



Purpose

To involve the local communities in the Children's Centre on behalf of the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership

Aim

To consult with local people including men, women, children, minority groups, young parents and parents to be about the services in their area for children aged 0 to 5 and their families. In particular, to define their key issues, solutions and priorities.

Background

The Children's Centre area is located within the Three Rivers District. The area is defined as a Phase 3 Children's Centre and as such is recognised to be an area of affluence with data showing that attainment under the Every Child Matters Outcomes is good. Children and parents within the area are well served by local faith groups and private providers for children services.

The Children's Centre area includes Chorleywood, Loudwater and a small area of Rickmansworth and Mill End. The area has nine Lower Super Output Areas, LSOA, of which six were ranked within the least 10% in the county. The Children's Centre area has 5,082 domestic residents with a total number young people, 0-18 recorded as 3,171. Figures for children under 5 recorded as 635, 2004 mid way estimate. Birth rate is considered to be relevantly constant and therefore this figure of 635 is used for the Children's Centre purposes in defining reach numbers.

- **Landscape**

The area of Chorleywood has steep inclines and dips on all sides to a central point, The Village. Here the community has access to shops, the station and public services such as Health and Library. Four churches, three schools, an out of schools club and four community halls serve this area. Loudwater is an affluent residential area with one private venue, Loudwater Farm. At Loudwater Farm a day nursery operates alongside facilities of a 'retreat' and conference centre. The Rickmansworth part of the area drops down below the M25 to Rickmansworth station and offers in the main shops, offices and apartment residential accommodation. The Heronsgate part of the Children's Centre area is an affluent

residential area accessed by single track lanes. A small community building with very limited parking and turning space, houses a sessional pre-school. To the south of the M25, a small cluster of roads at Mill End makes up the final part of the Children's Centre area. This areas community building is the Mill End Social Club. The Mill End area would appear to be the most deprived of Children's Centre 3R6. Families from this area are accessing The Rickmansworth Children's Centre, (Phase 2) which is a five minute walk for families.

- **Transport**

The area is served by London Underground and Chiltern Railways. Two bus services run within the area Carousel Number 336 and Z&S International R4. These services link the area to Rickmansworth and Watford.

- **Premises**

The children's centre premises will be based in the Chorleywood Library in Lower Road Chorleywood, the area known as The Village. The Centre will have an office/meeting room. Services for parents/carers and children will be offered in the children's library and at local venues. At present services are being run at Bullsland Hall, Chorleywood and Loudwater Farm, Loudwater and the Library. Geographically this gives a balance of locations across the centres lower super output areas for families to access. With regard to the Mill End part of the centre's area, E01023835 contact is made with families through Rickmansworth Children's Centre and through Chorleywood & Loudwater Children's Centre Assistant support at the Rickmansworth Toy library service held in a community building just on the edge of this lower super output area. Future further access to families within the centres area E01023851 that dips down to Rickmansworth station will be made by working alongside children's services offered in the Rickmansworth Library.

Community Profile

Source reference Community Profile and Needs Analysis - Hertfordshire County Council – Integrated Children's Services: Locality Profiles.

Children's Centre 3R6, Chorleywood, Loudwater & Rickmansworth, is situated within the Three Rivers District which is one of the Counties smallest districts.

- **Child Population**

Reference Office of National Statistics 2004 Mid Year Estimated.

The total number of children 0-5 years within the Children's Centre area was 635 and observably less than the county average. There were 299 females and 336 males within this age group, the smaller number of females matching that observed on a county wide basis.

- **Birth Numbers**

Reference 2002 to 2006 General Practitioners Data from the Office National Statistics

During the year 2002 a total of 143 children had their births registered with a home address within the Children's Centre area whilst in 2006 this had fallen to 120 children or a relative

fall of 16% across the period. However, fluctuation was observed year on year in the number of births with a maximum number of 129. Whilst, therefore, some year on year variation was observed overall the number of births within the Children's Centre area across the period can be considered to be relatively constant.

