

Children's Centres and Extended Schools



Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Contents

	Paragraph	Page No
Introduction by the Chair	1	1
Summary	2	2
Membership of the Scrutiny Panel	3	2
Terms of Reference	4	2 - 3
Methodology	5	3 - 4
Children's Centres	6	4 - 18
Extended Schools	7	18 - 26
External Providers of Services	8	26 - 28
Conclusions	9	28 - 30
Recommendations	10	30 - 31
Borough Treasurer's Comments	11	31
Borough Solicitor's Comments	12	31
Appendices		32 - 35

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

1. Introduction by the Chair

I am very pleased to present this report which follows the review carried out by the Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel into the provision of Children's Centres and Extended Schools within the borough.

The Scrutiny Panel have found this to be a very interesting review and throughout its course have been pleased to find that the services being delivered through Children's Centres and Extended Schools are helping to meet the needs of many children and families within the borough.

From the outset of the review the Scrutiny Panel's aim was ensuring that as far as possible services delivered were meeting the needs of all those that require them in Tameside's community. Within this context it is important that the challenges of the current economic climate are acknowledged. Throughout the review the Scrutiny Panel has been aware that some areas of service may be impacted once the effects of the Coalition Government's review of public spending have become clear. As a result, some of the recommendations within this Scrutiny Review highlight areas the Scrutiny Panel may want to look at further as the Comprehensive Spending Review has been implemented.



The role which the voluntary sector can play has been highlighted throughout our site visits and meetings. This is something which we feel is very important, especially to Children's Centres, and is an area which we feel can be promoted.

On behalf of the Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people that gave information to members during the course of this review.

The Scrutiny Panel is pleased to present its findings and as Chair I hope that the conclusions and recommendations contained within this report can help contribute to the continued success of Children's Centres and Extended Schools in Tameside.

Councillor R Welsh
Chair

2. Summary

The delivery of services for children and young people in Tameside relies on a holistic approach to development taking into account both the role of a variety of different influences on the lives of children. Deprivation in particular can have a significant impact on the development of children and young people. Over recent years services delivered by the local authority and schools within the Borough of Tameside have increased in response to National Government and have developed capacity in a number of areas. The Scrutiny Panel chose to carry out a Scrutiny Review of Children's Centres and Extended Schools as a key area where capacity has been developed to increase the life chances of children and young people and decrease the impact of deprivation.

From the outset of the review the Scrutiny Panel's aim was of ensuring that as far as possible services delivered were meeting the needs of all those that require them in Tameside's community. Within this context it is important that the challenges of the current economic climate are acknowledged. Throughout the review the Scrutiny Panel has been aware that some areas of service may be impacted once the results of the Coalition Government's review of Public Spending are made public. As a result some of the recommendations within this Scrutiny Review highlight areas the Scrutiny Panel may want to look at further once the Comprehensive Spending Review has been implemented.

3. Membership of the Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Ruth Welsh (Chair), Councillor Claire Francis (Deputy Chair)
Councillors, Brelsford, P Fitzpatrick, P Harrison, Patrick, S Quinn, Sullivan, Ward and Wild
Co-opted Members: Mrs Marsh, Rev. Father Clarke, Mr Ahmed, Mrs Sharma, Mrs Gregory, and Mr Osmond.

4. Terms of Reference

Aim of the Review:

To review the provision of Children's Centres and Extended Schools in Tameside and their effectiveness in providing support for the people they were intended for, especially to vulnerable groups.

Objectives:

- A. To ascertain the coverage of Extended Schools Services and Children's Centres in the borough and their effectiveness.
- B. To ascertain whether there are any significant gaps in provision and whether quality services are being fully delivered.
- C. To consider whether the services provided by Extended Schools and Children's Centres are reaching the people and families intended and to ascertain the outcomes.

-
- D. To compare the provision in Tameside to those in some other similar local authorities.

Value for Money/Use of Resources:

To consider whether resources are being used effectively and efficiently in the provision of Extended Schools Services and Children's Centres.

Equalities Issues:

Accessibility to Children's Centres and Extended Schools is a key line of enquiry for this review to ensure that these facilities are available to all sections of the community especially those regarded as the most vulnerable and in need.

Local Area Agreement Targets:

This Scrutiny Review supports the Tameside Local Area Agreement targets for – **(72)** Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy; and **(92)** Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.

5. Methodology

5.1 During the course of the review Members met with:

- Claire Bibby, Assistant Executive Director, Area Support and Youth Services and Geraldine Smith, Service Unit Manager, Extended Services to discuss the way in which Extended Schools and Children's Centres are delivered in Tameside.
- Susan Armstrong-Riley, Lorna Meredith and Clover Selby to discuss the challenges of delivering services as an external provider. These attendees were private providers of Out of School Child Care and Activities and have links to Extended Schools and Children's Centres.
- Anne Okwei: Extended Services Manager and Peter Jenkinson: Senior Business Manager, Jobcentre Plus, to discuss the role of Children's Centres in Tameside and their links to employment through Jobcentre Plus.
- Jane Harrison, Business Manager Astley Sports College and Community High School, Sue West, Headteacher The Heys Primary School and Maggie Parker, Headteacher Greswell Primary School to discuss the provision of Extended Services by schools in Tameside.
- Mike Hughes, Assistant Head of Integrated Prevention Services at Stockport Council and Maria Greenwood Head of People Communities and Society at

Oldham Council to discuss the delivery and management of Children's Centres in their respective areas.

- Councillor A Gwynne, Executive Member for Services for Children and Young People and Councillor G Cooney, Executive Member Lifelong Learning Services, to discuss the provision of Extended Schools and Children's Centres in Tameside.

5.2 Scrutiny Panel Members also carried out a number of site visits to support this review to:

- Samuel Laycock School
- Manor Green Primary School
- Mossley Children's Centre
- Stalybridge Children's Centre Services
- St. Peter's Children's Centre
- Greenside Children's Centre and Primary School

5.3 The content of this report has been checked for factual accuracy by Claire Bibby, Assistant Executive Director, Area Support and Youth Services.

6. Children's Centres

6.1 Background

6.1.1 The Government's vision, set out in the Children's Plan, is that every child should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and have the very best possible start in life.

6.1.2 Sure Start Children's Centres are places where children under 5 years and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information, and where they can access help from a range of professionals.

6.1.3 Sure Start Children's Centres are at the forefront of transforming the way that services for young children and their families are delivered and it is the Government's intention to have 3,500 Children's Centres in the country by 2010; that is one for every community in England.

6.2 Position in Tameside

6.2.1 Within Tameside the target is to have 17 Children's Centres across the borough by 2010. Currently there are 15 centres established that provide integrated services including:

- High quality childcare and early learning experiences
- Family support
- Child health and promotion services
- Employment support from Job Centre Plus

- Information, advice and assistance relating to childcare and other services relevant to young children and their families

6.2.2 These services are available to all families within the borough but the services offered in different areas will be dependent on the level of deprivation in a particular area. Children’s Centres within the most disadvantaged areas offer the following services:

- Early learning combined with full day care provision for children
- Teacher input
- Child and family health services (including ante-natal services)
- Parental outreach
- Family support services
- A base for a childminder network
- Effective links with Jobcentre Plus

6.2.3 In less disadvantaged areas the authority has worked flexibly to provide services to meet local need provided there is a minimum range of services in place including:

- Drop-in sessions and other activities for children and carers
- Appropriate support and outreach services
- Information and advice to parents and carers on a range of subjects including local childcare, looking after babies and children, education and early years provision and parenting
- Support to childminders

6.2.4 The intent of this split in provision is to ensure that Children’s Centres should not duplicate existing provision or provide services which are not necessary. Within advantaged areas the Centres offer a more basic service and signpost parents, where appropriate, to existing services within the area.

