



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Edwinstowe Children's Centre Community Consultation – Main Report

Written for: the Sure Start Children's Centres Team
Nottinghamshire County Council

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Main Report

1. Background to the Research

Children's Centres

- In line with the government's current initiative to introduce Children's Centres into communities which fall within the top 20% and 30% of disadvantaged wards nationally, Nottinghamshire was given the go-ahead for 21 centres to be completed by March 2006, with 3 more to be started in Round One, but completed in Round Two by 2007. This was followed by a further 25 in Round Two, to be completed by March 2008.
- Children's Centres are intended to provide services and support to children, aged from 0-5 years, their parents and carers, based on partnerships between statutory, voluntary and private organisations and the local authority. Partnership with local parents and their early involvement in planning of Children's Centres is an essential part of the ethos of the Children's Centres programme.
- It is the government's policy to develop Children's Centres within partnerships. Some may be based on a 'strong link' partnership, bringing together existing facilities (e.g. neighbourhood nursery, infants and junior schools, family centre, library, health centre, community centre). Some may involve a new building, creating a one-stop centre attached to or on a school site. Even with a new 'one-stop building', there will be a need for sound partnerships with other providers throughout the area.
- All Children's Centres areas will have child care for a minimum of 48 weeks a year, 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday offering care integrated with education.
- Children's Centres are built on the successful practice of Sure Start Local Programmes, which have now all been integrated into the Children's Centres programme.
- Depending on the variable position in childcare, education and other support in local communities, parents/carers and other residents are likely to have different experiences, and therefore will have variable views and feelings about the advent of a Children's Centre in their community.
- Understanding the views of both users and providers, who may be affected in the short and longer term by the implementation of the programme, is vital to ensure that the rollout of Children's Centres is successful and well received within communities.
- Central to the development of Children's Centres is parental involvement and participation, leading to parental involvement in the planning, delivery, evaluation, management and governance of the centres, as appropriate structures emerge.
- Development of the Children's Centres is for families with children 5 years and under; the centres have the potential for wider community use however, and could cover a wider age-range and incorporate, for example, after school care, holiday clubs etc. in partnership with the Extending Services In and Around Schools programme.

Edwinstowe Children's Centre

- The Edwinstowe Children's Centre consultation was conducted in an inclusive manner so that any parent or community worker who wished to take part in the consultation could do so. The team aimed to comply with equal opportunities policies and principles throughout the consultation. Where possible hard to reach families have been included where service providers or other agencies were able to facilitate contact and support participation.

2. Aim and Objectives of the consultation

- Overall Aim:
 - To find out parents' and carers' views and opinions of services on offer for families and young children in Edwinstowe and how best their requirements can be met in the future with the development of a Children's Centre/children centre services in Edwinstowe.
 - To involve community members and partners in planning together to develop the optimal Children's Centre services for the Edwinstowe community.

Specific objectives are:

- i. To identify current provision of child care, education, health services, family support, leisure facilities and other services relevant to young children and their families, through existing sources where these exist, such as Children's Information Service (CIS), databases or local knowledge
- ii. To identify gaps in the current provision of these services through the involvement and knowledge of service providers, and through discussion with local parents and the community
- iii. To determine which known services on offer are used by parents/carers
- iv. To determine levels of use of services amongst local parents/carers
- v. To gather information on how parents/carers rate the current services used and to seek views on how service delivery could be improved locally
- vi. To understand the likely take-up amongst local parents/carers of the proposed Children's Centre/children's services
- vii. To determine an appropriate mechanism for receiving and disseminating information from different local groups
- viii. To identify local anxieties/perceptions/expectations and potential problems for a new Children's Centre amongst parents/carers and partners
- ix. To establish appropriate benchmarks for future research and evaluation
- x. To conduct communications with parents in such a way that future involvement and participation in Children's Centres is encouraged and promoted
- xi. To use the information gathered in the consultation to help create the delivery plan

3. Methodology

The consultation comprised of two stages

- Parents survey – a simplified questionnaire, mainly self completed supplemented by some face to face interviews
- A self completion questionnaire distributed to service providers and key stakeholders in the area.

