Appendix 2

CHILDREN'S CENTRE CORE OFFER

Core Offer – Sure Start Guidance August 03

1. Early education integrated with day care:

- Early education integrated with day care for babies and children until they reach school age.
- Day care suitable for working parents, 5 days a week, 48 weeks a year, 10 hours a day.
- Nursery places will be open to all, not just families in the immediate area, to provide the best educational outcomes for all children (admission and fee policies will be determined locally).
- Support for childminders, who may also offer wrap around care.
- Early identification of children with special needs and disabilities with inclusive services and support for their families.

2. Family support and parental outreach:

- Visits to all children in the catchment area within two months of birth.
- Access to specialist services.
- Parenting support and information as well as specific support for families in need and 'hard to reach' families.
- Providing information and advice on parenting skills at significant transition points for the family (e.g. pre birth, early days, settling into childcare).
- Increasing parents understanding of their child's development.
- Increasing the involvement of fathers.

3. Child and family health services:

- Ante-natal advice and support for parents.
 - Information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety.
 - Identification, support and care for those suffering from maternal depression, ante-natally and post-natally.
- Speech and language and other specialist support.

4. Links with schools and the CIS:

- Links to local schools, extended schools and out of school activities (holiday play schemes, before/after school play & learning).
- Information to parents/carers about CIS.

5. Links with Jobcentre Plus:

- Linking in with local arrangements (e.g. via the local authority's service level agreement) for collaboration with Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership managers.
- Encouragement and support for parents who wish to consider training and employment.

6. Other links and services, including:

- Effective links with further and higher education institutions, and local training providers.
- Training for parents, including English as an additional language where relevant, Basic Skills, or parenting classes.
- Specialist services for children with disabilities.
- Benefits advice, including maternity benefits.
- Childcare and other services for older children.