



Rickmansworth Children's Centre

Charging Policy

Revised April 2011

Aim

Rickmansworth Children's Centre endeavors to ensure that the services provided widens participation amongst the particular groups identified in the past as having been excluded from mainstream services. The Children's Centre will support and encourage so that the children and families of these particular groups benefit from engaging in the Children's Centre Services.

In addition the Children's Centre will endeavour to ensure that all children and their families have access to services regardless of whether their parents'/carers' have the ability to pay. In the case of a family wanting to access services and living out-side of the Children's Centre area, a charge may be incurred to that family. Priority for inclusion will be given to families living within the Children's Centre designated area.

Background context.

SureStart Children's Centre Practice Guidance ref SSCC-PRACT2006.

Rickmansworth Children's Centre will play a central role in improving outcomes for all young children, and in reducing the inequalities in outcomes between the most disadvantaged children and the rest.

Particular groups that have in the past been excluded from mainstream services.

- Fathers
- Teenage Parents
- Minority Ethnic Families
- Disabled Children
- Disabled Parents
- Partners and families of Prisoners
- Parents with drug or alcohol problems
- Families in temporary accommodation.

SureStart Children's Centre Practice Guidance ref SSCC-PRACT2006.

Local authorities are responsible for Children's Centre funding and they require evidence to make judgments regarding value for money for the services provided by each Children's Centre. In addition local authorities monitor Children's Centre outcomes, using both data from performance indicators and supporting information from the Children's Centre Self Evaluation

SureStart Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and Delivery. Ref: 00665-2007BKT-EN

SureStart Children's Centres may offer a range of other services for parents and their children, based on local demand, but funding for these may come from other sources. Arrangements should be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant and appropriate.

Services delivered solely by the Children's Centre Team

Where services are run by the Children's Centre Team, parents/carers may be requested to make a voluntary donation towards the following:

- Refreshments.
- Consumable materials.
- Hire charge incurred for venue.
- Insurance costs.

Services commissioned by the Children's Centre that are delivered by a private provider.

Charges will be determined by:

- The cost incurred in commissioning the service.
- Children's Centre budget implications
- Value for money relating to the impact on ECM outcomes for children.

Conditions of charging

The Children's Centre undertakes to:

- Offer subsidised places – families can make an application to Children's Centre staff for a subsidised or free place for paid for services.
- Offer a quality service
- Commission services from reputable private providers
- Ensure that safeguarding procedures are in place
- Ensure that public liability insurance is in place
- Provide a receipt to all families participating in paid for services.

Parents/carers undertake to

- Pay the requested amount.
- Make a commitment to attending with their child/ren where payment has been made.
- Supply feedback on the service in relation to quality and the learning outcomes for themselves and their child/ren.