Unlike the majority of the Round 2 consultations we did not carry out a discussion (focus) group as part of the Edwinstowe consultation. This was because we were mindful of not raising expectations about the arrival of Children's Centre services since Edwinstowe is a 70% (non-disadvantaged) ward. In practice, Edwinstowe is to be incorporated into the existing Sherwood Children's Centre, which originated as the Bilsthorpe, Blidworth and Clipstone Sure Start Local Programme, extending into Rainworth, Rufford and Edwinstowe during Round Two of the Children's Centres programme.

3.1 Partners' Questionnaire

- The partners' consultation stage commenced with a meeting to inform partners and stakeholders about the new Children's Centre/centre services and the consultation process overall. This was held on Friday 28 September 2007, at the Starting Blocks After School Club on the King Edwin Primary School Campus and representatives from 21 partner organisations attended.
- A self completion questionnaire was distributed at the meeting and most partners completed this at the end of the meeting, although there was provision for return direct to ActionPoint (who were managing the partner's stage of the consultation) if required.
- The questionnaire comprised mainly of open ended questions but also included a mapping exercise which required partners to list all the activities they were aware of in Edwinstowe and the surrounding area. This would help identify any service provision gaps or overlaps.
- The meeting also provided an opportunity to introduce or re-introduce the Children's Centres concept to partners, advise them of the consultation process and recruit volunteers to help with the fieldwork required to undertake the parents' questionnaire.
- Registered Childminders and other childcare providers within the area, who had been unable to attend the meeting, were also sent the questionnaire by post, as were other identified local stakeholders who were unable to attend the meeting.

3.2 Parents' Questionnaire

- The initial phase of the consultation consisted of distribution of the parent questionnaire at various toddler groups in Edwinstowe and also interviewing at the King Edwin Primary School. There was no one formal interviewing day as in other consultations, therefore most parents completed the questionnaire themselves rather than with the help of an interviewer, supported by workers based in their settings.
- Questionnaires were left in the Edwinstowe library and also given to health care professionals to give to parents. They were also distributed at the day nursery, Starting Blocks and the pre-school group and some were completed by the Sure Start team and parents outside local shops.

- This stage was managed by Sure Start personnel from the surrounding area. The Children's Centre Co-ordinator from Sherwood Children's Centre did a superb job in distributing and collecting the questionnaires. An excellent total of 116 questionnaires were completed by parents. The Children's Centre Co-ordinator was also assisted by local community involvement workers.

4. Observations on the Samples

4.1 Parents' Questionnaire

- In total, 116 parents completed questionnaires, which was in excess of the minimum target of 100.
- Sure Start data shows that there are 208 under 5s living in this ward. Of these 208 children under 5, 98 live in a "Super Output Area" that shows levels of disadvantage similar to the 30% most disadvantaged areas. The completed interviews account for parents/carers of 128 under 5s living or using services in the area. This corresponds to 62% of the number of under 5s in the area.
- Some questions were only answered by a small number of respondents, so care must be taken when comparing responses. For these questions, percentages have not been used because of the low number of interviews completed.

The following outlines some of the top line figures for the parents' consultation:

- Of the 116 questionnaires completed with parents/carers in the various interviewing locations, the vast majority were female (91%).
- Almost nine out of ten respondents knew about Sure Start, only 13% said they did not.
- Over half (55%) were aged 30 to 39, with a further 23% were between 20-29 years, and no parents were under 20. 19% of respondents were over 40, with 9% of these being 50+.
- Within the 0-5yrs age category, just over half of parents (51%) had only one child under 5, while just over a quarter (26%) had two children under 5 in the household. 7% were reported as having no children under five and 3% had three children under 5 in the household. The remainder gave no answer.
- In the 5-16yr age group, 19% of parents had one child aged 5-16 in the household, 7% had two children, 3% had three children and 1 household had 4 children in this age group. Over half (57%) were reported as having no children in this age group.
- There were a few parents who had children 16+yrs in the household. 4% of parents had one child aged 16+, 2% had 2 children aged 16+. The remainder (94%) either had no children aged 16+ or gave no answer.
- Between them, respondents had 188 children aged 18 years and below in the household. This gives an average number of children per family for those who gave a response as 1.9.
- The total number of children aged under 5, whose parents were interviewed was 128. The number of 5-16s was 51, this gives 179 children in total, aged 16 years and below.
- There were 14% of parents expecting a baby.
- Most households (78%) had 2 adults aged over 18 living in the household while 12% of respondents lived in households of only one adult. The average was 1.9 adults in the households aged 18+.
- Levels of employment were high – only 9% said there was no-one working in the household. Over a third (39%) respondents said that one adult was working in the household while 47% said that two were working. Two households had three working adults.

