

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 March 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub- Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Waiting Lists for Under 5 Places in a Range of Southwark Settings	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director, 0-5 Services and Community	

### **Background**

- 1) At the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the Sub-Committee requested information on waiting lists for early years services.

### **Waiting Lists for Under 5 Places in a Range of Southwark Settings**

It is common practice for settings to keep a waiting list of parents wishing to send their child to the nursery. There is no standard approach to this and each setting has its own way of keeping these. Periodically, they may share this with the local authority to enable the Family Information Service to provide information on current vacancies and to support parents in finding appropriate care.

A child may go on a waiting list for a number of reasons. These can range from the parent wanting a place for a newly born child in a few weeks or months through to parents wanting additional days for a child already in provision. Consequently, the figures provided by settings are not always easy to interpret. Below is a sample of settings in the borough indicating current size of their waiting list.

Camberwell Grove	Southwark maintained	170
1 <sup>st</sup> Place CC	Voluntary	300
Blossoms Nursery	Private	30
Skallywags	Private	100
South Bermondsey CC	Southwark maintained	35
Gumboots	Voluntary	80
The Arc	Voluntary	40
Peckham Rye Day Nursery	Private	15
St Wilfrids	Private	4
Mini Treasures	Private	4

It should be noted that whilst 1<sup>st</sup> Place Children's Centre has a very long waiting list, this does not necessarily mean that there are 300 children without a nursery place. 1<sup>st</sup> Place is a new and very desirable establishment and many parents want their children to go there and several will keep their child on the waiting list even though they are already in alternative local provision.

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment that the council is about to commission we will be asking for all settings to share their lists with us so that we can do some more detailed analysis which will take account of the different age ranges and those children who are on the waiting list of more than one establishment.

## AUDIT TRAIL

*This section must be included in all reports.*

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Smith	
<b>Report Author</b>	Mike Smith	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	18 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	18 February 2010	