6.2.5 Within Children’s Services the borough is split into four areas for the purposes of aligning services with other bodies:

- Ashton
- Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw
- Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley
- Hyde, Hattersley and Longdendale

6.2.6 The table below shows provision in each of these areas:

		Children’s Centre	
Hyde, Hattersley and Longdendale	Hattersley Children’s Centre		
	Hollingworth, Mottram and Broadbottom Children's Centre		
	Hyde Flowery Children's Centre	Working as Hyde Children's Centre	
	Newton Children's Centre		

Dukinfield, Stalybridge Mossley	Ridge Hill Children's Centre	Working as Stalybridge Children's Centre Services
	Millbrook Children's Centre	
	Lyndhurst Children's Centre	
	Dukinfield Children's Centre	
	Mossley Children's Centre	
Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw	Denton Children's Centre	
	Denton South Children's Centre	
	Fairfield Children's Centre	
	Greenside Primary and Children's Centre	
	Audenshaw Area Children's Centre	
Ashton	St Peters Children's Centre	
	Rose Hill Children's Centre	
	Waterloo Children's Centre	

- 6.2.7 Disadvantaged areas are identified using the Index of Multiple Deprivation. They are identified as areas where half or more of the children in a given area live in one of the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas in England.
- 6.2.8 The approach of Children's Centres provision in Tameside is to see Children's Centres as a local network of services which are co-coordinated and supported, and responsive to the needs of local families. The service aims to build on provision that already exists in communities, use sites where families already go to for support such as school, health centres, libraries and community halls.
- 6.2.9 Tameside's Children's Centres engage approximately 70% of under 5s within the borough although exact numbers are difficult to ascertain because an individual can access services at more than one Children's Centre.
- 6.2.10 Whilst many children are engaged through Tameside's Children's Centres the service acknowledges that challenges remain in increasing engagement from difficult to reach groups within the community.

6.3 Delivery of Children's Centres in Tameside

- 6.3.1 Claire Bibby, Assistant Executive Director, Area Support and Youth and Geraldine Smith Service Unit Manager Extended Services, attended a Scrutiny Panel meeting to provide information about Children's Centres and Extended Schools and answer questions on the service.
- 6.3.2 Tameside's Children's Centre provision includes the Sure Start programme, where four Sure Start Centres were provided in areas of highest deprivation. Places include: Hyde, Hattersley, Ashton St. Peters and Rosehill.
- 6.3.3 In 2003 a change in national policy led to the provision of a more universal service of Children's Centres. The Panel heard that as a result Tameside now operates 15 Children's Centres with a further two planned. Although Children's Centres provision will cover the entire borough, not all Centres have their own building.

The Future

- 6.3.4 It was reported that the development phase of Children's Centres is coming to an end in 2010 and there is now focus on embedding and reviewing the services provided by Children's Centres. As a part of this activity the service will examine who is accessing the service.
- 6.3.5 From April 2010 Children's Centres will come fully under Ofsted's inspection regime. Inspections will initially look at centres that have been operating for a period of three or more years.
- 6.3.6 The Service will begin to review location and governance arrangements of Children's Centres within the borough as it moves out of the development phase.

Vulnerable Groups

- 6.3.7 The Service is made aware of any children that are born in Tameside and works with other support services, such as health visitors, to identify vulnerabilities. The Service works to encourage all families to access the services available via Children's Centres.
- 6.3.8 Examples of vulnerable people include; new arrivals into the country, families where a family member is in prison, families where mental health issues are known to exist and families where domestic violence has been an issue. The Service also performs the role to support parents to become economically active. Early Years support is seen as vital to Children's Centres provision. The Service has over 20 staff in the Quality Team that support and help to develop Early Year's provision in the borough.
- 6.3.9 2.9 million children in the United Kingdom are living in poverty and 25% of 0-16 year olds in Tameside are estimated to be living in poverty. There is a greater risk of disadvantage for those children including a greater likelihood of experiencing worklessness.
- 6.3.10 Increasing uptake from fathers had been more successful in areas such as Ashton St. Peters and less successful in areas such as Hattersley where the service has found it difficult to significantly increase uptake.
- 6.3.11 Children's Centres provide a mix of universal and targeted provision aimed at reducing the impact of poverty on children in Tameside. Services provided by Children's Centres are broken down into four main areas of coverage:
- **Education Family and Health:** helping ensure that poverty in childhood does not translate to poor experiences and outcomes
 - **Employment and Adult Skills:** providing support for families that support them when moving towards employment that pays as a tool to reduce poverty
 - **Financial Support:** Advice provided that is responsive to Tameside families needs
 - **Housing and Neighbourhoods:** Provision of help and support aimed at developing an environment where children are supported to thrive

Performance Management

- 6.3.12 The impact of Children's Centres is measured using a variety of performance management tools including:
- Self-evaluation forms
 - Ofsted inspection (from 2010)
 - User Feedback
 - The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
 - Case Studies
- 6.3.13 Services delivered within Tameside's Children's Centres are performance managed through partnership agreements supported by core workers in Centres and are underpinned by Early Years Workers and Community Development Workers.
- 6.3.14 The Service has examined different agencies to find the most cost effective method to run Children's Centres. A decision was made to commission time limited elements of delivery rather than commissioning individual providers to deliver the Centres.
- 6.3.15 Some local authorities are integrating Children's Centres into schools. In Tameside it is felt that the responsibility of managing Children's Centres would be a large amount of extra provision for schools to deliver. Local people also have a tendency to associate the Children's Centre with the school's intake rather than as a resource for the wider community.
- 6.3.16 Children's Centres in Tameside such as Rosehill, The Heys and Lyndhurst are held at school sites but with separate governance. The key to success for these Centres is the relationship between the Children's Centre and the school involved.

Location and Charging

- 6.3.17 Sites where there has been no fixed single point of access have had some success in increasing engagement, via working on a one on one basis with members of the community. It was acknowledged, however, that the development of one permanent central site would be preferable.
- 6.3.18 It was also reported that no sites additional to the 17 planned were scheduled to be developed in Tameside.
- 6.3.19 Some services are provided free of charge including health and job services, however other services such as childcare would attract a charge.

Conclusions

1. The Panel feels that central point of access Children's Centre sites are more easily identified within the community and appear to have greater uptake.

Recommendations

1. That wherever possible, Children's Centres are given a central point of access and a permanent location for services sought.

6.4 Other Authorities approach to the provision of Children's Centres Services

Oldham

- 6.4.1 Maria Greenwood Head of Preventative Services at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and Jenny Dennis Service Manager; Integration and Development attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to discuss the delivery of Children's Centres Services at Oldham Council.
- 6.4.2 It was reported that Oldham had delivered six phase one and eight phase two Children's Centres working with four delivery partners. Eight of the Children's Centres in Oldham are run by schools' governing bodies; one is run by Barnardo's, five by the Children's Society and a further two by Action for Children. These Centres use 40% of the Sure Start budget and serve approximately 15,000 children in the borough.
- 6.4.3 In developing Children's Centres in Oldham there had been significant challenges. It was emphasised that the key to the success of Children's Centres in the model used at Oldham Council was the development of a shared sense of purpose between providers of services.
- 6.4.4 Services are procured through a commissioning model at a cost of approximately £4 million. The use of different external providers has delivered benefits including: greater outcome focus, value for money, and the ability to attract additional funding. Continual improvement has been built into the process through the contract monitoring process.
- 6.4.5 It was felt that a mixture of different providers of these services gave the authority the ability to benchmark and compare provision effectively. Oldham has adopted an outcomes led accountability model where performance indicators are used to identify any specific issues.
- 6.4.6 Using different providers was also seen to be challenging as the providers can compete with each other and be reluctant to share information / work with other providers. Forward planning was seen as key to managing these challenges.

Stockport

- 6.4.7 Mike Hughes Assistant Head of Service, Integrated Prevention Services, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council attended a Scrutiny Panel meeting to discuss the delivery of Children's Centres in Stockport.

