

North Somerset

children's

centres



Every Child Matters
Change For Children

What are Children's Centres?

Children's Centres are developing across North Somerset as a key aspect of the NSC Plan for Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) and the delivery of the 'Every Child Matters - Change for Children' agenda. Children's Centres will provide locally based and accessible services to improve the outcomes of children aged 0-4 years and provide support for parents in giving them the best start in life.

North Somerset Children's Centres

There are currently three Phase 1 North Somerset Children's Centres open:

- South Weston Children's Centre
- Crockerne Children's Centre
- Ashcombe Children's Centre

Seven Phase 2 Children's Centres will become operational in 2008 and are located in:

- Clevedon
- Weston-super-Mare Central
- Milton & Old Worle
- Banwell & Winscombe
- Yeo Valley - Yatton & Congresbury
- Nailsea & Backwell
- Portishead

By 2010 it is expected, through Phase 3 development, there will be a Children's Centre accessible to every community in North Somerset.

The Children Centre Management team is currently looking at the reach of each currently planned Children's Centre to consider where the Phase 3 developments might be placed – careful consideration will be given to ensure the needs of those living in the most rural areas are provided for as well as those in more urban parts of North Somerset.

Participation and involvement

Parents

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the development and running of the Children's Centres in a variety of ways. This may include:

- Running activities and events
- Being members of the Partnership Group
- Planning, running and attending information events
- Giving feedback on the services provided
- Liaising with and informing other parents
- Involvement in staff recruitment
- Fund raising

Partnership Groups

Multi-agency, multi sector advisory Partnership Groups have been established in each area. All agencies, organisations, childcare providers and parents / carers in the area are vital to informing the setting up and effective operational running of the Children's Centres.

Service Development

The 'offer' of each Children's Centre will vary according to identified levels of need in the area but each will play an important role in the coordination and development of services for children aged 0-4 and their families in the area they serve.

Children's Centre will build on and develop the provision existing locally, working closely with parents, statutory, voluntary and community organisations to identify local needs and gaps in services and to ensure and encourage the coordination and integration of services.

Specific services on offer may include day care, child and family health services, family support, and information about training and employment. There will be signposting, referral and access to more specialist children's services as required.

Services will be delivered by a range of providers and parents themselves, some taking place in the Children's Centre buildings, others in community buildings or as outreach to families in their own homes.

Examples of activities which may be provided:

- Stay and play sessions
- Health Visitor drop-in
- Breast feeding and nutrition support groups
- Ante & post natal classes
- Dads groups
- Parenting support groups
- Information on childcare support
- Information on adult learning and employment opportunities

Children's Centres will also work in partnership with organisations and providers of services for older children and the community to ensure coordinated and effective services for all children and young people across the age range 0-19.

Yeo Valley Children's Centre

Yeo Valley Children's Centre will serve the Yatton, Congresbury and surrounding area – currently there is a planned build as an extension on Yatton Infant school which should be completed in the early part of 2008 – staff from the schools and the Children's Centre capital build team will work closely to ensure the safety of the children and families during the building process.

The plan to complete a building in Congresbury has been withdrawn and discussion will now need to take place about the best way forward to deliver the Children's Centre service in Congresbury - there is a firm commitment to the area - and ideas are being explored.

It is anticipated a Children's Centre Development Manager, a Family support worker and a Children's Centre Administrator will be appointed to Yeo Valley Children's Centre in the near future

The current membership of the Yeo Valley Partnership Group consists of representatives from the following: schools, parish council, health sector, school governors, councillors, youth service, early years providers and the voluntary sector.

If you would like to be involved or find out more about developments or the services on offer please contact any of the following:

Fiona Castle – North Somerset Council Strategic Lead for Children's Centres
Tel: 01934 – 427311 Email: fiona.castle@n-somerset.gov.uk

Paul Tompkins - Business Support & Project Manager
Tel: 01275 884257 Email: paul.tompkins@n-somerset.gov.uk

Mandy Summers – Children’s Services Support Officer
Tel: 01275 – 884533 Email: mandy.summers@n-somerset.gov.uk

For further information on Children’s Centres nationally follow the links below:

<http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications/?Document=50>

www.togetherforchildren.co.uk