

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM

### CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – **Councillor McCoy**

#### CHILDREN'S CENTRE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

1. Summary

There are 12 Children's Centres in Stockton, which provide geographical coverage of the whole Borough. This report provides an update to Cabinet on the performance of these Children's Centres.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet are requested to note the Report and make comment as appropriate.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decisions

For information only.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

## **AGENDA ITEM**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**16 JANUARY 2014**

## **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

#### **CHILDREN'S CENTRE PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

##### **SUMMARY**

There are 12 Children's Centres in Stockton, which provide geographical coverage of the whole Borough. This report provides an update to Cabinet on the performance of these Children's Centres.

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet are requested to note the Report and make comment as appropriate.

##### **BACKGROUND**

1. Members will be aware that as part of the Early Years EIG review in 2011/12 a decision was made to operate 12 Children's Centres in Stockton, providing geographical cover of the whole Borough. It was also agreed that 8 of these Children's Centres would be commissioned. The Council was to retain operational management responsibility for 4 Children's Centres. Following a procurement exercise which was undertaken in 2012, two organisations, Big Life Families and 4Children, were awarded contracts to run the commissioned Centres. The location of these centres, and the organisation responsible for the running of them, is shown in Table 1. Big Life Families and 4Children took over management of the centres on 1st June 2012 with full delivery of services commencing in September 2012.
2. Appendix 1 (attached) shows the location of the Children's Centres and the areas they serve. These areas are described as 'Reach areas'. A Reach Area is a designated geographical area that can be likened to a school admissions zone. In the same way, the critical information is the number of children 0-5 residing in that area.
3. Children's Centres are described as targeted or non-targeted. This reflects the socio-economic profile of the area they serve. Targeted Children's Centres are those with a high proportion of LSOA's in the bottom 30% nationally. The non-targeted centres may well have pockets of deprivation in the area the Children's Centre serves, and may have some LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally, but generally, they support the more affluent communities (those in the top 70% LSOA's, nationally). In Stockton, there are 8 targeted and 4 non-

targeted Children's Centres and Table 1 also notes which Children's Centres are targeted and which are non-targeted. The funding that the Council made available for the running of Children's Centres varies significantly for targeted and non-targeted centres – with the majority of the resource going to the targeted centres

Table 1

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Organisation responsible for operating the Children's Centre</b>	<b>Targeted/Non-Targeted</b>
High Flyers, Tedder Avenue, Thornaby, TS17 9JP.	Council	Targeted
Sunrise, Yarm Road, Stockton, TS18 3JP.	Council	Targeted
Redhill, Roseworth Road, Roseworth, TS19 9BX	Council	Targeted
Footsteps, Ochil Terrace, Billingham, TS23 2QL	Council	Targeted
Star (with Newtown) Bath Lane, Stockton, TS18 2DS (and Durham Road, Stockton, TS19 0QA)	Big Life Families	Targeted
Frederick Natrass, Darlington Lane, Norton, TS20 1BZ	Big Life Families	Targeted
Riverbank, Gilmour Street, Thornaby, TS17 6PF	4Children	Targeted
New Life, Low Grange Avenue, Billingham, TS23 3EQ	4Children	Targeted
Layfield, Everingham Road, Yarm, TS15 9TF	4Children	Non-targeted
Elm Tree, Elm Tree Avenue, Stockton, TS19 0UW	4Children	Non-targeted
Barley Fields, Lamb Lane, Ingleby Barwick, TS17 0QP	4Children	Non-targeted
Northern Community, Northern parishes	4Children	Non-targeted

## JUDGING THE QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES

### 4 OFSTED Inspections

- 4.1 Children's Centres are judged and graded by Ofsted on their ability to meet the core purpose of a Children's Centre, as described in the Statutory Guidance published in April 2013, which is, 'to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on families in greatest need of support in order to reduce inequalities in: child development and school readiness; parenting aspirations, self-esteem and parenting skills; and child and family health and life chances'. When Ofsted judges the overall effectiveness of a Children's Centre three key judgements are made. These reflect:
- access to services
  - quality and impact of services
  - effectiveness of leadership, governance and management of the centre
- 4.2 Ofsted will conclude an overall judgement on a Children's Centre which will be one of the following: Outstanding (Grade 1), Good (Grade 2), Requires Improvement (Grade 3) or Inadequate (Grade 4). The "Requires Improvement" category was 'Satisfactory in earlier frameworks.
- 4.3 Four Stockton Children's Centres were inspected between October 2010 and April 2012. High Flyers, Star, Sunrise and Redhill centres all achieved a 'good' judgement. In April 2013 the Ofsted framework was revised. Footsteps and Frederick Nattrass Children's Centres were inspected under this revised and more challenging framework. They were judged to be satisfactory. Riverbank, New Life, Elm Tree, Layfield, Barley Fields and Northern Community Children's Centres have not been inspected by Ofsted. This information is included in Table 1 of this report.
- 4.4 In April 2013 Ofsted replaced the framework once more. It was in the 2013 framework that the previous 'satisfactory' judgement was replaced with 'Requires Improvement'. The framework states that Children's Centres will be inspected within five years of opening and then at five-yearly intervals. No Children's Centres in Stockton have been inspected under this framework, although we anticipate that those Centres that have not been inspected to date will be prioritised by Ofsted.