-
- 6.4.8 Children's Centres in Stockport are run directly through the Council with one site being shared with a nursery school. Stockport currently delivers 19 Children's Centres, 5 of which are delivered on libraries sites, 2 on health sites and 12 on school sites. Of these 6 deliver services to areas that fall into the 30% most deprived areas in England and 13 are outside of these areas.
- 6.4.9 A key challenge within Stockport is that there is a significant gap between less and more deprived communities within the borough, meaning that Centres serving those primarily less deprived areas may contain pockets of higher deprivation.
- 6.4.10 Areas of challenge included having the capacity to deliver Centres, development of an overall vision and physical challenges in relation to the location / design of buildings used.
- 6.4.11 Stockport Council has chosen to adopt a new formula for Centres in more and less deprived communities split into bands A, B, C and D. Models A and B are in areas within the 30% most deprived, model C in less deprived areas where pockets of deprivation exist and Model D where no deprivation exists. Within the formula used the Council targets resources to priority areas in order to manage the performance of Children's Centres more effectively. Budgets are linked to the number of children in a deprived area within the reach of the Centre and the overall number of children in that same area.

Advertising

- 6.4.12 Both Stockport and Oldham Metropolitan Borough Councils undertake advertising and advocacy of Children's Centres Services. Providers of Children's Centres Services in Oldham are set targets covering the number of children that are registered with Children's Centres. In Stockport Children's Centres when midwives visit families they will talk about the services available at Children's Centres. The Service is also investigating the opportunity to produce a Children's Centres welcome card to all new parents in Stockport.
- 6.4.13 The approach of Stockport is similar to Tameside where all new parents receive information regarding Children's Centres. In Tameside, new-birth data is received; checks are made to see if midwife and health visits have been carried out, if parents have been given information and if families are registered at their local Children's Centre. Where this has not taken place a Children's Centre worker will visit a family within two months of a child's birth.

Conclusions

2. Health visitors and midwives in Tameside play a vital role in helping raise awareness of Children's Centres and in identifying the most vulnerable requiring targeted services.
3. The management system for Tameside's Children's Centres appears to be successful and appropriate. Discussion of the systems used by other local authorities could help to contribute to the development of Centres in Tameside.

Recommendations

2. That Services for Children and Young People engage with other local authorities to seek ways to share learning / best practice around Children's Centres.

6.5 Children's Centres and Employment

Links to Employment

- 6.5.1 Children's Centres have effective links with Jobcentre Plus to support parents and carers who wish to consider training or employment. It is difficult to measure what the impact on employment is directly.
- 6.5.2 In 2008, the Department for Work and Pensions commissioned a pilot to look at the development of work-focused services in Children's Centres. The pilot is currently being run in 30 Children's Centres in ten local authority areas. These Centres will provide work-focused services through a dedicated Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser, as well as activities designed to support local parents into work. The pilot will be concluded by March 2011.
- 6.5.3 Findings from the pilot are outlined below, it was found that:
 - There is sufficient demand amongst parents for both work-focused services and the location of them in Children's Centres.
 - Some parents may present greater challenges as they do not see work as an option in the shorter term alongside their childcare responsibilities. This emphasises the importance of the Centre's role in promoting good quality childcare so parents can think about their employment options.

How it Works

- 6.5.4 Job Centre Plus targets individuals rather than looking at a particular geographic area. Job Centre Plus works directly with Children's Centres in order to increase opportunities for employment. Link Advisors at Centres provide a direct contact point for parents to access information about employment opportunities. A partnership agreement between Children's Centres and Job Centre Plus is in place.
- 6.5.5 A key focus from Children's Centres in relation to employment was on changing an individuals' mindset in relation to work to help move towards employment at an appropriate time.
- 6.5.6 Job Centre Plus carry out 'Better Off' calculations for individuals showing how much 'better off' an individual would be were they to move off benefits and into employment.
- 6.5.7 In Tameside it was reported that over one hundred people a year moved from inactivity to activity through Children's Centres but that this activity may not be a

direct move to employment. It was reported that the number of people making the move to employment directly would be quite low.

Volunteering

6.5.8 The transition to employment for people who use Children's Centres and have historic worklessness issues is a complex process. A Children's Centre may provide support for individuals e.g. drug abusers who are not immediately ready to access volunteering opportunities or the working environment. The Service felt that some of the most successful work in relation to employment took place through the volunteering programme. Through this programme the following opportunities are provided:

- Volunteering may lead to the opportunity to work with an employer
- Individuals are inducted and vetted as they would be with an employer
- Access to training courses is easier
- Parents who volunteer can learn alongside their own children
- Adults can work with other parents to set up community groups with formal constitutions and enter into independent bids for funding

Skills

6.5.9 Children's Centres support a number of projects such as 'Jabadoo' which offers parents the opportunity to get engaged with Community Development Workers. Other parents can begin to learn languages, primarily English to help develop conversational skills and obtain the formal English Speakers of Other Languages training.

Dealing with Deprivation

6.5.10 The original Sure Start Centres targeted areas with higher levels of deprivation and continue to look at the needs of those local communities. The impact of that work taking place may take some time to become apparent, as those areas have had such a long legacy of deprivation over many years.

Conclusions

4. The role of Children's Centres in facilitating direct access to employment can be limited, but Children's Centres in Tameside do build capacity within the community through their educational and volunteering opportunities. This increases the skills of the individuals involved and helps to develop the Children's Centres themselves.
5. Parents and carers are able to access useful information relating to employment opportunities within Children's Centres.

Recommendations

3. That wherever possible Children's Centres continue to provide educational and volunteering opportunities to build the capacity of people accessing such centres.
4. That wherever possible Children's Centres continue to develop opportunities for those accessing Centres to access employment.

6.6 Children's Centres Performance

6.6.1 During the course of the review the Scrutiny Panel received information from the service regarding the performance of Children's Centres. This information is formed from four main sources:

- Case Studies from people who had used Children's Centres and achieved positive outcomes
- Survey data from the Services for Children and Young People Parents' Survey
- Performance data regarding uptake of Children's Centres
- Site visits to Children's Centres carried out by the Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Case Studies

6.6.2. Case studies provided by the Service show a number of cases that have led to positive outcomes for individuals who access the services provided by Children's Centres

The Parents Survey

6.6.3 Key satisfaction information regarding Children's Centres across the borough is collected via the Parents' Survey. Data from the survey is used to measure outcomes for Children's Centres. The survey was carried out using a mixture of telephone and face to face interviews. In total 772 surveys were completed with parents. In 2010, 60% of the parents surveyed had used one or more Children's Centre, an increase on 40% when the survey was carried out in 2009.

6.6.4 Key headline findings of the 2010 Parents Survey include:

- 92% of parents were either satisfied or very satisfied with services provided by Children's Centres
- 91% also agreed that being involved with Children's Centres has had a positive impact on the lives of their family
- 97% of parents have found Children's Centre staff both helpful and welcoming
- Overall 98% of parents would recommend Children's Centre services to a friend
- Over four-fifths of parents know what a Children's Centre is (85%); an improvement on 68% (2009)
- Overall four-fifths of parents have heard of at least one of the Children's Centres in Tameside (86%); an improvement on 74% (2009)

-
- Six in ten parents have used at least one of the Children's Centres; an increase on the four in ten (2009)
 - Not requiring the services available was the reason given by over half of those not using centres (52%); a further 15% said they were not aware of the services/range of services
 - The most widely used activities within Children's Centres are sessions for children (61%); with half having accessed health services (50%)
 - Over four in ten parents reported using services on a weekly basis (44%)

6.6.5 Analysis by ethnicity shows that BME parents were more likely to be aware of Children's Centres than White British parents (96% compared to 84%).

6.6.6 Over a third of parents were made aware of Children's Centre services via health workers (37%), showing that families are finding out about the services available when their children are very young and whilst still expecting. Almost a third of parents had found out about the services via word of mouth (32%). Leaflets and advertising also appear to work well with 16% finding out about services this way.

6.6.7 For those who were dissatisfied, reasons for dissatisfaction included:

- Difficulty getting a place
- Children not being given enough attention
- More communication being needed
- Issues with particular members of staff

Performance Information

6.6.8 Services for Children and Young People annually collect information which measures outcomes achieved and the level of access to services such as Children's Centres.

6.6.9 Data regarding Children's Centres can contain inaccuracies as families can access more than one Children's Centre across the borough. The information below is taken from monitoring carried out by Services for Children and Young People throughout the year.

