

# CUMBRIA SURE START STRATEGIC PLAN 2006 – 2008

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

This summary identifies the key objectives and activities that are included in the Cumbria Sure Start Strategic Plan 2006-2008.

### CONTEXT AND OVERALL AIMS

Cumbria Sure Start works in partnership across all sectors to improve the life chances and well-being of children, young people and their families.

The main aim is to ensure that the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes are achieved for all children and young people, however disadvantaged, so that they can;

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being

Cumbria Sure Start is part of the Children's Services Directorate of Cumbria County Council. One of the aims in the council's plan 2006 – 2009 is to *improve the life chances & well being of children and young people* by 'putting children at the centre of our services' by achieving these five outcomes.

This Strategic Plan is a long term vision for the future and is strongly outcome driven. It has three overall aims:-

- **Better outcomes** for all children. This includes working towards closing the gaps between those children living in poverty and the wider population.
- **Better outcomes** for all parents and carers. This includes ensuring an increased opportunity for people to effectively participate in the labour market leading to pathways out of poverty.
- **Better outcomes** for communities. This includes a reduction of crime, higher productivity, a stronger labour market and the strengthening of communities.

A comprehensive range of planning guidance, documents and information from both a national and local authority perspective has been taken into account whilst developing this Strategic Plan for 2006-2008. The planning process clearly links to the Council's Plan 2006-2009 and to other planning taking place within Children's Services.

This Strategic Plan is a working document and will be updated as and when appropriate during the life cycle of the plan.

## **PRIORITIES FOR 2006-2008**

The Strategic Plan outlines the priorities for the next two years.

There are 6 strands as follows:

**Strand 1** - Developing Integrated Services

**Strand 2** - Inclusion

**Strand 3** - Information

**Strand 4** - Raising Quality

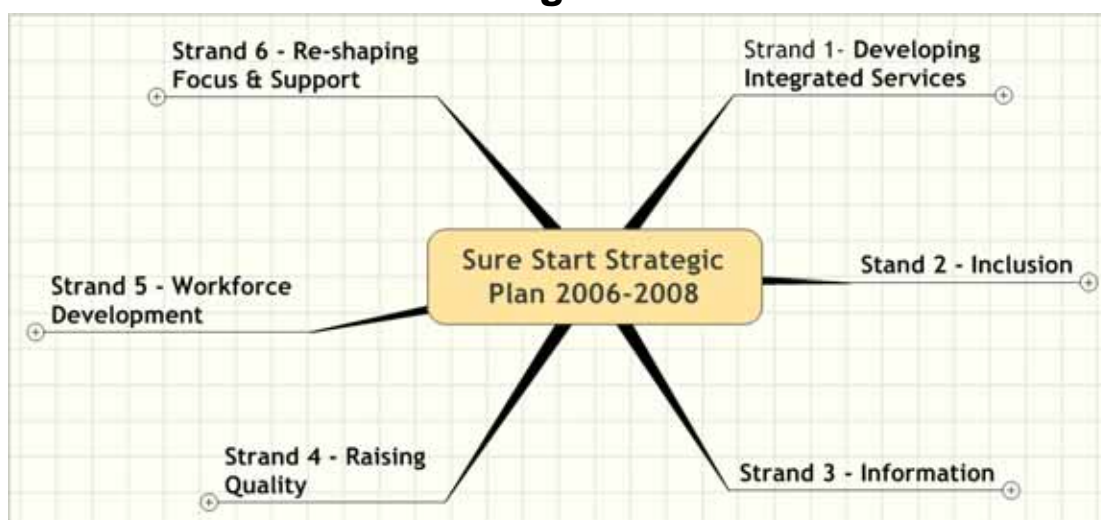
**Strand 5** - Workforce Development

**Strand 6** - Re-Shaping, Focus and Support

A range of objectives as detailed in the following pages underpins each strand.

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## **Sure Start Strategic Plan 2006-2008**



## **Strand 1: Developing Integrated Services**

### ***Objective 1.1:***

Facilitation of multi-agency working to improve outcomes for children, young people, families, communities and all other stakeholders

### ***Objective 1.2:***

Secure sufficient childcare places (Childcare Bill) to meet the needs of parents in order to work or to prepare for work

### ***Objective 1.3:***

Ensure all childcare providers have access to a range of prescribed and tailored business support advice

### ***Objective 1.4:***

Develop an overall strategy for the implementation of Children's Centres

### ***Objective 1.5:***

The roll out of Extended Schools in line with the Cumbrian & National Strategy

### ***Objective 1.6:***

Further develop a coherent system of support for settings, which involves communication between Cumbria Sure Start teams regarding priorities and use of resources

## **Strand 2: Inclusion**

### ***Objective 2.1:***

Support the development of the corporate equality strategy and carry out impact assessments across the whole service and produce relevant action plans for implementation and improvement related to equality issues

### ***Objective 2.2:***

Extend the capacity of new and existing providers to offer accessible and inclusive care and learning in the early years settings, promoting best outcomes for children, particularly those from vulnerable groups

### ***Objective 2.3:***

Establish systems to co-ordinate the development of access to and inclusive practice in, out of school childcare, drawing on best practice locally and nationally

### ***Objective 2.4:***

Promote the opportunities for parents/carers and families to participate in encouraging positive outcomes for their children by working collaboratively with early education and childcare settings and other professionals

### ***Objective 2.5:***

Parent Partnership service to provide support to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs

### ***Objective 2.6:***

Develop and promote well planned and effective practice for key transition points in children's lives

