

Nottinghamshire County Council  
Children and Young People's Department  
Learning and Achievement Division

# Early Years and Childcare Services Business Plan 2009-2010

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- Other children’s activities
- Support for childcare costs
- How disabled children are included in childcare.

The FIS is one of the primary services which enables the Authority to meet its duties under the Childcare Act 2006 with regard to:

- The “Childcare Sufficiency Assessment” duty, which has to be completed by March 2008 and thereafter every three years.
- The duty to provide “Information, advice and assistance” to parents and prospective parents, about the provision of childcare and any other services or facilities that may be of benefit to parents of children.

The FIS also provides a recruitment service for staff working in PVI childcare settings and advises potential recruits to childcare work on how to access training courses.

4. The **Play Service** - is responsible for providing, supporting, developing and sustaining a diverse range of quality play opportunities for children and young people aged 5-13.
  - The Play Development Team develops community playschemes and support play resources centres, play forums, a bank of playworkers, grant aid to playschemes as well as direct provision of play days, work with schools and the promotion of environmental play, anti-racist play and play for vulnerable children.
  - The Out of School Co-ordinator Team develops and supports “Out of School” (OoS) clubs in the PVI sectors, develops quality in OoS provision, promotes inclusive play and supports the inclusion of specific children with additional needs.
  - The Playwork Training Team provides qualification training in Playwork, levels 1-3, and also specific training in, for example, therapeutic play, adventurous play, inclusive and anti-racist provision.
  
5. The **Specialist Family Support Service** – previously known as the “Family Centre Service” - focuses on the most vulnerable and needy children in the community and aims to offer family support to promote the upbringing of children by their own families. The locations of some teams are in stand alone buildings but increasingly teams are co-located in or work from Children’s Centres. Much work is undertaken in families’ own homes and there are also three linked Day Carer Schemes (with specialist childminders). Services currently provided include:
  - Co-working initial and core assessment with field social workers and health colleagues.
  - Provision of high quality contact venues for children who can not live at home.
  - Flexible support to foster carers and adopters to increase placement stability and prevent placement breakdown.
  - Delivery of parenting support programmes.
  - Delivery of flexible and emergency support care through specialist childminding service (Day Carer Scheme).

- Provision of flexible and specialist therapeutic support to children with additional and complex needs and their families.
- Supervision and case management of family support staff on behalf of partner agencies/divisions e.g. Neighbourhood Family Support Workers.

## Vision

6. The vision of the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People Plan is simply that:  
*“We will work together to provide integrated services for all children and young people in Nottinghamshire aged 0-19 to improve their life chances and to help them maximise their potential”.*

The work of the Early Years and Childcare Services group is focused on

- Children 0-5 for early years education and for family support through Sure Start provision
- Children 0-8 for more specialist family support
- Children 0-14 for childcare needs and for play – and up to 18 for disabled children
- Children 0-18 for Family Information Services

In all areas of service the group is both committed to and actively engaged with partners to ensure that its services are integrated with other related children’s services.

7. Our contribution to meeting this vision includes:
- Integrating, the provision of childcare, early education and play provided by private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI) settings with that provided by maintained schools and NCC child and family support services.
  - In the case of early years education, funding children’s statutory entitlement to be taken up in both PVI and maintained settings.
  - Integrating services for children under-five and their families through a network of Children’s Centres; in partnership with the Nottinghamshire PCT, North Nottinghamshire College and Family Action, as well with local schools, voluntary and private sector providers, Jobcentre Plus services and other Health Service providers.
  - Family support is a key feature of all Children’s Centres, which can be described as any activity which is intended to support families in meeting all the needs of their children, including practical and emotional support.
  - Ensuring that the universal support provided to all families by Children’s Centres is appropriately integrated with the Specialist Family Support service that is provided to children and families who need more specific and focused services.
  - Ensuring that the specific needs of children with disabilities for education, childcare and advice and support are addressed by our provision and that this is integrated with other social care and health services. Specifically to ensure that the delivery of the “Disabled





