

Streatley Hill Pre-school Group

4 Year Development Plan 2009 - 2013

Executive Summary

- Our pre-school needs to increase its hours to meet demand
- We need to replace our ageing building
- We need to serve our community for at least the next 20 years

About Us

Streatley Pre-school is a charity which provides pre-school education in response to the needs of the local community. It is a thriving group that provides a local service to children in the small village of Streatley.

Our aim is to provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment that encourages learning through play for children aged 2 to 5 years in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Streatley Hill Pre-school is governed by three Trustees, run by a parent management committee and employees five staff.

We are a charity and the only pre-school that serves the village of Streatley.

What are the aims of our pre-school?

To meet the needs of local families for:

- Child-centred play-based learning (based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework) which enables each individual child to flourish within the community that is our pre-school (and beyond).
- A pre-school where children can gain the confidence and motivation to learn via investigation and exploration, whilst having fun.
- A pre-school which is high quality, adaptable, inclusive and affordable

How do we plan to meet these aims?

Streatley Hill Pre-school Group needs to increase hours and improve the flexibility of its service in order to meet demand from the local community.

We will do this by increasing our hours to 9am – 1pm five days per week and make these sessions available to 2 as well as 3– 5 year olds. (from Sept 09)

We will also replace our ageing building in order to give us the option to offer 9am – 3pm to 2 – 5 year olds split between two pre-school sessions of 3 hours each. Parents will also have the option of full day care from 9am – 3am should they require it (target by Sept 2010 subject to the new building being built)

Local children will benefit by being able to attend one affordable setting close to home,

with strong links to Streatley Primary School where many will attend.

This process will ensure that Streatley pre-school is available as a service to the community for at least the next 20 years.

Why do we need a new building to meet these aims?

Our current temporary building is not fit for purpose because:

- **Current building is deteriorating.** It is over 15 years old and (and was second hand when acquired).
- **Doesn't meet Ofsted recommendations** - for disabled access, nappy changing/toilet area, separate quiet area for naps, food preparation area and private staff/parent area
- **Is too small for demand** – we need to increase from 30 children to 48 on our register
- **Doesn't allow for extended hours** – Current maximum hours are 9am – 1pm because of space restrictions. With the facilities above we would have the option of opening 9am – 3pm offering 10 pre-school sessions according to demand.

How does our new building improve the outcomes for our pre-school children and their families?

Expansion will enable children who currently attend two child-care settings to attend one.

- this is better for the social and emotional well-being of children
- it is better for staff who are monitoring and planning work with children for them to attend more regularly

Expansion will enable children who are excluded from other settings because of cost to access more affordable childcare (and therefore enable some families back to work).

- this addresses the Every Child Matters goal of achieving economic well-being

What is our timescale?

This development plan covers:

April 09 – Sept 09	Year 1
Sept 09 – August 2010	Year 2
Sept 2010 – August 2011	Year 3
Sept 2011 – August 2012	Year 4

Year 1 – Consolidate our good reputation. We achieved Outstanding or Good in all areas in our recent Ofsted Inspection in May 2009

Evaluate success of extended lunch session introduced this year.

Year 2 – Maximise our current offer by expanding provision to 5 days per week 9 – 1pm for 2 – 5 year olds

Year 3/4 – Realise replacement building and therefore be in a position to have the potential to offer 10 pre-school sessions 9am-3pm 5 days per week according to

demand.

What is our Action Plan in Year 1?

We will contact our registration and inspection authority and work closely with them on all issues relating to our expansion. (CD lead)

We will set up a 'New Building Group' who will lead matters relating to research, lease, planning, design, contractors, finance and fundraising and delivery of new premises. (CD lead)

We will recruit new staff as necessary and take steps to ensure that staff ratios and qualifications meet Pre-school Learning Alliance recommended standards. (CD lead)

Staff will devise an approach to session content which will reflect the needs of children and adults during the extended provision in Year 2. (FB and KH lead)

We will promote our new service (for Year 2) to reach both existing and new users. (LS lead)

How many children should the new building accommodate?

