PLANNING SUPPORT STATEMENT

for

Proposed Extension and internal alterations to Existing Primary School to establish a permanent extended services provision, hot meals service and new Children’s Centre

at

Wootton Primary School, Farm Close Road, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6HJ

for

Northamptonshire County Council

prepared by

PHP Architects

February 2010
Rev A – March 2010
Supporting Statement

REASON FOR DEVELOPMENT:

National Overview
Extended Services in schools, hot meal provision and Sure Start Children’s Centres are key to the Governments Every Child Matters: Schools have been charged with providing extended services to families, including childcare, by 2010; 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. Likewise, safe and affordable childcare enables families to secure economic well-being, and a hot meals provision contribute to promotion of good health in children.

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 extended service provision, hot meals service and 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 focused 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. Extended services provision, hot meals service and 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 Extended Services and 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 Extended services, a hot meals kitchen and 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 Extended services, hot meals provision and Children’s Centres. In relation to “supporting vulnerable people to help them lead fulfilling lives” extended services childcare will enable families to work by providing affordable and safe childcare. 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” hot meal provision at lunchtime will provide children with nutritious and healthy food. The Children’s Centre 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

Likewise the Extended Services Initiative (2007) targets schools with meeting these outcomes through a core offer which includes:

- a varied range of activities including study support, sport and music clubs, combined with childcare in primary schools
- parenting and family support
- swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services
- community access to facilities including adult and family learning, ICT and sports grounds.

The plan identifies priority outcomes and measures. The extended services building will provide childcare and a space for parenting and family support. Children’s Centre 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

The hot meals kitchen will provide an opportunity for children to have a healthy and balanced hot meal at lunchtime, meeting nutrition standards.
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/ PROPOSALS:
The site at upon which the proposed Extended Services provision, hot meals kitchen and Children centre is located, is owned by the Northampton County Council and is currently occupied by Wootton Primary School. The site is within a predominantly residential area.

To create the Extended Services provision, hot meals kitchen and Children's Centre, it is proposed a two storey extension is added to the East Elevation and the existing building altered internally providing the necessary additional floor area to incorporate the following use areas:
Ground floor – A new reception area, office, confidential office, multi-use community room with kitchenette (to be shared with the school upon arrangement), school kitchen to commercial specification,(Utilised by Healthy Food and Drink), Disabled toilet and baby change provision and 1 unisex staff toilet.
Existing wc’s and corridor adjacent the main hall will be altered to form a new store refurbished to the standard of the new extension.

First Floor – Group room for out-of-school-hours-child care with kitchenette (shared with the children’s centre upon arrangement), 2 children’s toilets, 2 stores and platform access lift.

At the current time, the popular ‘out of school’ club is based in a mobile on the site earmarked for development. This mobile will be removed and the club relocated into the new build, thus releasing the space to once again be used as a play and sports space for children, and making the site more attractive.
The out of school club operates from 8am – 6pm and caters for approximately 55 children. These children arrive and leave school outside of the school start and finish times of 8:45am and 3:15pm. Without the club, 55 more children will be dropped off and picked up at the normal school times, thereby increasing the peak time traffic.
Without a kitchen at the school, the hot school meals system will also have to deliver and pick up twice a day as opposed to once a day.

The building does not allow for any increase in pupil numbers on roll at Wootton Primary School which is already full to its Published Admission Number and at capacity. However, as mentioned above, plans for the new build do include provision for a kitchen space which will allow for the provision of hot school meals for all children, in line with Government recommendations.

**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 Extended Services provision, hot meals kitchen and Children’s Centre A large emphasis has been placed upon the creation of a “welcoming” environment.
The design ethos takes into account the core strategy as outlined in the East Midlands Regional Plan Policy 2 which promotes better design to reduce CO2 emissions and the use of sustainably sourced materials.
Under Policy 45 - Traffic Growth Reduction, means to reduce vehicle traffic and promote alternate means of transport have been addressed to minimise the impact within the surrounding community.

The existing school to be extended & adapted currently consists of a facebrick facade with a flat roof construction. The new extension will consist of matching brick and flat roof elements, while providing interest and uplift with additional rendered panels in 2 contrasting colours.
This creates a modern and contemporary focal point upon entry to the site distinguishing the Children Centre from the school buildings while still complimenting the existing building.
All relevant Disability Discrimination Act legislation has been taken account of during the design process within the areas affected by the construction works. An adapted main entrance is to be created with level threshold and automated doors. Internal spaces will afford access to wheelchair users with the inclusion of a platform lift up to the first floor.

