

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (CHILDCARE ACT 2006 – SECTION 11)

Report By: Bryan Twitty, CFIS Manager

Purpose

1. To request the EYES partnership consider the draft findings of consultation and audit of childcare which forms the basis of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment locally

Background

2. The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on local authorities in April 2006 to carry out a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for their area. Guidance demanded consultation with a raft of partners to ascertain the nature of both supply and demand for childcare locally across a number of age ranges and the sector as a whole as well as a number of specific scenarios such as childcare for children with special needs. Supply was then mapped to demand and conclusions drawn with recommendation for action. The EYES team have compiled a draft assessment ready for consultation with users and partners, the Executive Summary of which is attached to this item.
3. From April 2008 the Act places a duty on the authority to secure sufficient childcare. The conclusions and recommendations within the assessment will therefore inform a forthcoming local authority action plan to secure sufficient childcare.
4. The assessment will be available to Directorate Management Team in November and will therefore be available for consultation shortly

Recommendation: That the partnership considers the draft Childcare Sufficiency Assessment once it has been released by the Directorate Management Team and forwards comments to the EYES team at Blackfriars. The document will be forwarded to Partnership members once released.