

PLANNING SUPPORT STATEMENT

for

**Proposed Extension and Alterations to form
New School Reception and Children's Centre**

at

**Earls Barton Junior School,
Broad Street, Earls Barton, NN6 DND**

for

Northamptonshire County Council

prepared by

PHP Architects

September 2009

**PROPOSED EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO FORM NEW SCHOOL
RECEPTION AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE,
EARLS BARTON JUNIOR SCHOOL**

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

REASONS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

SCHOOL RECEPTION:

Due to the following reasons the School felt the need to create a new Main Entrance and Reception:

- During the last Ofsted inspection it was noted that the children had to cross the car park in order to access between the two School buildings, to use the Main Hall and Library Resources. A safer, more suitable solution was required.
- To improve the security of the Old School Building.
- The Main Entrance and Reception to the School are hidden behind the Old School Building and the Infants School and needed to be more visible and accessible to visitors.
- NCC Asset Management Plan had listed a number of insufficiencies in the facilities at the school, i.e. a dedicated Medical Room, Disabled WC and Accessible Access.

The School therefore have decided to take the opportunity of a joint venture, with Northamptonshire County Council, to create a shared extension, with the proposed Children's Centre, to create a new School Reception Area located between the two separate buildings forming the present Junior School.

The scheme will overcome the problems with the School, listed above, by the provision of a new Main Entrance, secure Reception Area, General Office, Headteachers Office, Caretakers Office and associated storage, while also linking the two separate School buildings.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE:

National Overview

Sure Start Children's Centres are key to the Governments Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme. Children's Centres will be the key to providing families with all the services that they might need. The Government has set the target that by April 2010 there will be a Children's Centre in every community. This will total 3,500 centres nationally.

The Childcare Act 2006, is a key milestone for driving the improvement of services that will reduce inequalities and increase young children's wellbeing. The Act set a requirement on the Local authority to deliver good quality

integrated early childhood services, provide out reach and the inclusion and involvement of families. This work will be carried out in partnership with key partners such as the Primary Care Trusts and Job Centre Plus. Every Child Matters (ECM) focuses on the improvement of outcomes for children. Life chances for children are enhanced via making available families' access to additional appropriate services. This has and will continue to be achieved through the development of Northamptonshire Children's Centres.

The National Childcare Strategy links Children's Centres to Extended Services, which continue to provide integrated services to children aged 5 plus and their families, through schools.

Northamptonshire Goals and Targets

The work being achieved by Children's Centres now and in the future fits into many local strategies and targets:

The Councils corporate outcomes

Through working with the County Council internal teams and other professionals and agencies, Children's Centres and the services associated with them will contribute towards the 4 corporate Outcomes, these being:

- A safer, freer and stronger communities
- A secure, healthy and independent future for our children, our young people and our adults
- A smaller more enabling council focussed on our customers
- A cleaner, greener and more prosperous County

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Northamptonshire

This consists of 4 headline aims, these being:

- To be successful through sustainable growth and regeneration
- To develop through having a growing economy with more skilled jobs
- To have safe and strong communities
- To have healthy people who enjoy a good quality of life

Under each of these aforementioned headline aims there are three key principles. Children's Centres can contribute to a minimum of one of these principles under each aim

Within "To be successful through sustainable growth and regeneration" a key principle is to "....improve and preserve buildings.... for future generations" The Children's Centre **build programme** contributes towards this

Within “To develop through having a growing economy with more skilled jobs” 2 key principles are “workers have the right skills to respond to the employment needs of a dynamic economy” and “residents have the opportunity to learn throughout their lives” The delivery of **support by Job Centre plus** and **Family / Adult learning** through Children’s Centres will support both of these

Within “To have Safe and Strong Communities” two key principles are “residents have a shared identity and are involved in developing their communities” and “ public services meet the needs of residents” Children’s Centres will contribute towards the former by **members of the local community being involved in its governance** and the latter by Centres being responsible for identifying and responding to need in the local economy. E.g. if there is a high rate of Reception year obesity, activity such as healthy eating courses would be provided

Within “To have healthy people who enjoy a good quality of life” all three principles will be supported through Children’s Centres. In relation to “supporting vulnerable people to help them lead fulfilling lives” Children’s Centres are tasked with **prioritising support**, through National Performance Indicators, for certain already defined **excluded** groups. In terms of “helping young people to have the best possible preparation to become adults” the driving ethos behind Children’s Centres is to develop **early intervention and preventative services**. In respect to “helping residents to make choices that improve their health and quality of life” Children’s Centres will offer easier access to a **variety of health services** such as midwifery and health visitors as well as providing **family and employment support** activity which will enhance quality of life.

