

Action Plan for the development of Childcare Services in Swindon April 08 – March 09

These actions are outcomes of learning from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008 and are in addition to the existing work carried under Swindon Sure Start Partnership's annual business plan.

Recommendation	Priority Areas (Children's Centres)	Reference	Priority Areas (Extended Services)	Reference
Early Education				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with the private and voluntary sector for the development of new pre schools in areas where there is insufficient capacity. 	Ridgeway	3.6.10	n/a	n/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with existing pre schools to extend their services to deliver additional early education places more flexibly. 	Gorse Hill Highworth West Swindon Saplings	3.6.4 3.6.6 3.6.14 3.6.13	n/a	n/a
Information to Parents				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote the Children's Information Function through Children's Centres, childcare providers and Extended Services. 	Drove Robert le Kyng Saltway Saplings	3.6.2 3.6.11 3.6.12 3.6.13	All	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop childcare brokerage services for parents to support them during their child's transition to primary school. 	All	3.6	All	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise the transition of the Children's Information function from the Children's Information Service to Swindon Borough Council's One Stop Shop and Contact Centre. 	All	3.6	All	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver outreach services in children's centres and other parent groups in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas to 	Pinehurst and Penhill	3.6.9 3.6.8	Academy Churchfields	4.9.1 4.9.2

ensure that parents are well informed of childcare services and support available.	Parks and Walcot Robert le Kyng Moredon	3.6.11 3.6.7		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness of available childcare, and support childminders and providers to develop their marketing strategies. 	Abbeymeads Haydon	3.6.1 3.6.5		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve channels of communication with black and minority ethnic groups including asylum seekers to ensure parents are aware of entitlements including early education funding. 	All			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target awareness of the children's information function through outreach and promotion in childcare settings. 	Pinehurst and Penhill Saplings Eldene Highworth	3.6.9 3.6.13 3.6.3 3.6.6		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop parental awareness of the route for complaints about standards of care. 	All		All	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote Care 2 Learn funding through the One Stop Shop and Contact Centre. 	All	2.7.3		2.7.3
Availability				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the development of breakfast and after school provision in schools where demand is identified 	n/a	n/a	All	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support through the extended services agenda, appropriate activities for 11 – 14 year olds in secondary schools before and after the school day 	n/a	n/a	All	4.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a comprehensive review of out of school holiday provision for all children. 	All		All	4.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt where appropriate learning from rural models of childcare delivery in other local authorities 	Highworth Ridgeway	3.6.6 3.6.10	Ridgeway	

Affordability				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote the availability of the childcare element of the working tax credit through Children's Centres, childcare providers and Extended Services. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of employer vouchers with childcare providers to enable parents to use them more easily. 	All	3.6	All	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus outreach work on the take up of tax credits by working parents from black and minority ethnic communities. 	All			
Flexibility				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the flexible offer for childminding, encouraging the availability of childcare at atypical times. 	Drove	3.6.2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage childminders to open 8 – 6 where they do not already do so to support full time work. 	Eldene Moredon Parks and East Walcot	3.6.3 3.6.7 3.6.8		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start to develop comprehensive childminder and group based services to meet the needs of parents wishing to use a combination of services 	Drove Eldene Ridgeway West Swindon	3.6.2 3.6.3 3.6.10 3.6.14	Nova Hreod West Swindon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue the universal childminder start up grant and replace it with a new package of incentives for childminders to meet market needs. 	All	2.5.3	All	
Quality				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the learning from consultation with children is considered by applicants for grant funding for new childcare provision and is shared with existing providers. 	All	2.6	All	2.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a package of training for the out of school workforce in the delivery of outside play. 	n/a	2.6	All	2.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the library service on the 'Book Ahead' Scheme to 	All	2.6	n/a	2.6

support pre schools in accessing books of interest to both boys and girls.				
Inclusion				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the school transport service to consider ways that children with disabilities can travel to childcare settings in the vicinity of their own home. 	n/a	n/a	All	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver outreach services to parents of disabled children to ensure that parents are well informed of childcare services and support available. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build capacity within childcare services staff to meet the needs of children with disabilities by delivering a programme of targeted training to the childcare workforce 	All		All	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce attendance at childcare training to support children with disabilities as a condition of any new grant awarded. 	All		All	
Employment				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve channels of communication with employers to be able to monitor the extent to which childcare is a barrier to enterprise. 	All	2.2	All	2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the memorandum of understanding between Job Centre Plus and Swindon Sure Start Partnership to take account of childcare sufficiency and to reflect the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006. 	All	2.1	All	2.1