

Sure Start Children's Centres, Extended Schools and Parenting Update

Edition 4 | Summer 2008

Sure Start Children's Centres

1. New structure

Janet Hoff has been appointed as Acting Children's Centre Services (CCS) Manager. Janet will carry out this role three days a week, whilst continuing with aspects of her existing role as Deputy Head of Early Education and Childcare Unit (Vulnerable Children) for the other two days.

There have also been some changes to the structure of the central support team within CCS.

As part of the Children's Services Department's strategy to centralise support services, the Planning and Performance staff within CCS (Project, Planning and Performance Manager and Project Officer – Planning and Performance) have been moved across to the central Performance and Planning team, headed up by Deborah Harkin. This move is to ensure a consistent approach across the Department in delivery against outcomes, contributing to the Local Area Agreement and Children and Young Peoples' Plan for Hampshire.

3. Recruitment

29 new children's centre managers/co-ordinators have joined CCS since March 2008. 5 further appointments have been made with appointees due to start by the end of June 2008. Interviews for the remaining 3 positions will be taking place during June 2008.

Name	Children's centre to serve the wards of:	Location
Dennis Czech	Buckskin; Winklebury; Rooksdown	Chiltern Primary School, Basingstoke
Sandra Pain	Norden; Eastrop; Brookvale and Kings Furlong	Oakridge Hall for All, Basingstoke
Christine Marsh	Brighton Hill South and North; Grove	Manor Field Infant School, Basingstoke
Clare Allen/ Lesley Bird	Alton Eastbrooke; Alton Amery; Alton Ashdell; Alton Wooteys; Alton Westbrooke; Alton Whitedown; Holybourne and Froyle	Bushy Leaze Children's Centre, East Hampshire
Marina Stafford	Headley; Grayshott; Lindford; Bramshott and Liphook	Readon Close site, East Hampshire
Jodie Bond	Horndean Murray; Horndean Catherington and Love; Horndean Downs; Horndean Hazleton and Blendworth; Horndean Kings; Rowlands Castle; Clanfield and Finchdean	Twinned with Links Children's Centre, Havant
Rosemary Chase	The Hangers and Forest; Whitehill Walldown; Liss	Readon Close site, East Hampshire

2. Central staffing

Interviews for two Information Analysts took place on 30 May. Appointments to be confirmed.

In addition, shortlisting has taken place for the following roles:

- ▶ 2 x Quality and Performance Officers
(interview date – 23 June 2008)
- ▶ 1.5 fte x Senior Administrative Assistants
(interview date – 11 June 2008)

An advert was placed for an additional Finance Officer post. Unfortunately, the recruitment process was unsuccessful and the position will be readvertised shortly.

Further updates will be made available as staff are appointed.



Name	Children's centre to serve the wards of	Location
Dawn Bellman	Petersfield Causeway; Petersfield Bell Hill; Petersfield Heath; Petersfield Rother; Petersfield St Mary's; Petersfield St Peter's; Froxfield and Steep; East Meon	Readon Close site, East Hampshire
Derek Ward	Bursledon and Old Netley	Bursledon Infant School, Eastleigh
Julie Stallard	West End South and North	Townhill Farm Community Centre, Eastleigh
Claire Howden/ Bev Wilson	Portchester East and West	Portchester Community Centre, Fareham
Claire Quirke	Titchfield; Titchfield Common; Warsash; Locks Heath	Twinned with Oak Meadow Children's Centre, Fareham
Julie Caldwell	Bridgemary South and North; Peel Common	Haven Children's Centre, Gosport
John Robinson	Leesland; Privett; Alverstoke; Brockhurst	St Vincent's College, Gosport
Penny Bovey	Waterloo	Twinned with Mill Hill Children's Centre, Havant
Mandy Prentice	North Town; Wellington	Belle Vue Infant School, Rushmoor
Elizabeth Morley-Smith	Westheath; Empress	Manor Infant School, Rushmoor
Anna Graham	Wellington; Rowhill	Aldershot Community Centre, Rushmoor
Chris Dixon	North Baddesley; Ampfield and Braishfield; Chilworth, Nursling and Rownham	Twinned with Romsey Primary School, Test Valley
Claire Skerritt	Wickham; Shedfield; Whiteley	Wickham Primary School, Winchester
Lindsay Osman	Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu; Furzedown and Hardley; Hythe West and Langdown; Dibden and Hythe East	Waterside Primary School, New Forest
Tracie Currie	Fawley, Blackfield and Langley	Forest First Children's Centre, New Forest
Chris Towers	Holbury and North Blackfield; Furzedown and Hardley	Cadland Primary School, New Forest
Charlene Kidd	Totton South and Central; Marchwood	Eling Infant School, New Forest
Pam Iles	Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead; Lyndhurst; Brockenhurst and Forest South East; Boldre and Sway; Ashhurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh	Brockenhurst College, New Forest
Sue Sharpe	Totton East, West and North	Calmore Community Centre, New Forest
Tracey Densley	Pennington; Lymington Town; Hordle; Milford; Buckland	Pennington Junior School, New Forest

4. Phase 2 summary

The basic designation process for phase 2 Sure Start Children's Centres in Hampshire was completed by the 31 March 2008.

