the Act.

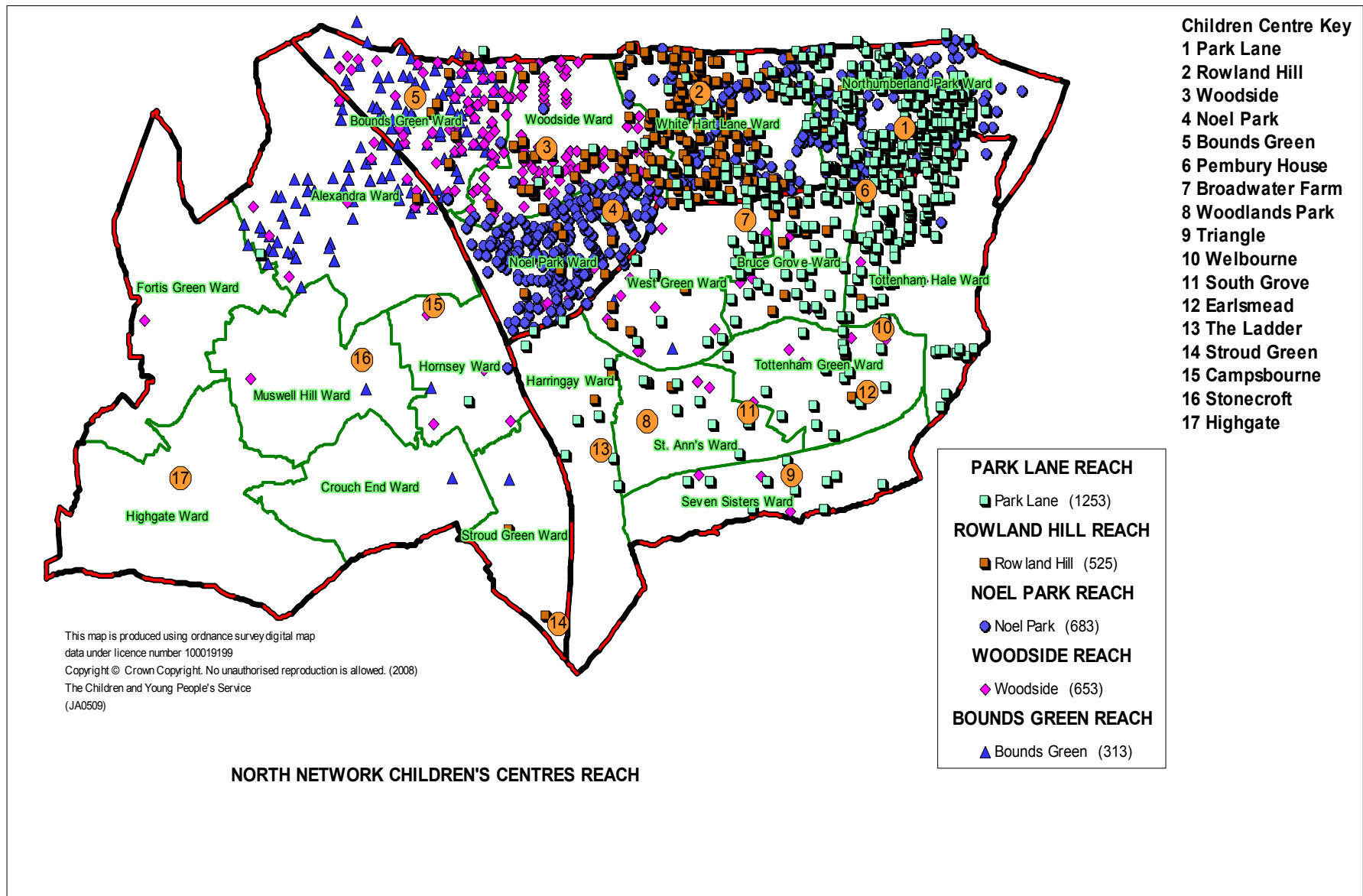
Sections 99-101 allow for the collection of information about young children to inform funding and support the local authority duties under the Act.

