

Appendix A - Essex Children's Centres Further Information

Inspection Arrangements for Essex Children's Centres

- Once a Children's Centre has opened it has two years to achieve Children's Centre Designation. This process is for the Children's Centre to demonstrate it has made significant progress towards developing and implementing services that meet the Children's Centre Core Offer as set out below – see template Appendix 1 for this process
- Within two years of achieving designation a Children's Centre must achieve Full Core Offer status. To do this a Children's Centre must demonstrate they have developed, implemented and embedded services that meet all of the requirements listed below – see template appendix 2 for this process.
- Children's Centres will be subject to Ofsted Inspections from two years after achieving the Children's Centre Full Core Offer status, which will then take place on a three year cycle.
- All Children's Centres in Essex have now achieved designation and the majority of Children's Centres have achieved Full Core Offer status. There are only 16 Phase 3 Children's Centres that still need to undergo the Full Core Offer process. These must have successfully achieved Full Core Offer Status by March 2012.
- To date 10 Children's Centres have undergone an Ofsted Inspection:-
 - 7 of these inspections have achieved a Good outcome with Outstanding elements
 - 2 of these inspections have achieved a Satisfactory outcome with Good elements
 - 1 inspection has received a Satisfactory outcome
- ECC undertakes an Annual Review each year which monitors that the centres are delivering the Full Core Offer effectively – see Annual Review Template

CORE OFFER FOR SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES

Currently Children's Centres are all expected to deliver locally designed and delivered services that meet the universal Core Offer standards set out for Children's Centres. This Core Offer is outlined below:-

Early education Integrated with day-care

- Early education integrated with day care for babies and children until they reach school age.
- Linked day-care suitable for working parents – minimum of 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day.
- Nursery places will be open to all, not just families in the immediate area, to

provide the best educational outcomes for all children (admission and fee policies will be determined locally).

- Support for childminders who may also offer linked care.
- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families.

Family support and parental outreach

- Visits to all children in the catchment area within two months of birth.
- Access to specialist services.
- Parenting support and information as well as specific support for families in need and hard to reach' families.
- Providing information and advice on parenting skills at significant transition points for the family (e.g. pre birth, early days and settling into childcare).
- Increasing parents' understanding of their child's development.
- Increasing the involvement of fathers.

Child and family health services

- Ante-natal advice and support for parents.
- Information and guidance on breastfeeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety.
- Identification, support and care for those suffering from maternal depression.
- Speech and language and other specialist support.
- Smoking cessation interventions.