The layout of the external areas will be altered to include an extended footpath to the front and sides of the building. New landscaping will be planted to the front of the building.

**Staffing implications:**

The provision of a permanent space for child care will ensure the continued employment of four part-time members of staff. The creation of the kitchen for hot meals will result in the employment of two additional part-time members of staff. The creation of the Children’s Centre will result in the employment of three additional Fixed term contract members of staff who will work to deliver services in the local communities of Wootton, Hardingstone, Great Houghton and Little Houghton. From time to time staff from other organisations, public and third sector agencies, may use the site for meetings and to deliver small group activity through referral, or one to one guidance with parents.

As much of the core activities for families are already in place and being delivered at local community venues, much of the employees’ time (whether they be directly employed or delivering activity on behalf of the Centre) will be spent delivering outreach activity at other community buildings.

**Statement of Community Involvement / Pre-application publicity:**

Early Years and Child Care Representative Michael Robinson initially contacted the Parish Council by email on 3rd November 2009. This led to two Parish Council consultation meetings at which the proposed building plans / adaptation were discussed (19th November 2009 and 20th January 2010). Concerns have been raised by local residents relating to parking issues and increased traffic within the village as a result of the location of a Children’s Centre. The County Council has been involved in close liaison with the Parish Council about these concerns, and has suggested a number of possible remedies, including the creation of a Lease to cover use of ten parking spaces in the Community Centre car park during the daytime. However, the Community Centre have indicated that a Lease is not a requirement as parking is a public resource which is currently used by some staff at the school, during the day, and by parents at the beginning and end of the school day. The Community Centre is also already used by visitors to the school.
Extract of the Parish council minutes of the 19/11/09:

“Michael Robinson, Area Co-ordinator Children and Young Peoples Services NCC presented a proposed development with the Wooton Primary School. The development supported the school in achieving an extension to the school and also enabled the facility to be used as a venue for the Sure Start Programme. The Councillors supported the proposed extension to the school, if in keeping with the conservation area, but were gravely concerned about additional traffic moving into an already congested area. It was resolved to email Michael the Councils concerns and suggested that a traffic survey was conducted by the NCC traffic impact assessment team and consultation take place with the Highways department before any open consultation taking place. Concerns were also raised about the lack of a crossing patrol from the school which also needed to be considered. The Councillors suggested that we worked together with the NCC to establish viability before planning permission was sort”

It must also be remembered that the Centre is to act as an information point and hub for activity only. It is not going to be used to host large group activities, and Children’s Centre staff will mostly be out and about delivering activities at other community venues to ensure that the needs of the entire reach area are being met. Centre staff, currently employed by the PCT, are busy with their provision in the villages, and as such, do not envisage the site being a destination for parents and families from outside the local Wootton community.

The PCT (NHS Provider Services) have also worked closely with the school and Early Years to coordinate both the school Travel Plan, and the Children’s Centre Transport Plan, which will accompany the planning application. This close liaison will ensure that the Children’s Centre and school work closely to reduce the environmental impact. In addition, there has been ongoing and close communications between Highways and Planning, to ensure that all guidance and recommendations are given the appropriate consideration.

A Pre-Planning Consultation with Graham Hutchins of The Highways Department was undertaken to address any possible issues including the need for a Traffic Impact Assessment. Due to the size and nature of use of the new extention, the Highways Department has advised a Traffic assessment will not be required.

As this site is developing, the Children’s Centre Lead Body delivering the service / activities which is Northamptonshire NHS Provider Services, has spent the last few months engaging with the local community across the reach area. Their consultation with families has led to the creation of focused services in outreach locations in Hardingham, Great Houghton, Little Houghton and Collingtree. These activities are already ongoing, and are not dependent on the building. When a building becomes available, staff will have office space and an information point for parents, as well as some room for small one to one work and referrals work with outside agencies, for example Job Centre Plus.
Demolitions:
No building demolitions are required.

Trees to be felled:
No existing trees are to be felled.

Flood Risk Assessment:
The proposed Addition and Alteration to the existing building is not within a flood risk zone.

