

EXECUTIVE**19 December 2006**

Report Title: **Delivering Early Childhood Services in Haringey:
Meeting the challenge of the Childcare Act 2006**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Sharon Shoemith – Director, The Children and Young People’s Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

1. Purpose

1.1 The Childcare Act 2006 has introduced new statutory duties for the local authority. The emphasis is on effective early childhood services for all children under 5, in particular addressing the needs of the most vulnerable young children.

1.2 This paper addresses the challenge of developing a children’s centre service by increasing the number of children’s centres from 10 to 18 by March 2008. This will enable Haringey and its partners to deliver integrated early childhood services to at least 14,759 young children under 5.

2 Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to improve the outcomes of young children by providing better joined up and accessible early childhood services through children’s centres. The proposals in this paper for 8 Phase II children’s centres will contribute significantly to developing an integrated early childhood service in Haringey. It will extend the number of children’s centres from ten to eighteen by March 2008: 4 in the West Network; 5 in the North Network; and 9 in the South Network.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That the Executive approve the identified 8 children’s centres for development in Phase II to meet a total of 18 centres in place for March 2008

Report Authorised by: **Sharon Shoemith – Director
The Children and Young People’s Service**

Contact Officer: **Dwynwen Stepien, Head of Children's Network (North)**

4 Executive Summary

4.1 This report aims to support the development of a robust and sustainable early childhood service and identifies 8 potential Phase II children's centres in order to deliver integrated early childhood services to 14,759 children in Haringey by March 2008

4.2 Phase II Children's Centres

4.21 From the initial expressions of interest (24) and early feasibility studies, 8 centres are recommended which will meet our overall target of 18 for March 2008. The proposal will bring the total number of centres to be in place by March 2008 to: 4 in the West Network; 5 in the North Network; 9 in the South Network. These centres will enable Haringey to reach the DfES target of 14,759 children (under 5) by 2008. Considerable consultation has taken place at a local level in all proposed areas with the engagement of governing bodies, parents and a wide range of stakeholders.

4.22 Two further wards with levels disadvantage will need to be addressed between 2008-2010; Fortis Green and Crouch End. The Alexandra ward will also need addressing in order to reach all under 5's in Haringey. It is anticipated that there will be a Phase III development in order to move to universal provision and fulfil the Government's commitment to a children's centre in every community by 2010. However at this stage it is not clear what (if any) additional funding will be available.

4.23 Having undertaken detailed capital feasibility studies, the proposed Centres for Phase II are:

North Children's Network – Bounds Green Children's Centre (based at Bounds Green Primary School)

West Children's Network – Campsbourne Children's Centre (based at Campsbourne Primary School), Highgate Children's Centre (based at Highgate Primary School) together with a main satellite at Rokesly Infants School

South Children's Network – Harringay Children's Centre (based at South Haringey Infant School); Downhills Children's Centre (based at local sure start programme base working in partnership with Downhills Primary School); Seven Sisters Children's Centre (based at Seven Sisters Primary School); Earlsmead Children's Centre (based at Earlsmead Primary School); Welbourne Children's Centre (based at Welbourne Primary School).

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

5.1 When the first phase of capital funding for local Sure Start programmes and children's centres was introduced it was not clear that there would be future funding. The proposal for Phase II development is based on the existing pattern of Phase I centres

and will improve coverage of services for the vast majority of young children in Haringey, in particular the most vulnerable children.

6 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

No implications

7 Background

7.11 The development of Haringey children's centres services for 2006 to 2008 is one of the key delivery mechanisms to achieve the outcomes set out in the Children Act 2006. Many of the key objectives within 'Changing Lives' (Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09) will be supported by an effective Early Childhood Service incorporating children's centre services. It will also be a mechanism for delivering the key components of the Children's National Service Framework, reducing health inequalities and ensuring that children have good physical and mental health as a necessary foundation for learning and development.

7.12 The Joint Area Review (JAR) commented on the effective services being delivered through children's centres and the potential impact on early and childcare provision to improve the life chances of young children. It is crucial that all services delivered are of the highest quality possible in order to achieve improved outcomes for children. Quality must be at the heart of all that children's centres deliver.