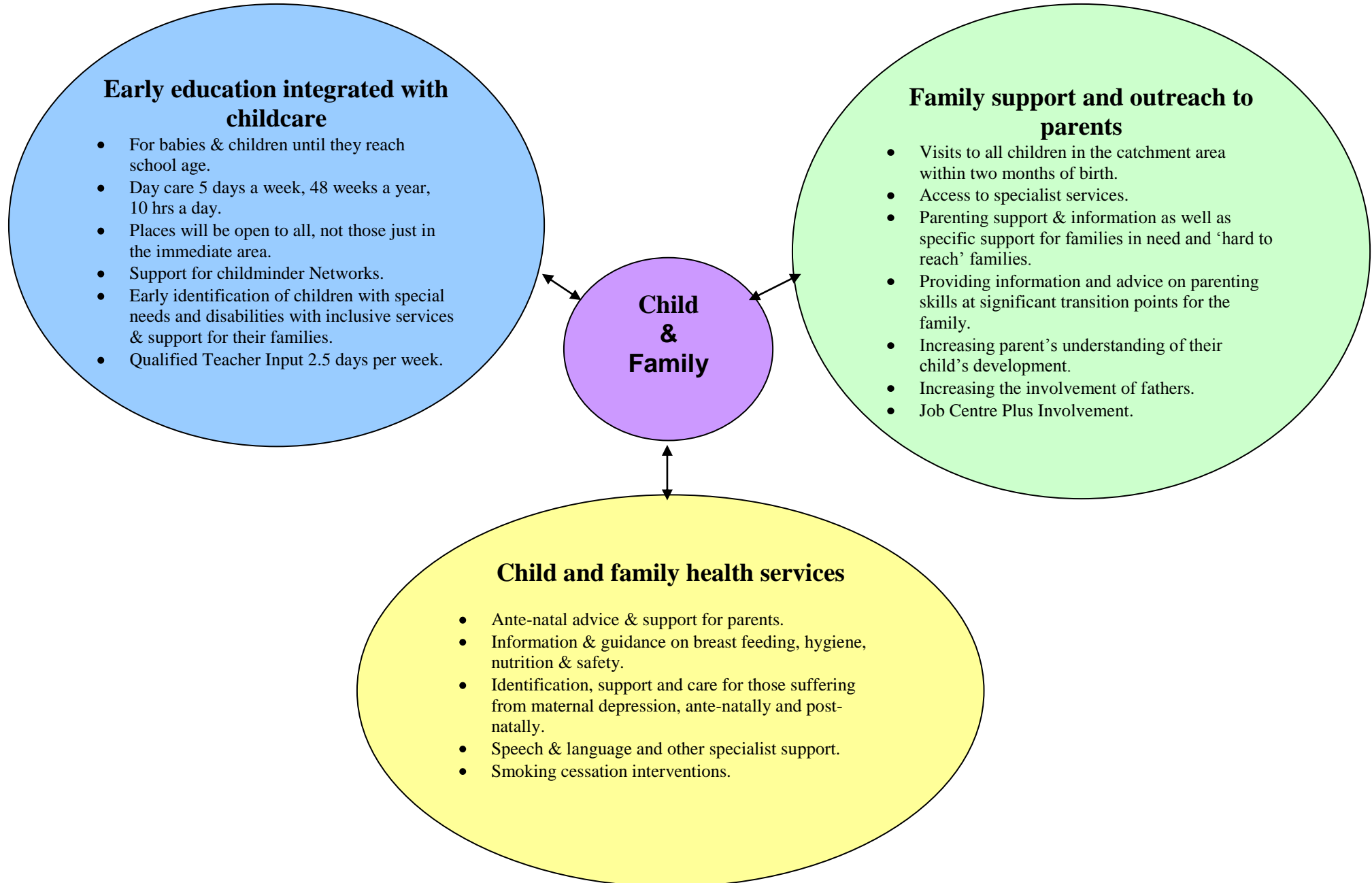
Links with schools and Families Information Services (FIS)

- Links to local schools, extended schools and out of school activities (holiday Play-schemes, before and after school play and learning).
- Information to parents/carers about FIS.

Links with Jobcentre Plus

- Linking in with local arrangements (e.g. via the local authority's service level agreement) for collaboration with Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership Managers.
- Encouragement and support for parents and carers who wish to consider training and employment

The Core Offer - All children's Centres must offer access to the following core services:



SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES FROM APRIL 2012

From April 2012 the new Children's Centre specification requires all Children's Centres to deliver a community resource for prospective parents, children from pre-birth to 5 years and their families with a focus on the specific vulnerable/disadvantaged families in the area to provide:

- universal services, in the form of high quality, accessible information, advice, guidance and signposting to other services
- delivery of evidence-based, effective, targeted services which are tailored to the specific needs of individual children and families
- early intervention services that are focused on antenatal assessments in-line with the Pre-birth - 5 Integrated Care Pathway (See Appendix E)
- services that directly target the most vulnerable families
- a multi-disciplinary team able to respond promptly to the needs of the community
- an effective method of engaging and working with other local, relevant agencies such as housing, Jobcentre Plus, early years, education, community health services and policing within the area to provide appropriate services to support families
- an effective method of families informing and shaping service delivery.