Under phase 2, Hampshire County Council achieved basic designation of 51 children's centres against the target number of 53. The two remaining children's centres, Forton Children's Centre and Crookhorn Lane Children's Centre,

have been agreed as late designations for June 2008.

Phase 2 children's centres now have two years from the date of basic designation to achieve full offer designation.

There are currently 60 children's centres across Hampshire, including the 7 children's centres designated under phase 1. For a full list please visit:

www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres/hampshire-centres

5. Capital programme

Unfortunately there have been ongoing difficulties and delays arising from the performance of the modular supplier. The main contractor has been working to ensure these are addressed and some good progress has recently been made. However, there are key technical issues outstanding on each site relating to the mechanical and electrical services. A number of the issues are health and safety related, therefore completion cannot be granted until they are resolved. Hampshire County Council and the main contractor are doing everything they can to make sure these problems are corrected.

In the short term, work is focussing on the first two children's centres, Merryfields and Pennington, so an acceptable standard can be achieved as a benchmark for the subsequent centres.

There is potential for these issues to be resolved within the next few weeks. However, in the meantime it is not possible to advise revised completion dates with certainty. Further updates will be provided as completion dates are available.

6. Phase 3 consultation

Consultation is now underway on the development of children's centres under phase 3. A further 23 children's centres will be developed to enable access to high quality services for all children under 5 and their parents. Consultation is central to the development of children's centres in Hampshire; and a range of consultation activities will take place to inform their development.

The strategy for phase 3 will see children's centres formed in the following locations:

Area	Number of phase 3 centres	Total number of centres (phases 1-3)
Basingstoke & Deane	6	11
East Hampshire	1	7
Eastleigh	3	9
Fareham	1	5
Hart	6	6
Rushmoor	1	7
Test Valley	2	6
Winchester	3	7
Gosport*	0	6
Havant*	0	9
New Forest*	0	10

**all under 5s in Gosport and Havant are already served by phase 1 and 2 children's centres.*

In the New Forest, additional coverage will be provided by expansion of an existing phase 2 children's centre.

The consultation will be live from 1 May – 31 July 2008 and a dedicated website has been set up at: www.hants.gov.uk/phase3consultation

Questionnaire are available which seek views and feedback from all stakeholders (e.g. parents/carers, district councils, councillors, early years providers). The questionnaires can be downloaded from the website or completed online.

An 'Understanding the Issues' briefing paper has been produced and this can also be accessed on the consultation website. Please contact CCS if you require these documents in a different format.

Service contracts will be managed through an open tender process, with advertisements for expressions of interest expected to be released in October/November 2008, subject to approval. Tender opportunities will be advertised on Hampshire County Council's Corporate Procurement website (<http://www.hants.gov.uk/procurement/tenders/>), as well as in appropriate trade magazines.

Extended Schools

1. Funding to support Extended Services in and around schools for 2008/09

As reported in the Spring Update, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is providing funding to support extended schools for a further three years. All extended school partnerships have been advised of their 2008/09 allocations. These comprise both co-ordination and capacity building elements and take into account the number of school clusters and special schools, pupil numbers, area deprivation and rurality.

The purpose of the funding is to help partnerships continue the progress they have made in building cross cluster capacity for delivering extended services in and around their schools, and to ensure all schools in Hampshire are providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010.

The co-ordination element is being funded through a new 'sustainability' standards fund. It is aimed at helping schools create and embed the infrastructure necessary to deliver the core offer in a sustainable and strategic way; by co-ordinating services and building effective links with local agencies, businesses and other educational institutions. This will enable partnerships to be able to continue the role of extended service managers/co-ordinators for a further two years. A proportion of this funding will also be used to strengthen parenting support at a cluster level.

As in previous years the funding allocation is tied to a funding agreement and allocations paid to a nominated lead body. The lead body acts as the main point of reference for all communications concerning the project, ensuring funding is used according to locally agreed priorities and expected outcomes are achieved. Each partnership is expected to have a partnership steering group, comprising of representation from both schools and key local partners, to oversee the work of the extended school managers/co-ordinators and monitor action plan progress.

Case study reports from the clusters that received funding during 2006/07 will be available on the County Extended Schools website later this term.

2. Extended Service audit and monitoring

The DCSF have set local authorities targets for the number of schools delivering the full core offer of extended services. In 2007 the target for Hampshire County Council was 30%, which was achieved. The target for 2008 is for 55% of schools to be providing access to the five elements of the core offer by September 2008.

In order to ascertain the extent to which schools are currently achieving this, extended service managers/co-ordinators have been asked to complete an audit questionnaire this term. A similar questionnaire was used in 2007, and enabled the County Council to obtain a snapshot picture of extended provision at that time. The questionnaire has been modified to take into account more recent definitions of the core offer. It will help the County Council identify which vulnerable groups are being provided for, the services being offered and who is engaged.

As part of ongoing support for extended service school managers/co-ordinators, members of the current ESRC (Extended School Remodelling Co-ordinator) team will be undertaking monitoring support visits between May and September to discuss how things are working in each partnership/cluster. They will look at successes and challenges to identify any further support needed to help each area achieve the delivery of the core offer.