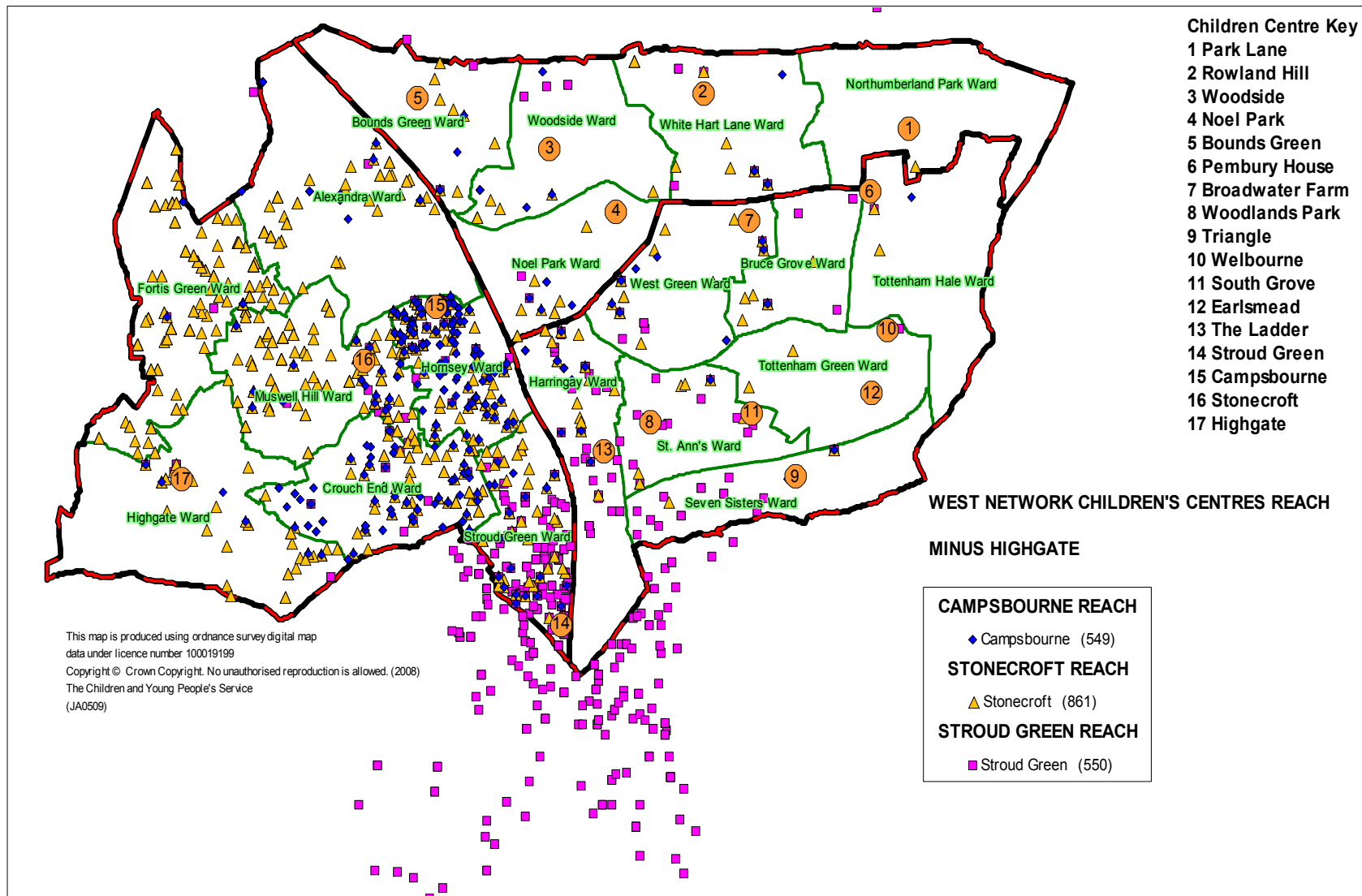


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 The Children and Young People's Service
 (JA0509)





	Core offer 1 - Early education integrated with child care	
Core offer 1.1	<p>High quality, enjoyable, inclusive early education integrated with childcare which meets all legal requirements, national and local standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - available to all the community - services to reflect the diversity of the communities served - sign posting to childminders - sign posting to other children's centres and related services - effective consultation and involvement of parents and children in shaping service design and range of activities offered - high quality play, learning and family support services linking across the extended services core offer - up to date information on local, Network and borough wide childcare and early years education opportunities - representation and involvement in Quality and Inclusion Network meetings 	30% model only
Core offer 1.2	<p>Working within Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum to ensure high quality learning experience and outcomes for children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modelling high quality provision - research and dissemination of effective practice - reviewing and evaluating services with an outcomes focus - community bases stay and play sessions - Toy libraries - work closely with childminders, Private, Voluntary and Independent providers in the area to ensure high quality curriculum delivered - to develop parents skills as a child's first teacher, engaging parents in understanding how to support children's learning and development - to develop whole family learning support activities to support transition to primary school 	30 & 70% model