Northamptonshire Children and Young People’s Plan – May 2009

The Plan identifies the five outcomes associated with Every Child Matters agenda. This agenda was embedded through the Children’s Act 2004.

The five outcomes are:

- Be healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The plan identifies priority outcomes and measures. Children’s Centres and the activities / services delivered under its umbrella will play a key part in achieving these. They will also adopt the ethos that runs throughout this plan. In particular they will

- Deliver integrated services through effective partnership working
- Adopt prevention and early Intervention principles
- Be a key delivery element of emerging area based working
- Support the development of the Children and Young peoples workforce

- Respond to identified needs by offering activities that will support communities to support families to support their children to achieve the five outcomes

Northamptonshire

How are we going to achieve this in our County?

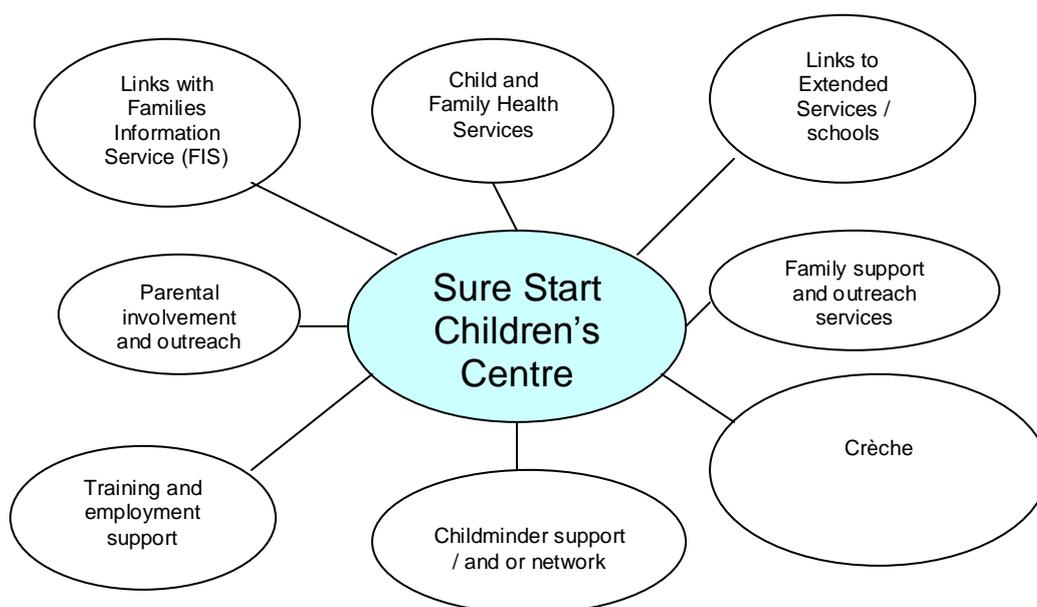
During 2004 – 2008, Northamptonshire have developed Sure Start Children’s Centres to become a ‘one stop shop’, where children 0-5 years old and their families can have access to integrated services and information.

Over the 2008-10 development phase Children’s Centres will be more of a “first stop shop”, with greater emphasis on outreach provision at different locations. This reflects the roll out of this project into more rural areas.

However the overall vision, to ensure every child gets the best start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life is maintained

Each Centre will deliver a carefully planned range of integrated services, responding to locally identified needs. They will work with parents and service providers to deliver inclusive, accessible and child-friendly services that support children and their families, through early intervention at age and stage, to reach their full potential.

Centres will deliver to different degrees, dependant on local need and demand activities and services outlined below



Furthermore additional services to this will be developed should feedback from consultation with the local community show that there is a need, for example baby massage, breastfeeding café or advice on money management.

