

Annex A – Covering Template for Responses

Please complete the attached cover sheet when sending evidence, indicating the set of questions to which a response is being provided and contact details of the person for any follow-up queries.

Contact details for respondent	
Name	
Job title	Swindon Sure Start partnership manager
Do you represent an organisation? (if so, name of organisation and type: e.g. voluntary, public body, private company).	Swindon Sure Start partnership (part of Swindon Borough Council)
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	Which area of the review are you responding to? (please mark X)
Prevention strand	X
Review of disabled children	X
Strategy for youth services	
Review of high cost, high harm families	

Prevention Strand – a case study

To demonstrate how services for children and young people and their families can impact on their life chances: a qualitative case study.

To support the growing number of single working mothers whose children attend their school, Seven Fields Primary School in Swindon has recently set up both a breakfast club and an after school club with the support of childcare funding from the Swindon Sure Start Partnership.

All children attending the breakfast club receive a healthy breakfast followed by a choice of indoor and outdoor activities and play opportunities. The after school club offers opportunities for children to take part in structured activities as well as being able to chill out. This afternoon session also includes a cooked, nutritionally-balanced meal.

This case study is concerned with a mother who was not initially in work and was on the verge of having her children removed from her. As part of her care plan from Social Services, to prevent the break up of the family, a condition was stipulated that her three children must attend both of these clubs on a daily basis, with the places paid for by Social Services.

The children have been attending the clubs since they started running after Easter 2006; the head teacher has already noted that the children are no longer late for school and are wearing the correct school uniform. Their attendance is good and in the case of the youngest child it has been observed that her language skills have developed significantly – this has been attributed to the structured play and to the increased level of interaction she is having with adults. The social worker assigned to the family remarked that the mother has also noticed the difference since her children started attending the clubs. The support of these clubs has enabled the mother to find a part-time job, improving family prosperity and the prospects for her and her children.

Review of Disabled children- projects funded through Sure Start grant

Funding made available to support working parents of disabled children to use mainstream childcare by funding the necessary extra worker support required.

Funding available to support children and young people with a variety of specific additional needs to access mainstream activities. There are many children attending daycare, holiday playschemes, leisure centres and swimming sessions as a result of this funding.

Specific projects

Vibrations Parent and Toddler Group

This group caters for families who have a pre school child who is hearing impaired. Children attend with their hearing siblings and friends. There is a playworker to support the essential play element; there are deaf role models to encourage children's social skills and a variety of support for parents and family members. British sign language and spoken language is used throughout the session creating an inclusive environment for all who attend.

- Underwood House Fun and games club

This is an after school club based in a Hostel for homeless families. The group meets for one evening per week and offers a wide range of art, craft and games. The hostel accommodation provides little space for messy activities and socialisation with peers so the group is able to fill this gap, in the

children's lives. For children whose life is fairly unsettled and temporary the group provides reliable activities with trusted and consistent adults and the all important element of play.

- STEP project.

Swindon 10 –18 project is a voluntary organisation for children and young people in Swindon. They use youth work based activities to raise awareness and build confidence in skills for living. This was a new project in partnership with the Child Health Team aimed at young people with mild to moderate learning disabilities. It offers a structured environment concentrating on independent living skills, communication and teamwork through sport, games, drama and cooking. The young people work through the ASDAN accreditation scheme.

Following this project STEP were able to submit a successful bid to Children in Need to secure the group for a further 3 years. There are two other groups we have funded for several years. Both meet on a Saturday and are an opportunity for physically disabled teenagers to get out and about and do the things that young people like to do with their peer groups with appropriate support.

HiC club

A group of young people who often feel isolated in mainstream activities are those who are hearing impaired. In the last year a group has been established at Richard Jefferies Adventure Playground meeting once a month. An experienced signer supports the group and other staff have basic sign language and playwork skills. A development from this group has been a supported session within the mainstream playscheme during the summer holidays.

- The Monday and Thursday playschemes

Some of the youngsters have such complex physical and health needs that mainstream will always present difficulties. We have funded two playschemes for children who need a separate and safe environment with experienced staff to care for their very specific individual needs.

These ran from 10 – 3 weekly during the summer holidays. This year the Monday scheme was supported by a member of Lifestyle

Preparing children for inclusion into mainstream activities would always be our aim but whilst this can be a difficult and often frightening experience for the more vulnerable children it is important that they have access to play and social activities in a safe and supported environment.