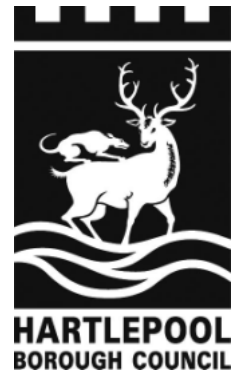


# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA**



**Thursday, 30 September 2010**

**at 4.30 pm**

**in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Griffin, Ingham, Lauderdale, Maness, Simmons, P Thompson and Wells

Co-opted Members: David Relton and 3 vacancies

Resident Representatives: Joan Steel

Young People's Representatives: Aarthi Suresh, Ashleigh Bostock, Lauren Carroll, Demi Coull, Shauna Hanley and 1 vacancy

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**  
No items.
4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**  
No items.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

5.1 Service Delivery Option for Sure Start, Extended Services and Play:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Service Delivery Option for Sure Start, Extended Services and Play – *Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager*

**6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items.

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

7.1 Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Verbal evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool

**8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

**9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19 October 2010 commencing at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

30 September 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** REFERRAL FROM THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE - SERVICE DELIVERY OPTION – SURE START, EXTENDED SERVICES AND PLAY: COVERING REPORT

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the opportunity to respond to the referral from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the Service Delivery Option (SDO), Sure Start, Extended Services and Play.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 3 September 2010 the SDO, Sure Start, Extended Services and Play came to the Committee's attention during consideration of the Forward Plan.
- 2.2 At this meeting Members sought clarification as to how the efficiency target and budget base figures had been calculated as part of the SDO for this service area.
- 2.3 In view of these queries, it was agreed that consideration of the SDO would be referred to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for further investigation.
- 2.4 Officers from Department will be in attendance at today's meeting to provide further information to Members on the SDO, Sure Start, Extended Services and Play in relation to the issues referred to in 2.2 of this report.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-

- (a) consider the views of the officers in attendance at today's meeting, seeking clarification on any relevant issues where felt appropriate.

- (b) formulates comments to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 15 October 2010 to enable a response to be presented to Cabinet in early November.

Contact Officer:- Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 523 087  
Email: [laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Forward Plan – September 2010 – December 2010

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

30 September 2010



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** REFERRAL FROM THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE - SERVICE DELIVERY OPTION – SURE START, EXTENDED SERVICES AND PLAY

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on the options available for a proposed £40,400 savings target to assist the Forum in consideration of the Sure Start, Extended Services and Plan – Service Delivery Option (SDO) referral by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As outlined in the report included at Item 5.1(a) of today's agenda, Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee sought clarification as to how the efficiency target and budget base figures had been calculated as part of the SDO for this service area. In view of these queries, it was agreed that consideration of the SDO would be referred to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for further investigation.
- 2.2 The scope of the review included:
- Play Development/Strategy
  - OSCARs out of school service
  - Sure Start Children's Centres
  - Childcare
  - Extended Services
- 2.3 The majority of the funding for the above comes into the council via a direct ringfenced grant therefore a significant amount could not be offered for savings. The review team felt that any activity funded through the General Sure Start Grant should be excluded from the review as it could not be offered up as part of the savings target.

- 2.4 The current Government has stated its commitment to Sure Start but has not given any details. It is expected that if Sure Start allocations are made post 2011 it will be reduced and unringfenced therefore is a need to review all Sure Start spend and highlight key areas of priority. This piece of work is ongoing but does not form part of this review.
- 2.5 Since the review was initiated information the local authority has been informed that the start up extended schools budget will cease from March 2011. This budget sits within the area based grant and totals £195,000. As this is ceasing this could not be used in the review.
- 2.6 A budget of £132,404 was also originally included in the review but the review team identified that this was part of the dedicated schools grant and therefore could not be included in the scope.
- 2.7 The services that are council funded and were included in the discussions for savings were:

OSCARS out of school service     £85,542  
(This funds the gap between the costs of the service and the income generated)

Play Opportunities Pool             £18,000

### 3. OSCARS OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICE

- 3.1 OSCARS is an all year round childcare service operated by Hartlepool Borough Council. It offers both after school club provision and holiday club provision. The service is townwide and open to children from 4 – 16 years of age. It operates from 2 locations within the town – Miers Avenue Sure Start and Owton Manor Community Centre.
- 3.2 The after school club service operates from 3.15 - 6pm for 39 weeks a year. The holiday club service operates from 8.30 - 5.45pm for 11 weeks of the year. The service is closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas period.
- 3.3 Across the 2 sites the service can take a maximum of 133 children in both the after school and holiday clubs.
- 3.4 OSCARS After School Club service was established in 1993 operating from The Avondale Centre. It was set up through Hartlepool City Challenge funding (5 year funding) and the Teesside TEC Childcare Fund (single payment). In 1997 a second club opened at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road with funding via Single Regeneration Budget (5 year funding). 1998 the service opened its third club in Miers Avenue via SRB funding (4 year funding).
- 3.5 Each club from the start was set up to support various government initiatives around assisting parents into employment, education and training via

affordable childcare. As funding tapered and eventually ceased it was expected that the service would be sustainable, this would be done through a rise in fees and an increase in service users.

