

meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 28 July 2010

agenda item number **5(b)**

Children's Centres Celebration Civic Event

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a civic reception for approximately 150 people including children centre staff, parents, representatives of partner organisations such as the NHS and the local authority to be held on 4 November 2010 at County Hall.

Information and advice

Background

2. Children's Centres have developed from Sure Start Local Programmes, the first of which was initiated twelve years ago. There is now countrywide coverage and across Nottinghamshire there are 58 centres, one of the largest local authority programmes in the country. The majority of these centres have been developed in three "rounds" over the past 6 years.
3. The House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Select Committee's examination of Sure Start Children's Centres, whose report was published in March 2010, described the programme as "An entirely new form of public services, and a new way of configuring provision for very young children and their families." This is because the programme brings together all services for young children and their families to work in an integrated way under the local umbrella of a centre.
4. The extent of the integrated working is evidenced by the fact that although the County Council is accountable for the financing of the centres, and has statutory duty to ensure that there is a sufficiency of provision, the centres are managed by a number of partner organisations in addition to those run by the County Council directly:
 - Bassetlaw centres are managed by North Nottinghamshire College;
 - Centres in Ashfield, Broxtowe and Gedling are managed by Nottinghamshire Community Health; and,

- The County Council manages centres in Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe.
5. Children's centres ensure that there is a coordinated delivery of "core" services in each centre area:
- Access to integrated care and education of under fives
 - Family support services
 - Child and family health services
 - Job Centre Plus services

They also ensure that parents are involved in the planning and delivery of services and have representation on each centres "Local Advisory Board".

6. The achievement of this large number of centres by establishing the necessary partnership arrangements to deliver the required integrated services, building the necessary buildings, agreeing a fair and effective financial model to run them and, all the while, engaging parents with the process and the desired outcomes deserves celebration. It is therefore proposed that the County Council hosts a Civic reception for parents, staff and partner organisations to acknowledge the contributions that they have made to this countywide success.
7. The format of the reception would be a welcome by a representative of the County Council, brief speeches by the Chairman of the County Council followed by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services or the Deputy Portfolio Holder with responsibilities for Early Years and Childcare Services. This reception will be held on 4, November 2010 at County Hall.

Statutory and policy implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

Financial implications

9. It is estimated that the cost of this reception, to include hot and cold drinks and a buffet suitable for guests who have travelled a significant distance for the evening, would be approximately £937.50. The costs for this event can be met from the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant, which is managed by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That the County Council hosts a civic reception for Children Centres' staff, parents and partner organisations, on 4 November 2010.

JOHN THORN

Head of Early Years and Childcare Services

Legal Services' comments (LM/22.6.2010)

11. The Administration Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)

12. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

Nil

Electoral division(s) affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C2648