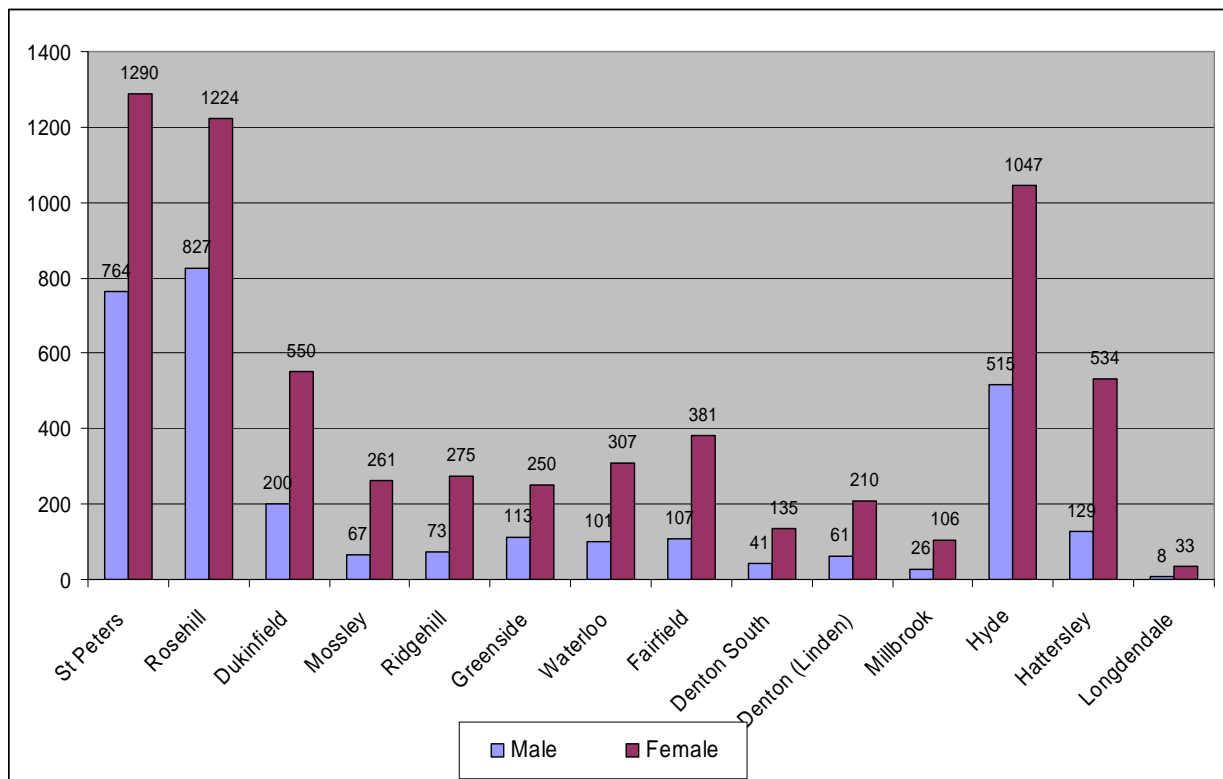
6.6.10 It is estimated that overall approximately 55% of children under the age of 5 are accessing Children's Centre provision.

6.6.11 Children's Centres collect user information broken down by characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity. This information is used to evaluate activities or groups that are run by each Children's Centre. Data is not centrally collated. However, an electronic system for the collation is currently being developed by Council's ICT department. This project was due to be completed in August but has been delayed.

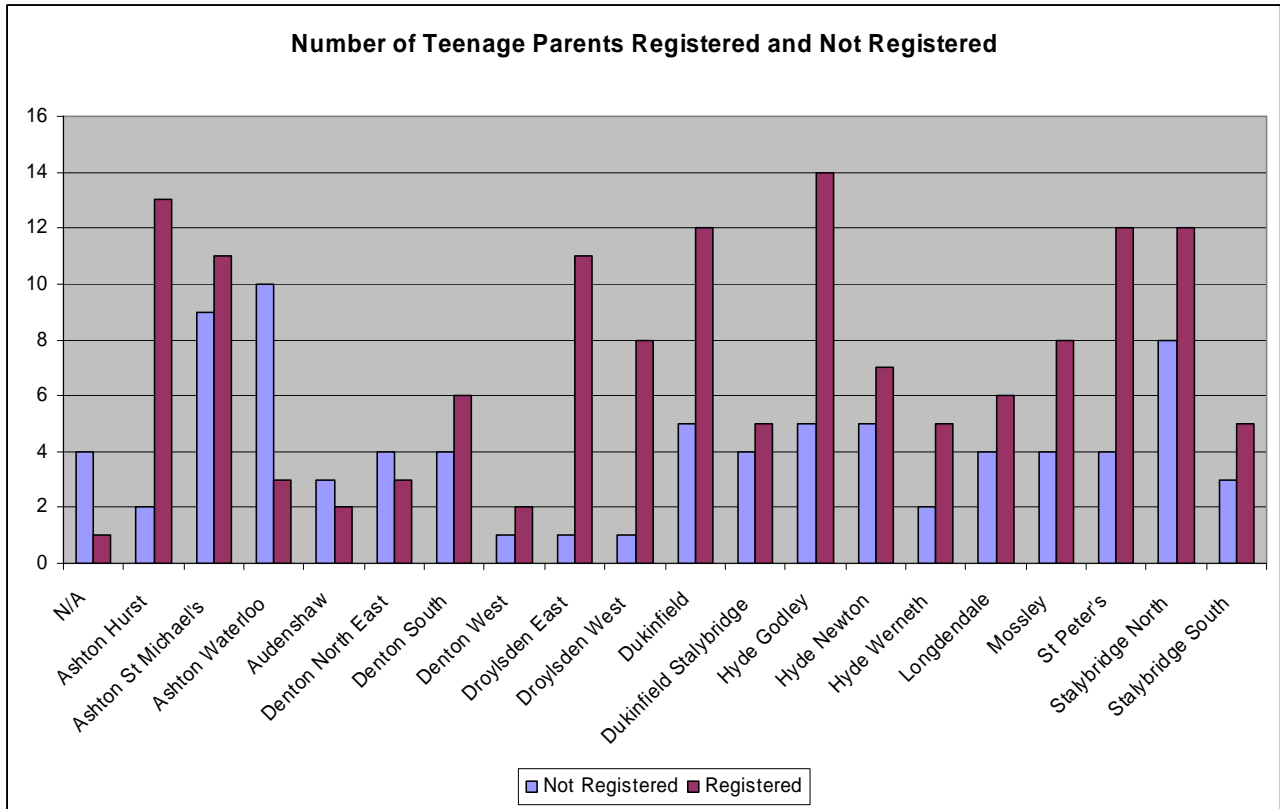
6.6.12 The most recent available estimate for the proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) People in Tameside's community is 7.7%. A complete analysis of the number of BME people accessing Children's Centres is not currently available. Ethnic monitoring data for St. Peter's and Rosehill Children's Centre has been collated to give a sample of BME people accessing services.

6.6.13 In June 2010, 166 children (8.5% of total children accessing the Centre) from BME backgrounds were accessing St. Peters Children's Centre. 101 children (8.3% of total children accessing the Centre) from BME backgrounds were accessing Rosehill Children's Centre.

