WARDS AFFECTED: Radford & Park Leen Valley

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WEST AREA COMMITTEE 15 March 2006

AREA 4 COMMITTEE 23 March 2006

# REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY

# <u>DEVELOPMENT OF SITES FOR 2ND WAVE CHILDREN'S CENTRES FOR NOTTINGHAM RADFORD CHILDREN'S CENTRE</u>

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Government guidance received in July 2005 emphasised further the place of Children's Centres in the delivery of Integrated Children's Services. Government guidance for Children's Centres in wave 2 states that Centres must target communities which fall within the 30% most disadvantaged areas (Super Output Areas) in the country.
- 1.2 This report identifies proposed boundaries and recommended sites for the development of a Children's Centre in Radford. It outlines the process taken at a local level to capture the views of all stakeholders during the consultations carried out during October, November and December 2005.

#### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that West Area Committee and Area 4 Committee notes the report and gives their views on the potential sites for development of the Children's Centre in the Radford area.
- 2.2 There is an opportunity to work in partnership with the proposed Nursery Unit development at Radford Primary School, and full feasibility will be carried out on this proposal.
- 2.3 There is also an opportunity to locate the Children's Centre on Mellers Primary and Nursery School, where a new foundation unit is proposed. Again, full feasibility will be needed on this proposal.
- 2.4 It is further proposed that staff working within the Dunkirk, Lenton and Lenton Abbey Children's Centre Programme area be based within the Radford Children's Centre building, but to deliver within the Dunkirk and Lenton area.

#### 3 BACKGROUND & PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Nine Sure Start Children's Centres are currently being developed within the most deprived areas of the City, as reported to the Executive Board on 22 February 2005: "Children's Centres Capital Development Programme 2004/06". These are due for completion in 2006.
- 3.2 Nottingham has been given a further target by the Government to develop seven new Children's Centres by March 2008. Guidance for Wave 2 schemes specifies that the 30% most deprived wards in the Country should be priority areas for development. The areas identified which took into account the 30% most deprived areas of the Country were:
  - § Sherwood and Edwards Lane
  - S Dunkirk, Lenton and Lenton Abbey
  - § Old Radford
  - S St Ann's
  - § Old Basford
  - S Bestwood and Top Valley
  - § Hyson Green / New Basford (rolled forward from Wave 1)
- 3.3 Early guidance from Government stated that the 'ideal' Children's Centre should be a single building 'located on or close to a primary school site within pram-pushing distance of the community it serves' (DfES/SSU January 2004). In July 2005 the Government issued further guidance for local authorities on the development of Children's Centres. This guidance gives local authorities more flexibility in determining sites for Children's Centres.
- 3.4 Wave One Sure Start Children's Centres will deliver services to 9,056 children under 5 living in the areas of highest deprivation. In Wave 2 the 'reach' target issued by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Sure Start Unit is for a further 5,338 children. This means the City Sure Start Children's Centres must cover an area with a minimum of 14,394 children under 5 years within the period 2006 to 2008.
- 3.5 Consultation took place on the Strategy for Children's Centres between April and July 2005. Seminars and presentations were run with a range of partners, including Health, Social Services, the Voluntary Sector, schools, governors and JobCentre Plus Workers. Over 500 people attended these events and over 2,000 copies of the strategy were distributed. The consultation on the strategy revealed that there were concerns around:
  - S Boundaries and names of the areas;
  - § How the sites for the new Children's Centres would be chosen:
  - § Possible conflicts with school re-organisation protocol.

#### Site Selection Process

3.6 In order to identify sites for Wave 2 Children's Centres, a series of initial consultation exercises were planned across the City and a local event was held in Radford on 18 October.