Family support and Outreach Services

- Visits to parents within two months of birth informing them of how they can access services through Children's Centres
- Access to specialist health and education services
- Drop-in sessions for parents and carers
- Support and information to parents and carers about pre-birth, early days and childcare settings
- Encouragement for parents, especially fathers, to get involved with and support their child's learning and development
- Help and advice on parenting skills

Child and Family Health Services

- Antenatal help, advice and support from Health Visitors and Midwives
- Information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition and safety
- Identification, support and care for mothers suffering from depression before or after birth
- Support with speech and language development
- Help with giving up smoking

Links with Families Information Service (FIS)

- Access through the Families Information Service (FIS) to comprehensive information on all local childcare options, as well as out of school groups and extended services available in schools.
- Information will also be available on local opportunities for family learning, sport and leisure, and community groups as well as signposting to national services for children and families.

Support for Training and Employment

- Access will be available to Jobcentre Plus in addition to local education and training providers.

EXISTING SITE AND PROPOSALS:

The site at upon which the new extension is located, is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and forms part of the existing Earls Barton Junior School. The site is at present an area of sloped landscaped garden, With footpaths between the two separate School buildings, which have floor levels that are at approximately 1200mm difference.

The proposal is to create a shared building, housing a new School Reception area and the new Children's Centre, using a shared main entrance but separate receptions and office areas. The other main objective for the school is to create a corridor link between the two school buildings, which are at present only accessible externally. Due to the difference in existing floor levels of the buildings, the proposal also includes steps and access lift in the new building.

Design Approach:

The design approach to the project has been carefully considered in order to minimise the visual impact of the new build within the context of the local surroundings, whilst providing for the specific needs of the School and the Children's Centre (refer to Design & Access Statement). A large emphasis has been placed upon the creation of a "welcoming" environment.

An imperative design requirement is that the School areas and Children's Centre areas can be used and secured off separately when the other is not in use.

All relevant Disability Discrimination Act legislation has been taken account of during the design process within the areas affected by the construction works. The new main entrance will be created to allow easy access for wheelchair users, including a new external access ramp.

Staffing Implications:

The new School Reception building will not involve any additional staff, as staff will be relocated from existing rooms into the new extension.

The creation of the Children's Centre will result in the employment of 1no. full time and 2no. part time staff, who will use the site intermittently. As indicated previously these employees time are likely to be spent delivering outreach activity at other community buildings

Statement of Community Involvement/Pre-Application Publicity:

The school held a public meeting at the school in late July 2009 to inform parents on the role of the Children's Centre and to explain what services it would provide for the School and Community. The local residents were also given the opportunity to comment on the development.

As this site is developing either the lead body delivering the service or NCC will have the responsibility to ensure consultation with the local residents in their community takes place, to find out peoples understanding of the building work and about peoples knowledge of what will be provided and the services they would like to see from this site. Evaluations will be drawn up from the results and plans will be made

Demolitions:

The proposals will include the demolition of 2no. old flat roof, ex air raid shelters, built onto the end of the old school building, which are at present used for storage and Caretakers Room. These old buildings have a very heavy reinforced concrete roof built into the end wall of the school building and as they are “moving” are causing structural damage to the existing building.

No other buildings will be demolished.

Trees to be felled:

The proposals will include the removal of 1no. cherry and 1no. beech tree, both relatively small and located in the existing garden area and as indicated on the Site Survey drawing.

Flood Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Land Contaminants:

Contaminant site surveys are organised but are still to be completed.

Vehicle Access and Car Parking:

Vehicle access to the site is via Broad Street by means of the existing access road to the school.

This access will be remain unaltered and used for access to the new Children’s Centre as well as the School.

The location of the new building will result in the re-location of 4no. existing car parking spaces and 1no. disabled space. By rearranging the existing spaces it will be possible to increase the parking by 3no. spaces – see drawings for details. The disabled bay will be relocated closer to the new main entrance and there will be 2no. bays designated for use by the new Children’s Centre.

The new Reception Area for the school will not involve any additional staff or car parking requirements.