7.13 **Children's centre services** aim to provide a framework to reduce the gap in outcomes between the borough's most disadvantaged children and their peers, by building on the council's investment in high quality integrated childcare and education. Children's centres offer a range of integrated services, including care, education, health and family support. The aim is to give children the best start in life and to support parents to improve the quality of their parenting and opportunities for economic wellbeing for the whole family.

7.14 It is the Government's vision to create a children's centre within every community by 2010. There are two models for children's centres depending on levels of deprivation within communities. Children's centres in the 30% most deprived areas must include the following "core offer" of services:

- Early education integrated with day care – nursery provision 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day, plus links to local childminders for additional hours.
- Family support and parental outreach – including visits to all children in the area within 2 months of birth, work on parenting skills, outreach to hard-to-reach groups, and links to more specialist services.
- Child and family health services – including antenatal support, support for breast-feeding and post-natal depression, speech and language therapy and smoking cessation.
- Links with Jobcentre Plus to help parents and carers access training and employment.

7.15 In July 2005, the Executive agreed to integrate the 6 local Sure Start programmes with children's centres. The Children and Young People's Service is on track for delivering this plan by March 2007. The Phase I childcare target of 505 has been exceeded and all ten centres were designated by March 2006, well ahead of many other authorities. However we have found that take up rates for older children (3+) has reduced with many parents accessing free full-time places in the maintained nursery classes. The demand is for childcare places for under 2s. This appears to be a common pattern across the authority, and the rest of London, and is being built into the new childcare business plans for 2007-08.

7.16 The Executive now needs to agree detailed priorities for Phase 2 Centres (2006 – 2008) to ensure both national and local needs are met. Haringey has been given an overall reach target of 14,759 children by 2008. Phase 2 does not set out new childcare place targets, as was the case for Phase 1. The latest Sure Start Children's Centre good practice guidance states that: "It is expected that each children's centre will serve about 800 children on average, subject to local circumstances". On this basis an initial target of 18 centres was set. However this target has now been reduced to 17 due to the investment in the Lubavitch Children's Centre in Hackney. Having been awarded funding for a further centre, Earlsmead Children's Centre, (which will not count towards the DfES target as it is a different funding stream) Haringey is in a strong position to provide a total of 18 centres.

7.2 Commissioning Children's Centre Services

7.21 Commissioning Family Support, Outreach and Community Involvement - To improve the delivery of services to children and young people the Children and Young People's Service Haringey has developed three Children's Networks which will provide a locality approach to delivering children's centres. The Networks will plan the delivery of family support, information and advice, links with local childminders and links to employment and training opportunities. Family Support Teams are being established within each network which will offer family support services within children's centres and schools. Speech and language therapy services are planned by Network together with the majority of health services.

7.22 A comprehensive needs analysis has been undertaken. On-going detailed analysis is being undertaken as part of the development of the Networks which will enable further refinement of the resource model for Networks and children's centre services. In identifying the most effective location for children's centres consideration needs to be based on the numbers of children living within the 30% most disadvantaged areas, plus the suitability of accommodation, together with local community mapping of services involving parents and local stakeholders.

7.23 Commissioning childcare - Children's centres must ensure the availability of childcare for children from 8am – 6pm, 48 weeks per year. Each Centre will require its own childcare plan which must be based on local demand and the ability to deliver sustainable childcare. The provision may be achieved through one or a combination of the following models:

- the Centre (ie private or voluntary setting or Governing Body) having direct responsibility for delivering childcare for children under 3, plus extending hours of care for 3 and 4 years olds to ensure 8-6pm provision;

- the Centre working in partnership with a private or voluntary sector childcare provider (on or very close to centre) to deliver childcare for children under 3, plus extending hours of care for 3 and 4 years olds to ensure 8-6pm provision; or
- the Centre working in partnership with a childminding network to deliver childcare for under 3's and/or wrap around childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

7.24 Accountability and Performance Management - The Childcare Act 2006 has set very clear expectations of the impact of Children's Centre services. It places a duty on local authorities to improve the outcomes of young children by providing better joined up and accessible early childhood services through children's centres. The Act places a duty to reduce inequalities between those at risk of the poorest outcomes and the rest. Targets are being set nationally for each local authority. The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (assessment at the end of reception year – age 5/6) will be a key indicator along with evidence that the most vulnerable groups are reached and provided with appropriate support. Evidence that all children are reached within a local authority will be essential and this will be achieved through the close partnership work with Haringey Teaching and Primary Care Trust.