- **Indicies of Multiple Deprivation 2004 – overall score.**

Children's Centre 3R6 was within the 10% least deprived in the county. Six of the LSOA's in Children's Centre area were ranked within the least 10% in the county and in particular LSOA E01023818 had the 3rd lowest level of deprivation nationally and was the least deprived of all areas in Hertfordshire. Of the remaining three, LSOAE0102813 and EO1023851 were nationally ranked in the 80% - (0% least deprived decile whilst LSOA E01023835 attained a national rank of 21294 placing it within the 60 -70% least deprived in the country and 30 – 40% most deprived in the county.

- **Income deprivation affecting children**
index IDACI 2004.

The average IDACI score across the Children's Centre area was 0.039 indicating that across the area 3.9% of children experienced income deprivation. When compared to the 82 Children Centres in Hertfordshire 3R6 had the second lowest average proportion of children experiencing income deprivation in the county.

Within LSOA E1023835 12.9% of children were experiencing income deprivation which was more than double the Children's Centre average although this was still within the 50% least deprived in the country.

- **Children eligible for free school meals**
(FSM) 2006 By Child Home Postcode.

A total of 30 children were eligible for free school meals, this equates to 2.0% of the school age population. This proportion of children eligible for free school meals is 3.3% smaller than 5.3% of the district as a whole and observable less than the 7.6% calculated for the county.

- **Ethnicity of children aged 0-4**
Reference Office for National Statistics 2001.

Three Rivers District Area Data.

White = 89.3%	Mixed = 4.1%	Asian or Asian Black = 4.9%.
Black or Black British = 1.3%	Chinese = 0.3%	Other = 0.1%

- **Estimated number of workless households:** children dependant on child benefits.
Reference Department of Works and Pensions April 2006

Within 3R6 the child population was 635. However records show 563 children of this age receiving Child Benefit. Indicator to actual number of children. The DWP reported that 92 children were dependant on workless benefits or an equivalent proportion of 14.5%. This was less than both the district 15.4% and the county 16.6%.

Estimated number of people claiming incapacity
Reference Department of Work and Pensions April 2006

Within these Children's Centre area a total of 124 people claimed incapacity benefit although the number with children and by child age group is not more than 90.

- **Youth Offending**

Reference date 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007.

Total number of offenders -15 which is below the 24 average offences per children's centre within Three Rivers area. This was equivalent to 0.4% of the total number of offences within the county and overall this ranked 74 of 82 Children's Centres.

Needs Analysis Overview

Source reference Community Profile and Needs Analysis Hertfordshire County Council – Integrated Children's Services: Locality Profiles.

Every Child Matters Outcomes.

- **Enjoy and Achieve**

Reference date - 2006.

91.8% (101 of 110 children achieved at least 78 points across the Foundation Stage Profile with at least 6 points in PSE and CLL. The area was within the top 1 – 10% band within Hertfordshire and above the district achievement of 80.5%. Within Hertfordshire 77.6% of children achieved across the Foundation Stage Profile and therefore the Children's Centre area performed above the county position by 14.2%.

- **Special Education Needs**

Reference date -June 2006.

The Children's Centre area had 0 children aged less than 5 years with a statement of Special Education Needs whilst the district had 4 children overall.

- **Be Healthy**

Reference Health Survey 2005. Data at District level.

Recorded percentage of children as obese at 8.8%, this figure being less than the County percentage of 9.2%. Percentage of children overweight at 16.1%, this the second largest proportion in the County.

- **Breastfeeding**

Reference data – 2005/06 Primary Care Trust Area

Watford and Three Rivers exceeded the Primary Care Trust target of 68.6%. The percentage of 69.2% stood as the second smallest in County.

Staying Safe.

- **Child Protection Register.**

Reference date 2004

Within 3R6 of the total 635 (2004 Mid-year estimate) children aged less than 5 years 0 (0% of the centre's population) were recorded on the child protection register as at 31st March 2007 with the centre having an overall county rank of 55. The district had 8 children of a 4970 population aged less than 5 years on the child protection register. In equivalent terms 0.16% of the district child population was on the Child Protection Register which is below that observed for the county at 0.25%.

