

**(Draft) Strategy for Early Years and Childcare (0-5 years)****ACTION PLAN**

N.B. All action identified falls within existing budgets and staffing allocations, and assumes the current level of funding is continuing.

**Chapter 2: Support for young children including those most in need**

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Who is leading</b>	<b>What is the timescale</b>	<b>Is this part of an existing action plan (which one)?</b>	<b>Resources</b>
2.1	Evaluate and review the Leuven Project with a view for wider implementation across early education settings.	Jennie Landsberg	September 08 onwards	S &A Business Plan 08/09	As identified in business plan - CSSG
2.2 (i)	Co-ordinated and consistent training across all early years provision differentiated to reflect a range of skill and understanding.	Barbara Hallam & Jennie Landsberg	Ongoing	STS & ASK Business Plans	CSSG
2.2 (ii)	Co-ordinated working between all early years providers and public and voluntary agencies involved in caring for vulnerable children. This may involve the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).	Barbara Hallam & Jennie Landsberg	Ongoing	STS & ASK Business Plans	Existing staffing budget
2.2 (iii)	Consistent and accountable quality assurance across provision.	Barbara Hallam & Jennie Landsberg	Ongoing	STS & ASK Business Plans	Existing staffing budget & CSSG
2.3 (i)	Alert early education and childcare providers and their staff to the issues of child protection and provide training and advice.	Kel Arthur	Ongoing	Retained function as identified in CSU Business Plan	Part of 2 x Area Children's Officer Posts funded by EY grant via ASK

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2.3 (ii)	Support early education and childcare providers and staff to make referrals and to contribute to the individual care plans of children identified as being at risk of abuse (the latter may involve the use of tools such as the CAF).	Kel Arthur	Ongoing	As 2.3 (i)	As 2.3 (i)
2.3 (iii)	Support and advise early education and childcare providers where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.	Kel Arthur	Ongoing	As 2.3 (i)	As 2.3 (i)
2.4 (i)	Work with early education and early years childcare providers to raise awareness of particular issues, such as the effect of early trauma and encourage them to use early years personal education plans.	Liz Totman but will move to the responsibility of LCSPs	Ongoing	As part of ILSS service specification	As part of the work of the ILSS.
2.4 (ii)	Work with foster carers who care for children in the care of KCC to raise awareness of the importance of early education and play as a secure foundation for more formal learning.	Liz Totman but will move to the responsibility of LCSPs	Ongoing	As part of ILSS service specification	As part of the work of the ILSS.
2.4 (iii)	Identify, collect and share data for all looked after 3-5 year olds in the care of KCC as appropriate to improve access and take-up of pre-school education.	Donna Shkalla/Liz Totman. LCSP may be involved in sharing data	Ongoing	MIU Business Plan	MU Budget
2.4 (iv)	Track and monitor attainment and achievement of looked after children in the care of KCC, aged 0-5.	Donna Shkalla	By 2009	MIU Business Plan	MU Budget

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2.5	We will work with agencies and providers to ensure that the parents of young carers have accessible and comprehensive information so that their children are able to take up their early education entitlement and are able to access childcare that meets their needs.	Amanda Hornsby & Marisa White	By 2010	Young Carer's Action Plan	As part of existing staffing budgets
2.6	We will build on this work and extend the services offered so that all young parents can access the Care2Learn scheme.	Ruth Herron	Ongoing	Teenage Pregnancy AP	Parenting Strategy and Teenage Pregnancy Grant
2.7	We will work with schools and early education and childcare providers to facilitate effective transition and, where children have more complex needs we will identify and involve key people to support this.	Jennie Landsberg & Barbara Hallam	Ongoing	STS Business Plan & 2010	Existing staffing budget & CSSG
2.8	We will work with health visitors, midwives, school nursing teams and other health professionals as appropriate so that the most disadvantaged families are able to access appropriate childcare and early education.	Trish Dabrowski & Barbara Hallam	Ongoing	Through the Child Health Commissioning team working with PCT's and the Children Centre agenda  STS Business Plan	Existing staffing budget

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2.9	We will run a pilot Healthy Early Years Programme in the later part of 2008/early part of 2009 (subject to agreement by SMT).	Carol Healy	This activity is subject to agreement by SMT	To be advised	Funding through PCTs and part of the Extended Schools budget.

### Chapter 3: Working with parents and families

Ref.	Commitment	Who is leading	What is the timescale	Is this part of an existing action plan (which one)?	Resources
3 (i)	Involve parents in the planning and review of services (childcare).	Alex Gamby	On-going - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (tri annual). Last one completed March 2008.	Planning & Performance Business Plan	DSG – Children’s Services Grant
3 (ii)	Ensure that our campaign to promote early education and childcare across the county also focuses on disadvantaged families and where there is low take-up, including providing information in community languages and alternative formats (where appropriate).	Alex Gamby & Chris Russ	March 2009	TERP Action Plan (Take up of Early Education Research Project) STS Business Plan	CSSG (Sufficiency and Access)  CSSG (I&E)
3 (iii)	Work to recognise and understand differing needs through outreach work and raise awareness of the free entitlement through this work with disadvantaged groups and those where take-up is low.	Chris Russ	On-going	STS Business Plan (Inclusion & Equalities)	CSSG (I & E Budget)

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3 (iv)	Provide a “brokerage” service for those parents who are finding it difficult to get appropriate provision or finding it hard to access help.	Alex Gamby	Already operating	Operations Business Plan 2008/9	CSSG (Sufficiency and Access)
3 (v)	Raise awareness with early education and childcare providers to help them support the specific needs of disadvantaged groups and hard to reach groups.	Chris Russ	On-going	STS Business (Plan Inclusion and Equalities)	CSSG (I & E Budget)