- Just over one in ten respondents (12%) were themselves working full-time, while 37% were working part-time, and 5% said they were unemployed. In addition, 47% of the respondents described themselves as (full-time) Parents/Carers. 5% said they were grandparents.
- 84% of parents were either married or partnered, while 12% were single; only 1% described themselves as divorced/separated.
- Regarding ethnic background, 96% parents were white and one was Black African. The remaining 4 parents did not answer this question.
- Most of their home postcodes fell into NG21 code, with practically all in the NG21 9 area (91 respondents).

Table 1 – Home Postcodes of Parents Interviewed

	%	No.
Total		(116)
NG23	1	1
NG22	9	11
NG21	81	94
NG19	2	2
NG18	2	2
NG17	1	1
Other	1	1
No answer	3	4

- Regarding the location of their doctor's surgery, nearly two-thirds (62%) of respondents said that the surgery was in Edwinstowe with a further 9% who said it was located in Ollerton.

Table 2 – GP Practice/Health Centre Registration

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Edwinstowe	62	72
Ollerton	9	10
Major Oak, Edwinstowe	7	8
Clipstone (1st Ave/Health Centre)	6	7
High St, Edwinstowe	4	5
Mansfield	3	3
Edwinstowe Health Centre	2	2
Middleton Lodge, Ollerton	2	2
Bilsthorpe	2	2
Other	4	5

4.2 Partners' Questionnaire

- 18 completed questionnaires were received from service providers in the Edwinstowe area.
- The disciplines in which partners worked were as follows:

Table 3 – Partners' disciplines

Partners' disciplines	No of responses
Total	(18)
Day nursery	3
Health	2
Education	3
Family support organisation	2
Childcare charity	2
Children's Centre	1
Pre-school playgroup	1
Children's Information Service	1
Toddler group	1
Nottinghamshire County Council	1
Library	1

Table 4 – Partners' roles

Partners' roles
Day Nursery Manager (2)
Manager (2)
Day Nursery Director
Health Visitor
Pre-school Playgroup Manager
Deputy Centre Manager
Senior Co-ordinator
Community Involvement Worker
Pre-school Development Co-ordinator
Senior Midwife
Information Officer
Partnership Worker
Senior Project Manager
Early Years Specialist Teacher
Baby Signing Teacher
Librarian

- Between them, the respondents have a total of over 70 years experience in their current posts, ranging from 1 - 11 years with an average of around 4 years.

5. Main Findings

5.1 Parents' Questionnaire

- In total, 116 questionnaires were completed.
- Percentages have been used throughout this parent's results analysis, however with small sample sizes percentages may distort some figures. Where sub sample sizes are very small numbers have been used.
- A reminder note that the majority of these questionnaires were completed by parents themselves. In some cases there may be listings that refer to the same group/activity but based on what has been written, it is impossible to determine if this is the case.

5.1.1 Awareness and Usage of Sure Start

- All parents were asked whether they had heard about Sure Start Children's Centres and whether they had ever been to any events or sessions organised by Sure Start. Their responses are shown in Tables 5 and 6.
- Almost all parents (87%) had heard about Sure Start Children's Centres.
- One third of parents (33%) had been to a Sure Start Children's event or session.

Table 5 – Awareness of Sure Start Children's Centre

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Yes	87	101
No	13	15

Table 6 – Ever been to Sure Start Children's Centre session or event

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Yes	33	38
No	66	77
Don't know	1	1

5.1.2 Main Food Shopping

- Parents were asked where they generally go to do their main food shopping.
- Their main food shop is concentrated in two main locations;
- Just over half go to Ollerton for their main food shop. A further third go to Mansfield. There were several for whom more than one location was equally important.
- Detailed responses are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7 – Where you do your main food shopping

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Ollerton	53	62
Mansfield	37	43
Edwinstowe	7	8
Forest Town	6	7
Worksop	3	4
Newark	3	3
Retford	2	2
Other	3	3

Multiple answers possible

5.1.3 Usual transport method

- Parents were then asked how they usually travelled. Over half (57%) said that they travelled by car - where they were the driver. A further 18% travelled by car as a driver or a passenger and just over a third travelled by foot.
- Detailed responses are shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8 - Usual Transport Method for shopping/taking children around

	%	No.
Total		(116)
By car - as a driver	57	66
On foot	35	41
Either/both (by car as driver or passenger)	18	21
By car - as a passenger	6	7
Public transport	6	7
Bicycle	1	1

Multiple answers possible

5.1.4 Car access

- Regarding access to a car on a daily basis, almost all (91%) said that they have access to a car, either daily or sometimes. Nine percent did not have access to a car.