Core offer 1.3	<p>Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities, with inclusive services and support for children and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing opportunities to access support services - raising awareness of parents and providers about what to look for - supporting parents to access advice and services to meet their needs - development and delivery of activities to support children’s development 	30 & 70% model
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	Core offer 2 - Child and Family Health Services	
Core offer 2.1	<p>Ante-natal advice and support for parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information leaflets available, signposting on to services - clear package of support for parents - target support for women identified as being at risk or vulnerable - facilitation of ante-natal classes, information, advice and support sessions in the children's centre <p>Post-natal advice and support for parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitation of post-natal support classes and activities - facilitation of post-natal midwife and health visitor support groups - facilitation of child health and baby weighing clinics - sign-posting of services and active encouragement of mothers to attend the children's centre for informal and formal support 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 2.2	<p>Information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitate access to Breastfeeding Support - provision of comfortable, private space to enable mothers to breast-feed - active promotion of breastfeeding in the centre, including training of staff to support mothers in sustaining breastfeeding - information leaflets available, signposting on to services - signposting training courses for parents on hygiene, nutrition safety, etc - development of healthy eating baby, toddler and early childhood eating advice and activities in partnership with health and other services 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 2.3	<p>Smoking cessation interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising awareness of issues around smoking cessation, specifically ante-natal smoking/passive smoking - signposting to advice and information 	30 & 70% model

Core offer 2.4	Health promotion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oral health and care - healthy eating for children and adults - exercise and fitness - promotion of immunization take-up 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 2.5	Child and Young Persons Mental Health Intervention Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct support to children and families - supporting professionals by enabling them to use the building to provide services - mental health promotion activities - support child and adult psychologists to provide individual support and group sessions 	30 & 70% model
	Core offer 3 - Family support	
Core offer 3.1	A multi-disciplinary team approach developing and delivering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prevention and early intervention work with midwives, health visitors, outreach workers, community programme co-ordinators, family support workers, schools and social care - development and delivery of choice and range of family support services - participate in Network and cluster based activities - home visits to all new births within two months of birth - additional visits based on need following assessment of need by health workers and through CAF - excellent first contact work - strong partnership working and sharing of information on individual children and families - identification of individual and community needs with provision of tailored made services and packages of support 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction to services and sign-posting - effective first contact - liaison and partnership working with Health Visitors - effective partnership links with community organisations (including voluntary/private) - supporting access to groups and community-based services - support delivery of supervised contact visits with families 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parenting programmes (Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities programme used to identify and prioritise parents who may need further support) - effective communication with parents and families about the specific support they need, taking into account diversity 	30 & 70% model

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - signposting to translation and interpreting services - identification and support for parents experiencing stress or social isolation - supporting children and mothers experiencing domestic violence - support for teenage parents - support for asylum seekers, refugees <p>information, advice, guidance and support on alcohol and substance misuse</p>	
Core offer 3.4	<p>Increasing the involvement of fathers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least one targeted service for fathers - consideration of fathers' needs in all service planning - targeted consultation and father involvement activities 	30 & 70% model
Core offer 3.5	<p>Parental involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information and advice on parenting skills at significant transition points for the family such as pre-birth, settling into childcare - identification and development of early intervention support activities to support parents identified as being vulnerable or at risk - consultation with parents and carers on what services to offer to ensure they are represented and involved in planning services - parental involvement in children's learning - Parents forums - Access to training for parents about children's learning and development - ESOL classes 	30 & 70% model

	Core offer 4 – Community Outreach	
Core offer 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reach out into the community to identify children and families not accessing the children’s centre services, identify what the barriers and their needs are - involve children and parents in shaping service design and ongoing improvements - develop a robust expert knowledge of the local community within which the children’s centre is located, shaping children’s centre services to meet local needs - provide local and borough wide information to signpost parents to services to meet their needs - develop partnerships with other local schools, voluntary and independent providers to provide a “hub and spoke” model of children’s centre services by working in partnership with others bringing children’s centre services to children and families in locations that suit their needs best - maximize the first contact opportunity and ensure staff are appropriately trained in understanding its significance in accessing children and families into services - consult and involve children and parents in shaping services provided and in identifying new services to meet changing needs 	
	Core offer 5 – Links with childminders	
Core offer 5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crèche facilities for training courses - support from Children’s Information Service (signposting for people looking for training courses, employment, etc.) - participation in stay and play sessions - curriculum and activity support - develop strong partnership relationships - actively engage with and support local communities - develop and support Childminding Networks 	30 & 70% model

	Core offer 6 - Encouragement and support for parents and carers to enter training and employment:	
Core offer 6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising awareness of information and support available - signposting to higher education, etc. - benefits and childcare tax advice - skills training - Jobcentre Plus advice sessions during events - strategy for working with volunteers - develop close working relationships with Job Centre Plus - ensure facilitation of ESOL classes in the centre 	30 & 70% model

