



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED:
SAFFRON**

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	30 AUGUST 2000
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	29 AUGUST 2000
CABINET	4 SEPTEMBER 2000

SURE START III

Report of the Director of Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the progress of the Sure Start III initiative.

2. Summary

The Sure Start programme is an ambitious national initiative which aims to improve the life chances of children aged 0-4, by developing local partnerships which would both co-ordinate existing services and deliver new ones.

Leicester had been invited to bid for funding for earlier Sure Start programmes. After a period of consultation and examination of indices of deprivation, Beaumont Leys was selected as our first Sure Start area. An interagency partnership developed the bid and it was agreed that the initiative would be led by the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. St Matthews was selected as our second Sure Start area. The initiative is being lead by NCH Action for Children.

A sub-group of the then Joint Strategic Planning Forum (comprising representatives of the Health Authority, Voluntary Action Leicester and Leicester City Council Departments) met to select the area which best met the criteria. The criteria for selection were firstly, a natural community with clearly defined boundaries; secondly, a population of between 400 and 700 children under four; thirdly, evidence of deprivation and in particular poor health and education outcomes for children; fourthly, sufficient community capacity and existing multiagency partnership work to give the programme a good chance of success.

We are now being invited to bid for a third wave programme. A letter has been sent to statutory, voluntary and community organisations in the area. A confirmation of interest must be returned to the Sure Start Unit by 7 September 2000. Outline plans have to be prepared by 2 November and delivery plans by 25 January 2001. It is therefore

necessary to work quickly to decide how this process is to be managed, the various partners co-ordinated, an area selected and a lead agency identified.

The invitation to bid was considered at the multiagency Leicester Children's Planning Partnership (the successor to the Joint Strategic Planning Forum) on 8 August. A core working group of representatives was proposed to work with the identified community to develop the expression of interest. Saffron was unanimously recommended as the area to be invited to participate in Sure Start III on the basis of the strength of previous submissions in respect of Sure Start I and Sure Start II. Cabinet approval for the decision to confirm Saffron as the third Sure Start area is to be sought on 4 September 2000. It was agreed that Voluntary Action Leicester be asked to identify voluntary agencies which might be in a position to act as lead agency.

A meeting(s) will be held with the key groups/agencies/representatives with a view to establishing support for the confirmation of interest.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Scrutiny Committees:

1. Note the progress of the third wave of the Sure Start programme.
2. Endorse, for approval by Cabinet, the decision to confirm Saffron as the third Sure Start area.
3. Request further reports on the detailed proposals in due course.

3.2 That Cabinet approve the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committees to confirm Saffron as the third Sure Start area.

4. Financial and Legal Implications

There are no financial implications arising specifically from this report. However if in due course the City Council takes on the role of the 'accountable body' in respect of Sure Start III it is responsible for ensuring that Sure Start money is spent appropriately and in accordance with guidelines. Failure to do so could result in some or all the Year One and Year Two Sure Start budgets being the subject of 'claw back' by the Sure Start Unit or by a senior government body such as the Regional Development Agency.

The role of 'accountable body' is based upon that applied through the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) initiatives and will have the same financial and legal controls within it in order to ensure that funding is only reallocated within a framework of clear outcomes and monitoring processes.

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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