Table 9 – Whether parent has access to use of a car on a daily basis

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Yes	83	96
No	9	11
Sometimes	8	9

5.1.5 Main toddler group - Awareness and Location

- Parents were asked whether there was a toddler group near to where they lived that they could walk to, and if so, where it was located and what it was called.
- Just over three-quarters had a toddler group within walking distance (see table 10). The two toddler groups with the highest number of mentions were Edwinstowe Pre-School and the Village Hall.
- Chart 1 overleaf shows the location/name of toddler groups nearby and table 11 below gives the detailed numbers. Note that there may be duplications in the listings in Chart 1 & table 11, which indicates the range of names used by local people, to refer to the same organisation.

Table 10 – Whether local toddler group within walking distance

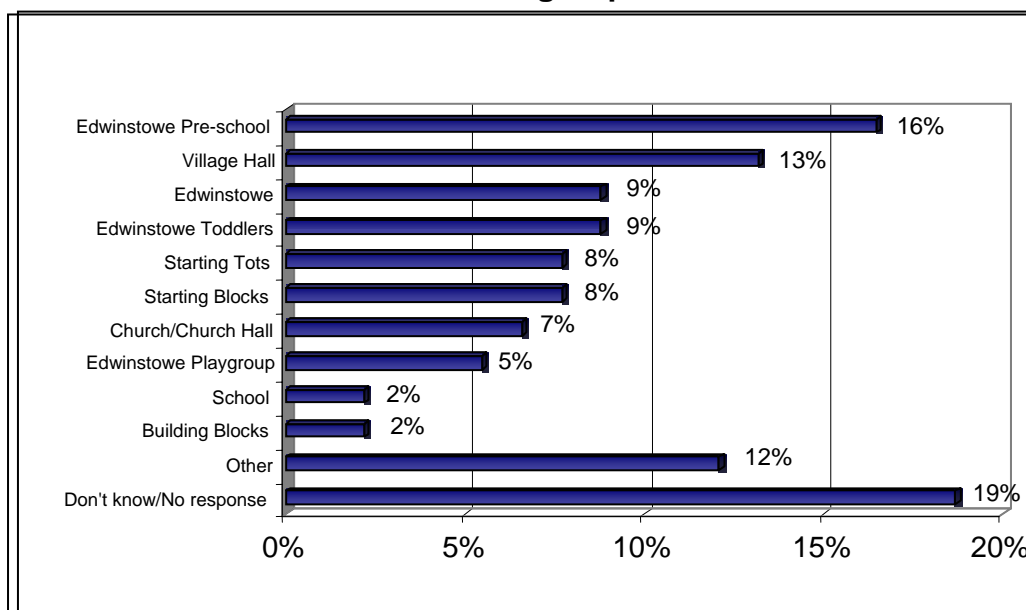
	%	No.
Total		(116)
Yes	78	91
No	13	15
Don't know	9	10

Table 11 – Location/name of local toddler group

	%	No.
Total		(91)
Edwinstowe Pre-School	16	15
Village Hall	13	12
Edwinstowe	9	8
Edwinstowe Toddlers	9	8
Starting Tots	8	7
Starting Blocks	8	7
Church/Church Hall	7	6
Edwinstowe Playgroup	5	5
School	2	2
Building Blocks	2	2
Other	12	11
Don't know	19	17

Multiple answers possible

Chart 1 Location/name of toddler group



Base: All respondents having a toddler group near where they live - 91

5.1.6 Other toddler groups - Usage and Location

- Parents were then asked whether they went to any other groups for under 5s in their area and if so, where they were located. Just over a third of parents (38%) attend other groups for under 5s.
- Over half of the parents described playgroups within Edwinstowe itself referring to either 'Edwinstowe', 'Edwinstowe Toddlers/Playgroup', 'Other playgroup in Edwinstowe', or 'Edwinstowe Village Hall'. It is likely that some of these e.g. Edwinstowe village hall and Edwinstowe are the same group.
- Their responses are shown in Tables 12 and 13 below.
- Chart 2 overleaf shows these details diagrammatically.