3.6 Currently OSCARS operates from two sites in the town. OSCAR 1 is based at Miers Avenue Sure Start Centre. OSCAR 2 is based at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road. When required Oscar 1 + 2 has access to additional buildings nearby to carry out 'physical' activities. Both the after school clubs and holiday clubs operate from these sites.

3.7 The two sites are reflective of a geographic 'split' of the town and serve specific schools in designated areas. OSCARS currently picks up from 32 of the 38 schools across the town in respect of its after school club service. No other provider in the town offers this service. Depending on the social circumstances of the family the service can take children home.

3.8 OSCARS staff are all permanent and include:

1 x Out of School Co-ordinator  
2 x Assistant Co-ordinator  
6 x Play Leader  
3 x Special Needs Play Leaders  
1 x bus escort (1 hour per day term time only)

The current number of children registered for the out of school club is 207.  
The current number of children registered for the holiday club is 232.

3.9 Analysis of these children shows that 73% of them live in the 70% least deprived areas of Hartlepool.

#### 4. PLAY OPPORTUNITIES POOL

4.1 The play opportunities pool offers small amounts of grants to voluntary and community sector organizations to support play opportunities. Local organisations use this funding to support play activities. They often use the council funding to attract external funding which also supports play opportunities. Funding for 2010/11 has been awarded as follows:

Hartlepool Families First Art and craft sessions	£2,500.00
Hartlepool PATCH Play sessions	£ 512.00
Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group Holiday and out of school activities	£3,500.00
Manor Residents Association Holiday activities	£2,711.99

CHILD Deaf Youth Project	£1,048.43
Summer Playscheme and Youth project	
Hartlepool Young Carers	£3,200.00
Play workshops and transportation to the workshops	
Manor West Youth Project	£2,890.00
Holiday youth project	

## 5. OPTIONS FOR SAVINGS

- 5.1 The options discussed at the review meetings included the following
- Increase OSCARs prices to enable the service to be sustainable
  - Tender OSCARs to a private or voluntary/community provider
  - Partner with other local authorities to provide a service regionally
  - Close the OSCARs service
  - Cease the Play Opportunities Pool

### 5.2 Increase OSCARs prices to enable the service to be sustainable

The local authority has a duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure there is sufficient childcare available for parents in training or employment. The review team explored the pricing structure of OSCARs and felt it should be based on a break even point allowing the service to be self sustaining. Two options were discussed one being an increase in prices that would reduce the deficit but not remove the need for a council subsidy or secondly increase prices to a break even point.

The review team looked at other out of school settings and the increases based on a break even point were comparable. The review team felt that this should be pursued at the earliest opportunity and a report was presented to Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010. The two options were presented and the Portfolio approved the increase on prices based on a break even point. These prices increase will come into affect on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. This will allow an analysis to be carried out on occupancy levels and produce projected income to see if the savings can be made. The price increases have already been approved therefore this is not highlighted as an option. (**Appendix A** for portfolio holder report)

### 5.3 Tender OSCARs service to an external organisation

This was explored as an option and following advantages and disadvantages were discussed.

#### Advantages

- The private and voluntary sector currently operates sustainable childcare therefore this option would not need any council subsidy. The costs of the playworkers in the council are high in comparison



due to the council's pay grading structure being higher than those in the private and voluntary sector.

- The childcare sufficiency assessment shows that there is a need for after school care to enable parents to work. This option would allow this service to continue for these parents. (The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare is available Childcare Act 2006.)

#### Disadvantages

- Staff currently employed with HBC would need to TUPE to the new organisation. Discussions with HR have indicated that due to the requirements of the TUPE process, it would be unlikely that any locally private or voluntary organisation would be able to take on these staff as employees.
- The tender process would take at least six months and staff would need to be consulted therefore savings would not be realised for approximately one year.

#### 5.4 The service to be delivered across the region

The situation across the region is mixed as follows:

**Redcar and Cleveland** local authority do not directly run any 'formal' out of school/holiday childcare provision, although lots of the schools have breakfast and afterschool provision available during term time. Redcar and Cleveland have private sector providers across the borough that provide, breakfast, afterschool and holiday provision all year round. The prices for these vary across every setting.

**Stockton** local authority does not run any out of school/holiday provision. It is all delivered by the PVI sector or schools. The average fee for PVI sector is £25.00 whilst school average fee is £22.00.

**Darlington** local authority does not run any holiday or out of school clubs. It is all delivered by the PVI sector or schools. The average fee is for PVI sector is £30.00 whilst school average fee is £22.00.

**Middlesbrough** local authority does not run any holiday or out of school clubs. It is all ran by the PVI sector or schools. The average fee is for PVI sector is £26.00 whilst school average fee is £15.00.