	Additional core offer requirements	
Core offer	<p>Links with extended school programmes and schools within Network area</p> <p>Links to schools, extended schools, and out-of-school activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of strong partnership framework with schools in your Network - participate in shaping 0-19 services across the cluster and Network - have regularly updated information about extended school and older children childcare activities - work closely with other local schools in preparing children for transition to school 	
Core offer	<p>Information Service and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have up-to-date, accurate, user-friendly information to parents and families about everything that they need in relation to health services, childcare and early education, family support, play, training, housing and unemployment - provide information in a range of relevant community languages - reception areas to be open, welcoming and child friendly providing a range of information and signposting resources to parents - information, reception and administration staff to have excellent open, engaging and welcoming skills for both children and adults - all centre staff to be trained in customer care skills and be aware of the importance of maximizing the first contact - all staff to be briefed and knowledgeable on the purpose of the children's centre and be able to sign-post parents to services 	

Appendix 6

Phase 3 Children's Centre Capital Expenditure Profile 2008-2011

Projects	Description of Project	Projected Expenditure			
		2008/09 (£)	2009/10 (£)	2010/11 (£)	Total (£)
Children Centre Phase 3 Funding		288,685.00	618,610.00	334,049.00	1,241,344.00
Children Centre Maintenance Funding		67,920.00	117,317.00	123,447.00	308,684.00
Children Centre Phase 3 and Maintenance Total Funding Profile		356,605.00	735,927.00	457,496.00	1,550,028.00
Phase 3 Capital Projects	-				
Highgate Children Centre Development (Highgate Primary CC Ph2 works)	Presently a designated a main children centre site but planned adaptations and extension of existing parent and community school building for delivery of extended children centre service delivery	36,797.00	449,703.00	9,000.00	495,500.00
Rokesley Infant School - Crouch End Ward (Main Site)	Main site location formerly identified at Coleridge Primary School – Rokesly is now planned to be designated as a main children centre site which may include a new build children centre incorporating a permanent nursery provision and a basis for supporting childminder service delivery. Total projected project cost is £1m (£600k Early Years Quality and Access + £300k Children Centre phase 3 + £100k Primary Capital Programme). Please note no expenditure is shown for 2011/12 as the retention costs are anticipated to be met by PCP funding.	0	50,000.00	250,000	300,000.00
Chettle Court Neighbourhood Community Centre	Planned designation as a children centre link site which includes the proposed adaptation of the existing community centre for delivery of children centre services	0	75,000.00	10,000.00	85,000.00

Muswell Hill Youth Centre	Planned designation as a children centre link site which includes the proposed adaptation of youth/community centre office accommodation to support delivery of children centre services	0	10,000.00	0	10,000.00
Downhills Primary school	Adapt early years office accommodation for enhanced delivery of children centre services at Downhills primary and to support delivery children centre services within the 2 wards.	0	60,500.00	5,000.00	65,500.00
Northbanks, Muswell Methodist Church - Fortis Green Ward (Main Site)	Main site location formally identified at Coldfall Primary School – Now Planned designation as a main children centre site to support the cluster delivery of children centre services within the Fortis Green ward	0	5,000.00	0	5,000.00
Bruce Grove Ward	Additional link site proposed	0	140,000.00	10000	150,000.00
Development of Children centre link sites to meet future capacity demands (Sites dependent on service/reach target review)		0	0	45,000.00	45,000.00
Programme Contingency		0	35,000.00	20,344.00	55,344.00
Programme management Costs		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL		46,797.00	835,203.00	359,344.00	1,241,344.00



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Appendix 7 **CC Maintenance Capital Expenditure Profile 2008-2011**

Projects	Description of Project	Projected Expenditure (£)			
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Maintenance Projects	-				
Rowland Hill Children Centre	Roof Repairs; resolution of solar gain, heating and ventilation issues and waterproofing	4,252	59,430	1,413	65,095
Stonecroft Children Centre	Boiler replacement, roof repairs to parents room, external decorations, lighting and window repairs	60,409	85,270	0	145,679
Pembury Children Centre	Boiler replacement and door threshold adaptations	36,262	5,000	0	41,262
Park Lane Children Centre	Fire precaution works	0	5,000	0	5,000
Stroud Green Children Centre	Boiler replacement (contribution from CC)	0	5,000	0	5,000
South Haringay Children Centre	General repairs	0	9,648	0	9,648
Shropshire Hall Children Centre	Roof repairs and associated works	0	17,650	1,350	19,000
Condition surveys		15,000	0	0	15,000
Programme Contingency		0	2,000	1,000	3,000
Programme management Costs		0	0	0	0
TOTAL		115,923	188,998	8,763	308,684