Our current building allows capacity for 14 children and we require 3 staff to handle the different areas of the building.

We would like to build a new building to expand to a maximum capacity of 24 children with 4 staff per session. (8 x 2 year olds per session and 16 x 3 – 5 year olds)

The figure for 24 children represents the maximum per pre-school session and has been calculated as follows;

- The current annual intake of pre-school children to Streatley School is 16.
- We currently offer pre-school sessions for 3 academic years (ages 2 - 5). Therefore, the maximum number of children on our register to match the demand for primary school places is 48. (16 children per year over 3 years)
- Currently, most children attend an average of 5 sessions per week. The pre-school would need to offer 240 places for children per week to satisfy this demand (48 children x 5 sessions)
- Once the new building is built, the pre-school could expand our current hours to 10 sessions of 3 hours each (9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm 5 days per week)
- The 240 places for children divided over those 10 sessions provides us with the maximum of 24 children per session.

More information about Streatley Hill Pre-school Group

Background, staffing & session details

Streatley Hill Pre-school Group opened in 1995. The pre-school operates from a detached self-contained building and garden within the grounds of Streatley C of E Primary School in West Berkshire.

We currently have 26 children aged 2 – 5 attending at least once a week (15 of which currently receive funding for nursery education). We offer five morning sessions (9am – 11.30am, two afternoon sessions the term before school (12.40am – 3.10pm), as well as optional lunchtime sessions (11.30am – 12.10pm or 11.30am – 1pm) with a maximum of 14 children at any one time. Sessions offered vary from term to term depending on demand. Children aged 2 - 3 can currently attend one session per week on a Tuesday 9 – 11.30am.

We employ four staff (including a Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor and two Pre-school Assistants). The staff group includes two graduates including one qualified teacher with Early Years Professional Status.

We are registered with the Charity Commission as a charity, are governed three trustees and run by a parent management committee, which is very active.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection (2009) graded us Good or Outstanding in all areas.

Most children who attend are in the catchment area of Streatley C of E Primary School and go on to attend the school. The vast majority of children attending Streatley School at present have benefited from their pre-school education from Streatley Hill Pre-school group.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We will involve external local partners to lend support to our new Building Project. In addition, both the Early Years Business Development Officer and the Early Years Teacher Adviser from West Berkshire Council has been particularly supportive.

Appendix 1. Evidence of demand for extended care in our locality

Local community needs/demand:

Evidence from our own Survey: (Survey details attached in Appendix 2)

- Demand from working parents for flexible extended hours.
- Demand from non-working parents for 2 year olds to attend more than once per week. (first two demands currently met by more expensive, non-local settings).
- Demand from low-income families for local affordable childcare to enable them to access work.
- A high proportion of local children attend Streatley School and would like to attend Streatley Pre-school.

Evidence from attendance

In recent years the Pre-school has run at full or near full capacity. Currently, we are oversubscribed and have a waiting list. When we have offered a 9am – 3.10pm day to 'Rising 5s' (by running an off site parent run 'Lunch club') all eligible children have attended. Extended 'Lunch sessions' offered in Year 1 have been well used.

Contextual factors: Local

- Numbers of local children vary from year to year but our research demonstrates that demand will be maintained.
On our pre-school register June 2009: Entering school 2009 – 13 children
2010 – 10 (unusually low)
2011 – 15
- Numbers of younger children will increase because we know that families move to Streatley to access the highly successful Streatley Primary School – we expect this to continue.
- The school has recently been redeveloped and has no plans to take additional pupils in reception or open an Early Years unit (3 -4 year olds)
- Streatley Primary School will have one intake of children into the school in Sept 2009 – which will reduce numbers of older children at Pre-school for the current year. In subsequent years, this should not be an issue.
- High numbers of local children currently under 2 – therefore demand will be maintained.
- There is an unusually high proportion of non-working mothers/fathers in Streatley – partly due to affluence and partly due to lack of local affordable childcare.
- The pre-school has a highly supportive, close relationship with local community, Streatley School, West Berks Early Years Team, Health Visitors, Speech Therapy, SENCO advisors and other children's services.
- Streatley continually under pressure from local housing developments and any unused non-residential sites are quickly converted to housing.