Many schools in Hartlepool provide an out of school club but there are a number who do not wish to and it is important that the parents of these schools are able to access some sort of childcare in order to be in training or work.

## 5.5 Close the service

### Advantages

- The current subsidy would be available as a saving.

### Disadvantages

- All staff would need to be made redundant therefore incurring further costs.
- The childcare sufficiency assessment shows that there is a need for after school care to enable parents to work. If this provision closed a number of parents would be unable to work which could impact on child poverty in the town.
- The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare is available (Childcare Act 2006). If the service were to close the number of out of school places would not be enough.

## 5.6 Play opportunities pool – current council funding £18,000

The play opportunities pool offers small amounts of grants to voluntary and community sector organizations to support play opportunities. Local organisations use this funding to support play activities. They often use the council funding to attract external funding which also supports play opportunities (see **Appendix B** for details of the spend).

### Advantages

- The current funding allows organisations to develop high quality play opportunities for all children.
- This funding does not support staff salaries in the council therefore there would be no HBC redundancies.

### Disadvantages

- Many of the organisations that access this funding rely on this funding in order to deliver the play opportunities therefore it is likely that a number of these play opportunities will cease.
- A key area of priority for the town is the reduction of obesity amongst children. The reduction of play opportunities across the town may have a detrimental affect on this priority.

## 6. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It needs to be acknowledged that relying on an increase in income to meet the savings target is risky. The increase in prices for OSCARs comes into affect on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. This allows an income forecast to take place based on any reduction in occupancy. It also needs to be noted that the new prices are competitive in comparison to other providers in the town.
- 6.2 A rise in prices is not ideal for parents on low incomes but these parents can claim these increases in prices via the working families tax credits. Eligible parents that are claiming Working Families Tax Credits can also claim an

additional 'Childcare Element'. This extra financial support includes up to 80% of your childcare costs providing that the care that is being used is either registered or 'approved'. Parents with a disabled child that attends childcare can get further financial support.

- 6.3 Changes to the amount of Childcare Tax Credit funding that a parent claims can be made at any point throughout the year however HMRC (who administer the credit) will only make amendments to a parent's payments where the cost of the care has changed by more than £10 per week. There has been much controversy over the administration of Tax Credits however it still remains the most reliable way of topping up a families income. Recent data from HMRC shows that only 18% of Hartlepool families are getting the Tax Credits that they are entitled to. All parents accessing OSCARs will be offered support to ensure they are receiving their entitled amount of tax credits.
- 6.4 It is also worth noting that there are many other forms of support in terms of cost towards childcare. This includes funding from Jobcentre Plus, from Student Support (HE/FE), Care2Learn and employer childcare vouchers.
- 6.5 The Families Information Service Hartlepool (FISH) provides a useful A5 booklet outlining all the funding for childcare that is available to Hartlepool parents as well as one to one support. This can be from their base at Hartlepool Central Library, from a Sure Start Children's Centre or other community venue or even in the home.

## 7. IMPACT

### 7.1 Impact on service users

The increase in prices already approved by Children's Services Portfolio Holder can provide the savings at the current level of occupancy which will allow families to continue accessing the service.

If OSCARs were to close this would have a significant impact on a large amount of families. There are a number of after school childcare providers in the town but they do not have the capacity to take the numbers of children currently accessing OSCARs. This would mean there would be a risk that some families may not be able to work due to a lack of childcare. This may increase the number of children living in poverty if parents cannot work.

### 7.2 Impact on third sector partners

To cease the play opportunities pool would impact on a number of voluntary organisations and it may be that these organisations would have to stop providing certain play activities. There may also be a risk that matched funding that voluntary and community attract via the council funding would not be available making many of these organisations vulnerable.

**7.3    Impact on council staff**

Closure of OSCARs would have a significant impact on 12 council staff. These members of staff would need to be made redundant if OSCARs was to close.

**8.       RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1    That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager, 01429 523671, [Danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)

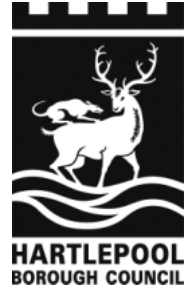
**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix A Portfolio Holder Report 3rd August 2010  
Appendix B Play Opportunities Pool report

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** OSCARS OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE  
SERVICE – CHANGE IN CHARGES

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### SUMMARY

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek approval for a change in charges for OSCARS out of school service.

#### **2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

OSCARS is an all year round childcare service operated by Hartlepool Borough Council. It offers both after school club provision and holiday club provision. The service is townwide and open to children from 4 – 16 years of age. It operates from two locations within the town.

Unfortunately the service is not sustainable with the current fee structure. The following report sets out how OSCARS developed, the current fee structure and two proposed fee structures to increase income therefore enabling the service to become sustainable.

#### **3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Children's Services issues.

#### **4. TYPE OF DECISION**

Non- key.

#### **5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010.

**6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve a change in charges for OSCARS out of school childcare service.