7.25 Centres will collaborate within their network to plan service delivery so that each centre contributes to the overall plan but also responds to its own local needs. Each Centre has a Local Planning Group and/or Parents' Forum involving parents and local stakeholders to ensure that services are best shaped to meet children's and families' needs and that they reach the most vulnerable families in their area.

7.26 A service level agreement (SLA) is being established between each Centre and the Children and Young People's Service which will measure outcomes in line with national and local key performance indicators. Each centre will have a defined reach for which they will be the 'Lead Centre' – they will be responsible for ensuring the families living within the geographic area can access appropriate services.

7.27 Where schools are delivering children's centres, governance models are being developed in conjunction with the Governor Support Service to ensure clear accountability. Performance will be monitored through the School's Self Evaluation Review process so there is a single conversation between the school and Children and Young People's Service.

7.28 At the end of Phase II it is likely that 5 of the 18 centres will be local authority run. In line with the increasingly strategic role of the local authority, it will be necessary to consider if the local authority is best placed to run its own children's centres or should become the commissioner of children's centre services. A review of the management of children's centres is planned in early 2007 to consider where the management and accountability for running children's centres is best placed in readiness for decisions by April 2008. Consideration will be given to whether schools and/or the voluntary sector may be better positioned to run children's centres with the local authority commissioning the services required to meet the target of the Childcare Act 2006. In particular it is important that the voluntary sector is fully engaged and plays a lead role on the delivery of early childhood services.

7.29 The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, will inform future levels of revenue funding for Phase I & II and any additional funding for Phase III –

both capital and revenue. It is not anticipated that there will be significant additional capital funding for Phase III as the reach of young children is already extensive.

7.3 Developing Phase II Proposals

7.31 In identifying new Phase 2 Children's Centres in Haringey, it was crucial to involve all sectors, as well as schools, in the development and delivery of children centre services. An invitation to submit an expression of interest to work with the Council and other partners to deliver children's centres was extended to voluntary, private and school settings in the areas not already served by a Phase I Centre. Expressions of interest were received from 24 settings and initial visits were arranged to assess suitability and opportunities to develop as a Centre or as a satellite/extended school. A summary is shown in Table 1.

7.32 The local authority has secured £6.026 million ring fenced children's centre capital funding, along with £0.7million extended schools funding, including additional funding for Earlsmead Primary school. Where possible these funding streams will be linked in order to maximise the use of these to achieve Government targets.

7.33 Most opportunities for new build developments were exhausted in phase 1. Additionally there were other streams of funding including Sure Start local programme capital funding at that stage which supported meeting ambitious targets with a limited Children's Centre allocation. Therefore phase 2 becomes more challenging to deliver with new build but is feasible by carefully addressing surplus accommodation in schools, conversion of existing Sure Start programme bases together with a small number of system-build centres. Extensive work has also been undertaken to find voluntary sector partners.

7.34 All 24 expressions of interest were investigated and suitability assessments undertaken which assessed the opportunities for developing appropriate space, level of need of area and existing services. In the North there were a lower number of expressions of interest mainly due to the fact that there were very few schools with surplus accommodation. In the West response was limited due to the fact that many of the areas do not meet the disadvantage threshold which has to be prioritised in Phase II. Once initial assessments were made a number of settings were taken forward for costed feasibility studies. Property and Contracts appointed consultants and project managers to undertake these initial studies.

7.35 Extensive consultation with governing bodies and local stakeholders has taken place with each prospective centre. The Haringey Teaching and Primary Care Trust has been closely involved in the potential development of each centre.

7.36 It has been a difficult task to establish initial minimum and maximum capital funding levels for each centre and ensure that the overall brief can be met. The early funding identified for each centre, based on early preliminary visits, has limited the scope of each centre but minimised the financial risk. It is clear that the Phase II Centres will not be on the scale of the Phase 1 such as Broadwater Farm or Woodside, Triangle, for example.

7.37 Another option considered early on was the possibility of reducing in the number of centres and increasing the 'reach' (number of children reached) of each centre. However it was not clear that if we reduced our target centres whether we would be penalised and funding withdrawn. An alternative strategy was to identify centres were

the services were needed but where capital outlay was minimal. Two centres were identified which required less than £50k capital funding each. Thus it was possible to maintain the number of centres but with minimal capital outlay.

