

Graduated Model and the Core Offer

The following services **must** be offered in the **30%** most disadvantaged areas (super output areas):

Early years provision

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

Family support and parental outreach

- Visits to all families in the catchment area within two months of the child's birth (through the Child Health Promotion Programme or agreed local arrangements).
- Information for parents/carers about the range of family support services and activities available in the area.

The following services **must** be offered in the **70%** more advantaged areas offer.

Centres will provide a range of other services to meet local need and parental choice. Priority must be given to identifying and reaching out to disadvantaged or vulnerable families. All children and families who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or who have special needs should have access to the full range of integrated services they need. This will often be on site, but may also include signposting to appropriate or specialist support. In some areas this might require the provision of local outreach services near to small pockets of disadvantaged areas. The intensity of services offered by Children's Centres in the 70% more advantaged areas should vary according to the level of disadvantage in that area. For example, Children's Centres in areas close in terms of deprivation to the 30% most deprived areas would be expected to deliver Children's Centres with a similar, intensive level of services.

Although local authorities will have flexibility in which services they need to provide to meet local need, **all centres will have to provide a minimum range of services including:**

- the offer of appropriate **support and outreach services** to parents/carers and children who have been identified as in need of them

- Support and advice on parenting including support at significant transition points for the family (eg pre-birth, early days, settling into childcare).
- Access to specialist, targeted services for those families who need them, eg support for parents/carers of disabled children.
- Activities which increase parents'/carers' understanding of their child's development.
- Specific strategies and activities which increase the involvement of fathers.

Child and family health services

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

Parental involvement

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

- **information and advice** to parents/carers on a range of subjects including: local childcare, looking after babies and young children and local early years provision (childcare and early learning) education services for three and four year-olds
- **support to childminders** via a coordinated network, but also to other childminders in the area, for example by providing training, loan of toys and equipment and drop-in sessions
- **drop-in sessions** and other activities for children and parents/carers at the centre, including: parent groups, play groups, adult education
- **links to Jobcentre Plus services**, to support and encourage labour market participation, in order to help combat poverty. The nature of these will, however, be negotiated locally in light of circumstances and community requirements

Child and Family Health Services

In all areas parents/carers will have access to antenatal care and support, and on the birth of their child receive home visits from their midwife and health visitor. It is important, therefore, that all centres link with local midwives and health visitors who, depending on local needs, will be based in the centre or operate some sessions from it, and will:

- visit families with new born babies in the area within the first

- Ongoing arrangements in place to ensure parents/carers have a voice, eg parents' forums.

Links with Jobcentre Plus

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

Other services which may be provided

Sure Start Children's Centres may also offer parents/carers help with accessing training, work, advice and information and may well offer a range of other services, although funding for these services may need to be accessed from other sources. Services could include:

- effective links with further and higher education institutions, and local training providers
- training for parents/carers, including English as an Additional Language where relevant, Basic Skills, or parenting classes
- specialist services for disabled children
- benefits advice, including maternity benefits
- childcare and other services for older children, eg siblings of families receiving services
- adult relationship support
- contact centres
- toy libraries
- support for delivery of Bookstart baby bags, toddler bags and 'My Treasure Boxes'

two months of their baby's life with information about services and support

- provide access to the Child Health Promotion Programme
- provide information and guidance on breastfeeding, nutrition, hygiene and safety, thus reducing the number of children aged 0-3 admitted to hospital
- provide antenatal advice and support to all pregnant women and their families in the area
- encourage parents who smoke to attend smoking cessation clinics
- promote opportunities for physical activity from an early age
- identify children with special needs and disabilities and address their needs
- identify particularly disadvantaged families so that the centre can offer appropriate support

It is important that through Children's Trust arrangements local agreement is reached on the provision of health services to meet local needs which avoids duplication of services.

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