SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Site Address: Vernon Terrace Primary School,
Vernon Terrace,
Northampton.
NN1 5HE

REASON FOR DEVELOPMENT:

National Overview

Sure Start Children's Centres are key to the Government's 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 outreach 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 Council's following goals:

- A healthier, more active and 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 the 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, 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.
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**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’s Information Service (CIS)**

- Access through the Children’s 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:**

The site upon which Vernon Terrace Primary School is located is owned by Northamptonshire County Council. The site is within a predominantly residential area.

To create the Children's Centre, it is proposed to construct a new extension to the front of the main entrance to provide the facilities for a Children's Centre and a new shared reception with the Primary School.
CHIL DREN'S CENTRE -  
VERNON TERRACE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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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, while providing for the specific needs of the Children's Centre (refer to Design and Access Statement attached). A large emphasis has been placed upon the creation of a 'welcoming' environment through the creation of the joint reception facility for use by both the Children's Centre and School which will be both light and airy through the use of high ceiling and glazed roof lights.

The proposed Children's Centre will be an extension to the front elevation/main entrance of the existing school and has been designed on a single floor footprint, and externally will visually match the existing old/ original school buildings (to the right hand side of the new extension as viewed from Vernon Terrace), with pitched roofs. An imperative design feature is that the school can be secured when closed while the Children's Centre is in use, such as during the summer holidays.

All relevant Disability Discrimination Act legislation has been taken account of during the design process within the areas affected by the construction works. A new main entrance to the shared reception is to be created, carefully placed adjacent to a proposed buggy store.

It is anticipated that the extension to the primary school will result in the employment of 2 no. additional members of staff.

External ground works will be limited to new paving around the extension and minor remodelling to the existing car parking facilities, although the number of unmarked car parking spaces remains unchanged.

Staffing implications:

The creation of the Children's Centre will result in the School employing 1 additional permanent member of staff (Information Officer). Therefore the number of full time staff rises from 4 to 5 while the number of part time staff remains at 15.

Statement of Community Involvement/ Pre-application Publicity:

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 people's understanding of the building work and about people's 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. This process has already begun with local parents being encouraged to shape the vision for the Centre and review the plans for the proposed Children's Centre and shared reception.

Demolitions:
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Existing garden walls to the front of the main school reception screening the entrance from the playground and car park are to be demolished to make way for the Children's Centre.

Trees to be felled:

No trees are to be felled prior to site development. However small section of mature shrubbery is to be removed within the vicinity of the front entrance doors.

Flood Risk Assessment:

We are not aware that the land falls within the flood plain no risk assessment is required.

Land Contaminants:

A Waste Acceptance Criteria Test has been undertaken which indicates that the soils on this site are likely to be classified as Inert Waste.

Vehicle access:

Access to the site is via Vernon Terrace.

At present vehicular access is only possible for staff, with secure gates. The existing staff car parking for the site is currently 5 spaces on site, which is to be retained after completion of the new extension

Site access during construction period:

Construction access to the site will be via Vernon Terrace by the removal of a section of existing wall for the Children's Centre works. It is expected that no deliveries will be accepted to site during school start and finish periods or before 9.00 a.m. in the morning or after 5.00 p.m. at night. Weekend construction work is not proposed at this stage to limit the impact to the local area. A Temporary Road Crossing notice will need to be agreed with the local authority Highways Department. This will allow the existing car parking facility to be retained by the school for the duration of the works.

Car parking:

Currently only 5no. car parking spaces exist. There is no space to create additional car parking spaces without impinging upon the existing playground, which will not be acceptable to the school or NCC. The school and other interested stakeholders are currently in negotiations with Northampton Borough Council regarding the potential use of the adjacent Community Centre for use by visiting professionals to the new Children's Centre.