7.4 Table 1: Summary of Options

7.41 All centres were considered in terms of the availability of space, the level of disadvantage and the potential costs. In addition to this consideration was given to the quality of the existing early years provision, ensuring that children's centres were building on high quality provision.

Network	Available space	Lowest Feasibility Study Costs	% of children living in area who are the most 30% disadvantaged	Recommend
West Network				
Rokesly Infant School	No surplus space - external space available	£750k	28%	Satellite only
Campsbourne Primary School	Surplus space available	£450k	84%	Children's Centre
Highgate Primary School	Yes – minimum work required	Not req'd	0%	Children's Centre *
North Network				
Nightingale Primary School	Very limited school space available	£350k	84%	Satellite
Bounds Green Primary School	School accom available	Not finalised	84%	Children's Centre
* reduced model as not in area of high disadvantage				
South Network				
Downhills Primary School	Sure Start building available	Not req'd	100%	Children's Centre
Seven Sisters Primary School	Surplus space available		100%	Children's Centre
Earlsmead Primary School	No surplus space - external space available		100%	Children's Centre
Wellbourne Primary School	No surplus space - external space available		100%	Children's Centre
Harringay Infant School	Surplus space available		100%	Children's Centre
Bruce Grove Primary School	No surplus space & No external space available		100%	Satellite
SEFKAT – voluntary Sector	Yes – no work required	Not req'd	100%	Withdrew application due to change in their priorities

7.42 An analysis of the data on the 30% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas (SOAs have a population of 1500) indicates the number of centres which could be provided in each Network in relation to disadvantage. Against this indicator is plotted the proposed number of centres for Phase II.

Table 2: Projected number of centres based on level of disadvantage

Children's Network	% of most disadvantaged population (30% SOA)	Potential no. centres based on % of most disadvantaged population	Proposed Centres following from feasibility studies
West Network	18%	3 centres	4 centres
North Network	33%	6 centres	5 centres
South Network	49%	9 centres	9 centres

Source: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Indices of Deprivation 2004

7.5 West Network. Three settings were identified as being suitable to develop children's centres: Campsbourne Primary School, Rokesly Infant School and Highgate Primary School.

7.51 From the initial feasibility studies, the option for Rokesly Infant School was very high at between £750k and £1m. The scheme involved an off-site system built provision and included re-provision of the existing nursery classes. Even reducing the scheme substantively to take out the re-provision of the nursery classes the projected costs were high and would be in the region of £650k. The other prospective centre in the close proximity is Campsbourne Primary School where there is surplus accommodation to be developed, it is in a disadvantaged area with a SOA of higher level of deprivation. The schools is already working closely with the Stonecroft Children's Centre and the development of services could be planned across the two areas. The cost of remodelling the accommodation is £450k.

7.52 Studies were undertaken in the Fortis Green ward to find a suitable centre. The timing of work at Coldfall Primary School did not make any additional space a feasible option. Discussions have taken place with the London Borough of Barnet to work with them to ensure services are delivered in the Fortis Green ward. A large centre is in development just over the boundary in Barnet and early involvement with this development will be crucial. This ward will be addressed as part of Phase III. Close links are being established with a large voluntary sector provider, North Bank Methodist Centre, which will enable further development of family support services in the area.

7.53 To the west of the area Highgate Primary School was assessed. It is proposed that Highgate Primary School becomes a 'reduced model' Children's Centre (i.e. in area of less than 30% disadvantage) in order to develop services more widely across the West of the borough. The capital costs are minimal at £25k. In addition to this the Teaching and Primary Care Trust are seeking space in the West of the authority to deliver community based services, Highgate is ideally placed.

7.54 A difficult decision is required in relation to developing centres in the West. Given the number of the most disadvantaged children living in the West there should only be 3 centres, however there is a large area to cover and to prepare for universal provision. Thus it is proposed a total of 4 are established with Highgate (at minimal capital outlay) providing a good opportunity to develop services across the West Network. The competing options of Rokesly and Campsbourne need to be considered in terms of costs and level of disadvantage. These considerations would put prioritise Campsbourne before Rokesly, however by developing Rokesly Infant School as a satellite, it would be well placed for the next phase of development.

