

General Information for Wakefield Council staff, partners and other professionals

What are the aims of the Children's Centre programme?

The Government intends that the provision of good quality integrated services should have broad and lasting impact on children, their parents and the wider community. Children's Centres contribute to the Government's commitment to: the best start in life for every child; better opportunities for parents; affordable, good quality childcare; safer and stronger communities. The Children's Centre programme is based on the concept that providing integrated education, care, family support and health services are key factors in determining good outcomes for children and their parents. The concept itself is not a new one, Children's Centres are about building on existing good practice, rather than starting afresh. A significant number of families with young children already benefit from good quality integrated services. Children's Centres enhance these services and extend the benefits to more families – bringing an integrated approach to service delivery to areas where it is most needed.



What are Children's Centres?

Children's Centres provide multi-agency services that are flexible and meet the needs of young children and their families. The core offer includes integrated early learning, care, family support, health services, outreach services to children and families not attending the Centre and access to training and employment advice.



- childcare, play and early learning
- expert advice, healthcare, parenting and family support
- brushing up on skills and learning new ones
- taking qualifications
- links to training and job opportunities
- family fun and meeting friends

Before birth

- antenatal checks with a midwife if you're a mum-to-be
- Drop-in advice on housing if you're a teenage dad or mum-to-be

From Birth to Five

- advice on breastfeeding
- advice on parenting
- fun activities
- childcare, nurseries and playgroups for babies and toddlers, where they learn as they play
- early education for young children, growing in confidence towards full time school

For Families

- advice on healthy eating
- access to toy and book libraries
- parenting classes
- links with Jobcentre Plus for training or work
- advice on 'stopping smoking'
- help with family and language learning
- Access to basic English, maths and computing

Sure Start Children's Centres are there when they are needed. It depends on what people want locally, but many centres are open from 8.30 – 5.00 all year round. Some offer services in the evening and weekends.

Sure Start Children's Centres are a 'one-stop shop' for children under five and their families.

What support is there for Children's Centres?

Central Support Team

There is a Children's Centres support team based at the Rear Exit of Snapethorpe Primary School, St George's Road, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8AA.

Please contact:

Lynn Brown – Integrated Planning and Development Manager: 01924 304252

Sarah Jaques – Children's Centre Support Administrator: 01924 305343

Lynn Whittell – Childcare Creche Pool Co-ordinator: 01924 306851

Louise Miller – Children's Centre Support: 01924 305343

This team supports all of the centres across the District, by providing and distributing information, organising training and development, providing Marketing and Publicity information, merchandise and advice, organising District wide centre meetings, provision of crèche staff, Home Safety Scheme and leading on policies and procedures, volunteering, worklessness, and eStart.

Area Teams

There are 3 Early Years Area Managers who take a leading role in the development of area based delivery of services for young children managing

an Area Team - Area Social Worker, and Area Parent Support Worker and managing the children's centres where staff are employed by the Local Authority.

Wakefield Area – Angela Briggs tel: 01924 304259

North East Area – Kirsty Hill tel: 01977 724053

South East Area – Rosie Faulkner 01977 722278

Who are the staff in the Children's Centres?

The majority of children's centres are based on school sites and have the following staff and roles

Head of Centre (Headteacher) Overall managerial responsibility for the effective delivery of multi-disciplinary and integrated services for Children and their Families from the Children Centre and identified reach area.

Centre Manager – to lead and manage the co-ordination and effective delivery of integrated, multi-disciplinary services for young children and their families.

Family Play and Learning Worker – to support children's access to play and learning and promoting their educational, social and emotional development.

Learning Leader – to lead on the development and delivery of a high quality care and learning environment across the reach area of centres.

Parent Support Workers (x2) – to develop positive respectful and responsive relationships with parents and carers, to work alongside parents, to identify needs in the Community and to signpost and contribute to the delivery of services.

Administration Officer – to provide a wide range of administrative and customer care services.

Where are the Children's Centres in Wakefield District?

Wakefield Area

Castle Children's Centre, 255 Barnsley Road, Sandal Wakefield WF1 5NU, tel: 01924 303211

Maypole Children's Centre, at Gawthorpe Community School, High Street, Gawthorpe, Ossett, WF5 9QP tel: 01924 302990

Michaelmas Children's Centre, at St Michael's Primary School, Flanshaw Lane, Wakefield WF2 9JA tel: 01924 303747

Pinmoor Children's Centre at Pinders Primary, Eastmoor Road, Wakefield WF1 3SQ tel: 01924 302646

Sharlston Children's Centre at Sharlston Community School, Hammer Lane, Sharlston Common, Wakefield WF4 1DH tel: 01924 303930.

Stanley Children's Centre, Long Causeway, Stanley, Wakefield WF3 4JB tel: 01924 303181.

Sunbeam Children's Centre, 9-11 Lupset Crescent, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8RH tel: 01924 302333.

New centres also coming to:

- **Wrenthorpe also covering Kirkhamgate and Newton Hill**
- **Wakefield Rural (Mackie Hill) covering Crigglestone, Painthorpe, Durkar, Hall Green, Kettlethorpe and Woolley**
- **Horbury also Middlestown, West Bretton and Netherton**

North East Area

Acorn Children's Centre at Ackton Pastures Primary School, College Grove, Castleford WF10 5NS tel: 01977 723038

Airedale Children's Centre, The Square, Castleford WF10 3JJ tel: 01977 724044

Ash Tree Children's Centre, at Smawthorne Henry Moore Primary School, Ashton Road, Castleford WF10 5AX tel: 01977 723012.

Butterflies Children's Centre at Newlands Primary School, Wakefield Road, Normanton, WF6 1BB tel: 01924 307835

Oakhill Children's Centre at Girnhill Infant School, Hardwick Road, Featherstone, WF7 5JB, tel: 01977 722680.

Orchard Head Children's Centre at Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Orchard Head Lane, Pontefract WF8 2NJ tel: 01977 723466

Pomfret Children's Centre at Chequerfield Infant School, Rookhill Road, Pontefract WF8 2DD tel: 01977 722644.

Sycamores Children's Centre at Simpson's Lane J&I School, Sycamore Avenue, Knottingley WF11 0PL tel: 01977 722527.

South East Area

Cedars Children's Centre, Barnsley Road, Hemsworth, WF9 4PU tel: 01977 722215.

Havercroft Children's Centre at Havercroft Junior and Infant, Cow Lane, Havercroft, Wakefield WF4 2BE tel: 01226 726478.

Little Owls Children's Centre at Common Road Infant and Nursery School, Common Road, South Kirkby, Pontefract WF9 3EA tel: 01977 723868.

Sunflower Children's Centre at Moorthorpe Primary School, Regent Street, Moorthorpe, South Elmsall WF9 2BL tel: 01977 723872.

Upton Children's Centre at Upton Primary, Waggon Lane, Upton, Pontefract WF9 1JS tel: 01977 723835/8

To find your nearest Sure Start Children's Centre call 01924 305343.

During 2010 the Children's Centres will be running various groups and activities (in addition to usual groups) around the following areas:

**January – Being Healthy
February – Enjoy & Achieve
March – Making a Positive Contribution
April – Achieve Economic Wellbeing
May – Adult Learning
June – Families (inc Safety)
July & August – Play/Summer Fun
September – Dads/Male Carers
October – Stay Safe
November – Anti Bullying
December – Enjoy & Achieve**

If you feel you have anything you could contribute to these events, please contact the Children's Centre Central Support Team or the Children's Centres direct to let them know how you can help