

INFORMATION REPORT



Date Written	15 th August 2012
Report Author	Ian Benbow/Sue Hughes
Service Area	Social Regeneration
Committee Date	24 th October 2012

To: Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Flying Start Expansion update

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To update Cabinet on the planned developments of the Flying Start programme which includes the 3 year strategic plan and associated Capital funding application.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cabinet will be aware from previous reports (February 2012 and May 2012) that Merthyr Tydfil CBC was required to develop and submit a Flying Start 3 year expansion plan together with a Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for capital investment by 31st May 2012 to the Welsh Government (WG). (£6 million had been identified in WG for the whole of Wales to meet the capital investment requirements identified).
- 1.2 Flying Start is administered as a grant to Local Authorities targeted on their most deprived areas. These areas were originally identified in relation to the catchment areas of schools facing particularly high levels of deprivation as represented by the number of their pupils in receipt of free school meals.
- 1.3 In February 2012 Merthyr Tydfil CBC agreed in principal the proposed areas for the Flying Start expansion. Welsh Government have provided the targeting criteria for expansion areas for the programme, focussing on income benefit households with children under 3 years of age. The expansion areas based on the WG criteria expansion include:

2013/14

Merthyr Vale 2	16 places
Merthyr Vale 1	14 places
Plymouth 1	21 places

2014/15

Bedlinog 2	20 places
Cyfartha 3	18 places
Treharris 3	20 places
Dowlais 1	20 places
Dowlais 4	22 places

See Appendix 1 - Current and Proposed LSOA Areas

- 1.4 Through the Flying Start WG policy guidance, eligible families (families in the designated areas with children 0-47months) have the following entitlements:
- Health visiting - an enhanced Health Visiting service where caseloads for Health Visitors are capped at 110 cases to allow them to work more intensively with clients.
 - Childcare - free quality part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds.
 - Parenting support - access to Parenting Programmes.
 - Early Language Development programmes - access to Language and Play sessions.
- 1.5 It has been confirmed that the Capital investment by Welsh Government will focus on the new expansion areas; however, consideration has also been given as part of the SOP to the facilities within the existing areas to ensure that these do not require any further capital works. A considerable investment has previously been provided to these Flying Start buildings and at this moment in time they are providing good quality accommodation and facilities for the programme.

2.0 MERTHYR TYDFIL KEY ISSUES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Flying Start Strategic Plan 2012-2015 Guidance

- 2.1 The full 3 year expansion plan together with the Merthyr Tydfil SOP for capital investment was finalised and submitted to WG by the WG required timeframes. The Documentation had been endorsed by the CEO of both MTCBC and Cwm Taf LHB as required by WG guidelines.
- 2.2 Initial feedback on the expansion plan has been received. The majority of points within the feedback were requests for points of clarification, however there were some points that need further consideration, these include:

Childcare

Need to ensure the Flying Start revenue and capital funding is only utilised for Flying start provisions.

Need to ensure 15 Family sessions are available for eligible families in 2013-14 during school holidays.

Further details have been requested in terms of how gaps in provision between Flying Start and school Foundation Phase will be managed. A separate report is being prepared for Cabinet on this issue.

Health Visiting and Midwifery

Need to recruit Health Visitors at appropriate times to ensure caseloads are in line with the Flying Start Guidance.

Need to progress the co-location of the Health team within the wider Flying Start team.

Outreach

There is scope to provide support to a small number of families who are not living within the designated Flying Start areas through a new outreach approach. There is a need to ensure a robust referral process is established for the outreach element of the programme.

Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) - Capital Investment

2.3 Following the submission of the detailed SOP, MTCBC have been allocated £595,000 of the £655,000 requested. This would equate to approximately 10% of the £6 million original allocation for the whole of Wales.