Table 12 – Usage of other toddler groups

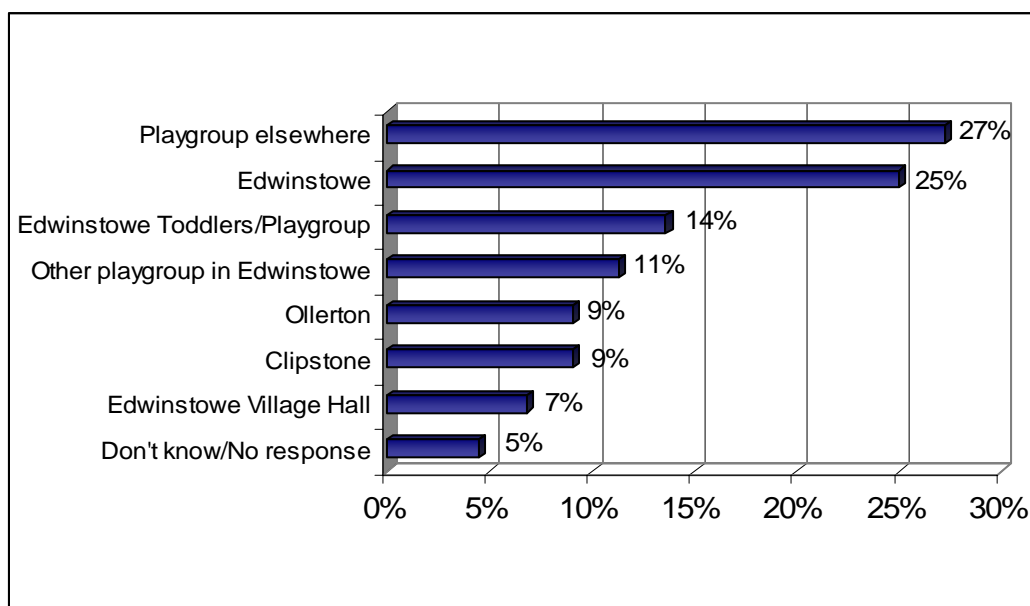
All respondents	%	No.
Total		(116)
Yes	38	44
No	62	72

Table 13 – Location/name of other toddler group

	%	No.
Total		(44)
Playgroup elsewhere	27	12
Edwinstowe	25	11
Edwinstowe Toddlers/Playgroup	14	6
Other playgroup in Edwinstowe	11	5
Ollerton	9	4
Clipstone	9	4
Edwinstowe Village Hall	7	3
Don't know	5	2

Multiple answers possible

Chart 2 – Location/name of other toddler group



Base: All respondents - 116

5.1.7 Where parents usually see the Health Visitor

- Parents were asked where they usually saw the health visitor. The main place is at the GP surgery (40%) with a further quarter seeing the health visitor at a 'clinic in a community building'.
- A quarter of parents said that they did not see the health visitor at all. This is probably because their child is in the upper age range of the 0-5yr category.

Table 14 – Where parents usually see the health visitor

	%	No.
Total		(116)
GP Surgery	40	46
Don't see	26	30
Clinic in a community building	25	29
Own home	9	10
Other	3	3
Don't know/No response	2	2

Multiple answers possible

5.1.8 Facilities needed to improve Edwinstowe

- Parents were asked what they thought their village needed to make it a better place for families with young children.
- There was one overriding requirement mentioned by one third of all parents interviewed; for a 'play area/park/playground'. This is a very high percentage particularly bearing in mind the question was open rather than coded.

Table 15 – Facilities needed to improve Edwinstowe

	%	No.
Total		(116)
<i>Play area/Playground/Park/ Play area for under 5's</i>	34	39
Mother & Baby/Toddler/Playgroups/Play Sessions	5	6
More activities/facilities (unspecified)	5	6
Swimming Pool/Leisure Facilities/Sports Facilities	4	5
Indoor/soft play area	3	4
Youth club/Activities for older children/teenagers	3	3
More Policing/Police	3	3
Sure Start	3	3
More sessions/Sessions at different times	2	2
More child care/childminders/nurseries/crèche	2	2
More support/Somewhere for support & advice	1	1
More/Better parking	1	1
Breastfeeding Support/Facilities	1	1
Other	16	18

Multiple answers possible

5.1.9 Most useful service

- Parents were asked what was the most useful service to them as a parent, for themselves, and their children under 5. Their responses are shown in Table 16 below.

