

Report To: Education & Lifelong Learning Committee **Date:** 16 March 2010

Report By: Acting Director Education **Report No:** EDUC/26/10/AH

Contact Officer: Albert Henderson **Contact No:** 01475 712824

Subject: Childcare Strategy and Surestart Funding

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the use of Childcare Strategy and Surestart funding to voluntary and private providers.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery have received annual Surestart and Childcare Strategy funding since 2001.
- 2.3 This funding has been allocated to provide placements for vulnerable children under 3.
- 2.4 The report proposes a new system for the allocation of this funding which allows vulnerable children to be placed in their local establishment and adheres to procurement advice.
- 2.5 The Heads of Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery have been consulted on this proposal.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members
- a) Note the content of this report.
 - b) Agree the new method of allocating Childcare Strategy and Surestart funding in relation to vulnerable children under 3.

Albert Henderson
Head of Schools

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery have received annual Surestart and Childcare Strategy funding since 2001.

4.2 The funding has remained at the same level since 2001:

	Surestart	Childcare Strategy
Ladybird Pre-5 Centre	£16,000	£27,000
Tree Tops Community Nursery	£16,000	£25,000

4.3 This funding is for the provision for nursery placements for vulnerable children under 3. This includes children on the child protection register, 'looked after' children, children with health and / or developmental problems, and children from families where there is substance misuse or domestic violence issues.

4.4 Children are referred for a nursery place by a professional agency e.g., Social Work, Health, Psychological Services.

5.0 CURRENT PROCESS

5.1 Committee approval was granted in 2001 for annual funding to be allocated to Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery.

5.2 Currently the funding to Ladybird Pre-5 Centre buys the equivalent of 6.2 full-time equivalent places and the funding to Tree Tops Community Nursery buys the equivalent of 5.8 places.

5.3 Due to the changing demographics of areas there is now demand for children to be allocated in Partner establishments in other areas of Inverclyde.

6.0 PROPOSAL FOR 2010 / 2011

6.1 It is proposed that the £84,000 currently allocated to Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery is made available to all Partner establishments.

6.2 All children will be allocated childcare places through the established Early Years Admissions process.

6.3 Currently there are 4 Partner establishments who could offer placements to vulnerable children under 3; however it is likely that the majority of places will remain in Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery.

6.4 Children would be allocated a place in their local establishment and funding would be paid according to the type of placement.

6.5 Based on the rate that Education Services pays Daycarers to care for the same group of children it is proposed that establishments would be paid £14.00 for a ½ day session and £28.00 for a full day session.

6.6 The current funding of £84,000 would allow the equivalent of 12 full-time places to be purchased annually. This would meet current demand.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Heads of Ladybird Pre-5 Centre and Tree Tops Community Nursery have been consulted with.

7.2 Both Heads of Centre fully agree with the proposal.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1	Cost Centre and Budget Heading	Budget Year with effect from	Proposed Spend	Virement from	Other Comments
	Early Years Sure Start	2010 / 11	£32,000	N/A	Funding will be allocated across eligible establishments
	Early Years Childcare Strategy	2010 / 11	£52,000	N/A	

9.0 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This change is in line with procurement advice.

11.0 EQUALITIES

11.1 This change will ensure equality of opportunity for Partner Providers and for children and families.

12.0 CONCLUSION

12.1 Committee agrees that this element of Surestart and Childcare Strategy funding can be allocated to any Partner Establishment which provides services for children under 3.