- 3.7 The event was organised with the full involvement of the appropriate Area Coordinators who identified key stakeholders in the local area to be invited. In addition, invitations went to representatives from Nottingham City PCT, Social Services, local schools, elected Members and relevant City Council Departments.
- 3.8 The aim of the local consultation was to reach consensus and discuss issues around:
  - § The proposed boundary
  - § Name of the programme area
  - S School sites for development
- 3.9 Information was provided on the day around criteria for choosing a site for the Children's Centre, including information on:
  - S Deprivation using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), ie those children under 16 who are living in families that are in receipt of Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance, or families claiming Working Families Tax Credit, where the household income is 60% of the national average £14,000
  - § Location of under 5's in the area
  - S Names and locations of schools in the area
  - S Other relevant provision (day care, GP's, Clinics, Community Centres)
  - § Any relevant local developments, topography, accessibility of sites and bus routes
- 3.10 Information on the role of a Children's Centre, data about local deprivation and a list of possible sites, with some additional information on existing provision on those sites was provided. The group were asked to consider the various sites, using the criteria, and to rank them in order of preference.
- 3.11 It was agreed that further consultation would be held with parents, Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors, health leads, elected Members and those people who were unable to attend on the day. A regular update or bulletin would be prepared to keep everyone updated with developments. A map of the proposed boundary for the Radford Children's Centre is attached at Appendix 1 and feedback notes from the local consultation event are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.12 The following 3 sites were identified as being appropriate for developing a Children's Centre using Children Centre criteria noted in this report:
  - S Radford Primary School
  - § Mellers Primary & Nursery School
  - S Southwold Primary & Nursery School
- 3.13 A preliminary feasibility study has been undertaken, although without clarification of the scope/extent of facility required:-
  - § Radford Primary School
    - S Capacity / NOR statement however account must be taken of the potential impact of future school reorganisation proposals

- S There are proposals to build a new nursery school with training and research facilities on the Radford Primary School site and funding is already identified for that, however these plans are in the very early stages
- There is an option to incorporate a Children's Centre within the new nursery school and training centre development, subject to funding constraints
- S There is no space within the existing school buildings to incorporate a Children's Centre

#### § <u>Mellers Primary and Nursery School</u>

- S Capacity / NOR statement however account must be taken of the potential impact of future school reorganisation proposals.
- S There is no scope within the existing building for re-configuration, the nursery is changing to a foundation unit and School Organisation plans are to re-build a foundation unit attached to the main school building. There may be some scope within this scheme to incorporate a Children's Centre. However, no decision will be made on this until October 2006.
- § There are issues around subsidence on this site

#### § Southwold Primary School and Early Years Centre

- S Capacity of school is 210, with 116 pupils on roll with an additional 47 nursery places filled this may indicate some available space however account must be taken at the potential impact of future school reorganisation proposals. The school will part of the School Organisation Team Wollaton area review due to start in 2007.
- S Limited space available internally for reconfiguration, however some space may be available externally for an extension or small new build subject to funding constraints.

#### 3.14 Next steps:

- S Report to Executive Board in April 2006 outlining the proposals and seeking approval to develop capital schemes to deliver Wave 2 Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2008;
- S Visits to proposed sites identified through the consultation process to look at the feasibility of development on those sites;
- S Local strategy groups will be developed in order to develop the Children's Centres further;
- S Process for the recruitment of Development Managers for the new Wave 2 Children's Centres by April/May 2006.

#### 4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The capital costs to establish 6 of the Wave 2 Children's Centres will be met from the DfES grant of £2,476,120 for 2006-08 (all Wave 2 Children's Centres except Hyson Green/New Basford).
- 4.2 The revenue cost for the Wave 1 & 2 Children's Centres will be met from the DfES grant of £4,527,426 for 2006-08.
- 4.3 If the Wave 2 Children's Centres are not completed by 31 March 2008, it is highly likely that a be penalty will be incurred, although at this stage it is unclear how much this is will be, but will be included in a future report as further information becomes available.
- 4.4 The costs associated with developing a Children's Centre in each of the 3 sites identified above will identified at the feasibility stage, and will be included in a future report.

#### 5 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Services are targeted according to the particular needs within a local community, with the Centre's strategies for working with vulnerable and hard to reach groups focusing on BME communities, as well as on other groups where discriminations of various kinds might impact on children.

#### 6 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct HR implications relating to these proposals, at this stage.