Due to the “reach area” for this Children’s Centre and the requirement to develop and deliver outreach activity it is expected that staff working in the new Children’s Centre will be using the car parking intermittently. Activities will be organised by the service providers, which will take place in the rural outreach areas. The room available in the new Children’s Centre will be used by local Earls Barton community families, who will arrive at the centre on foot.

Access to the facilities via the availability of more environmentally forms of transport is to be encouraged by the creation of an external buggy store.

Site access during construction period:

Construction access to the site will be via Broad Street but deliveries will be strictly programmed to suit the school.

Services implications:

The new building is located in an area in which most of the incoming mains services to the School are located and the diversion of these services will form part of the detailed proposals for the project.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE, ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO FORMER CARETAKER BUNGALOW TO ESTABLISH NEW PENFOLD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

This statement should be read in conjunction with the associated building plans and elevations depicting detailed elements.

Assessment

- Physical – The new building had to provide the School with a practical solution to the problem of linking the two separate buildings, set at different levels and create a new main entrance and reception area that was clearly visible to visitors and improving security to both existing buildings. With both the School and the new Children's Centre, one of the main priorities of the design and initial assessment of the site was to provide a "welcoming" environment for the children and parents, improving access and in the case of the Children's Centre, trying to create a family environment as far as possible. It is seen as essential to encourage persons from their homes into the local community and the design of the new building and in particular the new entrance will hopefully assist with this.
- Social - This Children's Centre will offer a universal provision to all children aged 0-5 years and their families, by means of outreach activities, which will take place in their local rural area. This site at Earls Barton will provide a central office and information point, as well as space for local groups, such as the Earls Barton Childminding Network, to meet. To meet the core offer of a Children's Centre the service provider will be working in partnership with agencies and organisations from the public, private and third sector. As indicated, the Centre will also provide out reach work and we envisage families attending for small group work or appointments to meet with, for example the Speech and Language Therapist or Job Centre Plus.
- Economic – in line with the above, the development will have a positive economic impact on the area, as well as providing employment opportunities relating to the works associated with the new build and alteration of the existing building.
- Planning policy – this development supports the planning policy of development of brown field sites for new construction works.

Involvement

As the new Children's Centre is developing on site, either the lead body delivering the services and activities or NCC will have the responsibility to ensure consultation with the local residents in their community takes place to find out peoples understanding of the building work and about peoples knowledge of what will be provided and the services they would like to see from this site. Evaluations will be drawn up from the results and plans will be made

Evaluation

In the evaluation process, a number of elements had to be incorporated into the detailed design process, outlined below:-.

Design

- Use – as a combined new School and Children's Centre entrance. The dual use has led to shared use spaces in Reception, Kitchen and Toilet provision. The design separates spaces to each side of a secure division, so that the school can be provided with a link between two existing buildings.
- Amount – The new building is single storey and lower than existing adjoining blocks. In total 240m² of new accommodation is provided.
- Layout – As noted in above, the design provides for a link between existing buildings, which incorporates improved disabled access. Rooms are arranged to each side of the link corridor, with the reception to the public side. The building in its position provides a more secure boundary to the school site.
- Scale - The new building has been broken into two similar blocks, with pitched roofs. The intention on subdividing the mass was to respond to the scale of the existing Victorian building, which is modulated by pitched roof bays. The block adjoining the Victorian building has a duo-pitch roof, in a gesture to the Victorian original, while the second block is monopitch, responding more to the flat roofed Modern building. The monopitch rises to a high point to indicate the new entrance. The building sits lower than either adjoining existing building (the Victorian has high ceilings) and the flat roof modern building is at a higher floor level.
- Landscaping – The existing hard tarmac and grassed playing field context is unchanged by the new design, apart from a new disabled access ramp to the new entrance.

- Appearance – It has been noted above that the building has been divided into two blocks to respond to the context of adjoining buildings. The materials will follow this strategy, with the block adjoining the Victorian building being in a facing brick sympathetic to the original, The other block will be in a white render, picking up the feature panels from the modern flat roof block. The roof folds in several directions, forming a blend of Victorian symmetry and flat roof and this informality is carried through in the fenestration of the blocks. The roof will be covered in a standing seam finish to emphasise the folding planes, and the two blocks culminate in raised roof lanterns, echoing the chimneys of the Victorian block.