Land Contaminants:
A Ground investigation report is still to be completed, which will highlight any existing contaminants but none are expected.

Vehicle access:
Access to the site is via Farm Close road. This road also serves a number of the local village residents homes adjacent and opposite the school.

Due to the “reach area” for this children’s centre and the requirement to develop and deliver outreach activity it is expected that all staff working permanently or accessing the site intermittently will use a car.

Site access during construction period:
Construction access to the site will be via the existing access road. Due to the relatively small nature of the development site traffic will be controlled to ensure there is no risk to pedestrians and residents and is expected to cause minimal disturbance. All construction works will be secured/fenced off with no public access.

Car parking:
As already outlined at length, this Centre will continue to deliver much of its service provision through outreach.

The staff who run the extended services childcare already use the community centre for parking. The school have agreed to release 2 parking spaces for the use of Children’s Centre staff. Staff and parents from the school are able to park in the Community Centre, as this is a public resource, and is current custom and practice.

Parking has been a concern for local residents. Primary concern is the exaggeration of the current school traffic during school drop off and pick up times. To alleviate this, the Centre Manager will stagger any meeting times outside of school ‘peak’ activity times, to avoid adding to congestion. Access to the facilities via the availability of more environmentally forms of transport is to be encouraged. As already described the Children’s Centre Transport Statement and the Transport Policy for the school will together reinforce and support the process of reducing some of the impact of cars and parking in the area.
Examples of how this will be achieved:

‘Meet and Greet’ - School staff will work on a rota basis to provide a presence everyday, morning and evening, outside the school, to help monitor pedestrian crossings and any possible parking issues. In addition to this, there will be a Police Officer presence once every six weeks. On the 8/03/10 a walking bus was arranged which will be parent led and will operate every day. A letter to this effect was sent to all parents on the 25/03/10.

During March, a Bikability programme commenced for all Year 6 children, due for completion in April. This will help promote cycling to school.

NHS Provider Services have prepared a Travel Plan, which specifically addresses the local concerns, and highlights the specific nature of Phase 3 Childrens Centres, which differentiates them from other existing Phase 1 and 2 Centres already in the County. Outreach activity is the key to successful Core Offer provision in Phase 3 and thus the travel plan will highlight how local traffic disruption will be avoided. The Travel Plan will highlight how Provider Services will monitor traffic, the means by which people travel to the site, and will actively encourage local families to walk to the site. It will be reviewed regularly and will be guided by NCC Travel Officer who works with schools to devise successful travel plans and policies.

Services implications:
The existing statutory services will be added to and adapted to serve the new addition and alterations as and where necessary inline with the appointed Mechanical and Electrical Engineers design.
DESIGN STATEMENT

for

Proposed Extension and internal alterations to Existing Primary School to establish a permanent extended services facility, hot meals kitchen and a New Children’s Centre

at

Wootton Primary School, Farm Close Road, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6HJ

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February 2010
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This statement should be read in conjunction with the associated building plans and elevations depicting detailed elements.

Assessment

- **Physical** – the new extension to the existing school hall will compliment the surrounding buildings. One of the main priorities of the design and initial assessment of the site was to provide a safe space for child care attached to the existing build, a kitchen off the dining hall and a “welcoming” environment for the children and parents, 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 extension with the new reception assists with this.

- **Social** – The child care facility will provide a means for parents to work. The Children’s Centre is to be based upon the assessment that the site is not within an area of disadvantage when using the indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 as the basis for this statement. To meet the core offer of a Children’s Centre the service provider will be working in partnership with agencies / organisations from the public, private and third sector. The Centre will provide out reach work within the community. The “Reach area” associated with this Children’s Centre includes the areas of Hardingstone, Wootton, Great Houghton, Little Houghton and Collingtree. Families will attend the Centre for specific small referral groups, rather than for larger group activities, since much of these groups currently function in the form of outreach activity at local venues. In addition, the Centre will act as an information point and will signpost families to these services. Since Designation of this Children’s Centre has already occurred, the Centre Manager is currently organising and overseeing a range of provision delivered at community centres and other community groups and halls. This is the defining feature of a Phase 3 Centre, which doesn’t focus on on-site delivery. This feature of delivery is ongoing and will not cease when a building is available.