- **Children in Need**

Reference date 2006 to 2007

There were 15 Children in Need referrals during the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007 of which 4 were passed to an intake team, or 26.7% of the total referrals made on behalf of children aged less than 5 within the locality. This was below the 43% of referrals passed to intake within Three Rivers District and, was below that observed county wide at 56.9%.

- **Looked after children.**

Reference date March 2007.

Children's Centre 3R6, 0 children aged less than 5 year. A 0% contribution to the district total number of children looked after of 4.

- **Road accidents.**

Reference date 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2007.

Of the 635 children aged less than 5 years within the Children's Centre area a total of 3 children were involved in an accident during the period. This represented 8.8% of the total number of accidents which is above the 5.4% observed countywide and above the 8% observed in the district.

The number of children involved in road accidents was 0.4% of the child population, this being above 0.29% countywide and above the 0.3% observed within the district.

Consultation

Consultation was carried out from February 2009 to May 2009.

Methods used were:

- Personal contact with parents through arranged visits to local groups in the area.
- Paper questionnaire made available to parents at pre-schools, nurseries, schools and Library.
- Three drop in sessions at Chorleywood library staged at different times of the day. Morning afternoon and evening to ensure access for families within their daily routines.
- Consultation meeting held 1st April 2009, invitees representatives of community involved with families.
- Open access public meetings held at Chorleywood Library.

Minority Group representation

BME Children, travellers, disabled people faith groups had opportunity to respond via the above methods. All groups approached offer inclusive practice.

Children's views were taken in conjunction with parents.

A separate consultation form for name of centre was made available for children.

Use, ownership and sharing of data

The information will be used as a baseline assessment on which future services of the Children's Centre will be based.

Ownership:

- Children's Centre Advisory Board
- Hertfordshire Children's Trust.

Sharing:

- on a need to know basis.

A summary of local response will be published.

- October 2009
- Available to read at Chorleywood Library & Children's Centre Website.

Issues raised

Childcare

- Affordable day care.
- Only 3 childminders on register in area.

Health Service

- Loss of Health Visitors in area.
- No well baby clinic locally.
- Feeling of isolation, who to approach when problems arise.

Support for parents

- Information on services for under 5's.
- Feeling of isolation, who to approach when problems arise. Knowing where to source information.

Information for parents about work

- Distance to local job centre at Watford.
- Adult and community learning, knowing where to source.

Other issues raised

- Story time & rhymes for toddler age group.
- Lack of school holiday activities.
- Affordable childcare.
- Low cost or no cost activities.
- Afternoon activities.
- Outdoor play area.

Centre arrangements for consulting parents and ensuring that their views and needs are taken into account when planning and delivering services

Service What services are happening and are going to be happening?	Provider Who is responsible for the delivery of service?	Rationale Why we are offering this service. What evidence/research is this based on	Outcome What Difference will this service make for children and families?	Output How will we measure this?	Every Child Matters ECM outcome area worked towards
Public consultation February to May 2009 And then annually.	Children's Centre	Consultation & feedback from parents on existing service provision and to help shape service future delivery	Increased confidence of local parents – fathers and mothers To build partnerships with parents Parents better informed about local services available for them and their child	Number of responses.	Positive contribution
Service feedback	Children's Centre	Consultation & feedback from parents on existing service provision and to help shape service future delivery	Increased confidence of local parents – fathers and mothers To build partnerships with parents Parents better informed about local services available for them and their child	Number of responses.	Positive contribution
Family fun days Summer Fun Village day Xmas eve	Whole centre team Parents External agencies	Consultation & feedback from parents on existing service provision and	Increased confidence of local parents – fathers and mothers	Parents accessing fun day	Positive contribution

		to help shape service future delivery	To build partnerships with parents Parents better informed about local services available for them and their child		
Parent Forum	Parents Children's centre	Consultation & feedback from parents on existing service provision and to help shape service future delivery	To build partnerships with parents	Parent Forum in operation	Positive contribution