Access

The property design takes account of:-

- Approach – The design of the new building, in particular the new front entrance canopy and new access ramp/steps sensitively reflects the need to create a welcoming environment for the visitors both to the School and the Children’s Centre but also produces a design which compliments both existing adjacent buildings and the overall community ethos.
- Parking - The design has taken needs of retaining the on site School parking and the additional requirements of the Children’s Centre, including the provision of disabled parking facilities.
- Entrance - Within the limits of the site the entrance to the new building has been positioned to create ease of access from both the car park area, Broad Street and the secondary footpath from Churchill Road, whilst maintaining an aesthetically pleasing look.
- Horizontal and Vertical circulation – The horizontal circulation within the property has been carefully planned to allow full access to all rooms and external areas. Vertical circulation between the two existing School buildings, with differing floor levels has been overcome with the inclusion of a set of steps and adjacent access lift, located in the new Corridor area.
- Access to all services – Internally the new extension has been carefully laid-out to maximise use and management. All facilities take account of the security of the employees yet still ensures the provision of an appropriate, friendly and welcoming environment.
- Emergency Egress/Alarm Systems and Evacuation Planning – New fully automatic fire and intruder alarms will be fitted into the completed building and Fire Risk Assessments will be in place on occupation.

Philosophy and Approach:

The new School Reception and Children's Centre building has been specifically designed to enable ease of access for people with disability. Access to and internal travel routes within the altered building and the new extension have been carefully planned to provide ease of access for visitors and can make use of essential facilities. The design of the property is considered to meet the spirit of the Disability Discrimination Act as well as meeting other regulatory and statutory requirements.

Sources of advice and consultation:

- Planning advice from Northamptonshire County Council.
- Full consultation with Northamptonshire County Council to ensure the design of the property meets the needs of the end user.
- Advice from a range of professional groups and bodies – particularly around disabled access and compliance with Building Regulations. During the design process key structural, mechanical/electrical and access professional advice has been sought to ensure the Children's Centre operates as efficiently as possible.
- Local residents were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed extension during a public meeting organised by the school, as previously mentioned.

Nature and impact of environmental constraints:

No apparent environmental constraints identified.

Proposed solutions for overcoming identified constraints:

N/A

What steps have been taken to ensure this information is made available to building occupiers:

Refer above. All key building occupiers have been regularly consulted with and are part of the overall design team. Information has been disseminated to all interested parties for comment and direction on a regularly basis.

Additional material information:

N/A

Earls Barton Infant and Junior School's Travel Plan 2003 – 2004							
Aspect	Target	Action	Personnel	Timescale	Funding	Success criteria	Monitoring
Walking Buses	To increase the number of children using each of the buses	Continue to raise awareness through termly newsletters Conduct further pupil surveys to gain clear statistical data on travel to school	SG / MA / JC All staff, with pupils via Internet in ICT lesson	Termly March 04	None needed	Parents fully aware of the Buses, all buses are operational and used successfully.	SG / MA with Walking Bus leaders SG / SN / SK
	To maintain interest and commitment from parent volunteers	Update information for parents especially within the school prospectus		Sept 04		A committed band of volunteers organize and walk with pupils	
Communication	Maintain awareness of developments of the Travel plan	Regular newsletters to parents and the community including reports in the village Tower magazine	SG / MA / JC	Monthly	None (include in usual communication systems)	Parents, pupils and local community are fully aware of the need to be considerate road users.	Reports to the Governors via termly Head teacher's reports
Traffic management	To reduce the amount of	Establishment of a car sharing	SG / MA	Start July 04 with	None (see above)	Car sharing in evidence.	Reports presented at