- **Economic** – in line with the above, the development will have a positive economic impact on the area in its utilisation of local services and employment for local residents, as well as providing employment opportunities relating to the works associated with the extension / adaptation / new build
Planning policy – this development supports the planning policy of development of brown field sites for construction works.

The design ethos takes into account the core strategy as outlined in the East Midlands Regional Plan Policy 2 which promotes better design to reduce CO2 emissions and the use of sustainably sourced materials.

Under Policy 45 – Traffic Growth Reduction, means to reduce vehicle traffic and promote alternate means of transport have been addressed to minimise the impact within the surrounding community.

Involvement
Parents have been consulted with and have expressed the wish to have a child care facility on site, and hot meals provision at lunchtime for their children. As this site is developing, the Children’s Centre Lead Body delivering the service / activities which is Northamptonshire NHS Provider Services, has spent the last few months engaging with the local community across the reach area. Their consultation with families has led to the creation of focused services in outreach locations.

Evaluation
The Design takes into account the strategy set out in Policy 2 within the East Midlands Regional Plan for ‘Promoting Better Design’. The following elements have been incorporated into the detailed design process, outlined below:–.

Design

Use – Extended services provision, hot meals kitchen and new Children’s Centre to incorporate the following use areas:
Ground floor – A new reception area, office, confidential office, multi-use community room with kitchenette (to be shared with the school upon arrangement), school kitchen to commercial specification,(Utilised by Healthy Food and Drink), Disabled toilet and baby change provision and 1 unisex staff toilet. Existing WC’s and corridor adjacent the main hall will be altered to form a new store refurbished to the standard of the new extension.
First Floor – Group room for out-of–school hours child care with kitchenette (shared with the children’s centre upon arrangement), 2 children’s toilets, 2 stores and platform access lift.

Amount – The two story extension adds approximately 10% of new floor area to the existing building.

Layout – The proposal is within an existing development in terms of pedestrian and vehicular access, security and lighting. The security aspect will be improved with the new extension.
- **Scale** – The proposal is a two storey extension in keeping with the existing building. The scale of the development does not impose on the surrounding buildings.

- **Landscaping** – Additional landscaping will be provided to the front of the new building within the existing perimeter of the playing field.

- **Appearance** – The existing school to be extended & adapted currently consists of a facebrick facade with a flat roof construction. The new extension will consist of matching brick and flat roof elements, while providing interest and uplift with additional rendered panels in 2 contrasting colours. This creates a modern and contemporary focal point upon entry to the site distinguishing the Children Centre from the school buildings while still complimenting the existing building.

**Access**

The property design takes account of:-

- **Approach** – The design of the extension sensitively reflects the need to create a welcoming environment for the visitors to the Children’s Centre but also produces a design which compliments both existing adjacent properties and the overall community ethos.

- **Parking** – The design has taken account of the Supplementary Planning Guidance (March 2003)

- **Entrances** - within the limits of the site the new entrance to the reception has been positioned to create ease of access whilst maintaining an aesthetically pleasing look, blending in with the adjacent buildings.

- **Horizontal and Vertical circulation** – the horizontal and vertical circulation within the property has been carefully planned and includes full access for the disabled.

- **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** – An emergency fire alarm system will be designed by the Electrical Engineer to serve the new extension and will integrate with the existing system as required. A fire strategy plan will be developed to also take into account the existing school building area.
Philosophy and Approach:
The extended services provision and Children’s Centre property has been specifically designed to enable ease of access for people with disability. Access to and internal travel routes within the new extension and proposed Children’s Centre 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 all regulatory and statutory requirements.

Sources of advice and consultation
- Planning advice from both Northamptonshire County Council, South Northamptonshire Council and the Environment Agency.
- Full consultation with Northampton County Council to ensure the design of the property meets the needs of the end user.
- Local residents were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposal was displayed publically and the opportunity to meet with the Northampton County Council was provided.
- 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 extended services provision and Children’s Centre operates as efficiently as possible.

Nature and impact of environmental constraints
No apparent environmental constraints are 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
Travel Plan / Transport Statement

for

Wootton Childrens Centre

Located at

Wootton Primary School Site
Introduction:

The purpose of this travel plan and transport statement is to provide an assessment of the potential impact of the introduction of a new Phase 3 Children Centre on the existing Wootton Primary School with regards to vehicular transport, public transport, pedestrian transport, parking, and access. The purpose of this document is to complement the existing travel plan and transport statement for Wootton Primary School.