#### 7 SCHOOL ORGANISATION OBSERVATIONS

- 7.1 The proposals for primary and nursery school provision the Lenton, Radford, and Dunkirk and Arboretum areas of the City are being consulted on until 3 February 2006. In these proposals Radford Primary School and Mellers Primary and Nursery School are not being considered to be closed at this time, however, all schools in the review area are vulnerable until the decision making process has been completed by DMT, SMT, Executive Board and SOC by September 2006. If the School's Adjudicator is required to make judgement this will increase the decision making time by approximately another three months. The date for implementation is September 2008.
- 7.2 Part of the Targeted Capital Funding recently secured would be for the new nursery school and training and research centre amounting to approximately £2.2million. The proposal is to build it on the Radford Primary School site. The funding is for a 100 FTE 3-5 year old nursery school that will have its own DfES number, head teacher and governing body. Any adaptations to the original bid will have to be funded from other sources and/or agreed with the DfES, and statutory notices have to be published by May 2006.

7.3 Other options of where to site the school will have to be considered if the Radford Primary School site is not suitable due to planning or Sport England concerns. These could include sites outside the current Children's Centre catchment.

#### 8 ASSET MANAGEMENT OBSERVATIONS

- 8.1 Detailed feasibility of buildings and site along with information about facilities to be provided within the Children's Centres will ultimately determine the viability and affordability of the sites listed in this report.
- 8.2 The consequence of providing new buildings in wave 2 of the Children's Centre programme may place pressure on existing funding allocated.

# 9 <u>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXCEMPT INFORMATION</u>

9.1 Executive Board Report, 22 February 2005: "Children's Centres Capital Development Programme 2004/06".

#### 10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None.

# EDWINA GRANT CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY

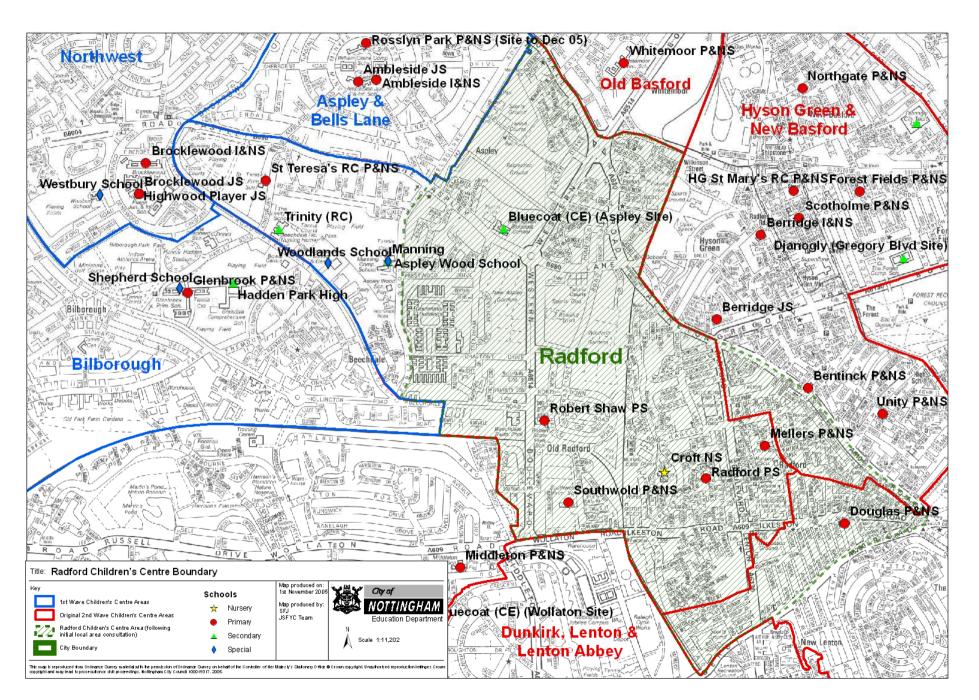
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#### **Contact Officer:**

