

Title of Report:

Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-06

Item 15

Report to be considered by: Council

Purpose of Report:

To approve the 2004/06 Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan. This plan sets out the progress made on the targets set out in the Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Plan 2001-04 and sets new targets for 2004/06 based on the funding allocated by the DfES Sure Start Unit.

Recommended Action:

To approve the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-06.

Reason for decision to be taken:

- The DfES requires that the Early Years and Childcare Plan is approved through Local Authority processes.

List of other options considered:

- The priorities, which have been consulted on widely through the Early years and Childcare partnership remain unchanged.

Key background documentation:

- West Berkshire Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Plan 2001-04
- West Berkshire Early Years and Childcare Training programme
- Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Guidance 2004-06

Portfolio Member: Children and Young People

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 The Early Years and Childcare Service is funded through the DfES Sure Start Grant. The grant for 2004/06 is £1,851,551. This will ensure that childcare for (0-14 year olds, 0-16 year olds if the child has special needs for a disability) is developed in areas of identified need; existing childcare remains viable; nursery education grant is provided for all three and four year olds, childcare workers are recruited to staff new provision and training in early years education and childcare is provided for all practitioners. The work of the Early Years and childcare partnership encompasses providers from the private, voluntary and statutory services. It also works closely with other West Berkshire Council Service areas, Newbury College and Jobcentre Plus.
- 1.2 Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-06
The plan reports on the targets set out in the Strategic Plan 2001-04. It details the success of the Partnership during the period of the Strategic Plan. Strategic targets have not only been achieved but exceeded.
- 1.3 The Executive at its meeting on 11th March 2004 recommended to Council the adoption of the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-06.

Appendices

Appendix 15 - West Berkshire Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-06

Implications

Policy:	The Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan contributes to the Government's National Childcare Strategy and links with the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.
Financial:	<i>The Sure Start funding for 2004/06 requires that Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan is approved by Elected Members.</i>
Personnel:	Funding from the Sure Start grant provided the salary for the Childcare Development team and the Early Years Teachers

Consultation Responses

Local Stakeholders:	Consultation with all interested parties involved in early years education and childcare takes place through the Early Years and Childcare partnership members.
Officers Consulted:	Ian Pearson, Head of Education Service Jane Pritchard, Service Development Manager SEN Inclusion Early Years/Childcare
Trade Union:	N/A

