

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 11/03/03	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership Implementation Plan – 2003-2004	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All Southwark, Southwark Early Years & Childcare Providers in the statutory and non maintained sector.	
From:		Dr Roger Smith, Strategic Director Education & Culture	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To seek Executive Members approval of the Southwark Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership Implementation Plan 2003-2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) issued Guidance for Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships (EYDCPs) in Autumn 2002 setting out the requirements for the EYDCP Implementation Plan 2003-2004.
3. Southwark Childcare First (the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership) is required to produce an Implementation Plan 2003-2004, with three main purposes:
 - to review the progress of the Partnership during the past twelve months in meeting 14 of our 29 targets and objectives for the year;
 - to set out business priorities for the coming year, including details of resources; and
 - to show how progress made and objectives set contribute to the 29 targets in the Partnership's Strategic Plan 2001-2004.
4. The local targets reported on in the Implementation Plan are those set out in the EYDCP's Strategic Plan 2001-4, approved by Education Committee in February 2001. The Strategic Plan (see background papers) set targets for:
 - meeting local shortfalls in childcare terms to cater for the needs of 0-14 years olds; guaranteeing a free part-time early years education place for all four year olds and in Southwark's case a free part-time early years education place for all three year olds;
 - addressing key issues of quality, affordability and accessibility across the range of services;
 - developing and maintaining a Children's Information Service.
5. Southwark Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and Committee must approve the Implementation Plan before full approval is made by the DfES. The Partnership approved the Implementation Plan 2003-4 on 27th January 2003. Owing to the Committee schedule it has been necessary to submit the Plan after the DfES deadline of 1st February 2003, however the DfES will accept Plans up until 1st March 2003.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy implications

6. The Government established Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships in 1999 to provide a forum for planning provision locally and emphasised the need for the local authority to work in genuine partnership with all sectors of providers of early education and childcare.
7. The statutory duties underpinning Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships are contained in sections 117 to 124 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Secretary of State can confer additional functions on the Partnerships through Section 119 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.
8. The current membership and terms of reference were established during 1999 to include childcare and early years providers from all sectors, as well as other key agencies such as Employment Service, Health and employers.

Links to Council Priorities

9. Through the Partnership's targets, the Implementation Plan seeks to tackle poverty by raising achievement of children pre-school and by enabling parents to return to work. By encouraging the development of affordable, accessible childcare the Partnership seeks to enable parents access to employment and training to lift them out of poverty.
10. The Implementation Plan has an emphasis on delivering new childcare and early year's education to children from ethnic minorities families, children whose first language is not English and children from hard to reach communities. In addition the Partnership has a priority to deliver more places for children with special needs, through increased integration and additional resources for new staff to support childcare providers in their integration policies.

Resource implications

11. Funding for the Partnerships activities comes primarily from DfES Childcare Grant. From 2004 funding will be subsumed into the SSA budget.
12. The DfES has allocated £958,092 in 2003/2004 to fund the Early Years Development and Childcare Plan.
13. There are no additional resource implications.

Consultation

14. Consultation on the Implementation Plan has taken place through the Partnership itself and through the Executive Group of the Partnership. Consultation on the three-year Strategic Plan took place during 2001, with parents and providers of childcare and early years services.

Borough Solicitor and Secretary Comments

Implementation Plan 2003-4.

15. This plan is not a matter reserved to the Council Assembly under the Constitution. The main strategic Early Years and Childcare Development Plan is so reserved. The Plan under consideration in this instance is an annual implementation plan required by the Secretary of State under section 120(1)(b) of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998.
16. Members must have regard to the Guidance attached to the Report (section 120(4) SSFA). Both the Guidance and the Education (Nursery Education and Early Years Development Plans)(England) Regulations 1999 (as amended) require the Plan to have been forwarded to the Secretary of State by 1st February 2003.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Childcare First Strategic Plan 2001-2004	Southwark Childcare First John Smith House	Sara Willis 0207 525 5240

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Roger Smith	
Report Author	Sara Willis	
Version	Final Version	
Dated	19 th February 2003	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Early Years, After School & Play Services Manager	Yes	No
Executive Member	Yes	/No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		