#### Chapter 4: Quality of provision and supporting the early years workforce

Ref.	Commitment	Who is leading	What is the timescale	Is this part of an existing action plan (which one)?	Resources
4.1 (i)	Monitor provision and children's outcomes throughout the early years, and across settings and school using performance indicators that are capable of measurement and can demonstrate value-added.	Jennie Landsberg	On going	ASK Business Plan	Existing resources in place
4.1 (ii)	Support settings through audit and self-evaluation processes and recognise quality provision through accreditation of a Kent Quality Mark.	Jennie Landsberg	September 2008 onwards	S & A Business Plan	Base funding and CSSG
4.1(iii)	Set up an improvement partner programme and a recovery programme to support those settings that are deemed inadequate.	Jennie Landsberg	Operational from September 2007	S & A Business Plan	Base funding and CSSG
4.1 (iv)	Develop closer link with health and other agencies, and build on localised partnerships to improve delivery of services for settings including supporting joint working between maintained nurseries and the PVI sector.	Trish Dabrowski	Ongoing	Through the Child Health Commissioning team working with PCT's, LCSPs and the Children Centre agenda	Existing staffing budgets

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4.2 (i)	Ensure that training and support offered to settings is inclusive of all children's needs and will support settings in meeting effectively the needs of all and improving the outcomes of children with learning difficulties and disabilities, vulnerable groups and those at risk of underachievement.	Jennie Landsberg & Barbara Hallam	On going	S & A, and STS Business Plans	CSSG, existing staffing budget and Area Based Grant
4.2 (ii)	Develop and implement an overarching workforce development plan that links all forms of professional development with training and covers all aspects of a setting's needs in line with both education and care standards.	Jennie Landsberg	September 2008	S & A Business Plan	CSSG
4.2 (iii)	Develop and implement a leadership strategy.	Jennie Landsberg	Operational from September 2007	S & A Business Plan	Base funding and CSSG
4.2 (iv)	Commission appropriate levels of training by analysing the needs of settings by cluster, allocating resources, both internal and external training against prioritised needs, monitoring delivery of training, evaluating impact and adjusting training in the light of outcomes.	Jennie Landsberg & Barbara Hallam	Ongoing	ASK & STS Business Plans (Kent and National priorities)	Existing staffing budget + CSSG



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4.2 (v)	Maximise the impact of the Government's funding streams to improve qualification levels of those working in early years settings, particularly those serving the most disadvantaged families.	Jennie Landsberg	Ongoing	S & A Business Plan	Base funding & CSSG
4.2 (vi)	Support the retention of the early years workforce through the Early Years Professional Status and improve the skills of the workforce to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.	Jennie Landsberg & Barbara Hallam	Ongoing	S & A & STS Business Plans	Existing staffing budget and CSSG
4.2 (vii)	Work with Higher Education and Further Education colleges to identify training and career development opportunities.	Jennie Landsberg	On going	S & A Business Plan	CSSG

## Chapter 5: Securing sufficient and accessible early education and childcare (0-5 years) in Kent

Ref.	Commitment	Who is leading	What is the timescale	Is this part of an existing action plan (which one)?	Resources
5.1 (i)	Work with providers and potential providers to support capacity building so that gaps in childcare provision are filled, including ensuring that there is sufficient and appropriate provision for disadvantaged groups of children.	Alex Gamby	March 2011	Operations Business Plan 2008/9	CSSG (Sufficiency and Access)
5.1 (ii)	Aim to ensure a mixed economy of private, public, voluntary and independent providers so that there is vibrant provision but where we identify specific gaps in provision e.g. to disabled children we will need to take direct action so that these children are not disadvantaged.	Alex Gamby	Immediate and ongoing	Operations Business Plan 2008/9	CSSG (Sufficiency and Access)
5.1 (iii)	Where appropriate, necessary and possible give priority to using excess space which becomes available in our primary schools due to falling rolls for the provision of early education and childcare facilities alongside other community provision.	Marisa White	From 2006	Primary Strategy AP	As part of existing staffing budgets within Operations and SPP
5.2 (i)	Increase the entitlement of free early education in Kent in April 2010.	Alex Gamby	July 2010	Operations Business Plan 2008/9	DSG
5.2 (ii)	Learn from the best practice models and work with providers to extend the flexibility of free provision that is available.	Alex Gamby	July 2009	No	Part of existing staffing budgets

Ref.	Commitment	Who is leading	What is the timescale	Is this part of an existing action plan (which one)?	Resources
5.2 (iii)	Increase levels of take-up, particularly where there is low take-up by disadvantaged families.	Alex Gamby/Chris Russ	March 2010 (and ongoing)	TERP Action Plan (Take up of Early Education Research Project) STS Business Plan (I&E)	CSSG (Sufficiency and Access)
5.3 (i)	Take account of the views of children and parents/carers as part of planning and evaluating service provision in Children's Centres.	Alex Gamby	Immediate and ongoing	Individual Children's Centre Service Development Plans	CSSG (Children's Centre Revenue)
5.3 (ii)	Develop a robust framework for improved partnering arrangements between KCC, our statutory partners, children's centres, childcare settings and the PVI providers to achieve improved outcomes for children and their families through collaborative multi-agency working.	Alex Duncan	Developed in January 2008		As part of staffing budget in SPP
5.3 (iii)	Work with health professionals and our schools to increase the numbers of families who are from disadvantaged backgrounds accessing the Children's Centres.	Alex Gamby	Immediate and ongoing	Individual Children's Centre Service Development Plans	CSSG (Children's Centre Revenue)