Ecton Brook Primary School and Children’s Centre

Supporting Statement

Address:
Ecton Brook Primary School
Ecton Brook Road,
Ecton Brook
Northampton
NN3 5DY

REASON FOR DEVELOPMENT:

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 2010 there will be a Children’s Centre in every community. This will total 3,500 centres nationally.

The Childcare Bill, is a key milestone for driving the improvement of services that will reduce inequalities for children living in areas of disadvantage and also increase young children’s wellbeing. The Bill sets 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 particularly living in areas of disadvantage. Life chances for children are strongly related to poverty and deprivation and enhancing families’ access to additional appropriate services will help long-term to reduce this poverty. This will 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 future Children’s Centres fits into many local strategies and targets:

The Council Strategic Goals and Priorities
Through working with the County Council internal teams and other professionals and agencies, Children’s Centre services which are provided can enhance the knowledge and development of the local communities and can enhance the development of the County Councils following goals.
• A healthier more active & independent life for adults
• A safer, freer and more prosperous county
• A cleaner and greener county
• A secure and independent future for our children

The Community Strategy for Northamptonshire 2004/2013
Enhancing the quality of life for people and communities in Northamptonshire
Children's Centres meets the key priorities which are:
• To improve health and access to appropriate services and the quality of life of most vulnerable and all who are at risk
• To help create and sustain local communities and neighbourhoods where people feel safe and secure and have access to services and support when they need them

Ensuring economic prosperity for Northamptonshire Communities
Children's Centres meets the key priorities which are:
• To promote economic vitality and raise the prosperity of all localities in the county so that everyone can gain from this success
• To raise relevant education standards and skills and the qualifications of people living in the county

Northamptonshire Children and Young People’s Plan – April 2006
The Plan covers the five outcomes for Every Child Matters and states how as a county we will meet these outcomes. As the base for the creation of Children’s Centres is focused strongly around Every Child Matters, Northamptonshire Children’s Centres will adopt this Plan. The vision for the this plan is to ‘ensure that all children and young people in Northamptonshire are healthy, safe and able to enjoy and achieve, so that they will make a positive contribution throughout their lives and achieve economic well-being’.
The Plan has 10 priorities spread across the five outcomes, which are:
• Be healthy
• Stay Safe
• Enjoy and achieve
• Make a positive contribution
• Achieve economic well-being

To enable the plan to work, it will need a high level of integrated work to happen. This is happening at present and there is already a lot of good practice and Children’s Centres along with Family Resource Centres and Extended services will extend multi agency teams and integrated working further.

Northamptonshire
How are we going to achieve this in our County?

As a local authority we are developing 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. The overall vision will be to ensure every child gets the best start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life.

Each Centre will deliver a carefully planned range of integrated services and will work with parents and service providers to deliver inclusive, accessible and child-friendly services that respond to local need and help children reach their full potential.

Children’s Centres will need to provide or have links to services which will enable them to meet the core offer for what is nationally recognised as a minimum service which should be available for families. The diagram and the following list illustrate what this should look like. Some Centres will deliver additional services to this core offer 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.

**Integrated Education and Childcare**

- In the areas of most identified need using national statistics, full day care with integrated early years education will be available. This will be offered for a minimum of 10 hours a day, 5 days a week, and 50 weeks a year with access to funded places for 3 and 4 year olds.
- If the centre does not offer this service directly, it can provide local information on day-care.
- Support to childminders and / or a local network which might offer wraparound care.
- Links to local providers and out of schools clubs.
- Childcare provision as required to reflect the diverse needs of local communities.
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 Children and Families Information Service (CFIS)

- Access through the Children and Families Information Service (CIS) 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:

Ecton Brook, Standens Barn and Bellinge exist in a 30% most disadvantage area. (Index of multiple Deprivation) Ecton Brook Primary school has been identified as the site for the Children’s Centre in this area based on the following factors;

- The school has early year’s childcare provision on site, with the potential of developing this to offer full day care by adding a modest extension to the rear of existing foundation stage classroom.
• The site includes a large community room, community kitchen area and office space which can be included as part of the children centre space with minimal modifications.

• The school has good parking facilities, with separate access and parking to the rear of the building adjacent to the community area and preschool entrance.

• The Head Teacher and School Governing body have supported this development and will oversee the developments and services offered in and through the new centre.

Design approach:
It is proposed to reconfigure the existing reception class area and to build a new access and cloakroom area for school use, to the side of the existing reception class area. The original cloakroom and one classroom would be reconfigured and extended with a single storey brick built extension to create a new purpose built Children’s Centre Nursery. This will include the construction of a covered play area. A separate access route to the Nursery will be created through the community area, via the new Children Centre reception

An imperative design feature is that the Nursery can be secured when closed whilst the Children’s Centre is in use.

The existing community room space, including kitchen, toilets and office area will be incorporated into the Children’s Centre, with addition of ceiling lights and partitioning in the larger meeting area to provide a more flexible space. Access to the community space will remain as it is, with the addition of a small reception desk area and security door into the community rooms and Nursery area.

All relevant Disability Discrimination Act legislation has been taken account of during the design process within the areas affected by the construction works.

Staffing implications:
It is anticipated that the Children’s Centre will employ a maximum 3 full time equivalent staff, including Family Support Worker and Information/Reception Worker.

Statement of Community Involvement / Pre-application publicity:
During December 2005 local residents were invited to attend a consultation evening in the town centre to look at the proposed plans for Children’s Centres. Positive feedback was given and a good understanding was taken away.
Public questionnaires were given out and the local residents were given a 6 week period to respond to the proposed site. There were no objections to the proposed site being built. Local groups, such as childminders and other local childcare providers have been kept abreast of developments.

