

By: Dr M R Eddy, Chairman of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Mr P Sass, Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

For: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 8 April 2009

Subject: Round Two and Round Three Children's Centres

Classification: Unrestricted.

Background

By 2010 it is anticipated that every community will be able to access children's services through a children's centre. The centres serve children under five years old and their families and offer a wide range of services to cater for the needs of the community including integrated early education and childcare and support for parents ensuring that every child gets the best start in life. Each children's centre location would have either existing accommodation refurbished or new buildings to house the centres.

Children's centres have already opened in a number of locations across Kent. In Round One Kent had a target to develop 20 children's centres to serve families living in areas of Kent that had the greatest need. In Round Two a further 52 centres are being developed and in Round Three there will be 30 more bringing the total to 102. On average, a children's centre will serve a community with about 800 children under five years old.

(a) Round Two Children's Centres

Appendix A contains an explanation for the delays in the Round Two Children's Centres.

(b) Round Three Children's Centres

The report accompanying the Cabinet Member decision to approve the proposed locations for Round Three Children's Centres (Tranche One) and receive information regarding the outstanding proposals (Tranche Two and Three).

Possible Decisions

The Committee may either:

- a) comment to the Chief Executive and the relevant Managing Director
- b) report to the Council
- c) refer any issues arising from its debate for consideration by a Policy Overview Committee or the Cabinet