3. Parent Support Team

The County Parent Support Team (formerly known as the County Parent Development Team) now sits under Extended Schools and the Parent Support Manager will report to David Wright, Extended Schools Officer. To reflect this change, the quarterly briefing paper will also include a parenting update.

Parenting

1. Team update

The County Parent Support Team (formerly known as the County Parent Development Team) has recently undergone a re-organisation to strengthen parenting support at district and school cluster levels.

Janet Feat retired as County Parent Support Manager in March. Interviews for the vacant post took place in May and we are pleased to announce that Volker Buck, currently the Area Manager for Parentline Plus in Hampshire, has been appointed. Volker will take up his new role, leading the strategic direction of parent support across the County, by September.

District Parent Support Officers will work closely with schools, parent groups, existing parenting services and practitioners to ensure a comprehensive range of parent support services are available to meet needs in each area. Recruitment for additional District Parent Support Officers to cover the New Forest, Test Valley, Fareham and Havant areas is currently underway. Further details will be provided in the next update.

The table below shows the current roles and contact details for the team.

Name	Role	E-mail
Nicky Jones	Acting County Parent Support Manager and District Parent Support Officer – Basingstoke & Deane	nicky.jones@hants.gov.uk
Barbara Cooke	District Parent Support Officer – Gosport	barbara.cooke@hants.gov.uk
Sharon Goodchild	District Parent Support Officer – East Hants, Rushmoor and Hart	sharon.goodchild@hants.gov.uk
Judy Turner	District Parent Support Officer – Winchester	judy.turner@hants.gov.uk
Julie Wells	District Parent Support Officer – Eastleigh	julie.wells@hants.gov.uk
Jo Williamson	Choice Adviser – countywide	jo.williamson@hants.gov.uk
Stephanie King	Parent Support Team Administrator	stephanie.king@hants.gov.uk

2. Parent support web pages

The web pages provide further information about the Parent Support Team, useful links for parents and parenting professionals, information about parenting courses and a course search to find local groups. Parenting facilitators may also obtain further news updates, forms and materials on a password protected intranet. The web pages can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/parentdevelopment

3. Starting School

Last year in Hampshire, 48 schools and over 2,000 parents participated in the Starting School pilot project. The project aimed to provide important information to parents at points of school transition (Year R and Year 6/7). Following positive feedback from participants the project was shown to facilitate the building of positive relationships between schools and parents. This work is now being rolled out to all schools in Hampshire. Further details about the national pilot can be found at:

- ▶ www.dcsf.gov.uk
- ▶ www.teachernet.gov.uk
- ▶ www.governornet.gov.uk
- ▶ www.familyandparenting.org

4. Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinder (PEIP)

The Hampshire PEIP project is now complete and over 120 practitioners from a wide range of agencies have been trained and accredited to deliver parenting support using Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme), the international evidenced-based parenting support programme. To date, Triple P has been delivered to 96 groups reaching over 500 parents across the County. District Parent Support Officers can provide details of trained practitioners in their areas and advise how to access Triple P services locally.

Hampshire County Council has been allocated additional funding to further develop the Triple P programme. Details about training opportunities will be made available in due course. A DVD featuring local parents' experiences of using Triple P is now available. Please contact Stephanie King for further details.

5. Choice Advice

Jo Williamson, Choice Adviser, has been working with various Children's Services Department teams to determine the best way of delivering Choice Advice in Hampshire. Choice Advice is aimed at specific groups of parents and children who may have a particular difficulty in navigating the school admissions system and may require extra support when making a decision about choosing and applying for secondary school. It is a free, independent service which aims to be both impartial and confidential. As well as supporting those experiencing difficulty, it also aims to encourage parents who, for whatever reason, are unable to engage with the secondary transfer process.

Jo is currently working with both primary and secondary schools to promote Choice Advice in Hampshire. This includes providing extra support to families with Year 5 and Year 6 children by helping them make the best choice of secondary school for their child and ensure application forms are completed correctly and returned by the deadline.

The DCSF and Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan have identified the following groups as likely to benefit from Choice Advice:

- ▶ Parents who find it difficult to engage with the school
- ▶ Parents who experience problems with their own reading and writing

- ▶ Parents of children in care
- ▶ Parents who have English as an additional language
- ▶ Parents who are new arrivals to the country
- ▶ Parents who are frequent movers
- ▶ Parents who live in areas of deprivation and self-refer for help
- ▶ Young parents
- ▶ Parents of black and minority ethnic and traveller children
- ▶ Parents of young carers

A short guide has been produced to support these parents and prepare them for the October application deadline for entry to secondary school. The guide will be distributed by primary schools during June. A web page for use by parents and parenting practitioners is available, providing information about the secondary school transition and application process:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/choiceadvice>.

Contact details

Children's Services Department (Southside Offices)
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UG

Children's Centre Services

Tel: 01962 847291
Email: childrenscentres@hants.gov.uk
Web: www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres

Extended Schools

Tel: 01962 845470
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Web: www3.hants.gov.uk/extended-schools

Parent Support Team

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