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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.