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Event	Feedback			
Radford Local Consultation Event 18 October 2005	Attendees  Barbara Breakwell - Croft Nursery School F Shafiq - Pakistan Centre Traceylee Rowe - Birkin Patch Improvement Ass N Nazir - ditto Jane Byrne - ditto Nick Pelling - The Vine Community Centre Deborah Wilson - Area Focus, Nottm City Council Tracey Newcomb - Social Services Dept Bethan Gill - Early Years & Childcare Unit Jenny Jackson - Practice Nurse, Catherine Smith - ditto St Luke's Surgery Gunjinder Nagi - Health Advocacy Worker Philip High - Radford Primary School Iffat Iqbal - ditto Cllr M Ibrahim - Area 4 Committee Chair Yasmin Kayani - Children's Resource Centre Di King - Mellers Primary School  1. Introduction to Children's Centres  Candida Brudenell, Service Manager, Joint Services for Young Children gave a brief over-view of what the event today will aim to achieve, and explained what would be happening during the day: information shared around geographical patch/boundary proposed for this Children's Centre area, maps showing levels of deprivation and density of children under 5, existing service provision and development plans in the area.			
	around geographical patch/boundary proposed for this Children's Centre area, maps showing levels of deprivation and density of children under 5, existing service provision and development plans in the area.			
	The group were shown a DVD film about Children's Centres in the Blackburn and Darwin area. This looked at what a Children's Centre actually is and what services will be delivered from the Centre.			
	The main group were then split into three smaller groups to look at:			
	a) the boundaries of the area in more detail to see if they were logical and get some input at a local level on the movement of families within the area and where they actually accessed services from;			
	b) possible sites within the boundary area on which the Children's Centre for Radford could be developed, bearing in mind site suitability and accessibility.			

### 2. Group Work

Group 1:

Wendy facilitating

Pip High - Head Teacher, Radford Primary School

Nick Pelling - The Vine Community Centre Bethan Gill - Early Years & Childcare Unit

Iffat Iqbal - Health Advocacy Worker, Indian Community Centre

## Work on boundary:

It was felt that the railway line cut the area in half, making the area around Southwold School quite cut-off and isolated, with no other service provision around it

- Would like to extend the boundary at the bottom end of the area, to incorporate the 'Lenton Triangle' from Faraday Road up Derby Road to Canning Circus this would take in Sandfield Day Nursery
- In the future, look at the possibility of taking the boundary to include Alfreton Road, which is currently part of the New Basford/Hyson Green Sure Start it was felt that Alfreton Road was a natural community boundary
- Wanted to lose the 'spur' to the west of the area, as it was felt that the families in that area would access services delivered out of Bilborough and Aspley and would not access services from Radford
- S The top portion of the area should be put into the Old Basford area for the Wave 2 children's centre there it was felt that Aspley Lane was a natural boundary and that families to the north of that road would not access services delivered from Radford
- § Bus routes around the area were discussed Ilkeston Road, Derby Road and Alfreton Road were well served and access would be easy along those routes.
- § The name should be: Radford Children's Centre

#### Work on site:

Site	Issues
Radford School	
	§ At present space would be a problem
	S Once school becomes early years centre, space would be available to be used
	as a Children's Centre
	S Satellite services would need to be delivered out of Southwold School
Southwold School	
	S Space at the school may be a problem
	S Satellite services would need to be delivered out of either Radford School or
	Mellers School
Sandfield Day Nursery	
	S Nursery is at present below capacity, therefore space would be available
Mellers School	
	S Once school re-org has taken place, school may be full to capacity and space
	would be a problem
	S Satellite services would need to be delivered out of Southwold School
	S Not in area of highest deprivation
Douglas School	§ Possibly earmarked for closure

# Group 2:

Gary facilitating

Jane Byrne - TARDIS, Birkin Patch Improvement Assoc

Traceylee Rowe - ditto

Catherine Smith - Early Years & Childcare Unit

Jenny Jackson - Practice Nurse, St Luke's Surgery

Di King - Mellers Primary School
Cllr M Ibrahim - Chair, Area 4 Committee

# Work on boundary:

- § Extend boundaries to include Lenton Triangle
- § Decrease North West area
- § Name: Radford it was felt that this is more inclusive

#### Work on site:

Site	Issues
	§ Accessibility issues
The Croft Nursery	
Mellers School	
	§ Meets criteria – considered suitable
	Newer building
Radford School	S Population more likely to access this site over Mellers
	S Central / PCT client will use more
	S Concerns re existing childcare provision (NNI)
	§ Meets criteria – considered suitable
	S Accessibility – main road is a problem, also bus routes
Robert Shaw School	Not in highest density of children
Southwold School	S Accessible, but not as easily accessible as Radford or Mellers
	More important to deliver outreach from this area or school