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** OSCARS OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE  
SERVICE – CHANGES TO CHARGES

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for a change in charges for OSCARS out of school service.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 OSCARS is an all year round childcare service operated by Hartlepool Borough Council. It offers both after school club provision and holiday club provision. The service is townwide and open to children from 4 – 16 years of age. It operates from 3 key locations within the town.
- 2.2 The after school club service operates from 3.15 - 6pm for 39 weeks a year. The holiday club service operates from 8.30 - 5.45pm for 11 weeks of the year. The service is closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas period.
- 2.3 Across the two sites the service can take a maximum of 100 children in both the after school and holiday clubs.
- 2.4 The Council currently has a statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for parents in training and employment. This duty does not cover parents not in work or training.

**3. HISTORY**

- 3.1 OSCARS After School Club service was established in 1993 operating from The Avondale Centre. It was set up through Hartlepool City Challenge funding (5 year funding) and the Teesside TEC Childcare Fund (single payment). In 1997 a second club opened at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road with funding via Single Regeneration Budget (5 year funding). In 1998 the service opened its third club in Miers Avenue via SRB funding (4 year funding). Following a review of accommodation OSCARS is now based in Owton Manor Community Centre and Miers Avenue Sure Start.

- 3.2 Initially each club was set up to support various government initiatives to assist parents into employment, education and training via affordable childcare. As funding tapered and eventually ceased it was expected that the service would be sustainable, this would be achieved through a sustainable pricing structure.

#### **4. LOCATIONS**

- 4.1 OSCARS operates from two sites in the town. OSCAR 1 is based at, Miers Avenue Sure Start. OSCAR 2 is based at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road.
- 4.2 When required Oscar 1 + 2 has access to additional buildings nearby to carry out 'physical' activities. Both the after school clubs and holiday clubs operate from these sites.
- 4.3 Since the initial set up in 1993 the service has operated from a number of sites. Various factors have contributed to this including refurbishment of premises, expiration of rental agreements and preferential terms on premises.
- 4.4 The two sites are reflective of a geographic 'split' of the town and serve specific schools in designated areas. OSCARS currently picks up from 32 of the 38 schools across the town in respect of its after school club service. No other provider in the town offers this service. Depending on the social circumstances of the family the service can also take children home.

#### **5. FEE STRUCTURE**

- 5.1 OSCARS currently operates a flexible fee policy at both the after school and holiday clubs. Fees are determined by the number of siblings accessing the service, the employment circumstances of the family and, in the case of holiday care a combination of both. The following fee structure was approved by Children's Services Portfolio Holder in September 2008. The prices are lower than comparisons with other providers.

##### After school club

	After school	Description
A	£6.15	1 child w aged
B	£5.15	2+ children w aged
C	£4.10	1 child unw aged
D	£4.10	2+ children unw aged



Holiday Club

	Holiday club	Description
A	£11.30	1 child w aged
B	£7.70	2+ children w aged
C	£7.20	1 child unw aged
D	£5.15	2+ children unw aged

**6. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION**

- 6.1 OSCARS out of school service financial position for 2009/2010 financial year is:

Total inc 09-10	£120,355.07
Inc from fees 09-10	£115,764.67
Expenditure 09-10	£200,969.13
Deficit 09-10	£80,614.06

- 6.2 The deficit financial position in 2009/10 needs to be addressed with the introduction of a pricing structure that is based on a break even analysis.

**7. PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURES****7.1 Option 1 – break even**

A proposed fee structure based on a break even analysis needs to remove the sibling discount and the unwaged subsidy.

After school club

An after school session would cost £7.20 this would be a 17% increase.

Holiday Club

A holiday club session (full day) would cost £16.75. This would be a 48% increase.

**7.2 Option 2 – a staged approach to reaching break even**

A staged approach to reaching a break even point is proposed below.

After school club

An after school session would cost £6.60 this would be a 10% increase.

Holiday Club

A holiday club session (full day) would cost £13.00. This would be a 15% increase.

This would not allow OSCARs to be sustainable and therefore the council would need to continue to subsidise the childcare.

- 7.3 Comparisons with other out of school childcare shows that OSCARs current pricing structure is below the average.

Average pricing costs of out of school childcare	after care on school site	after care PVI	holiday care school	holiday care PVI
Oscars	£0.00	£6.00	£0.00	£11.00
Hartlepool	£4.00	£6.00	£12.00	£22.00
Hartlepool range of fees	50p to £6.00	£6 to £12	£12.00	£11 - £28
Middlesbrough	£5.45	£7.00	£15.00	£26.00
Stockton	£6.00	£7.50	£22.00	£25.00
Darlington	£5.50	£9.00	£22.00	£30.00

## 8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 OSCARs budget continues to overspend even when costs have been reduced to the bare minimum. If more income is not generated the service cannot be sustained. This means that OSCARs will either have to close or other services for children and families will have to close to subsidise this service.
- 8.2 There is a risk that if fees are increased that parents will choose to remove their children from the childcare due to affordability. This will initially reduce income. Research carried out to ascertain where parents live who access OSCARs show that the majority come from more affluent areas therefore implying that a rise in fees will not have substantial impact. Parents on low incomes can claim working tax credits for childcare and therefore will not feel the impact of the increases.