As per the existing arrangements, it is not proposed that visitors will be able to access the site by vehicle once the works to create the Children's Centre at the Nursery are complete. 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.
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Proposed Extension to Existing School/Nursery To Form New Shared Reception With Ancillary Facilities for Children's Centre at Vernon Terrace Primary School

Design & Access Statement

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

Assessment

- **Physical** - the Children's Centre extension to the existing nursery will complement the surrounding buildings. 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, trying to replicate the 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** – This Children's Centre is to be based upon the existing site of the Primary School which includes a Nursery. This site is within a 70% area of disadvantage. To meet the core offer of a Children's Centre the School/Nursery will be working in partnership with the Family Centre and also Northampton Sure Start. The Centre will need to provide outreach work in Northampton. We envisage families attending for small group work or appointments to meet with the local Health Visitor, Midwife or Speech and Language Therapist. There may well also be drop in sessions with a representative from Job Centre Plus. If these services are already being delivered within the community elsewhere then the centre will act as an information point and will signpost families to these services rather than recreate additional ones. The Nursery already provides one drop in group for parents to come in and play with their children and at the same time access the Family Support Worker who works in the Nursery.

- **Economic** – in line with the above, the development will have a positive economic impact on the area in its utilisation of a patch of underutilised space within the grounds of the Nursery.

- **Planning policy** - this development supports the planning policy of development of brown field sites for construction works.

Design

- **Use** - this Children's Centre extension makes use of an existing area of land between the School entrance and boundary fence and facilitates the creation of the Children's Centre. The Sure Start Children's Centres will become a 'one stop shop' where children 0-5 years old
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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. The 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. The Centre will also 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. In the future, the Centre will deliver additional services to this core offer should feedback from consultation with the local community show that there is a need for, for example baby massage, a breastfeeding café or advice on money management. The development sees the internal separation of the Children's Centre from the Nursery via secure doors so as to maintain the security of the School when the Children's Centre is in use out of normal school hours, with both the Children's Centre and Nursery benefiting from the shared reception and entrance.

- Amount - the development sees the extension to the front of the existing School/Nursery with the Children's Centre to accommodate a new shared reception, meeting room, 2 no. consultation rooms, storage, admin. office and kitchen as well an accessible toilet facility and baby changing. In addition to the physical building development, an external buggy store is to be provided adjacent to the new entrance doors. The existing Head's Office is to be altered to incorporate the room and storage cupboards adjacent. A door will be provided into the existing secretary's office.

- Layout - the extension layout orientation has been carefully designed in order to maximise natural light opportunities and complement the School, so as not to provide conflicting access/egress points. The limitations of the site in terms of existing buildings which partly envelope the new structure and below ground services have predetermined the size orientation somewhat, however the design has developed in order to minimise the impact on the surrounding properties.

- Scale - the development sees a single storey building be introduced to the site. To closely match in appearance the existing old part of the school.

- Landscaping - landscaping of the external areas has been carefully integrated into the design. The boundary fence to the playing field will be moved back to provide additional external space.

- Appearance - The style and construction materials of the existing old school buildings are to be continued in the proposed extension. The extension consists of roof tiles, red facing brickwork, powder coated aluminium windows and painted timber fascias and soffits. The rainwater goods will be black PVC. All external materials to match or be similar to existing.

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 and School/Nursery but also produces a design which complements both existing adjacent properties and the overall community
ethos. The existing entrance off Vernon Terrace onto the site for both vehicles and pedestrians will remain once works are complete.

- **Parking** - The design has taken into account the Supplementary Planning Guidance, based upon the fact that only 1 additional member of staff will be employed once the Children's Centre is operational and that visitors will not be permitted to park on site as per the existing arrangements. The is no additional space on the site to create additional car parking spaces.

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

- **Horizontal and Vertical Circulation** - The horizontal circulation within the property has been carefully planned (refer above). Vertical circulation is not applicable for this single storey property.

- **Access to all Services** - Internally the new extension has been carefully laid-out to maximise use and management. All facilities for the security of the School/Nursery are appropriate, friendly and warm environment.

- **Emergency Egress/Alarm Systems and Evacuation Planning** - The design of the extension will ensure and assist evacuation should an emergency need occur. All travel routes have been carefully planned and existing emergency exit options are numerous. Evacuation planning will be recorded and regularly tested in line with regulatory residential homes requirements.

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 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 other regulatory and statutory requirements.

Sources of advice and consultation

- Planning advice from both Northamptonshire County Council.
- Full consultation with the Vernon Terrace Primary School Head teacher, Bursar and Governors to ensure the design of the property meets the safe and essential needs of the School/Nursery.
- 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.
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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
CHILDE RN'S CENTRE -
VERN ON TERR AC E PR IMARY S CHO OL
NORTHAM PTON SHIRE COUNT Y C O U NC IL

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

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NDR/DMV/Sch.121
R02
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