<b>NI No.</b>	<b>Indicator definition</b>	<b>EY&amp;CC Service contribution</b>
151	Overall employment rate	Developing, supporting and promoting childcare so that parents can return to or enter work. Facilitating entry into the employment market by supporting volunteers, providing entry level adult education and family learning, supporting qualification training for childcare and playwork FIS to support access to free childcare for parents in training and learning for work on LSC funded courses.
152	Working age people on out of work benefits	
78	Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C GCSEs etc.	By supporting better achievement for children at the end of the Foundation Stage, including “closing the gap” between the median score and the average score of the 20% least achieving pupils.
163	Proportion of population 19-64 (males) and 19-59 (females) qualified to at least Level 2	Through our Training and Development Opportunities programme and our “Graduate Leader” funding we enable childcare staff to develop improved formal qualifications. FIS to support access to free childcare for parents in training and learning for work on LSC funded courses.
4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Each of our Children's Centres has a Local Management Group that includes parent representation and a number are chaired by parents. The aspiration is that 50% of LMG members will eventually be parents.
7	Environment for a thriving third sector	We work closely with a large number of partners from both the voluntary and the private sector. This includes commissioning services and having third sector partners in most aspects of our work.
Local	Domestic Violence	All of our Children's Centres and our Specialist Family Support facilities actively promote support for victims of domestic violence.
123	Stopping smoking	Our Children's Centres are active partners with Health services, particular over stopping smoking during pregnancy.
39	Alcohol related hospital admission rates	Our Children's Centres are active partners with Health services, particular over alcohol use during pregnancy and responsible parenting.
50	Emotional health of children	Our Children's Centres, our Specialist Family Support Services (SFS) and our Play Service are active in promoting and supporting activities that enable children to















## Equality Impact Assessments

### Equality Impact Assessment Screening Document (1)

<b>Department:</b> Children and Young People
<b>Service Area:</b> Early years and Childcare: <b>Play Service</b>
<b>Name and description of policy/ service/ function/ strategy being screened:</b> Play Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Play Development: Community Play Development, Positive Play and Learning</li><li>– Out of School Childcare: Childcare Sufficiency, Childcare Sustainability</li><li>– Play Training: Qualification Courses, Workforce Development</li><li>– Play for Disabled Children: Saturday clubs, Holiday Play, Breaks in Partnership</li></ul>
<b>Manager Responsible for Area:</b> Neil McCarthy, Principal Play Officer
<b>Date screening completed:</b> 26.1.09
<b>Is completing this EIA a corporate priority?</b> Play development is included in the CYP Plan Priority “To increase children and young people’s participation in positive activities”

#### Key screening questions:

Could this policy or service and the way we deliver it affect some groups in society differently (negative impact)? Can this policy or service and the way we deliver it promote equal opportunities (positive impact)?







































## Internal and external review

25. The review of the Early Years and Childcare Services Business Plan for 2008/09, carried out in September 2008 indicated that all improvement priorities for that year were on target to be achieved with exception of:
  - Priority 12 - “Increased take up of childcare element of Tax Credits in County”. This is because the data provided by HMRC is always more than a whole year late. However subsequent mid year performance data supplied by the DCSF from HMRC indicates that Nottinghamshire has achieved a take up rate of 21% by December 2008 against a target of 20% by March 2009.
26. No specific weaknesses in performance have been identified for the service from the JAR.
27. Recent increases in demand for Child Protection services, due in part from national publicity arising from the “Baby P” case in London, have put pressure on the Specialist Family Support Service and the Children's Centres Service. This is particularly acute in the Mansfield and Ashfield districts. This will require careful monitoring and potentially service adjustments.
28. Because many areas of the EY&CC Service are developing and frequently are allocated new government money under “pilot” and “pathfinder” initiatives there is often a need to develop new service proposals and recruit new staff in new types of jobs. The speed with which we can respond to Government timescales and the need to commission services from partners are limited by NCC processes. This is a priority for resolution in the forthcoming year.

## Statement of Need for the Service

29. The majority of Early Years and Childcare Services are funded from the Government's “Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant”. Guidelines for the use of the grant are followed, which include reference to the need to consider how services may be commissioned from partners rather than directly provided by the LA. Thus commissioning services rather than direct provision is a key aspect of our work. In particular:
  - The delivery of early years education is through a partnership with both maintained schools and non-maintained providers from the private, voluntary and independent (PVI sectors).
  - Play services are delivered in close partnership with members of the PVI District “Play Forums”.
  - The delivery of training includes courses run by independent training agencies and consultants.

- Children’s Centres are managed by Commissioned Accountable Bodies working through Service Level Agreements with:
  - North Nottinghamshire College (Bassetlaw)
  - Nottinghamshire PCT (Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling)
  - Family Action (part of Mansfield)































































