## 9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 OSCARs offers childcare to all children and also offers a number of dedicated places to disabled children. OSCARs also employs skilled playworkers to specifically work with these children.

**10. SECTION 17**

- 10.1 OSCARs childcare service offers children a space and time to play with their peers. This provides a play opportunity which could contribute to prevention of anti social behaviour.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve either OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 change in charges for OSCARS out of school childcare service as set out in paragraph 7.

**12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 To ensure that the OSCARs out of school childcare service is sustainable.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Danielle Swainston  
Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager  
01429 523671

## GRANTS COMMITTEE

14 July 2010



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** PLAY OPPORTUNITIES POOL AWARD 2010 / 2011

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### SUMMARY

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise members of applications to the Play Opportunities Pool and seek approval for recommended grant awards.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The total amount of Play Opportunities funding (2010-2011) available is £18,450.00

The proposed awards for Play Opportunities Grants to the Voluntary Sector are as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Hartlepool Families First	£2,500.00
Hartlepool PATCH	£ 512.00
Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group	£3,500.00
Manor Residents Association	£2,711.99
CHILD Deaf Youth Project	£1,048.43
Hartlepool Young Carers	£3,200.00
Manor West Youth Project	£2,890.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,362.42</b>

This leaves a balance of £2,087.58, available for distribution.

**3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER(S)**

The Committee has responsibility for determining the levels of grant awarded to the voluntary sector.

**4. TYPE OF DECISION**

Non-key

**5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Grants Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

Members of the Grants Committee are requested:

To approve grant awards to 7 groups, totalling £16362.42

**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** PLAY OPPORTUNITIES POOL AWARD 2010/2011

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise members of applications to the Play Opportunities Pool and to seek approval for recommended grant awards.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Play Opportunities Grant which totals £18,450 is available to community groups and voluntary organisations. The grant fund supports organisations to provide play opportunities throughout the year complementing provision delivered through Children's Centres and Extended Services through schools. The allocation of play grants also enables groups to provide play to meet local needs, especially in areas of disadvantage.
- 2.2 Grant awards are used as a contribution towards the cost of a play opportunity, with the Authority's funding often attracting matched funding. In total 7 applications have been assessed with requests from the grant pool for staff costs, equipment, venue hire, transport etc.
- 2.3 The criteria used to assess applications are detailed in **Appendix 1**. If the grant is approved it is stated within the terms and conditions of the grant that the group will provide specific monitoring information at the end of each financial year. The monitoring information required includes:
- ? evidence of the contribution of grant funding,
  - ? a report of the project,
  - ? number of beneficiaries,
  - ? staff training,
  - ? funding matched from other sources
- 2.4 This information is used to analyse gaps in provision across the town and will be used to inform members on the success of funded projects at a later date.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 £18,450 in total is available for the year 2010/2011.

### **4. APPLICATIONS**

4.1 Details of the group requesting funding are as follows:

#### **4.2 Hartlepool Families First**

This organisation was established in 1988 and caters for children from birth to 13 years.

A variety of services are offered by the organisation which includes: a Play Bus, Special Needs Afterschool & Holiday Care Scheme, Switch to Play, Specialist Toy Library and SPLAT - Scrap Resource Centre, together with a Health Bus, promoting health well being.

The group wish to offer low cost art and craft sessions for children up to the age of 13 including parents/carers.

The sessions will take place at Hartlepool Families First, a purpose built unit, during school holidays excluding Christmas.

Participants will take part in a fun, enjoyable and creative 2 hour session which will focus on the use of recycled materials, many of which can be found and used in the home. In particular, children taking part in summer 2010 will also receive multicultural perspective on arts as the project will include references to the Tall Ships Race and the origins of its participants.

The sessions provided last year were well attended and received fantastic feedback. The organisation encouraged children from all backgrounds to attend the sessions and as a consequence received a significant number of children with disabilities and additional needs.

It is envisaged that a total of 60 sessions will be delivered across three days per week during the holiday period, with a maximum of 600 places being offered.

The play opportunities offered support the social development of children and contribute to the Enjoy and Achieve outcome.

The cost to provide the above service is as follows:

Staff Costs	£2182.00
Additional bought resources	£1100.00
Management Costs	£900.00
Publicity	£150.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£4332.00</b>

In addition to making an application to the Play Opportunities Pool the organisation has made application to the Community Chest to cover costs not met by the Play Opportunities Pool and a charge of £2.00 per child to access a two hour session will be levied, increasing the level of funding to offset the cost to a maximum of £1200.00.

### **Recommendation**

**A grant of £2500.00 is recommended to contribute towards, staff costs, management costs, purchase of additional resources and publicity costs to deliver 60 two hour sessions over holiday weeks.**

#### **4.3 Hartlepool PATCH**

This group has been established in Hartlepool since 1993, covering all areas of the town.