The 11 Children Centres managed by Northamptonshire Provider Services (NHS) are being delivered within cluster arrangements, where centres work together to provide access to the full core of services. Phase 3 Children Centres are aimed to build on existing services for children and families like schools, nurseries, family centres. This is to provide better integrated and accessible services for families. The level of services will be tailored to meet the different needs of each community, fitting around existing provision either refurbishing or extending existing premises.

**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.
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 Children’s Centre (refer to Design & Access Statement). A large emphasis has been placed upon the creation of a “welcoming” environment.

All relevant Disability Discrimination Act legislation has been taken account of during the design process within the areas affected by the construction works. An adapted main entrance is to be created to allow easy access for wheelchair users.

The layout of the existing external areas will be affected by the works by the alteration of the existing access pathway to run alongside the new building.

Philosophy and Approach:

The Children’s Centre property 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 extensions 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.

Vehicle access:

Car parking:

Due to the “reach area” for this children’s centre and the requirement to develop and deliver outreach activity, it is expected that all staff working permanently or accessing the site intermittently will use a car. However, much of their work will involve delivering services elsewhere in the community, reducing the likelihood of any parking issues for Wootton/Hardingstone Children Centre. Families accessing the provision may visit the site by car but are more likely to live within the local community and will therefore walk to the Centre.

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.

Access

The property design takes account of:-

- ** Approach –** The design of the alterations and extensions, in particular the new front entrance canopy and new planting, sensitively reflects the need to create a welcoming environment for the visitors to the Children’s Centre but also produces a design which compliments both existing adjacent properties and the overall community ethos.
• **Parking** - The design has taken account the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Parking.

• **Entrances** - Within the limits of the site the entrance to the reception area has been positioned to create ease of access whilst maintaining an aesthetically pleasing look.

• **Horizontal and Vertical circulation** – The horizontal and vertical circulation within the property has been carefully planned to allow full access to all rooms and external areas.

• **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.
Travel Problems

Current Access and parking:

Being based alongside Wootton Primary School has the potential to increase pressure on existing limited parking. The school is located in an established part of the village; it lies between three busy roads, High Street, Water Lane and Farmclose Road. The village has limited parking and its close proximity to the main roads means that there is congestion associated around drop off and pick up times. It is anticipated that the main pedestrian access to the children’s centre will be from Farmclose Road, where there is a pedestrian pelican crossing. Vehicles would access off Farmclose Road also. The school has an additional pedestrian entrance away from the main entrance to promote safety.

Public Transport and accessibility:

Government guidance for Children Centres states ‘the ideal centre is a single building… within pram pushing distance of the families it serves. Bus transport available via High Street in Wootton, and there is a regular service running too and from the town centre.

Issues of Children Centre for transport and safety problems:

There is concern that the children centre will increase the problems identified below:

- Around the school parking is a major problem. There are zigzag markings outside the main entrance to the school site but during school drop off and collection times parking builds up along Farmclose Road, along one side of the High Street and on a service road adjacent to the recreation ground.

- Existing parking within the school site has 14 spaces and is currently used by teaching staff and deliveries. There is currently no parking on site for visitors, parents or support staff attending the school.

- Wootton Primary School has identified that travel by car is linked to the weather, there are less car journeys in good weather, though many use their cars all year round because of other commitments and pressure on time.
Objective 1) At occupancy encourage community to use sustainable transport when travelling to site
2) At occupancy raise the profile of sustainable transport to and from all sites through the travel plan.

Target: To increase the number of walkers by 5% by September 2011
To increase awareness of road and car safety for all parents and children registering/attending at the centre
To raise awareness of the ‘Change 4 Life@ initiative and the benefits of walking for healthy lifestyles
To ensure safety audit on adjacent roads into site for walking and cycling by Mar 2011