# Group 3:

Trudy facilitating		
Barbara Breakwell	-	The Croft Day Nursery
Deborah Wilson	-	Area Focus
Phyllis Brackenbury	-	Programme Manager, New Basford/Hyson Green
Sure Start		
Yasmin Kayani	-	Children's Resource Centre
Gunjindar Nagi	-	Health Advocacy Worker

# Work on boundary:

- § Take out Aspley / Bilborough area
- § Aspley Lane forms a natural road separation
- § Include Garden Street Children's Resource Centre lots of children unable to access other services
- § Include Lenton Triangle area

#### Work on site:

Site	Issues
Douglas School	Not high numbers of children in this area
Mellers School	<ul> <li>S Close to Garden Street CRC</li> <li>S Meets criteria – considered suitable</li> </ul>
Radford School	<ul> <li>Central location</li> <li>Could complement a Children's Centre as part of proposed new centre being developed, but this could also mean too much on one site</li> <li>Garden Street CRC could be used as a satellite service – very resourceful</li> <li>Meets criteria – considered suitable</li> </ul>
Robert Shaw School	<ul> <li>S Large site</li> <li>S Accessible – within walking distance of families</li> </ul>
Southwold School	<ul> <li>Meets criteria – considered suitable</li> <li>If other site chosen, then would need to consider satellite services to this area (which is high density) – families in this area often miss out on services</li> </ul>

# 3. Feedback To Main Group

The three groups then fed back into the main group:

S Consensus was reached on:

Working Title: Radford Children's Centre

#### **Boundaries:**

- S Removal of the 'spur' area to the north west of the area. This area would be divided between North West Sure Start, Aspley & Bells Lane and Bilborough
- § Add in Lenton Triangle (along Faraday Road Derby Road to Canning Circus)
- § Possibly remove northern area (Aspley Lane / Bobbersmill)
- § Add in Alfreton Road Canning Circus (from SS Hyson Green & New Basford)

Sites: 1st - Radford Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> - Mellers Primary & Nursery School 3<sup>rd</sup> - Southwold Primary & Nursery School

### 4. Traffic Lights Exercise

We then carried out an exercise which involved each person within the group putting a TICK next to the name of the site which had been identified to show how they felt about it being used for the development of the Children's Centre for Radford. Each person could use one TICK in each colour. The results were:

Site	Status			
	Red	Amber	Green	
Radford School	0	2	10	
Mellers School	0	8	4	
Southwold School	3	1	0	
Sandfield Day Nursery	8	0	0	

RED - Absolutely not
AMBER - Could live with it
GREEN - Yes - go for it!

#### 5. Next steps

- Consultation events for parents and childminders to be held during November
- Briefing meetings with Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors to be held during November/December
- Briefing meeting with Elected Members to be held in December
- Visits to sites put forward to look at feasibility of development on those sites

- Strategy Group to be pulled together in order to develop Children's Centre further
- Reports identifying boundaries and sites will be sent to committees as follows:

West Area Committee - 11 January 2006

Area 4 Committee - 19 January 2006 Executive Board - 21 March 2006

 Will be looking to recruit Development Managers for the new Wave 2 Children's Centres by April/May 2006

#### 6. Opportunities

During the day group members were encouraged to note down onto post-its any ideas they had for positive working opportunities which would come out of the development of a Children's Centre in the Radford area. The notes included:

- § Get local children involved in deciding a name for the children's centre
- S Use of existing networks for consultation
- § Home zone around Robert Shaw School 'Safe Walking Routes'
- S Children's Centre Forum consultation
- S Work with Area 4 Youth Engagement and Play Workers to determine aim
- S Work with Amber workers and existing outreach workers to help with consultation process

### 7. Concerns / Issues Raised

As well as noting down any opportunities, people were also asked to note down onto post-its any concerns or issues they thought of as the day progressed, and then stick the notes onto headed flip-charts around the room. The notes included:

§ Garden Street Resource Centre as a satellite

	<ul> <li>Radford money – can we consolidate resources or not?</li> <li>Impact of Children's Centres on play services &amp; value of play. Parent lead service (for parents) – needs of children (play) to be taken into consideration</li> <li>Emphasis seems to be childcare &amp; education, where is child centred play?</li> <li>Play centres were not included on the maps</li> <li>How much dialogue is there taking place with School Organisation?</li> <li>Any parent event that is held would be useful on a weekday rather than Saturday</li> <li>Evaluation</li> </ul>		
	At the end of the event, we carried out an evaluation of the day. The results showed:		
	§ Liked: Maps 33% Presentation 38.9% Chance to have my say 44.4% Process used 38.9%		
	<ul> <li>S Would have welcomed:</li> <li>Maps with clearer road names</li> <li>Bus routes and school info map on acetate to be able to over-lay</li> </ul>		
	S Venue not really suitable as not in the area we are covering		
De dfand Oak a de'	<u>Attendees</u>		
Radford Schools' Head Teachers &	Southwold Primary School: Kay Price		
Chairs of Governors Briefing Event	Croft Nursery: Barbara Breakwell & Steve Schofield		
23 November 2005  Mellers Primary & Nursery School: David Mellen			
	Robert Shaw Primary School: Phil Larkin & Vanessa Boyko		

Radford Primary School: Philip High

Middleton Primary & Nursery School: Roz Taylor

Nottm LEA: Candida Brudenell, Caroline Field, Deborah Wilson

## **1.** Aim of the briefing:

The meeting was to keep Head Teachers and their Chairs of Governors updated on the consultations being held to look at workable boundaries and proposed sites for the development of Wave 2 Children's Centres.

Liz Lowe gave an introduction and a short presentation on the criteria used when looking at possible sites and a brief outline of what Children's Centres will deliver.

#### 2. Boundaries and proposed sites for the Radford area Children's Centre:

A copy of the feed-back notes from the local consultation event held on 18 October was circulated. The proposals which came out of the local event were summarised as:

Working Title: Radford Children's Centre

**Proposed Boundary:** See map attached

**Proposed sites:** 

1<sup>st</sup> - Radford Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> - Mellers Primary & Nursery School 3<sup>rd</sup> - Southwold Primary & Nursery School

#### **Group discussion**:

Points raised	Response
As far as Robert Shaw is concerned, what will happen if Croft Nursery closes? What nursery provision will there be for Robert Shaw children? There is a need to look at the catchment areas for nurseries.	This comment has been fed back to School Organisation Team.

Southwold School has no available funding and no services for families in the area. The Early Years Centre does deliver child care.	Wollaton will be included in plans beyond 2008. However, agencies should be reconfiguring their services city wide already and not just in existing Sure Start Children's Centre areas.
Once any re-organisation has taken place in the area, there will be very little or no space at all available for the delivery of any satellite services from the schools in Radford.	We recognise that this is a problem. However, we are working closely with School Organisation and Asset Management teams to address this.
Worried about the impact of extra cars coming into the areas surrounding schools – because of the parking issues but mainly because of the safety issues for the children coming and going from school.	This is an issue which will be raised through the planning process when looking at site accessibility.
Suggested putting some services into the Denman Street Central area – possibly using the John Carroll Leisure Centre (where car parking would be ample).	Would not be able to deliver Childcare with Education from a leisure centre site – needs to be on a school site in order to do this.
When will the Wollaton area be getting any Children's Centres services?	Wollaton will be covered as part of Wave 3, and announcements on Wave 3 funding should be made in 2007.
Problems for service delivery around Robert Shaw as they are 'cut off' by the railway line and Western Boulevard.	This issue will be addressed through the delivery plan for service delivery in the area. It is early days yet for this.
Concerns expressed about the school organisation formula for 210 / 420 children in schools.	This comment has been passed to School Organisation Team
Two parallel agendas – Radford Nursery Centre and the Children's Centre. This is causing confusion for both parents and teachers.	We will need to be mindful of this throughout the development of the new Children's Centre

#### 3. Next steps:

- A consultation event for parents will be held on Wednesday 30 November at Playworks on Alfred Street North
   a flyer with information is attached. Heads were asked to encourage their parents to attend this event.
- Visits to be made to sites put forward to look at feasibility of development on those sites
- Strategy Group to be pulled together in order to develop Children's Centre further
- Reports identifying boundaries and sites will be sent to committees as follows:

West Area Committee - 11 January 2006

Area 4 Committee - 19 January 2006 Executive Board - 21 March 2006

• Will be looking to recruit Development Managers for the new Wave 2 Children's Centres by April/May 2006