

Children's centre's Statutory Duty

What is the Guidance?



- Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance tells Trafford Council what the Government think Children's Centres should offer to support children and families.

What does it say Children's Centres should help with?

It says that Sure Start Children's Centres should help families to find services like:



- Health – for example during pregnancy, help to breast feed, to eat well and to exercise.



- Parenting and family support – for example ideas to help your child develop, or support in managing difficult behaviour.



- Training and employment opportunities – for example confidence courses, college courses, volunteering and help getting into work.



- Early education and childcare – for example play and learning at home or in groups, advice to use and find 2, 3 and 4 yr funded child care places, help choosing childcare.

Does it say who should help Children's Centres do this?

The guidance says that the local council is responsible for helping to improve the well-being of young children in their area.



It tells us how other groups such as Health Authorities and Job Centre Plus should work together with the local council to do this.

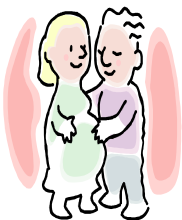
What difference does it say it wants Children's Centres to make for families?

The guidance says each Children's Centre should:



Help children develop and be ready to go to school.

Centres should do this by supporting parents and giving opportunities for learning and play.



Improve child and family health and life chances. Centres should do this in lots of ways, some examples are: ante natal appointments, parent craft, breast feeding support, healthy eating advice, dental advice, exercise, first aid, safety at home.

How do centres know what is needed?

The guidance says that to do all this well Children's Centres need to:



Listen to people in the local community and find out what they need. Also to use other information about the area to help make decisions.



Provide groups which have been tested so that we know they work. To offer this help to families who are struggling and who are most in need.

Who should Children's Centres talk to when they are planning what to do or when they are making changes?



The statutory guidance tells Children's Centres that they should talk to the local community and with other agencies before making changes, and in planning services.

Is there a group to help Children's Centres plan and deliver services?



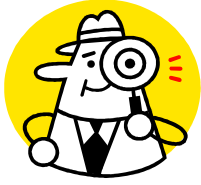
Every Children's Centre has a group called an Advisory Board. This group helps choose what is happening in the centre and checks what difference the Children's Centre is making.



The Advisory Board has people attending from other services like Health and voluntary groups. It is also very important that parents from the local community attend these meetings.

Who checks Children's Centres are safe and doing a good job?

Children's Centres are inspected by Ofsted.



Ofsted's job is to look at the services offered, speak to parents to hear what they think and to see if the children's centre is making a difference to families. They look at how well different organisations work together to meet families needs.

Ofsted also check that the Children's Centre and staff are safe and that they support the most vulnerable children and adults in the local area.

The full guidance can be found at the Department of Education Website:

www.education.gov.uk