PATCH offers confidential support to families with young children and offer one to one support in the home or within one of the many PATCH support groups.

The organisation would like to provide eight summer play sessions for all families with children under the age of 5 years. This will offer play sessions to families in need where isolation can be an issue. During the long summer holidays parents stress levels are more likely to rise, therefore these sessions are a way of relieving some of this stress.

The play sessions also provide opportunities for families to spend quality time together with the children able to participate in high quality play. The sessions will be linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Each session will be delivered over a 3 hour period, including preparation time, engaging both paid staff and volunteers to support the delivery of the sessions. It is anticipated that 73 children and their families will engage in the summer play sessions.

This project will contribute to the Every Child Matters Outcomes, in particular Staying Safe and Enjoy and Achieve.



The cost to provide the sessions is detailed below:

Staff costs	£429.00
Equipment & Resources	£317.00
Healthy Snacks	£150.00
Venue Hire	£334.00

**Total project cost** **£1230.00**

In addition the organisation has already secured funding from the Working Neighbourhood Community Chest of £613.00, and this will contribute towards paid sessional workers, room hire and purchase of equipment. Families have also been asked to contribute £1.00 per family.

### **Recommendation**

**A grant of £512.00 is recommended towards the cost of staff, resources and room hire.**

#### **4.4 Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group**

The group has been established since 1989. It caters for approximately 60 children and young people from birth upwards who have varying degrees of disability and specific need. The organisation provides respite to parents, carers and siblings. The services currently operate from the Resource Centre, Park Road and other venues across the town, appropriate to meet the needs of the children and young people accessing the service. The service is able to offer Ofsted registered care between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm.

The aim of the group is to:

- ? Support the development of children and young people who have profound learning and or physical disabilities, with varying complex needs;
- ? Support families and carers;
- ? Provide facilities for recreation and other leisure activities, including play;
- ? Provide a flexible service focusing on individual needs.

The group wishes to operate across all school holiday periods excluding Christmas and during out of school hours in supporting the organisations Children's Club and youth provision. During these periods the children will take part in a number of fun and stimulating activities, outings and trips. They will have the opportunity to enjoy time with their peer groups, enabling them to gain confidence, raise their self esteem and reduce periods of isolation.

## 5.1 (b) Appendix B

The service also allows the children and young people to enjoy play opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

A high percentage of these children require one to one supervision and care due to their disability. The group will be employing staff and volunteers' to care for the children whilst attending these sessions.

The holiday and out of school activities contribute to the Stay Safe and Enjoy and Achieve of the Every Child Matters outcomes.

The total annual cost of service delivery by Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group is detailed as follows:

Whit Week & Summer Scheme	£47,002.00
Other Holiday Activity days (Easter, October & February)	£3452.80
Out of School Youth Provision (1 session per week)	£6560.00
Children's Club (1 Session per week)	£9880.00

In addition to the Play Opportunities Grant, the organisation has secured a grant of £9,000 from BBC Children in Need. Funding is also secured for the cost of both the manager and administration posts in full. The organisation is awaiting a decision from Hartlepool Borough Council's Children's Disability Service totalling £10,500, which will contribute towards the sessional staff during the summer holiday period and a further £3505 has been secured to offset against other costs associated with the holiday weeks, Children's Club and the Youth provision. To further offset the total cost of the annual programme a fee of £5.00 per child is levied and families also contribute towards social outings and admissions, which equates to approximately £15,000 per annum. The group also continue to source funding from other grant giving agencies to offset the total expenditure of the organisation.

### Recommendation

**A contribution of £3500.00 is recommended towards the cost of volunteers', sessional staff costs, transport, children's entertainers and craft workshops.**

#### 4.5 Manor Residents Association

The group has been established since 1989 and operates from the Resource Centre, Kilmarnock Road. As part of its ongoing activities the group provides a range of play opportunities for children aged 5 – 11 years targeting the Owton Manor area and also working with children in Rossmere, Fens, Greatham, Seaton Grange and Rifthouse.

The group has successfully provided play opportunities over the last five years and want to continue to provide the same services in 2010. The group wishes to provide 10 school holiday weeks of playscheme activities, including a week long residential event.

## 5.1 (b)

### Appendix B

All children taking part will primarily be from the Owton Manor area, but will be open to children wishing to access services from neighbouring wards. The schemes will compliment and enhance children's activities currently provided by the association during term time.

The focus of the activities will be on providing play opportunities in a safe environment and allowing children to visit other areas to widen their experiences.

The holiday playschemes contribute to the Stay Safe, Be Healthy and Enjoy and Achieve Every Child Matters outcomes.

The provision will provide play opportunities 5 days a week from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day, catering for up to 55 children per day.

