



February 2012

### **A Sure Start Children's Centre**

Dear Parents

You will be aware that Hampshire County Council, in looking to secure the future for children's centres, has put the management of cluster groups of Children's Centres out to tender. The process for selecting organisations to run these cluster groups is now underway and there has been an excellent response from a range of potential providers, including local and national voluntary organisations and schools. The deadline for tenders has passed and the bids are now being evaluated. Contracts will be awarded in March, with the new providers taking over from the end of April. This will not effect the Nursery as this will continue to be maintained under Hampshire County Council.

The new providers will be expected to continue to deliver services which meet the needs of our local community, particularly our more vulnerable families, and all the staff at The Aviary Children's Centre will continue to do their best to maintain services through the forthcoming transition period. We are currently planning our summer programme and will inform you of the details when this is agreed with the new provider in March. Please check our website for up to date timetables and information.

Although an unsettling time (not least for the staff!), we and the Children's Centres Team of Hampshire County Council are determined to maintain 'service as normal' for all our families. Please let me know if you have any concerns as we approach the announcement of the new providers in March.

Yours sincerely

Susie James  
Children's Centre Leader



**Hampshire**  
County Council