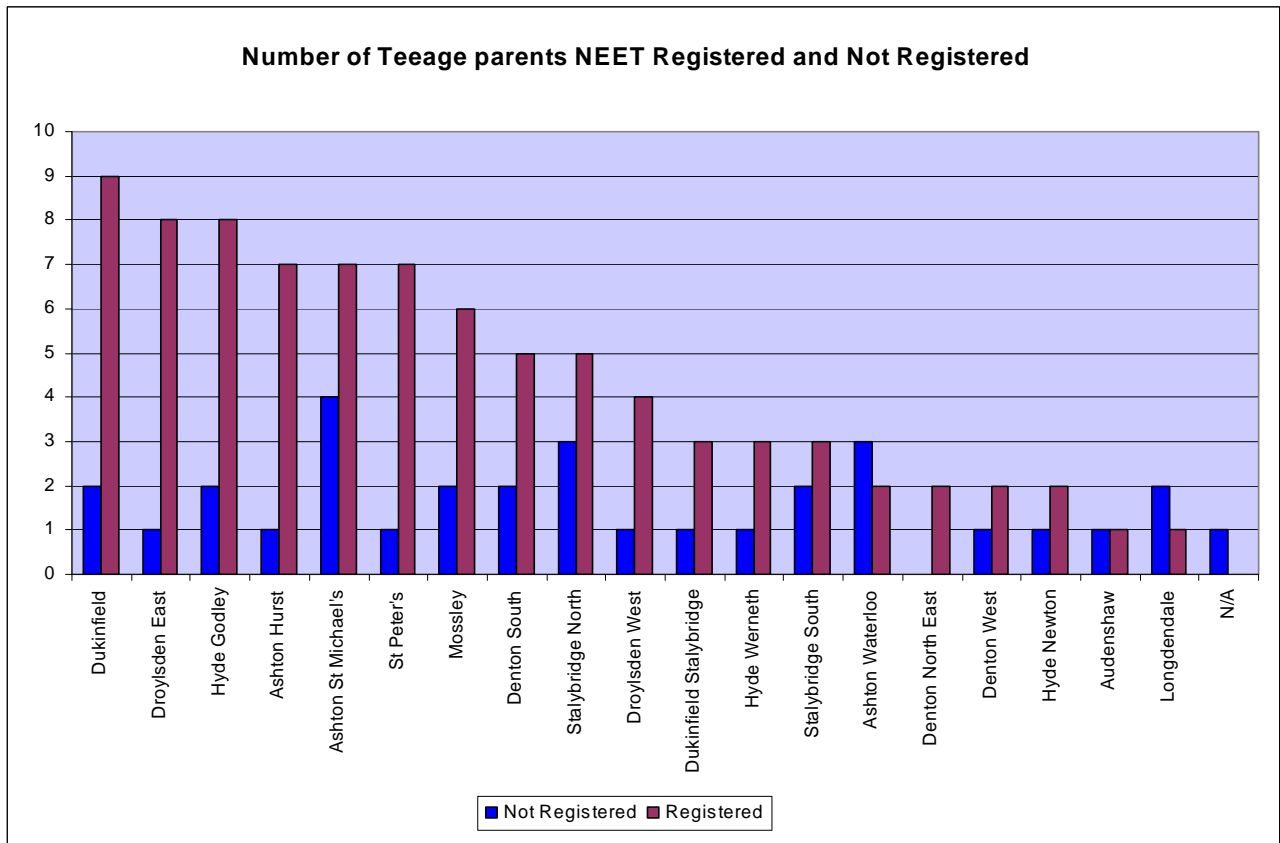
6.6.14 Most Children's Centres have a significantly higher proportion of female carers accessing them than male. The graph below shows the number of males and female carers accessing each Children's Centre in Tameside.



6.6.15 The graph below shows the estimated number of teenage parents in each ward that were registered with each of Tameside's Centres compared to the estimated total number of teenage parents in each area at June 2009.



6.6.16 In addition to this information, the estimated number of teenage parents not in education, employment or training that are registered with Children's Centres is also monitored. The graph below shows the number who are registered by ward.



Site Visits

- 6.6.17 Members of the Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel undertook site visits to several of Tameside's Children's Centres in order to gather further information regarding the delivery of Children's Centres within the borough.
- **Mossley Children's Centre** provides services from a location linked directly to a school and has in place a shared worker. The building is situated next to a youth service base which helps to bring the different areas of provision in Mossley closer together. The Centre offers a variety of provision for parents and children and has links with schools in the area to help engage local people in accessing services. One of the main challenges identified by the Centre was in engaging people who are harder to reach.
 - **Stalybridge Children's Centre** is offered from a number of different locations. A single location had been initially sought but the service had been unable to find a suitable site. As a result a different model for the delivery of services has been put in place. A Community Link Worker helps engage members of the community in services offered. Scrutiny Panel members met with several mothers who had successfully accessed services and training through the Centre. Some issues were identified in getting transport to the different sites. New facilities being developed in partnership with Youth Services will increase the choice of venues offered by the Service and help to address this issue.
 - **St Peter's Children's Centre** in Ashton delivers services from a central location and also uses other sites within the area to deliver services. The Centre is delivered in an area of high deprivation with a diverse local population. The Centre has undertaken a significant amount of work to ensure it is delivering services to vulnerable members of the community. Staff at the Centre identified the Community Development Workers role as key to reaching such people. The use of community volunteers within the Centre has also been used to help develop the skills and confidence of attendees and increase engagement further. Volunteers have received appropriate training and some have gone on to become Community Development Workers at the Centre.

Conclusions

6. Children's Centres within Tameside engage with a wide variety of different organisations to help increase community engagement.
7. The Community Development Worker role has been vital in increasing the engagement of people who might have otherwise been hard to reach.
8. For each of the Children's Centres visited, there is a clear understanding of the people with whom the Centre is attempting to engage. However, whilst individual Centres look at customer profiles, the whole Service does not appear to collate / analyse customer profile data.

-
9. Volunteering has been used to increase the skills and confidence of attendees and capacity of children's centres. In the current economic climate the use of volunteers alongside professional staff will help to support the Service going forward.

Recommendations

5. Children's Centres should continue to develop links with partner organisations that support engagement.
6. That the Service puts in place a system to allow customer profile analysis with the aim to increase understanding of the customer base and better target service users.
7. That the service considers how volunteering can be developed to support provision and increase capacity.

7. Extended Schools

7.1 Background to Extended Schools Services

- 7.1.1 The Extended Schools prospectus, 'Extended Schools; Access to Opportunities and Services for all', published in 2005 set out the vision for Extended Schools.
- 7.1.2 Like Children's Centres, Extended Schools are a key vehicle for delivering the Government's objective of lifting children out of poverty and improving outcomes for their families.
- 7.1.3 Extended Schools work with the local authority and partners to offer access to a range of services and activities which support and motivate children and young people to achieve their full potential.
- 7.1.4 Not all schools need to provide Extended Schools Services and activities on site – access can be through other local schools or providers. Both primary and secondary schools provide Extended Schools activities.
- 7.1.5 The previous government was committed to the Extended Schools agenda. Schools were seen as a place that all children and families went and were therefore the best place to access support or 'extended' services beyond the typical school day. Schools were seen at the centre of their communities and the government wanted to make schools available for 'an extended school day' all year round, rather than 39 weeks per year.

7.2 The Development of Extended Schools Services in Tameside

7.2.1 The development of Extended Schools in Tameside was through the following programmes:

- Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners
- Ten Year Childcare Strategy
- Every Child Matters
- Out of School Hours Learning Programme
- Extended Schools Pathfinders
- Behaviour and Improvement Partnerships

Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners (July 2004)

7.2.2 This strategy set out the government's commitment for all schools to provide access to Extended Services and not just one full service extended school. The core offer for all schools became:

- Childcare for primary schools and somewhere safe to go for high schools
- Out of school hours learning activities and study support
- Parenting support, including family learning
- Swift and easy referral to specialised services
- Community access to schools, including adult learning

7.2.3 Designations and timescales were as follows:

- By 2006 – 15% of schools providing the core offer of Extended Services
- By 2008 – A third of high schools and half of primary schools providing a core offer of Extended Services and
- By September 2010 all schools to be delivering or signposting to the core offer of Extended Services

7.2.4 Initially funding for the Extended Schools programme was supported through the Big Lottery Fund Extended Schools Programme. In Tameside 6 high schools took the lead and worked with 2 local primary schools each to develop their Extended Services provision. At the end of the 3 year programme, funding became available through the Standards Funds for all schools and later through Area Based Grant (ring fencing for the latter has now been removed).