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<td>No.</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Consult with partner school, all staff, local residents and families, carers, parents attending the centre</td>
<td>Consultation completed within end of first year of occupancy</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time, Centre Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Display current bus time tables</td>
<td>Clear information point for sustainable methods of travel to the centre. Monitor and evaluation</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To encourage parents to make use of cycle storage/buggy park for prams, children’s scooters, bicycles, trikes. Use Change 4 Life initiative to encourage parents to walk to centre</td>
<td>Cycle storage and buggy park in place on occupancy and in use by parents Increased awareness of benefits of exercise on healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Facilities for storage of wet weather outer garments</td>
<td>More parents walking to centre and use storage</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Promote car share</td>
<td></td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engage with NCC Highways for a Road Safety Audit</td>
<td>Audit completed by Mar 2011</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>NCC, Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Set up a Travel Plan Working Party in partnership with Wootton Primary School</td>
<td>Working party to review and evaluate travel plan within 1 year of occupancy - Mar 2011</td>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of the school

Our school

Description
Woottton Primary School is a community primary school covering the age range 4 – 11 years old. One child with a statement travels by taxi (until July 2010). The school has fifteen car park spaces on site, including a disabled bay, and has cycle storage for thirty bicycles and scooter racks for twenty scooters.

Number on roll
408 (January 2010)

Location
The school address is Farmclose Road, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6HJ
Main entrance: Farmclose Road, Wootton
Second Pedestrian Entrance: Farmclose Road,
The school is situated in Wootton, which was once a village location but has been incorporated into the suburbs of Northampton as the area has grown. There is a bus route to Wootton from Northampton town centre.

Catchment
Most of our children come from either the established housing areas in Wootton, or from Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor which are the newer developments on the outskirts of the village. However, some children travel by car from East Hunsbury and Grange Park (8% of families), or by school bus (2 children) from the villages of Quinton and Courteenhall.

Staff numbers
51 in total, including support staff, full and part-time staff.
(16 full time teachers and 35 part time learning support assistants most of whom walk to school.
Overall 10 staff travel to school using cars over the Course of the day.)

School Hours:
8:45am until 3:15pm daily, with lunch 12pm – 1pm
The site is open from 7:15am until 6:15pm

Extended Hours:
Childcare is available from 7:45am until 8:45am in the morning, and from 3:15pm until 6pm in the evening
A holiday childcare club runs from 8am until 6pm
Mapping
(to be completed by Vic Marks)
**Aims**

This plan sets out measures to reduce the volume of traffic around our school and enable children to have a safe journey to school by improving safety on their route. These aims will be shared with new parents at our annual induction meetings and regular updates on relevant issues will be given in our school newsletters.

We, as a school are strongly committed to improving our local environment and believe there is a need to reduce the number of car journeys to and from our school. By encouraging alternative modes of travel, we can help save energy, reduce fossil fuel consumption and minimise air and noise pollution in our locality.

We believe that by promoting walking and cycling to school, our pupils and parents will improve their levels of fitness, increase their awareness of the environmental issues surrounding car use and encourage a positive attitude to walking and cycling in general. We know that our children want to travel to school by cycling (30%) or by walking (19%), for example, as this featured strongly in our survey.

This plan is written within the guidelines produced by Northamptonshire County Council. It will be reviewed biennially by governors and amended whenever necessary.

**Travel Problems**

The school lies adjacent to three busy roads, the High Street and Water Lane, which are part of the aforementioned bus route, and Farmclose Road. This means that many of the children have to walk alongside or cross a main road to get to school. There is no longer a school crossing patrol on the High Street next to the school but there is now another pelican crossing outside the school main gate, with safety barriers running the length of the pavement between the two entrances.

The village has greatly expanded in recent years and the school catchment now includes children living in the new housing developments on either side of Quinton Road on the outskirts of the village. A new footpath (formally LD3) from Quinton Road to the Farmclose Road service road now avoids a very hazardous walk through the village. However a safe crossing point is now required on the Quinton Road. Children who live at Simpson Manor have to cross Water Lane using a new pedestrian crossing.

Travel by car is somewhat linked to the weather. There are less car journeys in the summer months and on dry days, though many use their cars all year round because of other commitments and pressure of time.
Parking around the school is a major problem. Zigzag markings have been placed directly outside the school gates to prevent access being blocked. However, from 8.30 am to 9.00 am and from 3.00 pm to 3.30 pm, parking builds up all the way along Farmclose Road, the service road adjacent to the recreation ground and on one side of the High Street. Problems have arisen in the past from parking across driveways and on verges. Moreover, crossing Farmclose Road is difficult for children and parents alike as, despite the pelican crossing, some parents stop directly outside the school gates or on the zig-zag lines to drop their children off. Children are actively encouraged to cycle to school and use the new cycle storage. The school also participates in the Cycling Scheme “bikeability”, training Year 5 children off road, and Year 6 children on road, during the summer months.

