

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 20 November 2009	<b>Decision Taker:</b> Executive Member for Childrens Service
<b>Report title:</b>		Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant Programme (SSEYCG)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director 0-5 Services and Community	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Executive Member approve the Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant (SSEYCG) project groups' recommendations to award funding to 2009-10, round 1, stage 2 grant applicants. The recommended allocations and any relevant conditions are outlined in appendix 1.
2. That the Executive Member authorises the project panel to sign off approved allocations to those providers, whose grant allocations are subject to specific conditions, once those conditions have been met (see appendix 1).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. In August 2009 the Executive Member approved the SSEYCG funding programme for 2008-2011. It was stated in that report that Southwark Council was allocated capital funding totaling £5,046,621 (£1,682,207 per year over 3 years), for 2008 - 2011 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), to extend the government programme of providing free early education entitlement to all 3 and 4 year olds.

Approval was also given for the round 1, stage 1, 2009-10 SSEYCG funding allocations to providers recommended by the project groups' assessment panel and for a number of applications to move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage process.

4. A total of 29 projects under £5,000 (stage 1) were approved by the Executive Member in August 2009. The total value of these allocations was £128,563.
5. It was further reported that a stage 2 assessment would take place in October 2009 and a report submitted for approval of the assessment panel's recommendations.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Project Group met during October and November 2009, to consider applications submitted for funding under the stage 2 process. A total of 9 applications were invited to deliver a formal presentation on their proposal.
7. Following their presentation and feasibility assessments, 9 projects are being

recommended for funding as detailed in Appendix 1.

8. The proposed grant set out in this report is recommended in accordance with the Council's agreed grant to voluntary organisations policies and procedures.

### **Policy Implications**

9. There are no new policy implications in this report. The recommendations seek to implement existing council policy in respect of supporting voluntary organisations as partners of the council service delivery. However, in accordance with Part 3D: Matters reserved to individual executive members for decision (Southwark Constitution) only individual executive members can consider decisions on the following.
  - Approving Grants to Voluntary Organisations over £2,500, apart from those under the Community Support Programme.

### **Consultation**

10. Consultation and discussion with the PVI and maintained sector have continued during the programme. All agreed that this funding offered an excellent opportunity for the sector(s) to provide a quality, more inclusive and effective service. In addition, this would also enable the council to fill the gaps between demand and supply as identified in its childcare sufficiency assessment.

### **Project Group**

11. All applications are robustly assessed against their potential to:
  - Support the Council in meeting its childcare sufficiency duty; through ensuring that settings demonstrated their ability to be sustainable, and offer affordable, high quality childcare, that meet the needs of parents.
  - Improve the quality of the learning environment and support the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
  - Ensure all children, including children with disabilities, can access provision.
  - Enable Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers to deliver the extensions to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

Critically, the project group assesses value for money and monitors to ensure the process is fair and transparent. Once an award has been agreed, settings will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with the council to ensure that funds are appropriately used and suitable procurement and best value processes are applied accordingly.

### **Monitoring**

12. All settings supported under the Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant Programme will be required to submit monitoring reports and complete periodic checks. Settings will also be required to provide additional information on e.g. the impact the programme is having on its service, the number of new places created/secured, and what assets have been purchased and works carried out.

Site visits will also be made to ensure that projects remain on schedule.

13. Financial monitoring will ensure that organisations utilise their funding allocation in line with the guidelines and contractual conditions. This process will also ensure that greater accountability and transparency is maintained.

### **Resource implications**

14. The Sure Start Early Years Grant 2008-11 is profiled over a three year period as follows:

2008/9	£1,682,207
2009/10	£1,682,207
2010/11	£1,682,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,046,621</b>

The DCSF have confirmed that capital funding may be carried forward from 2008-09 into 2009-10 and 2010-11. It is important to note that £950,000 (from the 2008-09 allocation) has been earmarked for SureStart Children centres phase 3 programme to ensure the Council meets its obligations in respect of the creation of 21 Children's Centres

### **Community Impact Statement**

15. The grant requirements also state that local authorities should invest to provide key facilities wherever they are required and work with as many PVI settings as possible to ensure that their environment and facilities are welcoming and inclusive.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

#### **Strategic Director for Communities, Law & Governance**

16. The Strategic Director for Communities Law & Governance (acting through the Contracts Section) notes the content of this report and, in particular the recommendations contained within paragraphs 1 to 3. Paragraph 10 confirms the Constitutional power reserved to the Executive Member. The report confirms the extent and sources of the grant funding and the providers that will benefit from grant allocation during the current financial year. The distribution of this funding is consistent with both national and corporate policy and objectives.

#### **Finance Director**

17. As set out above the proposed allocations detailed in the Appendix to this report will be funded from capital resources provided to the Council through the Sure Start programme.
18. Total Sure start resources of £5,046,621 have been made available to fund capital works in PVI settings over a 3 year period (2008-11). Resources of £4,096,621 are now available for allocation over that period (i.e. £5,046,621 - £950,000 allocated for

premises occupied by Gumboots Community Nursery, which is part the Children's Centre programme phase 3).

19. The proposals set out in this report total £778,871 (this includes £128,563 grants approved in August 2009). This will leave resources of £3,317,750 to be allocated and spent over the remaining life of the programme (i.e. 2009-11).
20. DCSF has confirmed that unspent allocations can be carried forward from 2008-9 to 2009-10 and from 2009-10 to 2010-11. No commitment has been made, however, to agree any carry over beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Sure Start Early Years Capital grant programme report approved August 2009.	Children's Services Department Tooley Street SE1 2TZ	Jennifer Jackson 0207 525 5314
Department for Children, Schools and families letter dated 30 November 2007		
SSEYCG application pack – including information and guidance notes		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Table 1	List of grant allocations requiring approval

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Smith, Assistant Director, 0-5 Services and Community
<b>Report Author</b>	Jennifer Jackson, Head of Communities, Extended Services & Partnerships
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	20 November 2009
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes

<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director for Communities Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
List other officers here		
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>		November 20 2009