Ten Year Childcare Strategy (December 2004)

7.2.5 The 10 year Childcare Strategy looked in part at securing sufficient childcare for children age 0-14 years. This government strategy supported the worklessness agenda, enabling parents to take up employment and training, where lack of childcare for their children was a barrier. Funding for start up places for childcare was initially available through the New Opportunities Fund programme and later through Sure Start funding day nurseries and before and after school clubs.

Every Child Matters (2004)

- 7.2.6 Every Child Matters set out the national framework to build services around the needs of children and young people. The focus of services shifted from dealing with consequences of difficulties in children's lives to prevention. Extended Schools and Children's Centres were therefore seen as key in delivering preventative services. Tameside schools remodelling process is aimed to help ensure that the development, planning and delivery of Extended Services takes place in ways which best support the work of the school and the needs of children and their families.

Out of School Hours Learning Programme (2000 – 2003/4)

- 7.2.7 The development of out of school hours learning activities was first funded through New Opportunities Funds. Thirty primary and secondary schools in Tameside were involved and a range of out of school hours learning activities were developed e.g. sport, drama, dance and arts. An Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) Co-ordinator was appointed to support schools.
- 7.2.8 In 2003, an Extended Schools Co-ordinator was appointed, replacing the OSHL Co-ordinator.

Extended Schools Pathfinder (2003)

- 7.2.9 In Tameside, schools in Hattersley were part of the Pathfinder programme and received funding to develop their extended school provision. The Pathfinder was supported by a part-time Headteacher working within the Hattersley Sure Start Programme, until the appointment of the Extended Schools Co-ordinator.

Behaviour and Improvement Partnerships (2003)

- 7.2.10 Through the Behaviour and Improvement Partnership, all local authorities had to develop one full service Extended School. In Tameside, this included Astley Sports College and the co-located Cromwell High School. Services to be provided at school were:

- Childcare
- Study support
- Health and social care
- Lifelong learning
- Family learning
- Parenting support
- Sports and arts
- ICT

- 7.2.11 As part of the partnership, the aim of the full service Extended School was to:

- Improve pupil behaviour
- Improve pupil attendance and participation
- Improve pupil aspirations and attainment
- Improve pupil motivation and self-esteem

7.2.12 Funding, through the Behaviour and Improvement Partnership, was delegated to schools to help achieve this.

7.3 Current Provision in Tameside

7.3.1 All schools in Tameside have access to Extended Schools provision. Exact services provided are determined by individual schools. All mainstream and special schools are required to provide access to core services at a minimum. Core services include:

- Primary schools to provide access to high quality childcare and activities to enhance achievement and broaden interests, 8am – 6pm, five days a week, 48 weeks a year.
- Secondary schools to provide access to activities including study support and enrichment activities, which provide fun, stimulation and a safe place to be.
- Schools to provide access to parenting support; parenting groups; and family learning sessions.
- Swift easy access to specialist services, working closely with other statutory services, the voluntary and community sector.
- Schools to ensure that children with additional needs are identified as early as possible, and are well supported.
- Schools to ensure they provide community access to various facilities including ICT suites, sports facilities, arts facilities and access to adult learning.

7.3.2 The key aims of Extended Schools Services are to promote the well being of pupils and enhance community cohesion. These aims link closely with the aims of Children's Centres.

7.3.3 The Service reported that if a family were experiencing problems using Extended Services which impacted on the development of a young person, then such issues would be discussed and the individual school would seek to develop links to tackle the issue.

Funding

7.3.4 Between 2008 and 2011 the Government is providing over £1 billion to support the development of Extended Schools Services across the country. This funding reduces in 2010-11.

7.3.5 It is intended that over time Extended Schools Services should become sustainable through charging or through reconfiguring funding strands at local level through Children's Trusts. Tameside's schools can also access additional funding for Extended Services from charities, the National Lottery and private sponsors.

-
- 7.3.6 Schools are therefore able to generate income by charging for Extended Services. Any profits made by a school must be reinvested. Charging is already in place for services such as childcare. However, some services will be made available free of charge. At the time of this writing, parents are able to apply for help with up to 80% of the costs of childcare, through the Working Family Tax Credit.
- 7.3.7 Tameside has taken part in the 'Disadvantage Subsidy' pilot. The aim of the subsidy is to support those children and young people in years 3-8 who cannot access Extended Services due to cost. The main criterion for eligibility for the scheme is Free School Meals. Tameside received £165,000 funding for the scheme to be introduced (09/10). Primary and high schools in Hattersley and Hyde are involved. At the time of writing a decision regarding funding for 2010/11 by Central Government was on hold. However it is not expected that funding will continue beyond 2010/11.
- 7.3.8 With regards to PFI funded schools, the number of hours of Extended Schools provision required is to be listed in the contract with the management company.
- 7.3.9 It is noted that at the time of writing the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 (CSR) on the funding of Extended Services is not known.

Conclusions

10. The Panel notes with interest the pilot programme of 'Disadvantage Subsidy' which was undertaken within the Schools Service.
11. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 may have an impact on the funding available for Extended Schools within the borough.
12. The Scrutiny Panel understands that all schools should provide access to core services, identified within the Extended Schools guidance, at a minimum.

Recommendations

8. That the Panel receive further information on the effectiveness of 'Disadvantage Subsidy' following the conclusion of the pilot programme.
9. That the Panel receives further information regarding the impact of potential funding changes following the implementation of the Comprehensive Spending Review.
10. That Services for Children and Young People carry out checks of Tameside's Extended Services to ensure that all schools are providing access to the core services.

The Heys Primary School

- 7.3.10 The Scrutiny Panel met with Sue West, Headteacher of the Heys Primary School. Mrs West reported that a wide variety of Extended Services are provided, including sports provision, adults classes, arts and drama classes and a before and after schools club providing healthy snacks and activities. For one evening per week space within the school is let to a Gujarati school. The school has links with the Rosehill Children's Centre, healthcare providers, the police service and parents.
- 7.3.11 Significant focus of the school is in involving parents. The school holds holiday activities and invites six other schools in the area to join in. There is also an emphasis on involving people from across local diverse communities.
- 7.3.12 The school receives £5,000 per annum from Tameside Council to help support the provision of Extended Services. These costs are further subsidised by the school. The school has in place a minimal charge for some services. The school employs two learning mentors and school teachers also help out with delivery on a voluntary basis.
- 7.3.13 A high degree of face to face contact with parents takes place and there has been success in attracting parents to volunteer to help out at events. Parents from diverse backgrounds participate in the services and 40% of school pupils are receiving free school meals.
- 7.3.14 Work undertaken has also helped parents to access employment opportunities. Sporting activities are supported by the school and Tameside Sports Trust.

Greswell Primary School

- 7.3.15 The Scrutiny Panel met with Maggie Parker, Headteacher, Greswell Primary School to discuss the provision of Extended Services at Greswell Primary School. Mrs Parker reported that the school runs a diverse range of Extended Services provision before and after school.
- 7.3.16 Provision includes: mums and tots sessions; a toast club; school trips focused on vulnerable children; a holiday club; a youth club for children from years 5-7; 'dads and lads' and 'mums and chums' sessions; and a cooking club for parents and children. The school's intake is a mixed cohort of both more and less deprived families.
- 7.3.17 Charging is in place and income generated is used to subsidise free places for vulnerable children. Any additional income is used to enhance existing Extended provision. Additional funding is also accessed from the local authority in order to subsidise adult learning.
- 7.3.18 Learning opportunities are available to parents who support Extended Services provision as volunteers and these parents can gain qualifications and training through the school.

7.3.19 It was reported that school vandalism had reduced significantly over the period which Extended Schools had been offered. It was felt that there was a link between this and the feeling of ownership/sense of pride the community now felt towards the school.

7.3.20 Meetings led by a lead agency to discuss the needs of children at the school had led to significant improvements in multi-agency working.

Astley Sports College and Community High School

7.3.21 At the time of the review Astley Sports College was subject to 'Special Measures' and as such is subject to rigorous inspection thus having a strong imperative to improve performance.

7.3.22 The Scrutiny Panel met with Jane Harrison, Business Manager and Melanie Warhurst, Associate Deputy Headteacher, Astley Sports College and Community High School, to discuss the provision of Extended Schools Services.