### ***Objective 2.7:***

Use resources in a coherent, efficient and transparent manner to support settings to make inclusive provision, and engage with partners to explore options for short term and secure long term funding arrangements

## **Strand 3: Information**

### ***Objective 3.1:***

Provide advice and information to existing and potential nursery education and childcare providers and other organisations

### ***Objective 3.2:***

Keep the range of stakeholders informed on a range of subjects including emerging national legislation, consultative documents and new initiatives

### ***Objective 3.3:***

Develop and maintain management systems for strategic and operational purposes and provide appropriate audit and research support

### ***Objective 3.4:***

Promote information on services available for children and young people with special educational needs, disabilities and additional support needs to parents, carers and professionals

### ***Objective 3.5:***

Using a multi-agency approach produce and circulate a range of newsletters and publications to families, staff and key stakeholders

### ***Objective 3.6:***

Provide information to those people looking to train and work in the early years sector

### ***Objective 3.7:***

Provide advice and information to families about nursery education, registered childcare, local activities for children and young people, agencies, organisations and other relevant services and initiatives

### ***Objective 3.8:***

Provide information to existing and prospective settings to enable them to function in an appropriate and preventative manner in relation to equality issues

### ***Objective 3.9:***

Undertake appropriate needs assessment to assess the specific needs of families who may find services hard to access, identify unmet demand and how these families will be able to inform the audit and planning process of developing and extending services in the future

**Objective 3.10:**

Raise awareness of Work Life Balance to a wide range of organisations across the county to promote choice and flexible working opportunities for parents

## **Strand 4: Raising Quality**

### ***Objective 4.1:***

Promote the Cumbria Children's Services Quality Assurance scheme to settings, childminders, and schools throughout Cumbria

### ***Objective 4.2:***

Monitor, evaluate and improve the quality of provision for care and learning for all 0-5 year olds

### ***Objective 4.3:***

Secure and reshape provision to deliver the EYFS Integrated Framework

### ***Objective 4.4:***

Secure and reshape provision to deliver the 'Code of Practice on the Provision of Free Nursery Education Places for Three and Four Year Olds 2006'

### ***Objective 4.5:***

Monitor, evaluate and improve the quality of provision for care and play for all children aged 5 plus

### ***Objective 4.6:***

Ensure retained functions are delivered across the county through briefing sessions and ICPs

### ***Objective 4.7:***

Work towards the implementation and achievement of the Work Life Balance Standards

### ***Objective 4.8:***

Maintain Investors in People standards and work towards other management standards such as Matrix Award, CIS standards and others as deemed appropriate

### ***Objective 4.9:***

Monitor and evaluate the quality of provision of study support for all young people aged 4 – 19 years old, using the Quality in Study Support Code of Practice

**Objective 4.10:**

Monitor and evaluate the quality of extended services provision, using the Integrated Quality Framework and the Quality Development Tool

## **Strand 5: Workforce Development**

### ***Objective 5.1:***

Promote the Recruitment Campaign supporting the recruitment of people into the early years and childcare sector and retention of employees through ongoing training and development opportunities

### ***Objective 5.2:***

Deliver core training to practitioners working across early years and childcare sector, including Health & Safety, Child Protection, First Aid, Equal Opportunities and Inclusion, Risk Assessments and Common Assessment framework

### ***Objective 5.3:***

Deliver support through the Transformation Fund for employment of graduate leaders and training and development for leaders and practitioners. Positively promote leadership qualifications related to Foundation Degree and NPQICL qualifications

### ***Objective 5.4:***

Provide a range of continuing professional development opportunities for practitioners and leaders working across the early years and childcare sector, to include equalities and inclusion and enabling practitioners to meet the requirements of funded education agreements

### ***Objective 5.5:***

Produce a play strategy for Cumbria in conjunction with District Councils and other stakeholders, provide appropriate range of play training and develop training for people working within the Extended Schools agenda, to include equalities and inclusion strategy and training

### ***Objective 5.6:***

Ensure adequate support and opportunities through bursaries for NVQ level 3 qualifications and above

### ***Objective 5.7:***

Develop learning and development opportunities for Cumbria Sure Start staff, linked to Investors in People and Work Life Balance initiative

### ***Objective 5.8:***

Support the implementation of the EYP status to leaders within Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors

## **Strand 6: Re-shaping Focus & Support**

### ***Objective 6.1:***

Increase the impact of partnership working across a range of multi-agency organisations through active participation

### ***Objective 6.2:***

To ensure financial management, including the budget setting process, enabling fuller ownership, monitoring and evaluation of the Sure Start funding stream

### ***Objective 6.3:***

Develop robust systems to monitor and analyse OFSTED inspection

### ***Objective 6.4:***

To monitor and review the Strategic Plan on a quarterly basis, producing an end of year report, which demonstrates impact and improvements for children & young people and families

### ***Objective 6.5:***

To ensure appropriate and timely approvals are obtained from Members in order to operationalise objectives; ensure information and develop appropriate systems to brief Members, especially the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

### ***Objective 6.6:***

Support systems for Cumbria Sure Start e.g. IT equipment, accommodation, personnel issues, stationery are efficient and effective, allowing the team to move forward and get on

### ***Objective 6.7:***

Ensure the active participation of children & young people (Hear By Right), parents, carers and families in service design, delivery all other aspects of the service

### ***Objective 6.8:***

To support the marketing, PR and communication functions of Cumbria Sure Start and have an overview of all media relations including the issuing of all press releases