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Sure Start Little Hulton Three Year Summary Evaluation Report (July 2003 – December 2005)

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Foreword

Evidence for the conclusions and recommendations in this summary can be found in the following reports:

- Rooke, J. (2004) *Little Hulton Sure Start Annual Report*, IPHRP, University of Salford. <http://www.ness.bbk.ac.uk/documents/AnnualReports/642.pdf>
- Rooke, J. (2005) *Sure Start Little Hulton 39 Week Evaluation Report*, IPHRP, University of Salford. <http://www.ness.bbk.ac.uk/documents/AnnualReports/1144.pdf>
- Rooke, J. (2006) *Sure Start Little Hulton Evaluation Report for the Period April - December 2005*, CPHR, University of Salford.

Children's Centres

- The transition to Children's Centres has been characterized by uncertainty and lack of information. This has led to a feeling of dis-empowerment among active community members.

Partnership Working

The programme has produced some excellent examples of partnership working, most notably:

- ✓ the eight month baby parties at the library;
- ✓ the attachment group's 'golden rules' for child care.

Bookstart and beyond

Achievements

- ✓ A steady increase in borrowing by under-4s holds out the promise of a major increase in levels of literacy and educational achievement in years to come.
- ✓ Story-rhymetimes, baby parties, Bookcrawl and other one-off events have been successful at bringing families with young children into the library and making it familiar as a resource and a comfortable environment.
- ✓ Innovative and successful partnership working with other agencies, as in the baby party initiative, represent an important move towards joined up services.
- ✓ Outreach work has gone beyond the walls of the building to reach people who might otherwise have had no contact with the service.

Challenge

- To develop and extend the outreach work to meet the needs of the more hard to reach families.

Crèche development

Achievements

- ✓ The Sure-Start crèche was successfully established and registered with Ofsted.
- ✓ A child progress/development assessment tool has been successfully developed and piloted.
- ✓ Parent/carer evaluations report benefits from the service, including: child socialisation; child development; respite for parents/carers.

Challenges

- Limited funding appears to be the chief obstacle to the further development of a very popular service.
- Consistent use of the assessment tool should enable increased educational value in the crèche provision.

Enhance Portage

Achievements

- ✓ Fast-tracking has reduced waiting times for Sure Start families in Little Hulton to 4 weeks.
- ✓ Improvement in parenting skills achieved by parents using the service = 60%.
- ✓ Have developed evaluation methods more suited to service development.

Challenges

- To successfully pilot the portage bridge.
- To maintain service improvements through the transition to Children's Centres.

Family Support

Achievements

- ✓ The project provides a valuable and much appreciated service.
- ✓ The service is very cost-efficient.
- ✓ The project is an example to others in its willingness to address negative feedback.

Challenge

- To maintain the current high level of performance and, in particular, to address supervisory issues which may otherwise foreshadow future difficulties.

Freedom Programme

The freedom programme project was found to be cost-ineffective.

Challenge

- To find a better model for tackling domestic abuse and linking it with the city-wide strategy.

Health visiting service

Achievements

- ✓ The service's corporate case-load system appears to work well.
- ✓ The staff nurse role appears to be developing well.

Challenge

- The service has not yet seriously addressed the need for evaluation.

Home-Start

Achievements

- ✓ The project has improved its monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures with respect to the Sure Start programme.
- ✓ There is evidence that a cost-effective volunteer service could provide valuable support to the Family Support project.
- ✓ There is some evidence that relationships with referring agencies have begun to improve.

Challenges

- There continue to be problems with monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- The project has not succeeded in achieving a cost-effective service.
- Matching families to volunteers seems to be a difficult, lengthy and sometimes unsuccessful process.

Midwifery

Achievements

- ✓ Have maintained a high level of registration to the programme.
- ✓ Have initiated user evaluation.
- ✓ Have successfully developed and piloted the Well Being Assessment.
- ✓ Appear to be making progress with smoking cessation.
- ✓ Have given effective support to the breastfeeding project.
- ✓ An educational initiative on nursing baby has been initiated in schools and valuable feedback recorded.

Challenges

- ✓ Continue to maintain, evaluate and develop services despite resource constraints.
- ✓ To improve evaluation and find ways of demonstrating feedback into improved practice.

Parental Development

Achievements

- ✓ The parental development worker has established a good local reputation through her outreach work.
- ✓ Has helped parents to increase their confidence and ability.
- ✓ Has fostered supportive relationships among service users.
- ✓ Has supported service users into education, training or employment.

Challenges

- To maintain this high level of service.
- To establish systematic record keeping, reporting and evaluation.

Perinatal Depression (PND)

Achievements

- ✓ The project is clearly meeting a previously unfulfilled need.
- ✓ Although it is early days, a substantial evaluation effort is clearly in place.

Challenge

- To carry out a full evaluation of the service.

Speech and Language Development

Achievements

- ✓ Developed and successfully piloted the Babbling Baby sessions.
- ✓ Have run successful Talking Tots sessions from early in the project's life.
- ✓ Took part in several successful partnership initiatives, including the Toy Library, the Eight Month Baby Parties and training for other Sure Start workers.
- ✓ Have promoted the service through joint sessions with other services.
- ✓ The Communication Development Worker's home visits appear to have a significant impact on parental strategies for encouraging speech and language development.
- ✓ Home visits by the Speech and Language therapist appears to improve the experience of service users and increase take up of the service.
- ✓ Have widely administered the Sure Start Language Measure and used it as a further means of making initial contact with families.

Challenge

- To maintain a high level of service and innovation.

Welfare Rights

Achievement

- ✓ The project has demonstrated a high level of need for this service.

Challenge

- To devise a way of consistently meeting this need.