7.3.23 Activities provided at the school included the following:

- Providing support for parents by working with the Youth Service in dealing with teenagers with behavioural difficulties
- Dog training sessions, aimed at increasing engagement with parents. This activity was very successful, resulting in increased attendance at parents' evenings
- 'Literacy at Breakfast' sessions, to help to raise low levels of literacy and numeracy
- Breakfast clubs, to ensure children are well fed and able to concentrate during lesson times

7.3.24 A significant culture change had been achieved at the school which has led to an increase in overall attendance and a decrease in persistent absence from pupils.

7.3.25 The sports complex must be self-sustaining and therefore has to charge for services. This has led to barriers for people unable to pay. The school has introduced free access to the fitness suite for pupils and, through work with the sports partnership, the school holds activities which all children within the school can access.

7.3.26 A summer holiday music course had been held at the school but music provision remains an area of development for the school.

7.3.27 The school has regular meetings with other bodies to bring together intelligence about families accessing the school and there were currently felt to be no barriers to multi-agency working between Astley and other relevant bodies.

7.4 Performance Information

7.4.1 Schools that have participated directly within this review either as guests at individual Scrutiny Panel meetings or as hosts for site visits have highlighted what

they believe are significant links between educational attainment, attendance at school and the provision of services.

- 7.4.2 Educational attainment has risen within Tameside over the period Extended Schools Services have been operating; attendance figures have also increased in locations examined. Despite this, it is not possible to directly attribute these improvements solely to the provision of Extended Schools. Evidence examined does, however, indicate that the provision of Extended Services has contributed to these improvements.

7.5 Site Visits

- 7.5.1 Throughout the course of the review the Scrutiny Panel carried out site visits to schools within the borough to help inform the progress of the review.

Greenside Children's Centre and Primary School

- 7.5.2 The School and Children's Centre has been in place for approximately 10 years and developed from the Early Years Excellence Centre model (prior to Sure Start Children's Centres). The Centre has therefore had a great opportunity to develop links within the community and increase capacity around services delivered.

- 7.5.3 Links developed include the general community and a variety of agencies e.g. Police, Health Visitors, and Job Centre Plus.

Samuel Laycock School

- 7.5.4 Samuel Laycock School is a Special School. The school provides a variety of Extended Schools activities ranging from sports clubs to homework clubs. The school also links in to activities provided offsite including: East Cheshire Harriers, Tameside Titans Football Club and Harriets Dance Club.

- 7.5.5 The following areas were highlighted by the School as working well:

- Establishing direct contact with children and parents to promote Extended Schools activity
- Using written information to remind people about services
- Connections with other coaches and clubs for sporting activity to increase capacity

- 7.5.6 The school's catchment area is Tameside wide and transport to and from Extended Schools activity was seen to be an issue.

Manor Green Primary School

- 7.5.7 Manor Green Primary and Nursery School consists of three linked playgrounds, an early years outdoor learning area, a football pitch, open grassed areas, playing fields, vegetable plot and a 'Discovery' garden to develop science work. A coffee morning for parents has been successful in increasing engagement with

vulnerable families in particular. Activity is supported by Tameside adult learning. Activity has helped to increase attendance at parents' evenings.

- 7.5.8 Two limitations of Extended Services were seen to be space and financial resources. The school accesses additional funding to sustain delivery. Parents groups have also been formed who bid for funding to carry out activities. External providers are not used by the school to deliver Extended Services.

Conclusions

13. Individual schools within Tameside may provide services meeting the needs of pupils from several schools. This activity is primarily funded by the school hosting a particular service.
14. Extended Schools Services must balance charging for services; accessing other support / funding; and offering services free of charge to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Recommendations

11. That Extended Schools Services work with schools to investigate sharing expertise to help increase such expertise and build sustainability.
12. That schools seek out opportunities for working together to identify opportunities for pooling and sharing resources.

8. External Providers of Services

8.1 Background to External Providers

- 8.1.1 In the case of Tameside's Children's Centres there are many ways in how centres are organised and operate. Services may be delivered in the following ways:
- In a central location
 - Through a co-located site at a school
 - Through a network of venues
- 8.1.2 In the case of Tameside's Extended Schools, it is the responsibility of the school's governing body to decide how to enable access to the services provided. Schools are able to offer access to Extended Services on-site or off-site; through partners in the private, voluntary or independent sectors; in isolation or as part of a group of schools. A school may signpost families to other providers in order to meet the minimum core services required to be on offer.

8.2 External Providers in Tameside

- 8.2.1 Of the 76 primary schools in Tameside, 32 use external providers to provide Extended Schools provision. Those remaining schools provide access to their minimum core services without using private partners.
- 8.2.2 A variety of arrangements are in place for private providers with some owning their own premises; some making use of facilities within the schools themselves; and others making use of community buildings. Each private provider is a profit making service and are required to operate to standards that the Council sets.
- 8.2.3 External providers were asked to attend a Scrutiny Panel meeting; each used a different model of delivery outlined below:
- **Rosebuds, 4 Leaf and Broadoak** provides before-and-after school and holiday care services at three different sites based in schools with a lease arrangement agreed between the provider and school.
 - **Clockwork OOSC** provides before-and-after school care, as well as holiday care, and has transport which enables collection of children from five different schools. Services are provided at an offsite location.
 - **Skools Out Ltd** provides before-and-after school care and holiday care to all children in Mossley. The business is delivered from Mossley Community Centre with some staff working directly within schools; children are collected directly from four different schools.
- 8.2.4 External providers are required to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements for children between 0-5 years in their care. These requirements involve observation and planning for childcare. Providers provide care for children up to the age of 11 and as a result have a variety of activities for different age groups.
- 8.2.5 The numbers of children in childcare change day to day in response to the parents need. Appropriate staff training is a fundamental requirement, but specific training accessible via Tameside Council's Quality Development Team has only been in place for 12 months.
- 8.2.6 It appears, at present, that none of the external providers have any formal systems or links with schools for which information around problematic children was communicated. In some cases, schools might informally discuss issues where children are collected by the provider directly from the school.
- 8.2.7 Schools may not share information where a child has additional needs. Therefore, external providers can experience some difficulties when needs become apparent that have not been communicated.
- 8.2.8 The majority of parents use external providers for childcare either before or after school, when parents are at work.

Conclusions

15. Whilst undertaking visits, Panel members noted the complexity of arrangements where premises were used by a number of organisations. In some cases, the complex nature of these agreements appears to have led to tensions between the organisations involved.
16. External Providers play a significant role in a child's education and in enabling parents to maintain employment whilst raising children. If there have been issues with individual children during the school day, then information regarding those issues is passed onto parents and carers.

Recommendations

13. Services for Children and Young People should consider carrying out a review of existing partnership agreements and use the findings to help inform future partnership agreements.
14. Services for Children and Young People should support schools to develop a process that supports the communication of pertinent pupil information between the school, the care provider and the parent / guardian.

8.3 Tameside's Current Position

- 8.3.1 At the time of writing, services are currently analysing the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010. Within this context it is important to acknowledge that changes in public policy and finance may have an impact, both on the services offered by the Local Authority and its partners, and on the ability of the authority to take forward recommendations within this report. The Scrutiny Panel feels that in these challenging economic circumstances, Children's Centres and Extended Schools, and their services specifically aimed at tackling economic hardship, are ever more important.

9. Conclusions

1. The Panel feels that central point of access Children's Centre sites are more easily identified within the community and appear to have greater uptake.
2. Health visitors and midwives in Tameside play a vital role in helping raise awareness of Children's Centres and in identifying the most vulnerable requiring targeted services.