The cost to provide the service as detailed within the application is as follows:

Staff Wages	£14,442.35
Volunteers' Expenses	£ 740.35
Venue Hire	£ 4,154.80
Insurance	£ 217.68
Transport	£ 5,194.60
Admissions	£ 5,233.28
Equipment & Resources	£ 2,838.74
Administration	£ 3,975.79
Management Costs	£ 2,870.79

**Total Costs: £39,668.38**

In addition to the Play Opportunities Grant, the organisation has secured funding from:

? Hartlepool Children's Fund	£27,072.50
? Other Grants	£2,810.60
? Other fund raising activities	£3,423.29
? Fees generated from service users	£3,650.00

#### Recommendation

**A contribution of £2,711.99 towards transport, volunteers' expenses and insurance costs.**

4.6 Child Deaf Youth Project

The group has been established since 1995 and has operated a summer playscheme since 1998. In addition to this service, the group also provides a Youth Club Project since 2001. The group operates from the Cleveland Deaf Centre based in Middlesbrough, where the services are accessible to children from across the Tees Valley.

The aim of the group is to:

- ? Provide a range of educational and social recreational activities for deaf young people, giving them an opportunity to participate in a range of experiences with other deaf and hearing children aged 5 – 19 years;
- ? Provide new opportunities and positive experiences for deaf children and young people to develop their skills and confidence;
- ? Facilitate and develop communication skills and provide deaf role models;
- ? Reduce isolation and encourage self esteem and independence;
- ? Empower deaf young people to make informed and positive decisions about their future.

4.7 Summer Playscheme Provision

The group is requesting assistance towards the cost of providing a summer holiday playscheme, operating 1 day per week over the 6 week period and envisages accommodating around 50 children per day. It is envisaged that 7 children out of the 50 will be accessing the service from Hartlepool, which will be operating between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm each day. The core hours do not take into consideration the transportation time for the children from Hartlepool to and from the centre.

The total cost of the playscheme activities is detailed below:

Staff	£1493.50
Transport	£1596.50
Activities	£2017.77
Administration	£515.00
Travel Expenses (Volunteers')	£44.29
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£5667.06</b>

Eligible funding has been calculated on a pro rata basis (as 7 children from Hartlepool will be benefiting from the scheme) in the following way:

Total Cost	£5667.06
Less Ineligible criteria (outings/activity admissions)	£2017.77
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£3649.29</b>

£3649.29/50 places = £72.99 per place

Therefore, 7 places x £72.99 = £510.93

Other funding to support the scheme comes from contributions from parents, ranging between £3 and £5, dependent upon the activity delivered. In addition to the Play Opportunities Grant the organisation has made similar applications and requests to neighbouring authorities in the Tees Valley area.

#### 4.8 Youth Club Provision (CHILD Deaf Youth Project)

The group is also requesting assistance towards the operation of their Youth Project for children aged between 5 – 10 years, which operates 1 evening per week over a 42 week period. This project provides a wide range of recreational and educational activities within a warm, relaxed and safe environment where children and young people can interact with their peers. It is envisaged that 2 young people out of a total of 20 attending will be from Hartlepool.

The cost to provide the under 11's Youth Club over 42 weeks , operating 1 evening per week is as follows:

Staff & Volunteer expenses	£515.00
Training for staff & volunteers	£257.50
Equipment/Materials	£257.50
Sessional Workers	£5,871.00
Activities & Outings	£1030.00
Transport Costs	£2,060.00
Administration	£999.10

**Total Costs** **£10990.10**

Eligible funding has been calculated on a pro rata basis (as 2 children from Hartlepool will be benefiting from the scheme) in the following way:

Total Cost	£10990.10
Less ineligible funding	£1030.00
£9960.10/ 20 places = £498.00	

Therefore, 2 places x £498.00 = £996.00

In addition to the Play Opportunities Grant, the organisation has made similar applications to neighbouring authorities in the Tees Valley area. Other funding to support the club comes from parent contributions, application to the Body Shop Foundation and other fund raising from the organisation itself.

The Child Deaf Youth Project activities will contribute to the Stay Safe and Enjoy and Achieve Every Child Matters outcomes

## 5.1 (b) Appendix B

In January 2010, the Manager of the service left the organisation and their replacement has recently come into post. Following the submission of the annual monitoring report, it has come to light that the number of children from Hartlepool had reduced within the under 11's Youth provision compared to the initial expected take up. To enable the group to finalise the monitoring of the grant the non signing new manager has had to employ the assistance of an interpreter to enable the monitoring form to be completed, therefore a portion of the unused grant has been utilised to produce the required document with regards to the Play Opportunities Pool Grant awarded in 2009.

The remaining amount of the 2009 grant is £458.50 and would be utilised against the request for funding in this financial year if approved and the grant request will be reduced accordingly.