7.55 North Network. There are fewer schools with suitable accommodation in the North Network, although a number of schools expressed an interest in becoming a satellite. The schools who are interested in becoming satellites will be developed through the Extended Schools initiative. By developing as extended schools they will play a major part in ensuring schools can extend services but also link in closely with their local Children's Centre.

7.56 It was not possible to identify the projected 6 centres in the North, however it does already contain three large centres and one large satellite. Thus the number of centres will not jeopardise the delivery of services across all 5 wards.

7.57 Consultation and feasibility studies are taking place with Bounds Green Primary School where there is surplus accommodation. The development is in its early stages as we await the arrival of the new Headteacher and Governing Body. However we are working with the existing Infant School Headteacher to develop a proposal. The scheme is not going to meet the Sure Start Unit timescale of final design in December. We have already had initial discussions with the appointed Sure Start Unit architects and will be meeting to agree amended milestones. It is proposed a budget of £350k is set aside for this redevelopment.

7.58 Feasibility studies were undertaken at Nightingale Primary School as a satellite. The early feasibility was high at £350k and would be unlikely to be meet value for money criteria, however it is proposed that enabling works are undertaken to provide a small satellite at a cost of £50k.

7.6 South Network. Feasibility studies were undertaken on 4 schools sites: Earlsmead (for which we have ring-fenced funding); Welbourne Primary School; Seven Sisters Primary School; South Haringay Infants School. In addition to these sites we already have an existing Sure Start Programme site (Downhills) which is suitable for conversion to a Children's Centre.

7.61 Considerable research went into the Bruce Grove ward to find suitable accommodation and a number of feasibility visits to the school were undertaken. It was not possible to identify a site in the area and there are no development opportunities within the school grounds. An allocation of £50k is proposed to enhance existing facilities linked to the nursery and special needs provision. A clear strategy is being developed by the Heads of Pembury and Broadwater Farm centres with the Head of Bruce Grove to ensure that there are children's centre services in place for all children and families in the ward. The Local Planning Groups will ensure the engagement of parents from Bruce Grove in the planning of services and we will be seeking to base some staff & services within the school. In addition to this there

will be close working with Bruce Grove Youth Centre which is located in Bruce Grove ward at the rear of the school and already provides multi-agency services.

7.62 The proposed development at Downhills is based on an existing Sure Start building and team. It is intended to work closely with the school to develop this centre, it will require very little capital, in region of £25-50k. The Centre will provide also extensive outreach to Bruce Grove ward.

7.63 Seven Sisters Primary School has considerable surplus accommodation and the feasibility study indicates a very good value site at £261k with extensive facilities which will refurbish good quality existing accommodation.

7.64 The potential development at Welbourne integrates the nursery provision, after school provision and family services which are already on site. The new Centre will provide more opportunities for children's centre services with multi-purpose and one-to-one rooms. The cost of this centre is £560k.

7.65 Earlsmead already has its ring fenced funding. Feasibility has come out just above the funding available as there are some additional costs to enable the linking of Centre with the nursery provision to enhance the take up of services. The projected costs are £822k (£22k above the budget of £844k as £44k was spent on earlier studies).

7.66 It is proposed in the South the schemes at Earlsmead, Welbourne, Seven Sisters, South Haringay (£551k) and Downhills are taken forward. It is disappointing not to have a children's Centre situated directly in Bruce Grove ward but by establishing 9 centres in the south network, we feel confident that families in this ward will be well provided for. All the centres are in fairly close proximity to each other and will work closely together to provide an extensive service to young children and their families. The proposed 'reach' of each centre varies according to the pattern of how families access services, the details of the outline 'reach' numbers are outlined in Table 6- Annexe One and outlined in the map in Annexe Six . However it is important to note that a wide range of services will be planned by network rather than outreach targets (e.g. family support, health services), reach numbers are merely an indication of the potential number of children and families that may be reached by any one centre.

7.7 Phase II Children's Centre Proposal Summary

7.71The overall capital grant allocation for 2006-2008 is £6,026k which consists of the original funding agreement plus the additional funding gained for Earlsmead Primary School. We are working to ensure that we can meet the Sure Start Unit funding profile which is very tight and aims to ensure that local authorities maximise their spend in 2006-08.

