



# Delivering Your Full Core Offer

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# Focus of the Seminar

- **What is meant by “the full core offer”**
- **National Overview from TfC perspective**
- **The delivery of the full core offer in practice-an example from Northumberland County Council**

## Discussion

- **What are the main challenges and solutions to delivering your full core offer?**

# What is the full core offer?

- Required services identified in previous guidance from DCSF
- Validated in partnership between TfC and the local authority and children's centre-recorded on Tracker by TfC.
- The process will be owned by the local authority in future .

Key services:

- Integrated education and childcare (varies according to centre type)
- Childminder support
- Family support and parental outreach
- Child and family health
- Parental involvement
- Employment support

# National Overview

- Before April 2010 TfC was commissioned by DCSF to work with local authorities in supporting and validating “full core offer ”status, with support of a checklist developed from previous guidance and “a visit”.
- The expectation was that all phase 1 and 2 centres would have achieved this status within two years of designation, and by the end of March 2010.
- Current position
- 3,633 designated Sure Start Children’s centres nationally
- 2,846 have reached full core offer
- 19 local authorities have completed their designations and Full core offers-the remainder expected by the end of March 2012
- Local authorities will be expected to self validate their own centres and have improvement arrangements in place to support quality and impact.

# National Overview (cont)

- In the light of the legislation and statutory guidance local authorities are required by the Act to “make sufficient provision” of children’s centres and services to meet local need.
- “Local need” refers to the need of parents, prospective parents and children under five.
- “Sufficiency” should be determined with local strategic partners and in consultation with users and other community partners.
- There is a presumption against closure.
- The Childcare Act also places a duty upon Ofsted to inspect children’s centres, the process will be outcomes-focused and look for evidence of the impact of services on children’s outcomes.
- Determination of what full core offer should look like will need to take account of this guidance

# National Overview cont.

- The new coalition objectives and the CSR will also impact on what the children's centres will offer, for example-
- Still an emphasis on universal coverage but ensuring the “neediest children and families “are targeted and reached.”
- Working with community and voluntary sector organisations who have a “track record” in reaching the most disadvantaged is also a priority.
- The importance of community engagement and local accountability are also important aspects of children's centre governance and development
- The consultation process will also help support further thinking around children's centre services and may impact on interpretation of “full core offer”

# What are the key challenges to the delivery of full core offer?

- Delays in capital build and finding alternative venues for service delivery
- Engagement with Health partners and lack of integrated working
- Engagement with JobCentre plus
- Underdeveloped Childminder engagement
- Qualified Teacher input-availability and affordability
- Limited alignment with social care and other family support partners
- Weak links with schools and providers of EYFS
- Sustainability of services in more affluent and rural areas

# Showcase - Northumberland

**Our journey to getting there and improving!**

**Our challenges:**

- **Rural and isolated**
- **Lack of infrastructure**
- **Mainly affluent but significant pockets of disadvantage compounded by isolation.**
- **Jackie McCormick**
- **Locality Manager, Sure Start Children's Centres West, Northumberland County Council**



# Discussion

- **1.What are the major challenges being faced in delivering full core offer?**
- **2.What solutions have been critical?**
- **3.What are the key services that would ensure you could reach the neediest families?**