	service for out of village families	new intake parents evenings	See above	See above	Fewer cars brought to the village by out of village parents	Travel Plan review meetings by Governor reps
traffic around the school site	Promoting the use of Walking buses and increasing the usage	Develop posters and lamp post signs for village use reminding about safe parking	See above	Cost of poster and signage, est £1000	See Walking Buses	Reports discussed at Travel Plan review meetings
	Continue to promote the safe parking campaign	Develop posters and lamp post signs for village use reminding about safe parking	As above, with local community police and parish council	Develop Summer 04. Start campaign Sept 04	Evidence of sensible car parking at drop off and collection times	
Involvement from representative groups	Elect pupil representatives to attend the meetings. Appoint Road safety Governors to become involved with the Travel Plan.	SG / MA	None	Greater involvement from a wider range of groups. Pupils fully consulted and their views taken into account	Reports from groups presented at the review meetings	SG / MA to monitor
Site safety	Widen Churchill Rd path width	SG / MA with personnel from NCC	Est. £5000 per path (standards fund grant, school budget or other funds – Travel Plan	Widened paths allowing freer flowing pedestrian traffic on and off the site	SG / MH and Buildings sub committees	
	Create path along the length of the school field					
	Improve safety of pupils/parents when entering the and exiting the school site					

Cycling to school	Promotion of cycling to school for Y6 pupils	Children attend cycling courses to allow safe cycling to school Cycle racks installed on site to allow safe and secure storage	Road Safety personnel to deliver courses SG to organize (cycle racks donated to school)	By end June 2006 then September for year round cycling	Cost of training to be borne by parents Coat of installation (may be none if site supervisor can do)	Children trained to cycle safely to school, appropriate storage of cycles on the premises.	SG with SMT and Buildings sub committee
Road safety	Continue to develop sense of road safety with all pupils	Ensure PSHE curriculum units contain appropriate road safety material – conduct audit and update Use a range of external providers to promote road safety	SG / MA and PSHE coordinators	By Sept 04 then ongoing	Resources to be purchased as required (£200 per school) Cost to be subsidized by school fund, minimal charge to pupils	Road safety units being delivered in curriculum time and affecting safety of pupils	SG / MA / PSHE coord's with reports to curriculum sub committees

Earls Barton Infant and Junior Schools and Pied Piper Travel Plan

2002 – 2003

Background Information

The original Travel Plan was first formulated in January 2002, with all parties working together with officers from the county council. Throughout the Spring and Summer terms 2002, a series of meetings took place to put the Travel plan into practice. The schools were aided by a significant financial commitment from the county council, to improve safer routes to school in the village in the form of highways developments.

Typically, those in attendance at the meetings were:

Head teachers from both schools

Governors from both schools

Representatives from the county council and local education authority

Earls Barton's Councillor

Crossing patrol staff

With the support of Travel plan and Road safety officers, the schools were keen to set up Walking buses to help reduce traffic around peak times. To date, five such buses have been organized and are operating because of the generous commitment of volunteers.

Plan to show developments 2001 – 2002

The attached plan shows the highways developments, intended to slow traffic and make parking safer.

Parking arrangements

There is no change in the arrangements for the parking of parents cars. However, road markings prevent cars being parked across residents driveways and build outs indicate designated parking areas (see above plan).

Other use of school facilities

The school continues to be used extensively out of hours by local groups and adult education classes.

Plans for school development

There continues to be no plans that would indicate a significant increase in the school rolls. Nor are there building developments that would affect the travel to school.

Description of the current situation

Existing Travel Patterns

Schools Travel/Road safety policy

We actively promote walking to school and encourage the use of our Walking buses. We participate in the annual walk to school week and celebrate our children's achievements in this area. We continue to promote safer routes to school through an involvement with local policing initiatives and our ongoing PSHE curriculum. Both schools are working towards the Healthy School's Award.

Aims and Objectives

Problems (in no order of priority)

These continue to be as written.

Solutions (in no order of priority)

These continue to be as written

Targets

Monitoring

The Head teachers of both school meet to review the Travel Plan at least once every half term.

The Head teachers meet with Walking Bus volunteers to assess progress, at least once a term.

There is regular discussion about the plan and developments with officers of the county council, and reports are presented at least termly to the Governing Body.

The schools celebrate the achievements of the Travel Plan through involvement of the local media, to continue to maintain the profile of the initiatives.

Parents and representatives of the local community are consulted on developments at least on an annual basis and asked to provide suggestions for future improvements.

These are then incorporated into the subsequent Travel Plan.

Implementation and Management

We will notify Governors, staff and Parents of any changes to the Travel Plan via termly newsletters and communicate to residents via the "Tower" magazine.

Review

The plan will be reviewed and updated annually.