Table 3: Children's Centre Funding – Phase 2			
	2006-7 £000	2007-8 £000	Total £000
Target			
Children's Centres	1,710	3,472	5,182
Earlsmead	844	0	844
Total Target	2,554	3,472	6,026
Spend			
Committed on phase 1 projects	801	0	801
Lubavitch	300	0	300
Earlsmead abortive fees	43	0	43
Earlsmead	327	496	822
Campsbourne	63	387	450
Bounds Green	50	300	350
Nightingale (satellite)		50	50
Seven Sisters	33	228	261
South Haringay	43	508	551
Welbourne	265	295	560
Downhills		50	50
Highgate		50	50
Rokesly (satellite)		50	50
Procurement	180	0	180
Additional Project Management Costs	120	0	120
Extended Schools / Satellites	329	369	698
North, South and West Satellites (non-schools)		116	116
Contingency		573	573
Total Spend	2,554	3,472	6,026

7.72 Revenue Funding

7.73 With regard to revenue funding there are concerns whether there will be sufficient revenue to ensure the sustainability of the centres. A number of strategies have been developed to ensure flexibility in the funding, in particular but having network based services. In line with the approach to integrating services, a number of children's centre services will be planned at network level but delivered through children's centres. The Head of Children's Network will take on the overall responsibility for the delivery of early childhood services and children's centres in their network area. We have recently established new staffing roles and have been able to stream line a number of functions and reduce administration/management costs. For the previous two years, up to £500k has been allocated through service level agreements to the voluntary sector. These grants have been decommissioned and a new commissioning process established to enable greater targeting of resources to meet the children's centre core offer. The budget has allowed for £250k for new agreements with the voluntary/community sector, although it is recognised that some

transition funding may be required where reduced funding jeopardises the future of the group as a whole (central grant has allowed up to £50k funding)

Table 4: Roles and responsibilities at Children Network Level

Network Roles:	Responsibilities:
Head of Children's Network	Ensures development of integrated services 0-19 and that the needs of the most vulnerable children are supported and needs met Overall line management of LA Centres
Children's Centre/Extended Schools Co-ordinator	Works to ensure that services delivered through children's centres meet the core offer and are closely aligned with the development of extended schools services to ensure an integrated service plan
Voluntary Sector & Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £250k has been set aside for grants to voluntary/community sector to support core offer ○ a commissioning process will provide opportunities for the voluntary sector to continue its contribution to supporting families
Family Support Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ works as part of a Network Team of family support to ensure coverage of each network ○ day to day within a designated centre(s) ○ multi-agency integrated working with families – Team around the child, CAF ○ support for individual families ○ developing and supporting groups
Community Development Co-ordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring reach of most vulnerable families ○ Development of parental involvement & volunteering ○ Adult training and employment opportunities ○ Links with community groups ○ Planning/overseeing groups/outreach ○ Organise crèche facilities ○ Programme evaluation
Childminding Co-ordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensures the delivery of high quality childminding services in each network
Information co-ordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensures high quality information available in each children's centre and network ○ marketing of services – in particular childcare
Finance and Administration Team (Central)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ manages and controls all early years revenue budgets including children's centres ○ ensure nursery education funding is available to all parents of 3 & 4 year olds ○ support voluntary sector early years sector ○ supports all centres with financial management, monitoring and business planning ○ support of innovative projects such as NNI (neighbourhood nurseries), 2 year old pilot, flexible nursery education pilot etc

7.74 Each network will plan work with the voluntary and community groups with particular regard to reaching the most vulnerable groups where there are barriers to families in accessing mainstream services e.g. language and cultural barriers, disability etc. Working with Commissioning Manager (title/team) services will be commissioned from the voluntary and community groups in order to support the children's centre core offer.

7.75 A funding profile has been developed to ensure that each centre has a minimum allocation of resources. Key roles are outlined below. The allocation for each centre

also relates to the 'reach' of the centre and level of disadvantage. Model budgets have been developed for all 18 centres and are outlined in Table 7 – Annexe Two. Funding allocated to each centre will be based on 'cash limits' therefore the liability to the authority is limited, it is for each centre to manage their budget appropriately.

