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Foreword

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


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.

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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.