3. The management system for Tameside's Children's Centres appears to be successful and appropriate. Discussion of the systems used by other local authorities could help to contribute to the development of Centres in Tameside.
4. The role of Children's Centres in facilitating direct access to employment can be limited, but Children's Centres in Tameside do build capacity within the community through their educational and volunteering opportunities. This increases the skills of the individuals involved and helps to develop the Children's Centres themselves.
5. Parents and carers are able to access useful information relating to employment opportunities within Children's Centres.
6. Children's Centres within Tameside engage with a wide variety of different organisations to help increase community engagement.
7. The Community Development Worker role has been vital in increasing the engagement of people who might have otherwise been hard to reach.
8. For each of the Children's Centres visited, there is a clear understanding of the people with whom the Centre is attempting to engage. However, whilst individual Centres look at customer profiles, the whole Service does not appear to collate / analyse customer profile data.
9. Volunteering has been used to increase the skills and confidence of attendees and capacity of children's centres. In the current economic climate the use of volunteers alongside professional staff will help to support the Service going forward.
10. The Panel notes with interest the pilot programme of 'Disadvantage Subsidy' which was undertaken within the Schools Service.
11. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 may have an impact on the funding available for Extended Schools within the borough.
12. The Scrutiny Panel understands that all schools should provide access to core services, identified within the Extended Schools guidance, at a minimum.
13. Individual schools within Tameside may provide services meeting the needs of pupils from several schools. This activity is primarily funded by the school hosting a particular service.
14. Extended Schools Services must balance charging for services; accessing other support / funding; and offering services free of charge to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.
15. Whilst undertaking visits, Panel members noted the complexity of arrangements where premises were used by a number of organisations. In some cases, the complex nature of these agreements appears to have led to tensions between the organisations involved.

-
16. External Providers play a significant role in a child's education and in enabling parents to maintain employment whilst raising children. If there have been issues with individual children during the school day, then information regarding those issues is passed onto parents and carers.

10. Recommendations

1. That wherever possible, Children's Centres are given a central point of access and a permanent location for services sought.
2. That Services for Children and Young People engage with other local authorities to seek ways to share learning / best practice around Children's Centres.
3. That wherever possible Children's Centres continue to provide educational and volunteering opportunities to build the capacity of people accessing such centres.
4. That wherever possible Children's Centres continue to develop opportunities for those accessing Centres to access employment.
5. Children's Centres should continue to develop links with partner organisations that support engagement.
6. That the Service puts in place a system to allow customer profile analysis with the aim to increase understanding of the customer base and better target service users.
7. That the service considers how volunteering can be developed to support provision and increase capacity.
8. That the Panel receive further information on the effectiveness of 'Disadvantage Subsidy' following the conclusion of the pilot programme.
9. That the Panel receives further information regarding the impact of potential funding changes following the implementation of the Comprehensive Spending Review.
10. That Services for Children and Young People carry out checks of Tameside's Extended Services to ensure that all schools are providing access to the core services.
11. That Extended Schools Services work with schools to investigate sharing expertise to help increase such expertise and build sustainability.
12. That schools seek out opportunities for working together to identify opportunities for pooling and sharing resources.

-
13. Services for Children and Young People should consider carrying out a review of existing partnership agreements and use the findings to help inform future partnership agreements.
 14. Services for Children and Young People should support schools to develop a process that supports the communication of pertinent pupil information between the school, the care provider and the parent / guardian.

11. Borough Treasurer's Comments

The 2010/2010 Surestart revenue grant allocated to the Council via the Department For Education is £9.085m. The grant is also supported by £1.727m via the central retained Dedicated Schools grant, giving a total revenue resource for 2010/2011 of £10,812m supporting Surestart services within the borough. The current budget to support Children's Centres across the borough from this total resource is £4.153m.

In addition the Council is allocated £0.917m Extended Schools revenue funding via the Department For Education to support the sustainability of extended schools services and £ 0.898 subsidy funding to support extended schools activities for disadvantaged children. The subsidy funding has been delegated to schools within the borough. The Council also received £0.326m Extended Schools funding in the current financial year via the Area Based Grant. However this funding was subject to the £1.6m emergency savings reduction earlier this financial year.

The Surestart and Extended Schools grants are currently ringfenced grants. The Government have indicated within the recent Comprehensive Spending Review that from April 2011 the Surestart grant will be allocated to Councils in a new non ring fenced Early Intervention grant from April 2011. Extended Schools grants will be allocated within a new schools grant (along with a number of other grants) which will give schools greater freedom and flexibility on use of the funding.

Confirmation of 2011/2012 funding allocations is expected during December 2010.

12. Borough Solicitor's Comments

The Council will be required to review the service delivery of Children's Centres and extended schools provision in the context of the significant revenue reductions and find ways to continue to deliver excellent services. This will mean reviewing working with partners, schools and other authorities to achieve a balanced budget. When reviewing these services it will be incumbent on the services to take into account the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel and consider to what extent they can be delivered.

Scope and Project Plan: Services for Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

The Use and provision of Extended Schools and Children's Centres

January 2010

Aim of the Scrutiny Review Exercise

To review the Provision of (A) Children's Centres and (B) Extended Schools in Tameside and their effectiveness in providing support for the people they were intended for, especially to vulnerable groups.

Objectives

A. To ascertain the coverage of extended schools services and children's centres in the borough and their effectiveness.

B. To ascertain whether there are any significant gaps in provision and whether quality services are being fully delivered.

C. To consider whether the services provided by extended schools and children's centres are reaching the people and families intended and to ascertain the outcomes.

D. To compare the provision in Tameside to those in some other similar local authorities.

Value for Money / Use of Resources

To consider whether resources are being used effectively and efficiently in the provision of extended school services and Children's Centres.

Equalities Issues

Accessibility to Children's Centres and extended schools is a key line of enquiry for this review to ensure that these facilities are available to all sections of the community especially those regarded as the most vulnerable and in need.

Local Area Agreement Targets

This scrutiny review supports the Tameside Local Area Agreement targets for – **(72)** Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy; and **(92)** Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.

Timescale

It is intended that this review will be completed by September 2010

Detailed Action Plan (in broadly chronological order)

Action	Objective met	Timescale	Lead Scrutiny Panel member(s) and/or Scrutiny Support Officer(s)
1 Approve scope and project plan for this review.	All	16 th February 2010	Scrutiny Panel
2 Meet Claire Bibby Assistant Executive Director Services for Children and Young People; Geraldine Smith, Service Unit Manager	All	16 th February 2010	Scrutiny Panel Head of Scrutiny/Scrutiny Manager
3 Scrutiny Panel Members to Visit Children's Centres also meet staff and a Group of Parents	A, B & C.	February – May 2010	Scrutiny Panel/Head of Scrutiny/Scrutiny Manager.
4 Scrutiny Panel Members to meet with Managers of Children's Centres on site	A, B & C.	February – May 2010	Scrutiny Panel/Head of Scrutiny/Scrutiny Manger
5 Scrutiny Panel Members to Visit Extended Schools	A, B & C	To be arranged	Scrutiny Panel/Scrutiny Manager
6 Scrutiny Panel to meet with Head Teachers of Extended Schools.	A, B & C.	6 th April 2010	Scrutiny Panel/Scrutiny Manager
7 Meet Independent Providers	A, B & C	1st June 2010 (tbc)	Scrutiny Panel/Scrutiny Manager
8 Meet Representatives of other Local Authorities' Children's Services to compare provision.	D.	29 th June 2010	Scrutiny Panel/Scrutiny
9 Meet Cabinet Deputy Children's Services	A,B,C & D	27 th July 2010	Scrutiny Panel
10 Approve Draft Report	A, B, D and C	23 rd August 2010	Scrutiny Panel

Anticipated Agenda for Scrutiny Panel Meetings

Date of Scrutiny Panel Meeting	Item
16 th February 2010	Looking at how Children's Centres and Extended Schools are delivered in Tameside – Meet Claire Bibby Assistant Executive Director Services for Children and Young People; Geraldine Smith, Service Unit Manager.
6 th April	Scrutiny Panel to meet with Head Teachers of Extended Schools to discuss the challenges of extended provision.
1 st June	Meet with Independent Providers to discuss the challenges for independent providers and their relationship with schools.
29 th June	Meet Representatives of other Local Authorities' Children's Services to compare provision across different areas.
27 th July 2010	Agree conclusions and recommendations
23 rd August 2010	Agree final report