The services provided by this community resource must deliver towards the required outcomes, detailed in this service specification, and embed and embody the principles of early intervention and prevention, based on a partnership, place-based approach. Services must be flexible and responsive to the needs of individual localities and communities, and should be tailored where required. These services should be pro-actively targeted at those most in need of support and ensure wide coverage across the specified area.

The Children's Centres will need to ensure that services delivered will have the flexibility to respond to concerns raised by other partners at key points on the Pre-birth - 5 Integrated Care Pathway and to deliver appropriate interventions in support.

The Children's Centre will be responsible for delivering a community resource for each specified locality within their Quadrant. The level of provision must be aligned to the number of children aged 0-5 years within the localities of each Quadrant and reflect the Local Children's Commissioning and Delivery Board Commissioning Plans.

Services should be developed to be available flexibly at times that most suit the needs of families and partners within the local communities within the quadrant, including both outreach and centre-based services and must be available all year round. Where services are delivered from a community base these should also be available at times defined by the community, and should aim to offer services between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Monday to Friday, with evening and weekend services developed to support working parents/carers. Opportunities for families and children to engage during school holidays and Bank Holidays should also be offered as required. A key responsibility for the Children's Centres will be to take an active role in increasing the community's capacity to deliver appropriate universal services

and the development of effective peer networks that support effective parenting experiences.

The Children's Centres will need to work with other agencies to ensure that specified venues are made best use of to provide services for the whole family, including other wider health and well-being needs.

Outreach services will be delivered to those families identified as being vulnerable through the analysis of demographic and other relevant data and local knowledge. These services will be provided flexibly, at evenings and weekends and as a priority, include work with families in their own home.

The community resource delivered by the Children's Centres must contribute towards the following outcomes, working effectively in partnership with others, including mainstream provision:

- Parents / carers ensure that their children are safe and secure within the home and community.
- Parents / carers and unborn children are supported to access available services that promote a healthy pregnancy.
- Breastfeeding is encouraged and supported, leading to an increase in the number of mothers' breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks and at 6 months.
- Parents / carers develop a bond / attachment with their children from pregnancy onwards.
- Parents act as positive role models, and are able to demonstrate affectionate but authoritative parenting.
- Parents / carers maintain and model healthy lifestyles and are positive role models, as their children grow, including having the knowledge and confidence to ensure that their children eat healthily and are active, leading to a reduction in the prevalence of childhood obesity.
- Parents / carers understand child development and their role as their child's first educator, enabling children to develop optimum speech and communication skills, positive emotional wellbeing, mental health and social resilience and to be ready for school.
- Parents / carers are supported to understand the range, availability and value of both statutory and voluntary services for children and families, and are empowered to make appropriate choices to access services which meet their needs, without creating service dependency.
- Parents / carers and children at risk of poor outcomes, including those with additional needs and/or disabilities are identified early and there is an effective and targeted response to their needs.
- Effective promotion of early intervention and prevention services to families.

The Children's Centres will be responsible for providing:

- priority targeting of the greatest resource to the highest area of need, whilst ensuring appropriate universal provision is accessible
- quick response, flexible and reactive services

- Family Worker capacity, with a range of skills and knowledge to support individual families and groups e.g. coaching skills, early child development and health needs
- outreach (within homes where appropriate) as well as community-based intervention and support
- infant development pre-birth - 5 years advice to underpin all the work
- equality of access and consistency in provision across the area, to include diverse groups within the community, children with SEN and minority ethnic groups
- consistent, accessible and up-to-date information, advice and guidance for parents
- clear referral pathways that are well communicated and understood
- the involvement of children and families in the design and delivery of services
- a workforce and organisation(s) that recognise and execute their safeguarding responsibilities effectively
- a competent multi skilled workforce able to deliver universal and targeted interventions to support family life and/or signpost to appropriate services
- the overcoming of barriers to partnership work, engagement with integrated processes and multi agency working
- joined up work, where appropriate, preventing duplication of effort and resource.