Table 5: Developing a funding model of individual children's centres

Children's Centre Roles:	Responsibilities:
Head of Centre Up to £5k funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional input to support strategic management
Qualified Teacher Input Up to 1fte for non-school centres OR Release (up to £8k) to support outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure high quality integrated provision ○ Ensure quality of linked early years settings, particularly voluntary sector ○ Links with childminders and out of school settings ○ Outreach and support for satellites
Information Support Up to £30k per centre to allow opening hours of 8-6pm 48 weeks a year and to provide information to parents/carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Front of house support ○ Information and signposting for parents/carers ○ Information packs and sources updated and available for all staff, satellites and community organisations ○ Registration of families, data collation & monitoring
Parental Support including volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All centres to have input from parents – usually Parents Forum ○ All centres to support volunteer input with clear strategy
Group Work £15k base funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focussed drop-in groups ○ Community groups – families who are not currently accessing services ○ Targeted family support groups
Creches £12k base funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8-10 hours crèches per week per centre
Site Management/cleaning Dependent on site needs - Up to £10k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional hours to support evening and weekend opening ○ Additional cleaning due to extra space useage
Maintenance & other costs On a costed basis – up to £5k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Essential running cost
Childcare Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For new places with 3 year sustainable business plan ○ £342 or £600 per place based on level of disadvantage of area over 3 years

7.76 It is estimated that the minimum funding required to run a centre is £83,000 per annum, however there are a number of centres in Phase I where their running costs are substantively more due to historic factors e.g. number of buildings managed, size of existing building and service programme. Work has begun on developing a uniform funding strategy, it is planned to work towards a unit cost approach by 2010 when we will have universal provision of early childhood services and a Centre in each local community/ward in Haringey. However it should be noted that schools already receive considerable funding to support the delivery of extended services, both within the school budget but also through the Network Learning Communities. Schools should be encouraged to bring together both strands of funding in order to maximise the funding to support services to children and families.

7.77 Until the Comprehensive Spending Review, as with all local authorities, we will not know the revenue funding beyond April 08. We have budgeted as if we only have the current funding for all 18 centres and thus the budget is very limited for each centre but with more funding at network level. The underpinning strategy is that by keeping more funding at Network level we have greater flexibility and options regarding spend. The lack of knowledge of future funding is a risk which all local authorities are currently facing.

7.78 The full revenue budget for 2007-08 has been detailed in Table 8 (Annexe Three) with projections for the following years based on 3% inflation but with childcare place occupancy at 75%. A full allocation of funding has been made for Phase II centres however it is not anticipated that all centres will fully spend their outline allocation in 2007-08. Discussions will take place with each centre when agreement from the Executive and approval for the individual scheme is received. The budget is intended to show that all 18 centres can be maintained within the current funding envelope. Caution has led to us building a budget that can be sustained on current funding levels but allows flexibility should there be any reduction in funding. A central grant has been built into the budget to allow for the transition to the new service level agreements with the voluntary and community groups and, if the funding for 2008 onwards, redundancy payments should we need to reduce staffing levels.

8 Consultation

8.1 Extensive consultation has taken place on all three proposals with parents, governors, school staff, members, voluntary sector, Haringey Teaching and Primary Trust and all partners through the Children's Centre Strategy Group and the Early Childhood Forum.

9 Summary and Conclusions

9.1 The development of children's centres is underpinned by the Childcare Act 2006. A robust strategy has been developed to meet the targets up to March 2008 and we look forward to moving towards universal services for the whole authority. It remains of some concern that the revenue funding post March 2008 but strategies to minimise risk have been developed.

10 Recommendations

10.1 Phase II Children's Centres

10.1 From the initial expressions of interest (24) and early feasibility studies, 8 centres are recommended which will meet our overall target of 18 for March 2008. The proposal will bring the total number of centres to be in place by March 2008 to 4 in the West Network; 5 in the North Network; 9 in the South Network. These centres will enable Haringey to reach the DfES target of 14,759 children (under 5) by 2008. Considerable consultation has taken place at a local level in all proposed areas with the engagement of governing bodies, parents and a wide range of stakeholders.

10.2 Two further wards with higher levels disadvantage will need to be addressed between 2008-2010 - Fortis Green and Crouch End wards. The Alexandra ward will also need addressing in order to reach all under 5's in Haringey. It is anticipated that there will be a Phase III development in order to move to universal provision and fulfil the Government's commitment to a children's centre in every community. However at this stage it is not clear what (if any) additional funding will be available.

