

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **21 November 2008**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **East Sussex Children's Centres – A progress report**

Purpose of report: **To provide information on the progress of the Children's Centre Development in East Sussex**

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## Recommendations

The committee is recommended to note the continued progress of the Children's Centre programme including the development of phase 3.

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### 1. Financial Appraisal

Phase	Total No. of projects	No. on school sites	No. on non school sites	Funding allocation
Phase 1	9	4	5	£5,541k
Phase 2	19	10	9	£5,017k
<i>Phase 3(proposed)</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>£2,583k</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	

1.1 The development of Centres in phase 1 & 2 has been achieved within the allocated budget, remaining phase 2 costs representing enhancements to existing Centres. The capital allocation for phase 3 is being considered alongside the capital allocation for the development of Extended School services and to meet deficiencies in Childcare highlighted by the childcare sufficiency assessment. Some developments to existing Centres are also being considered to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our local communities.

1.2 19 of our Children's Centres are on school sites with others either being "stand alone" buildings or partnerships with Health and Voluntary Sector partners.

### 2. Supporting Information

#### Background

2.1 Children's Centres are a key delivery mechanism for improving outcomes for children under the "Every Child Matters - change for children" programme. Centres bring together a range of services for children under 5 and their families including childcare, child and family health, family support and information, advice and guidance. The Children's Centre programme in East Sussex was re-structured in July 2007 into 5 programme areas, co-terminus with the boroughs and districts. Each programme area has an Area Co-ordinator who is responsible for delivering the full "core offer" of services within their area.

#### Phased programme development

2.2 The development of the Children's Centre programme has been phased, prioritising the most disadvantaged areas. In phase 1 East Sussex successfully developed 9 Centres. In phase 2 an additional 19 Centres were planned. 17 of these Centres were completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 with the remaining two due for completion this year. Work is now underway on phase 3, the final phase, which will enable all children in East Sussex to access services through Children's Centres. It is anticipated that the final phase will be complete by March 2010. Based on the number of children currently outside Children's Centre reach areas the DCSF (Department for

Children, Schools and Families) has suggested that East Sussex may need to develop an additional 7 Centres. Feasibility studies are currently underway for the 7 identified areas together with an additional Centre in the Old Town area of Eastbourne.

2.3 The table attached as appendix 1 shows the three phases of development and the number of children in relative deprivation in each Centre reach area. In line with government guidance, revenue funding is allocated using a graduated model with those Children's Centres in the most deprived areas receiving a higher allocation.

### **Service Delivery**

2.4 Children's Centre services are designed to improve outcomes for all children and to narrow the gap between the outcomes for our most disadvantaged children and the rest. The take up of services is monitored to inform programmes about the number of children and parents / carers coming to Children's Centres and the demographic make up of those attending. In June 2008 85% of families in phase 1 reach areas were registered with their local Centre and 41% of families registered in phase 2 reach areas. New registration arrangements are agreed for implementation in January 2009 which should see the percentage of registered families increase significantly.

2.5 Information provided by the monitoring system is used to plan services that meet the needs of our most disadvantaged families. The impact of these services on improving outcomes for children is evaluated both statistically against nationally agreed performance indicators and qualitatively by Centre staff in conjunction with a professional evaluator.

2.6 A recent county wide parental satisfaction survey indicated that 95 % of registered parents included in the sample were happy with services they had received at their local Children's Centre.

### **3 Conclusion and Recommendations**

3.1 The DCSF has recently published plans to legislate to give statutory status to Children's Centres. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to establish Children's Centres as a legally recognised part of the universal infrastructure for Children's Services so that their provision is not seen as the outcome of a time-limited funding regime but becomes a long term statutory commitment.

MATT DUNKLEY  
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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

**Number of children in Children's Centre reach area by relative deprivation and resulting revenue allocation.**

2008 - 2011 data (no of Children)

Programme	Ranking on deprivation indices					Total children 0-5	Revenue allocation 2008/09
	Top 10%	20+30 %	40 +50%	60 + 70%	80% plus		
Bexhill & Rother Programme	94	713	1084	951	375	3217	£581,328
Egerton Park	0	342	243	127	184	896	£166,497
Rural Rother	0	105	232	116	0	453	£88,536
Sidley	94	195	33	0	0	322	£88,601
Pebsham	0	71	174	27	0	272	£56,484
Rye	0	0	117	170	40	327	£48,012
Robertsbridge	0	0	102	143	151	396	£48,800
Battle	0	0	183	368	0	551	£84,398
Hastings & St Leonard's Programme	1465	1594	916	632	138	4745	£1,172,443
Hastings Town	290	287	0	0	0	577	£170,635
Ore Valley	121	381	0	0	0	502	£139,831
Robsack	0	343	91	0	0	434	£108,043
West St Leonard's	0	166	56	166	0	388	£76,451
St Nicholas	443	230	0	0	0	673	£205,905
Silverhill	0	187	222	406	0	815	£146,202
The Bridge	167	0	289	0	0	456	£111,786
Red Lake	105	0	258	0	0	363	£85,318
Hollington	339	0	0	60	138	537	£128,272
Eastbourne Programme	55	2241	1676	313	831	5116	£1,032,743
Shinewater	0	273	216	0	137	626	£123,280
Willingdon Trees	0	355	68	0	69	492	£111,195
West Rise	0	203	117	0	0	320	£756,385
Langney	0	661	460	0	0	1121	£264,294
Devonshire	55	394	383	127	200	1159	£226,857
Hampden Park	0	254	267	0	0	521	£119,339
Old Town	0	101	165	186	425	877	£111,392
Wealden Programme	251	255	700	2415	3135	6756	£810,484
Hailsham	107	213	0	175	0	495	£114,085
Dunbar drive	144	0	0	218	421	783	£103,576
Polegate	0	42	174	540	146	902	£125,842
Crowborough	0	0	125	489	1107	1721	£161,571
Uckfield	0	0	142	467	543	1152	£124,988
Wadhurst	0	0	105	92	362	559	£56,550
Heathfield	0	0	154	434	556	1144	£123,871

Lewes District Programme	0	619	1208	1870	1443	5140	£741,061
Newhaven	0	261	322	145	0	728	£151,063
Peacehaven	0	90	367	362	180	999	£155,332
Lewes	0	135	164	756	0	1055	£167,088
Seaford	0	133	235	272	404	1044	£143,509
Chailey	0	0	0	104	584	688	£52,018
Ringmer	0	0	120	231	275	626	£72,050
				<b>children</b>	<b>24,974</b>		<b>£4,338,058</b>

	Phase 1
	Phase 2
	Phase 3