**Pupil Survey**

Result of Pupil Survey conducted in January 2010

Number of pupils surveyed 392

Number of pupils responding 392

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Present Mode</th>
<th>Preferred Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>%age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parents Survey - To be completed June 2010**
### Objective: To increase awareness amongst pupils, staff and parents about the environmental, safety, health and social consequences of their travel choices by September 2010.

**Target:** 90% of pupils and parents aware of benefits of walking to school by July 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Success Criteria / Monitoring and Evaluation</th>
<th>Resp.</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Month-Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Include information about safe parking, walking to school and bikeability scheme in school prospectus</td>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>Prospectus updated</td>
<td>headteacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Include information in newsletters</td>
<td>Every month</td>
<td>Newsletters contain parking and walking information</td>
<td>headteacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PSHE programme contains walking to school elements</td>
<td>Curriculum review May 2010</td>
<td>PSHE programme updated</td>
<td>PSHE co-ordinators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Take part in bi-annual walk to school weeks</td>
<td>October and May 2010 and continuing</td>
<td>Number of pupils participating increases by 15%</td>
<td>PSHE co-ordinators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective: To promote the use of the community centre as a safe place to park.

**Target:** increase number of parents using community centre car park from 26 families to 45 families by June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Resp.</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Month-Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meet with highways and police</td>
<td>Feb 2010</td>
<td>Agreed actions for walking bus</td>
<td>headteacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Parents meeting to start walking bus – police and highways included</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Meeting held</td>
<td>ESCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Walking bus from community centre to school and back trialled</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>Enough volunteers and participants to continue with walking bus (minimum 10 families)</td>
<td>ESCO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective: To increase numbers of pupils walking or cycling to school

Target: to increase numbers walking or cycling from 54% to 65% by April 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>headteacher</td>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Take part in bi-annual walk to school weeks</td>
<td>October and May 2010 and continuing</td>
<td>Number of pupils participating increases by 15%</td>
<td>PSHE coordinators</td>
<td>Send for pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Junior road safety officers to promote walking to school through posters and competitions</td>
<td>April 2010 onwards</td>
<td>Children motivated by approach and encourage parents to walk to school</td>
<td>JRSOs and PSHE coordinators</td>
<td>£200 budget to JRSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Review survey and consultation</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Travel plan reviewed and updated</td>
<td>Headteacher Vic Marks</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation

Children survey completed January 2010

Parent survey
  o We have also surveyed Parents to identify how adults accompany their children to school, the problems they encounter en route, and ask for suggestions as to how these can be addressed in April 2007.

Staff Survey
  o Staff have provided verbal responses to the Travel Plan and their comments have been noted.

Governor survey
  o Governors have discussed parking issues regularly at meetings (see minutes. They have provided verbal responses to the Travel Plan and their comments have been noted.

School council meetings - Our Junior Road Safety Officers are pro-active in promoting road safety, encouraging walking to school and working with the community police support. They have designed walk to school posters (December 09)

We have also liaised with Wootton Parish Council, who have offered parents the use of the car park at Wootton Sports and Community Centre, as a drop off and collection point. They had also liaised with Wootton Primary about a ‘Parish Travel Plan’ initiative involving all the primary schools in the parish.
Our local **Community Police Support Officers** have also been consulted and has made suggestions. They are writing an open letter to parents about parking outside the school – March 2010

**Residents** have provided verbal and written information to WPC and to school and will be formally surveyed again in April 2010.

Development meeting with Northamptonshire County Council’s School Travel Plan Officer - by phone February 2010 and Vic Marks to work with school June 2010

Draft travel plan published and circulated to school staff February 2010

**Monitor and Review**

The next survey will be conducted June 2010 and annually thereafter by the school council.

The school travel plan will be reviewed in June and annually thereafter by the headteacher.

The review of the school travel plan will consider pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision and the travel plan will be revised as necessary to take account of these.

Signed  Lorraine Schofield  Head Teacher

Lesley Fenlon-Smith  Chair of Governors