10.3 Having undertaken detailed capital feasibility studies, the proposed Centres for Phase II are:

North Children's Network – Bounds Green Children's Centre (based at Bounds Green Primary School)

West Children's Network – Campsbourne Children's Centre (based at Campsbourne Primary School), Highgate Children's Centre (based at Highgate Primary School) together with a main satellite at Rokesly Infants School

South Children's Network – Harringay Children's Centre (based at South Haringey Infant School); Downhills Children's Centre (based at local sure start programme base working in partnership with Downhills Primary School); Seven Sisters Children's Centre (based at Seven Sisters Primary School); Earlsmead Children's Centre (based at Earlsmead Primary School); Welbourne Children's Centre (based at Welbourne Primary School).

11 Comments of Director of Finance

11.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The additional running costs of the 8 Children's Centres are fully funded from core funding, grant and fees in 2007/08. The majority of the costs are on-going and therefore, as there is uncertainty around the levels of grant from 2008/09, there is some risk in approving the recommendations in this report. However, there is flexibility in the cost projections allowing downsizing of the cost base to meet available funding levels in the future. Redundancy costs may be incurred if the reduction is not manageable and these would need to be met by the Children and Young People's Service in this eventuality.

12 Comments of Head of Legal Services

12.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The Childcare Act 2006 introduces a raft of duties with which the Council must comply.

12.2 Those duties range from the general duty to promote the well being of young children to specific duties requiring authorities to secure that early childhood services are provided in an integrated manner calculated to facilitate access to those services and to maximise their benefits. Further, authorities are required to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare (including early years provision) for working parents in their area and parents making the transition to work.

12.3 The proposals set out in this report regarding the Phase 2 Children's Centres will assist the Council in complying with these duties. The Council is allowed to make a charge for early years provision provided that the charge is not made for prescribed provision within the meaning of Section 7 of the 2006 Act, which in general replicates the duty on an Authority to secure sufficient nursery education free of charge.

12.4 The body of the report sets out the areas of provision that come under the category of being free of charge. In coming to a decision regarding the level of fees to be charged for non-prescribed provision, Members should give careful consideration to the matters set out in the report detailing the basis for the recommendations.

13 Equality Implications

- 13.1 Children's centre services are universal but with targeted services for children and families. All services are inclusive and aimed at serving the whole community.

Table 6: Proposed Reach of Phase I and Proposed Phase II Centres

	Total no of <5's	% of SOAs in most 10% deprived
BOUNDS GREEN CC	858	28%
BROADWATER FARM CC	959	100%
CAMPSBOURNE CC	961	13%
DOWNHILLS CC	889	0%
EARLSMEAD CC	441	75%
HARRINGAY CC	1066	14%
HIGHGATE CC		0%
NOEL PARK CC	990	38%
PARK LANE CC	1345	71%
PEMBURY CC	1172	75%
ROWLAND HIL CC	1078	75%
SEVENSISTER CC	970	43%
STONECROFT CC	628	0%
STROUD GREEN CC	870	0%
TRIANGLE PLEVNA CC	1112	33%
WELBORNE CC	767	75%
WOODLANDS PARK CC	994	12%
WOODSIDE CC	1017	14%
Grand Total	16117*	

6 centres	< 899
9 centres	899-1100
3 centres	>1101

* Highgate not included as it is not a 30% disadvantaged area

Table 7: Children's Centre Budget Profile 07-08

ANNEXE TWO

Children's Centre	school based centre	non-school centre	school based centre	non-school centre	school based centre	non-school centre
	CCSA <899*	CCSA<899	CCSA 900-1,100	CCSA 900-1,100	CCSA >1,100	CCSA >1,100
Strategic Management	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Qualified Teacher input	8,000	45,000	8,000	45,000	8,000	45,000
Information & access 8-6pm 48 weeks pa	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	37,500	37,500
Parental Support including volunteers	5,000	5,000	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Group work	15,000	15,000	18,750	18,750	22,500	22,500
Creches	12,000	12,000	15,000	15,000	18,000	18,000
Employment and Training	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Site management and running costs	6,000	10,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	10,000
Maintenance/other costs e.g. lifts	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Childcare subsidy	-		-		-	
DESIGNATED CENTRE FUNDING	83,000	124,000	91,000	132,000	105,250	146,250
Network resources designated to work within a centre(s) but funding held at Network level:						
Family Support Worker	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Community Programme Co-ordination	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000

* CCSA: Children's Centre Service Area