2.4 The breakdown of the funding is:

Expansion Ward	Development	2012-13 £	2013-14 £
Treharris – South Merthyr Tydfil	Treharris College - Refurbish building, for usage as office accommodation for approx 20 staff and programme delivery to include childcare provision for expansion in 2014/15.	£160k	
Merthyr Vale 1(1302) & 2 (1303) <i>Merthyr Vale</i>	Upgrade facility for the Cylch Meithrin located at Ysgol Rhyd y Grug. Upgrade facility at Trinity Day Care centre. Ysgol Rhyd y Grug School Caretakers house - refurbish to provide co-located training facility for parents and carers.	£40k £25K £60k	
Plymouth 1 (1312) <i>Pentrebach & Troedyrhiw</i>	Upgrade facility at the Willows Centre to become a flying start setting.	£30k	
Bedlinog 2 (1290) <i>Trelewis</i>	Trelewis Community Centre – invest funding to upgrade facility to become a Flying Start setting.		£30K
Cyfarthfa 3 (1293) <i>Heolgerrig & Ynysfach</i>	Continue to investigate opportunities to develop services.		£120k indicative cost
Treharris 3 (1321) <i>Treharris</i>	Upgrade facility for the Cylch Meithrin located at St Mathias Church.		£30k

Treharris 3 (1321) <i>Treharris</i>	Relocate and upgrade facility costs for Nursery Rhymes Pre school		£35k
Dowlais 1 &4 (1295 & 1298) <i>Dowlais & Pant</i>	Upgrade current facility of Dwylo Bach preschool located at Dowlais Nursery		£45K
All Areas	Offer of a grant scheme to improve childminding facilities to become Flying Start eligible providers.		£20k

- 2.5 A further £60k was requested as a contingency for new developments in Dowlais. WG have advised this will be considered at a later stage when they have identified the full commitments required across Wales.
- 2.6 Merthyr Tydfil Estates and Education departments continue to be integral in progressing the implementation of the Flying start developments. A lead officer has been identified within the Estates department who is responsible for the Management and coordination of the physical work.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report as the developments are funded under the auspices of the Welsh Government Flying Start Grant. There are however resource requirements in terms of management and staff time to manage and implement the capital proposals.

4.0 COMMUNITY PLAN AND SUSTIANABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

- 4.1 A Community Plan and Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the Flying Start developments positively impact on a number of aspects of the Community Plan including a Healthy Merthyr Tydfil, and better access to quality services and facilities. No negative impacts have been identified

5.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been prepared for the purpose of this report. A copy of the EqIA and a screening form are available from the report author.

GIOVANNI ISINGRINI
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
<i>Title of Document(s)</i>	<i>Document(s) Date</i>	<i>Document Location</i>
Flying Start Guidance	Various	Integrated Children's Centre
Welsh Government Correspondence	Various	Integrated Children's Centre
Flying Start Expansion Cabinet Reports	February 2012 May 2012	Adult & Family Social Regeneration & Development, TKH

Consultation has been undertaken with Executive Board in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.

Appendix 1 – Flying Start existing and expansion areas

LSOA	LSOA Name	LA Name	Estimated number of 0-3s in IB HHs	Number of 0-3s from SAPE	Proportion of 0-3s in IBH	In a flying start area?	
W01001308	Merthyr Tydfil 001D	Penydarren 1	60	85	70.7%	Flying Start Area	
W01001300	Merthyr Tydfil 001B	Gurnos 2	65	90	70.3%	Flying Start Area	
W01001303	Merthyr Tydfil 006C	Merthyr Vale 2	40	65	62.4%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001301	Merthyr Tydfil 001C	Gurnos 3	65	115	55.3%	Flying Start Area	
W01001299	Merthyr Tydfil 001A	Gurnos 1	70	125	54.6%	Flying Start Area	
W01001292	Merthyr Tydfil 004A	Cyfarthfa 2	50	100	50.9%	Flying Start Area	
W01001295	Merthyr Tydfil 002A	Dowlais 1	35	80	43.0%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001309	Merthyr Tydfil 001E	Penydarren 2	25	65	41.2%	Flying Start Area	
W01001290	Merthyr Tydfil 007A	Bedlinog 2	30	80	37.2%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001293	Merthyr Tydfil 004B	Cyfarthfa 3	25	75	36.0%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001302	Merthyr Tydfil 006B	Merthyr Vale 1	20	55	35.9%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001321	Merthyr Tydfil 007D	Treharris 3	30	80	35.3%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001312	Merthyr Tydfil 006E	Plymouth	25	65	34.6%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001298	Merthyr Tydfil 002D	Dowlais 4	30	85	33.6%	Not Flying Start Area	Potential Expansion
W01001291	Merthyr Tydfil 003A	Cyfarthfa 1	40	120	32.1%	Flying Start Area	Twyncarmel
			Total current	700			
			Total in proposed expansion	585			

Notes: Population estimates from ONS mid-year estimates, 2009

Source: ONS, HMRC & DWP