Contextual factors: National

- From Sept 2010 all 3 year – 5 year olds will be eligible for 15 hours grant funded pre-school attendance (an increase from 12.5hrs currently). Funding for 2 year olds is currently being piloted for disadvantaged children.
- West Berkshire (Government policy) initiatives all encourage increase in hours
- Recession is likely to affect incomes and may increase demand for affordable childcare.
- Statistics show that the proportion of parents who decide to work is rising faster amongst parents of children under 4 than amongst parents of older children. Both parents in nearly 70% of all couples now work and more than half of all mothers of under-fives are in paid work¹. Many of these parents require seamless 'all day care'.

¹ 'Expand your Pre-school – the Guide' published by Department for Education and Skills and the Pre-school Learning Alliance 2008

Appendix 2. Survey carried out in October 2007

30 families with (one or more) children at Pre-school were asked to indicate their ideal attendance if hours were to be increased at Pre-school and for general comments. A new timetable was suggested so hours were not unlimited.

Results

2 year olds – 9 children

Demand for 14 sessions (max could have been 18) from 9 children

5 out of 9 opting for 2 sessions rather than 1 - 55% demanded increase in hours

3 – 5 year olds – 25 families

Demand for 106 sessions and 16 short packed lunch sessions

(Capacity was 98 sessions and 28 for packed lunch)

8 out of 25 opted for more sessions if available – 32% demanded increase in hours.

However these 8 children accounted for 43 sessions – 40% of sessions demand – and 12 lunches 75% of packed lunch demand

When 4+ year olds are offered full days (with parent organised Lunch Club) then it is oversubscribed.

Feedback comments from parents:

AR: Doesn't want change from term to term

BM: Wants full days/packed lunch for 3+ to enable part-time work and child to attend 1 setting rather than 2

LS: Need for more sessions for 2 year olds and thinks we should offer opportunity for children to attend 5 days per week in preparation for school

BA: Good to ease child into 5 days per week in preparation for school and likes full day

CD: Good to have different ages together – any need to separate?

ER: Not keen to keep changing timetable. Wants more sessions and lunch clubs.

SN: For working parents long days are essential

LC: Wants child to attend to get to know peer group for school – likes regular mornings and lunch

Analysis

- Survey demonstrates that local demand exceeds what is currently delivered.
- Survey demonstrates demand for extended hours beyond 5 government funded 'free' sessions
- Survey demonstrates that 55% of 2 year olds demand 2 or more sessions rather than 1 session currently offered
- 39% - 13 out of 33 children have mums who work (almost all part-time)

Action:

Increase attendance opportunity for 2 year olds

Streatley Hill Pre School Group, The Coombe, Streatley, Reading, Berks RG8 9RD

Registered Charity Number 1015769

Last updated July 2009CD/LS

Move towards offering full 'school days', extended hours and more flexibility

Appendix 4.

SWOT Analysis of Streatley Hill Pre-school (updated June 2009)

6 January 2009 – Catherine Dickinson (Chair) & Pre-school staff :Fiona Brown, Karen Hardwick, Sophie Crivich, Frances Evans

14 January 2009 – Agreed in Committee Meeting

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly qualified, experienced, dedicated, caring, long term staff• Proximity and relationship with Streatley Primary School• Parent - Community – Staff – sister services relationship is very close• Large garden designed for children• Ethos in line new EYFS framework• Ofsted Inspection good or outstanding in all areas May 2009	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ageing building with inadequate layout• Unable to offer more than 4 hours continuous care in setting
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional funding from West Berks Council because of EYFS – for qualified staff and capital• Local community of skilled people to work for pre-school as staff and volunteers• Demand for more full day care in local area as demonstrated by our survey	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition with other settings - lack of flexible setting provision results in children attending additional settings elsewhere• Single intake of new starters to Streatley Primary school (2009) reduces numbers of older children at pre-school for 2009/2010• Building could require immediate emergency attention due to age

