

**Lifelong Learning Scrutiny
Sub-Committee for the Development of
Lifelong Learning.**



27 March 2006

SureStart and Children's Centres

Report of the Scrutiny Training Assessment Group

Purpose of Report

1. To explain a presentation to be given to the Sub-Committee about SureStart and Children's Centres in County Durham.

Background

2. As the Sub-Committee will know, SureStart is a government programme which aims to achieve better outcomes for children, parents and communities by:-
 - Increasing the availability of child care for all children.
 - Improving health and emotional development for young children.
 - Supporting parents as parents and in their aspirations towards employment.
3. Frank Firth, who is the lead officer in the Education Service for SureStart in County Durham, will provide a presentation to give more details about SureStart and how it connects with the over-arching government strategy 'Every Child Matters'. He will explain what has been achieved so far nationally and locally and also consider future issues which include the new Child Care Bill and the development of SureStart to Children's Centres.
4. The SureStart initiative is very much part of the County Council's Strategic Vision to improve attainment and raise aspirations for young people in the County. It is also one of our key medium term priorities for improvement in the Corporate and Best Value Performance Plan.

Recommendation

4. You will be asked to consider the information in this presentation.

Contact: Ian Mackenzie Tel: 0191 383 3506
