

## QUARTERLY CHILDCARE REPORT – QUARTER 4 - 2005/6

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### Purpose

1. To inform the Partnership of progress against targets set in the Two-year Plan (2004-2006) to include both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged wards together.

### Background

- 2 This quarterly report covers period 4 of 2005/06 and indicates that the target originally set at the commencement of the 2004 –2006 funding period will be met. This total includes both places registered by OfSTED and unregistered places created in the county. The ratio of childcare places opened to closed is still within the original national targets set in 2001.
- 3 As stated previously the EYDCP is not required to report to the SureStart Unit on registered places opened in Herefordshire. OfSTED, based on their own database, now feeds this information direct to the Unit.
- 4 The details of places created for the period 1<sup>st</sup> Jan2005 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, is as follows:
  - 32 places were created within Registered settings (exc. Childminders)
  - 25 places were created in Childminded settings (inc. 7 for under 2 year olds)
  - In total therefore 57 new Childcare places were created within the period.

The total number of new places created within the sector (1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>th</sup> March 2006) is 478 (not including settings re-registering following moves et al).

- 5 The Partnership will recall that the targets set prior to April 2004 for place creation was as follows:
  - Disadvantaged Wards – 345 places
  - Non-disadvantaged Wards - 373 places

- Children's Centres - 62 places
- Pre-school conversion - 76 places
- Total - 856 places

During the two-year period the DfES removed the stipulation (and funding constraints) placed on the EYDCP with regard to place creation within disadvantaged areas and therefore the available funding supported settings creating places countywide. The definition of a disadvantaged area also altered, following the 2001 census data being released in 2004/5 and the ranking of wards ceased to be recognised as a measure of deprivation. Super Output areas (SOA's) became the measure used altering significantly the areas in question.

Following these alterations the tracking of disadvantaged area places ceased to be relevant and only the overall total of places created within the county was tracked. Therefore, the total number of places created, (inc. Childminded places, Out of School places, Full and Sessional Day Care) within Herefordshire over the period April 2004 to March 2006 is 951.

The partnership should note however that this figure has not increased the total number of places available within the county by 951 as it does not take into account the closure of places, some 392 over the period, a net gain therefore of 559 places.

Nationally set ratios of places closed to those opened were also no longer reported against after March 2005, however the ratios were not exceeded.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT: The Partnership notes the progress made over the period 2004-2006 and that the EYDCP has no set targets for the forth coming period other than in the creation of Children's Centre Childcare.**