

Meeting: Lifelong Learning scrutiny Committee  
Date:4 April 2006  
Subject:Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2004-2006 Achievement Report  
Responsible Officer:Paul Clark- Director Children's Services  
Contact Officer:Wendy Beeton - Group Manager - Early Years, Childcare and Parenting Services  
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Bill Stephenson  
Key Decision:No  
Status:Public

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

Lifelong Learning Scrutiny is asked to consider and note the Early Years and Childcare 2004-2006 Achievement Report

### **Reason for report**

This report is scheduled to be considered by Members of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee in April 2006. It provides an end of strategy achievement statement against the Early Years and Childcare Targets contained in the 2004-2006 Early Years and Childcare Strategy.

### **Benefits**

The Achievement Report attached as Appendix A sets out the benefits that the Early Years and Childcare Strategy has had on outcomes for children and families.

### **Cost of Proposals**

Delivering the Early Years and Childcare Strategy in 2005/06 will cost - £5,435m  
The majority will be allocated in the following way  
Creating and Sustaining Childcare Places - £2,300m  
Early Education - £2,500m  
Childcare Information - £125k  
Quality Access and Inclusion - £250k  
Developing the workforce - £260k  
The costs are met from direct grants and revenue funding.

## **Risks**

The risks identified as potential barriers to meeting the targets were managed effectively by strong partnership and interagency working.

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

N/A

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

In 1998 full Council approved the first Early Years and Childcare Plan. Every January since that date Members have considered the progress made towards meeting the challenging targets contained in the strategy.

The 2004-2006 strategy period has now ended. The requirement from Government to produce a stand alone Early Years and Childcare Plan no longer exists and the headline targets for early years, childcare and parenting activity are included in the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

### **2.2 Options considered**

N/A

### **2.3 Consultation**

Consultation is an integral part to the work of the Early Years, Childcare and Parenting service. Throughout the 2004-2006 strategy extensive consultation took place with all members of the Early Years and Childcare Partnership through the work of the Partnerships Project Groups and in full meetings of the Partnership.

Providers, parents, carers and other interested parties have been consulted through release of draft copies of documents, and in specific consultation and information sessions to gain their views on the developments taking place in early years, childcare and parenting.

### **2.4 Financial Implications**

N/A

## 2.5 Legal Implications

"By virtue of Section 120 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Authority is obliged to prepare an early years development and childcare plan in conjunction with the early years and childcare partnership. Such a plan ensures that the Authority fulfils its obligations under Section 118 and 118A of the same Act in respect of nursery and childcare provision."

## 2.6 Equalities Impact

The 2004-2006 Early Years and Childcare strategy has contributed to the corporate equalities plan and race equality scheme in a number of ways.

The strategy aimed to improve outcomes for all children and families, provide opportunities to succeed, achieve aspirations, provide access to services, combat disadvantage and promote social inclusions.

The main ways it did this are:

- Ensuring Childcare is established in all Harrows areas of disadvantage
- Promoting Childcare and Early Education as a career to Men, people with a disability, Harrows ethnic communities and people over 40.
- Linking closely with Harrows Ethnic Minority Achievement Service to provide specific services to Harrows underrepresented groups.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

### Appendices

Harrow Early Years and Childcare Achievement Report 2004/06

Background Papers available on request:

Harrow Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2004-06

SureStart Planning Guidance 2004-06

Harrow Early Years and Childcare Strategy and Implementation Plans approved by Council 2001, 2002 and 2003.