

## **Early Years & Childcare Chronology – Stockton-on-Tees**

### **1994**

- City Challenge establishes childcare project in partnership with Task Force – responsible for creating new childcare places and training the childcare workforce and located as part of the Council’s Economic Development & Regeneration department.
- City Challenge funds Little Angels Day Nursery on Bath Lane
- City Challenge funds Dial-a-Creche community project – mobile crèche service
- Childcare Forum established.

### **1995**

- Little Angels Day Nursery closes
- Stockton-on-Tees Council establishes Childcare Centre amalgamating Childcare Project and Dial-a-Creche based in Nursery building

### **1996**

- Local Government re-organisation
- Establishment of multi-agency working group developing into Early Years Link Group as part of the Stockton Joint Care Planning structure.
- Writing of the Children’s Services Plan and Section 19 review
- Childcare Centre now well established providing an early years and childcare training programme and on-site crèche facilities.

### **1997**

- Establishment of Early Years Partnership (formerly Childcare Forum)
- Government requirement to have an Early Years Development Plan – focusing on places for 3 & 4 year olds

### **1998**

- Introduction of the National Childcare Strategy
- Development of the Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
- Government requirement for 3-year Early Years Development & Childcare Strategic Plan.

### **2001 to 2004 - National Childcare Strategy**

**Strategic vision - “*Good quality, affordable early years education & childcare for children aged 0 - 14 in every neighbourhood, raising quality through advice, support & training*”**

- Children aged 0 - 14 years, 16 if they are special needs
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships - 150 nationally
- Production of Local Childcare Audit reporting on:
  - local context and trends

- wishes of parents and children
- the local economy
- current levels of provision
- quality and provision of training
- the number of work place care facilities
- 3 year Strategic Early Years Development & Childcare Plan – covering
  - Early Years Education
  - Creating childcare places
  - Sustainability – the business case
  - Childminder Networks
  - Recruitment & retention of the childcare workforce
  - Developing local capacity & infrastructure
  - Working with employers – work life balance
  - Quality assurance
  - Childcare Information Service

### **2006 to date – The introduction of the statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006**

- Section 1 – General duties of local authority in relation to well-being of young children
- Section 2 – Meaning of “early childhood services” for purposes of Section 3.
- Section 3 – Specific duties of local authority in relation to early childhood services
- Section 4 – Duty of local authority and relevant partners to work together
- Section 5 – Power to amend sections 2 and 4 - Arrangements for children's centres
- **Section 6 - Duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents**
- **Section 7 – Duty to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge**
- **Section 8 – Powers of local authority in relation to the provision of childcare**
- **Section 9 – Arrangements between local authority and childcare providers**
- **Section 10 – Charges where local authority provide childcare**
- **Section 11 – Duty to assess childcare provision**
- **Section 12 – Duty to provide information, advice and assistance**
- **Section 13 – Duty to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers**
- Section 14 – Inspection
- Section 17 – Charges for early years provision at maintained school
- Section 18 – Meaning of childcare
- Section 19 – Meaning of “young child”
- Section 20 – Meaning of “early years provision”

