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| <b>Impact Assessment of:</b> 2 Year Old Pilot    |
| <b>Service/ Directorate:</b> Early Years Service |
| <b>Date Completed:</b> 22/08/08                  |
| <b>Lead Officer:</b> Vanessa Broadbent           |

**Members of the assessment team:**

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organisation</b>                    | <b>Role on assessment team<br/>e.g. service user,<br/>manager of service</b> |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Sarah Reeves      | Early Years Service                    | Assistant Children's Centre Manager  |
| Helen Burniston   | Early Years Service                    | Head of Children Centre Services   |
| Karen Ellwood     | Early Years Service                    | Senior Family Support Practitioner   |
| Sally Pratt       | Early Years Service                    | Nursery Assistant  |
| Brian Ladd        | Health                                 | Family Nurse Partnership Manager   |
| Verina Isaac      | Archway                                | Parent   |
| Mo Park           | Early Years Service                    | Children's Centre Improvement Manager  |
| Meryl Paige       | Early Years Service                    | Service Operations Manager   |
| Elaine Rey        | Policy, Performance & Improvement Team | Senior Project Officer   |
| Shaina Hussain    | Early Years Service                    | Parent   |
| Helen Rowland     | Health                                 | Practice and Professional lead – Children's Services                         |
| Vanessa Broadbent | Early Years Service                    | Children's Centre Improvement Manager  |

**Brief description of policy / service:**

From April 09, Leeds will be piloting the delivery of free play and early education places in children's centres and family support to vulnerable two year olds who live in workless households. The former Social Inclusion Unit, now the Child Poverty Unit remain concerned about findings indicating that an achievement gap opens up for all children from lower socio-economic groups between 22 months and 3 years. This

trajectory is not reversed just halted even if children receive a good education. Therefore good early learning experiences are crucial for children at risk of social exclusion.

Leeds has been offering a personalised package of support for vulnerable 2 year olds since 2006, which includes free early learning and childcare, outreach and family support.

**Brief account of how the impact assessment was carried out:**

The assessment was carried out with key stakeholders during an afternoon session. Relevant information had been circulated prior to the session. The lead officer chaired the assessment and Meryl Paige, Service Operations Manager provided specialist knowledge about the process and helped to guide everyone through the assessment.

**Brief description of any adverse affects found:**

Service will only be delivered through children centres to meet all quality criteria identified by the Government. 2 year olds at risk of social exclusion who do not live in the most disadvantaged wards or wish to access childminders / PVI provision will not be able to access the free offer.

Focus on families who receive benefits. Possibly stigmatise this group or exclude others who are working but still at risk of poor outcomes / social exclusion.

**Summary of Actions arising from Assessment**

| <b>Actions</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>            | <b>Timescale</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Develop clear guidelines for families who meet eligibility criteria but who do not live in areas served by children's centres.  | 2 year old steering group        | October 08       |
| Identify number of 2 year olds and sufficiency of childcare places for this age group children's centres  | Project Manager / Darren Crawley | October 08       |
| Develop a communications strategy including all key stakeholders  | 2 year old steering group        | October 08       |
| Develop written information / guidelines (prompt sheet) for all professionals working directly with children and families in the reach area including family outreach workers, children's centre and Job Centre Plus staff, health visitors and midwives. | 2 Year Old Steering Group        | October 08       |

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| Brief organisations and services about the pilot including health (health visiting), One Stop Shops and teenage parent services                             | Project Manager           | October 08   |
| Identify and brief community champions  | Project Manager           | November 08  |
| Develop and implement an involvement, consultation / engagement strategy to communicate with parents/carers on a regular basis                              | 2 Year Old Steering Group | October 08   |
| Review ethnicity data of children benefiting from the pilot to ensure accessibility across all groups – focus communications / outreach as required         | 2 Year Old Steering Group | October 08   |
| Collect and communicate ethnicity data on children living in workless households  | Project Manager           | October 08   |
| Make links with new the Family Nurse Partnership project  | Project Manager           | November 08  |
| Agree and disseminate process for transitioning from 2 year old pilot to 3 and 4 year old flexible offer including monitoring and assessment.               | 2 Year Old Steering Group | November 08  |
| Explore whether children's services or other partner agency outreach staff can support interpreting in conjunction with the interpreting / translation unit | Project manager           | October 08   |
| Review feedback from children centre managers and family outreach workers to identify training needs  | Project Manager           | October 08   |
| Review feedback from parent survey, advisory boards and other consultations regarding timing  | Project Manager           | October 08   |
| Deliver training to support a range of staff including FOWs   | 2 Year Old Steering Group | November 08  |
| Clarify with the DCSF if Looked After Children, Travellers and Asylum Seeking / Refugee families can be included in the pilot                               | Project Manager           | September 08 |
| Establish whether 2 year olds with a disability will be adequately supported through other funding streams / initiatives                                    | Project Manager           | October 08   |
| Review ethnicity of 2 year olds who have / are benefiting from the pilot to ensure most vulnerable groups are being reached                                 | Project Manager           | October 08   |

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| Consult with parents re: key barriers / equality issues in accessing services             | 2 Year Old Steering Group | November 08 |
| Follow up on planned equalities training for staff in Early Years Service                 | Project Manager           | October 08  |
| Ensure FOWs / children centre staff receive updated equalities training                   | 2 Year Old Steering Group | December 08 |
| Mitigate risk of adverse impact on the pilot due to reduced funding in year 3             | QSSMT                     | October 08  |
| Identify if additional funding can be found to continue supporting vulnerable 2 year olds | QSSMT                     | March 09    |

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| <b>Contacts for further information:</b> |
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| <b>Date published on Council Website:</b> |
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