As this site is developing the Children’s Centre Manager and the Centre lead 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:**
No demolitions are required on site prior to development.

**Trees to be felled:**
No trees are required to be felled prior to site development.

**Flood Risk Assessment:**
As the area of land does not fall within the flood plain, therefore no risk assessment is required.

**Land Contaminants:**
All contaminant surveys are still to be completed.

**Vehicle access:**
Access to the site is via Ecton Brook road.

**Site access during construction period:**
The development of the Children’s Centre including new nursery are being incorporated into the existing PFI refurbishments and improvement programme. As such site access arrangements will be managed as part of the existing arrangements.

**Car parking:**
Ecton Brook Children’s Centre will be serviced by the existing access and parking arrangements. There is adequate parking space including 14 bays and 2 disabled bays. The ‘centre’ is designed for use by persons within the immediate surrounding areas and access to the facilities available by more environmentally forms of transport is to be encouraged by the creation of the external buggy store.

**Services implications:**
All necessary mains statutory services exist upon the site. It is not anticipated at this stage that any of the incoming services will need to be upgraded.

Jane Pitchfork
Area Coordinator
Early Years and Childcare Team
Northamptonshire County Council
Tel 01604 236692
PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Proposed
At
Ecton Brook School, Ecton Brook Road, Northampton
For
Babcock & Brown, & Northamptonshire County Council
3rd August 2007

DESIGN
Use
Ecton Brook Middle School is located off Ecton Brook Road, Northampton, and has been the middle school serving that area. The existing buildings have been upgraded to form a primary school for up to 6 year olds and a community centre. The community centre has also doubled up as a nursery. The current proposals are to further extend the building to allow the nursery and the children's centre to independently operate.

Amount
The proposed new extension and covered play areas are to be added to the east elevation of the existing buildings. These will adjoin the existing buildings which already have a flat roof as indicated on the plans. This extension, combined with some internal remodelling within parts of the existing school, is designed to allow independence for the community centre and nursery. The covered play area will offer the nursery an outdoor hard area of play which is currently not available on the site. It will also be located within the building which benefits from existing secure outdoor play areas. The proposed extension and remodelling areas shown on the enclosed plans are quite small in both area and scale and will marry in with the existing school design.
Layout and Scale
The community centre and nursery are seen as important facilities within the local community and whilst maintaining their ties with the primary school they will operate independently away from the primary school timetable. The intention of the new building is to have an identical form and construction as the previous extension including the use of identical materials. An external covered play area and a buggy shelter will also form part of these proposals. The covered play area will match in scale that already approved for the extension to this educational building.

Landscaping
The application for the extension and covered play area will not affect any of the current landscaping features on the site. A small area of grass will be lost to provide these additional facilities and there will be changes to the existing footpath system serving the current facilities.

Appearance
As indicated in our layout and scale section, it is the intention of our clients to provide a design that will dovetail into, the existing building and blend in with the current surroundings. The construction proposed will be of an identical form to that already used successfully on the current extension and the proposed materials will match the existing building as listed below.

Brickwork to match the existing building will be;
   Above DPC
   65mm Kirton Chatsworth Grey Hanson
   Below DPC
   65mm K201 Smooth Blue Baggeridge

Fascias to match existing building will be;
   Brown powder coated aluminium or UPVC profiled sheeting

Windows and doors;
   Powder coated aluminium double glazed - colour to match existing.

The covered play area will have an exposed feature steel frame, with circular columns, boxed beams and profiled metal sheet roof with translucent panels.

Fencing to the covered play area will be 1200 high timber vertically boarded. Minor modifications to the existing fencing will occur utilizing palisade fencing and weld mesh fencing as identified on the plans.
Archaeology
There is no indication that any archaeological investigation is warranted in the area of construction.

Flood Risk Assessment
A review of the Environment Agency website indicated that the area is not located within a flood plain, although located adjacent to one. Advice will need to be taken to find out if a flood risk assessment will be required.

ACCESS
Vehicular/Pedestrian
The current access to the building is from an adopted highway known as Ecton Brook Road and there is currently car parking areas which serve both the community centre and nursery. Access from this car parking area will be retained as existing and this is fully accessible for people with disabilities and all forms of foot traffic. The access in both terms of external approach and entry will meet the requirements of part M of the currently building regulations. There are also existing ramps which serve the community centre and these will be retained to allow wheelchair users level access within the community centre building. Any new footpaths and access ways will be laid at levels and falls to allow disabled access to all parts of the building.

The existing car parking arrangements for the community centre and children's nursery will remain unaffected by the proposed extensions. An increase in security arrangements for the community centre and nursery is proposed within the development. The existing lobby is to be expanded creating a new reception desk and out of hours reception hatch with controlled access into both the community centre and nursery from the reception. This will form part of the 'air-lock' between public and authorised access into the building along with the existing fencing.

CONCLUSION
The design of the proposed extension was novated to GallifordTry Construction by Northamptonshire County Council and forms part of the works being undertaken by them within the existing school as part of the Northamptonshire PFI scheme. The current works were commenced on the 20th November 2006 and it is proposed that the new extension and covered play areas will be undertaken during the existing program of works.
The scale of the extensions to the school will have little or no impact on any surrounding properties as land to the east, south and west, all south of Ecton Brook Road, is part of the existing site. Land to the North of Ecton Brook Road is occupied by residential units but these are some distance away and either back on or side face onto Ecton Brook Road. The small extension is proposed to allow the nursery and children's centre to operate independently.

The community centre and nursery are seen as important facilities within the local community and it is important that they are allowed to operate independently and to improve the service for the community which it will serve. There will be an improved level of security and the covered play area will offer the nursery a covered outdoor hard area, which is currently unavailable.