### **Recommendation**

**A contribution of £510.93 is therefore recommended towards costs for the summer playscheme including staff, volunteers' expenses and transport.**

**A contribution of £537.50 is therefore recommended towards costs for the under 11's Youth Project for sessional staff, transport, administration and volunteer's expenses. This amount is to be added to the underspend from 2009/2010 which takes the overall contribution for the under 11's Youth Project to £996.00**

**In total a grant of £1048.93, is therefore recommended to support the delivery of these services from the 2010/2011 Grant Fund**

### 4.9 Hartlepool Young Carers

The group has been established since 2001, and is an integral part of Hartlepool Carers who operate from Lowthian Road, Hartlepool. The group caters for young people aged between 7- 18 years of age across Hartlepool and from within the surrounding villages. The organisation is currently working with 143 young people who act as carers to both parents and siblings.

Hartlepool Young Carers aim is to reduce the caring responsibilities of children who have been identified as having a caring role and to provide respite and support.

## 5.1 (b)

### Appendix B

Transportation is a major concern to many of the young carers the group supports. This is due to the fact that the person who the young person cares for has no means to get the young carer to activities. Many of the young carers the group supports live in areas of disadvantage and can be vulnerable and frequently unable to access before and after school activities due to caring responsibilities.

Although a young carer has caring responsibilities, it does not mean that they do not have special needs of their own and the organisation has found that there is often a dual caring role within families. Hartlepool Young Carers provide safe, interesting and stimulating opportunities by involving young carers in their choice of activities and if needed providing a volunteer sitting service to allow children and young people to take part while at the same time reducing their anxiety in leaving the person they provide care for.

To enable the young carers to access opportunities provided by Hartlepool Young Carers, the group is requesting funding to provide transport for the under 13's to attend weekly sessions. In addition the group are requesting funding to enable them to deliver Music and Play Therapy Sessions to build resilience and give more interesting opportunities that otherwise would not be available to many young carers.

The organisation activities will contribute to: Be Safe, Enjoy & Achieve and Making a Positive Contribution Every Child Matters Outcomes.

The cost to provide the sessions is detailed below:

50 weekly collection and drop off for Junior Group @ £45	£2,250.00
10 Drum Workshops @ £175 per session	£1,750.00
33 Play Therapy Workshops @ £30 per session	£ 990.00
 Total Cost	 £4,990.00

Funding from other sources has been secured to cover staff costs, admission charges for other activities and the attendance at the National Young Carers Festival in Southampton. An application has also been submitted to Tees Valley Foundation to deliver further activities.

### Recommendation

**A contribution of £3,200 is therefore recommended towards transport costs, Drum Workshops and Play Therapy Sessions.**

4.10 Manor West Youth Project

The organisation has been established since July 2003 covering the Owton Manor ward within Hartlepool. The group works with young people between 8 and 19 years of age and caters for around 60 young people within the project.

The aim of the organisation is to provide leisure, social and educational opportunities for young people in the area and to build self esteem and divert young people from the risk of engaging in anti social behaviour and other criminal activities.

The Youth Project aims to provide inclusive activities during the school summer holidays, by providing safe, educational, healthy and interesting holiday schemes and planned activities. The activities will allow children in families on low or no income to take part in positive activities. This will prevent young people taking part in anti social behaviour and criminal acts.

The Youth Group are requesting funding to provide 4 weeks of school holiday activities, including various sports, craft sessions and trips outside of the town. The group has also received confirmation that a week will also be spent away on a summer camp at Peat Rigg, which will provide a fun action packed week, whereby the young people will learn valuable life skills, team building and trust activities. The cost of this activity has been secured through Tees Valley Community Foundation and Sports Relief Funding.

The activities provided by the organisation will contribute to all of the Every Child Matters Outcomes.

The cost to provide the above activities is detailed below:

Staff Wages	£4,940.00
Venue Hire	£320.00
Insurance	£250.00
Transport	£1,140.00
Admissions	£1,000.00
Administration	£100.00
Peak Rigg	£8,110.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£15,860.00</b>

The organisation has secured £8,110.00 to enable 30 young people to access the summer camp to Peak Rigg and will also levy a charge of £5 per day for the young people to access the other school holiday activities, equating to £2,500.00.



**Recommendation**

**A contribution of £2890.00 is therefore recommended towards staff costs, transport, venue hire and administration costs.**

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members are requested to:

Approve grant awards totalling £16362.42, as detailed above.

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Child & Adult Services Department, Play Opportunities Monitoring File

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

30 September 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** THINK FAMILY – PREVENTATIVE AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES - EVIDENCE FROM THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HARTLEPOOL - COVERING REPORT

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool has been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services'.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Member of Parliament for Hartlepool has been invited to this meeting to provide evidence to the Forum in relation to his views on 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services'.
- 2.2 During this evidence gathering session, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the following key questions:-
- (a) What is the impact that Think Family services have on children including children on the cusp of care, children living in poverty, young people and their families?
  - (b) How can it be ensured that Think Family services are delivered in an integrated way to avoid duplication and gaps in service provision?
  - (c) In light of the budgetary restrictions, can you suggest any improvements / changes to how Think Family services are provided in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency?

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.2.

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

Scrutiny Investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services' - Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 06.09.10