### 5 Local Authority Quality Assurance Processes

- 5.1 The Local Authority is ultimately responsible for all Children's Centres, whether they are commissioned or retained. As such, we have in place robust governance and partnership arrangements so that we are able to monitor the performance of Children's Centres and maximise opportunities to deliver shared strategic objectives that will make a difference to children across the Borough.
- 5.2 A **Children's Centre Strategic Partnership** provides a strategic overview and ensures that collaborative working takes place. The Local Authority Chairs this Group. Members include Health, Job Centre Plus, the Council (Social Care, Education, Performance), Big Life Families and 4Children. Other groups are in place to lead on specific aspects of Children's Centre business and performance. Partner agencies including Health, Midwifery, Social Care and other relevant council departments are represented on the

Groups as appropriate. A diagram showing these arrangements is attached at *Appendix 2*.

5.3 Data is fundamental to Children’s Centres and a key focus for Ofsted Inspections. Table 2 (below) provides information on Children’s Centre registrations, by setting. However, the percentages of children registered need care in their evaluation as inspectors will also take into account the following:

- The increase in registrations over time
- The percentage of vulnerable children registered, which is of significant importance
- Continued engagement of children and families who access services after registration

This detail is included in the data sets which are used at the Annual Conversation and performance monitoring meetings and will influence the concluding judgements made by Officers.

Table 2

<b>Children’s Centre</b>	<b>No. of Children 0-5 in reach area</b>	<b>No. of Children under 5 registered from the reach area</b>	<b>% Children under 5 registered from reach area</b>
<b>Council</b>			
Footsteps	805	738	92%
Redhill	910	803	88%
Sunrise	955	843	88%
High Flyers	1180	978	83%
<b>Big Life</b>			
Star	1035	877	85%
Frederick Natrass	880	693	79%
<b>4Children</b>			
New Life	875	637	73%
Riverbank	870	793	91%
Elm Tree	1140	568	50%
Northern	1455	961	66%
Barley Fields	1660	1089	66%
Layfield	805	500	62%

5.4 A key aspect of the Local Authority performance management process is 'The Annual Conversation' which takes place with each centre. This is the responsibility of the Chief Adviser who, through the Annual Conversations, assesses the quality and impact of services in each Children's Centre. A formal written record is made, an anonymised example of which is attached at Appendix 3. The first annual conversations took place in March 2013. Each Centre was required to complete a self-evaluation form which included relevant data. This process results in judgements and priorities for the Children's Centre to take forward (reference section 6.2 of this report).

6 Summary of performance

6.1 Table 3 (below) shows Ofsted outcomes and judgements from the Annual Conversations which provide the latest summary position. It should be noted that the Annual Conversation Evaluation judgement in this table were based on the previous Ofsted framework.

Name of Centre	Date and Outcome of Ofsted Inspection	Overall Effectiveness Framework to 31/3/13	
		Centre Self-Evaluation	Annual Conversation Evaluation
High Flyers	April 12 – Good (2)	2	2
Sunrise	May 11- Satisfactory (3)	2	2/3
Redhill	Oct 10 - Good (2)	2	2
Footsteps	Nov12 – Satisfactory (3)	3	2/3
Star (with Newtown)	Jan 11 Good (2)	3	3
Frederick Natrass	Jan 13 - Satisfactory (3)	3	3
Riverbank	Not inspected to date	3	3
New Life	Not inspected to	3	3/2

	date		
Layfield	Not inspected to date	3	3
Elm Tree	Not inspected to date	3	3
Barley Fields	Not inspected to date	2	2
Northern Community	N/A	3	3

6.2 The priorities that emerged from the Annual Conversations are included in the development plans for each Children's Centre as these are the actions that we believe will result in improved outcomes and performance. For completeness, the priorities that emerged from the 12/13 Annual Conversations are attached at Appendix 4. Progress against these priorities, which are monitored on a quarterly basis at a formal performance meeting, and any associated impact on Ofsted judgements and/or Annual Conversations will be recorded and reported in future reports to Cabinet

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable for this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Not applicable.

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Not applicable

**CORPORATE PARENTING**

**CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**



Not applicable.

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