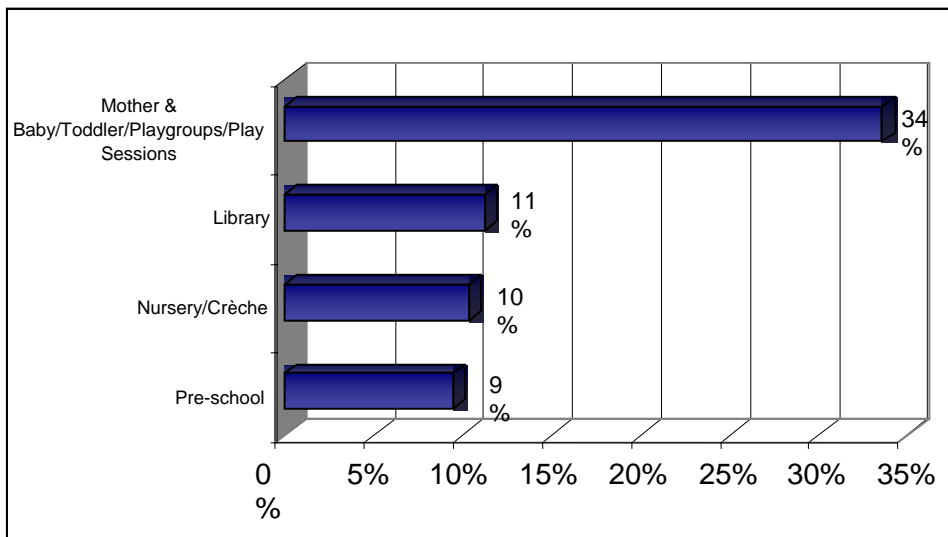
- A third of parents felt that the 'Mother & Baby/Toddler/Playgroups/Play Sessions' were the most useful service.
- Chart 3 below shows the top 4 mentions for the most useful service.

Table 16 – Most useful service

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Mother & Baby/Toddler/Playgroups/Play Sessions	34	39
Library	11	13
Nursery/Crèche	10	12
Pre-school	9	11
Health Visitor	4	5
Sure Start	4	5
School	4	5
Under 1's	3	3
Starting Tots	3	4
Foundation Unit	3	4
GP/Doctor	3	3
Starting Blocks	3	3
Drop in Centre	2	2
Other	9	10

Multiple answers possible

Chart 3 - Top 4 Mentions for Most Useful Service



Base: All parents - 116

5.1.10 Service with the most child friendly attitude

- Parents were asked which service they thought had the most child friendly attitude towards their children.
- Just under a quarter felt that the 'Mother & Baby/Toddler/Playgroups/Play Sessions' were the most child friendly towards their children.

- Other mentions by one in ten respondents were of 'school', 'nursery/crèche' and the library. See further details in table 17 below.

Table 17 – Service with the most child friendly attitude¹

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Mother & Baby/Toddler/Playgroups/Play Sessions	22	26
School	10	12
Nursery/Crèche	10	12
Library	9	11
Sure Start	6	7
Pre school	4	5
Foundation Unit	3	3
Under 1's	3	3
Starting Tots	2	2
Health Visitor	2	2
GP/Doctor	1	1
Starting Blocks	1	1
Drop in Centre	1	1
Other	4	5

Multiple answers possible

¹ A low score in the table may indicate that a service has been specifically named and is not included in the overall service, rather than actually having a low score e.g. Starting Blocks is not included in Toddler Groups.

5.1.11 Help required to use services more often

- Parents were asked what aspects would help them use services for themselves and for their young children more often. Their responses are shown in Table 18 below.
- Nearly half of parents (45%) wanted different times of events and one third wanted more local venues.

Table 18 – Which aspects would encourage parents to use services more often?

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Different times of events	45	52
More local venue	34	40
Childcare	18	21
Better price	17	20
Better public transport	16	19
Someone to go with	15	17
Other	3	3
Don't know/No response	18	21

Multiple answers possible

5.1.12 Preferences for receiving information

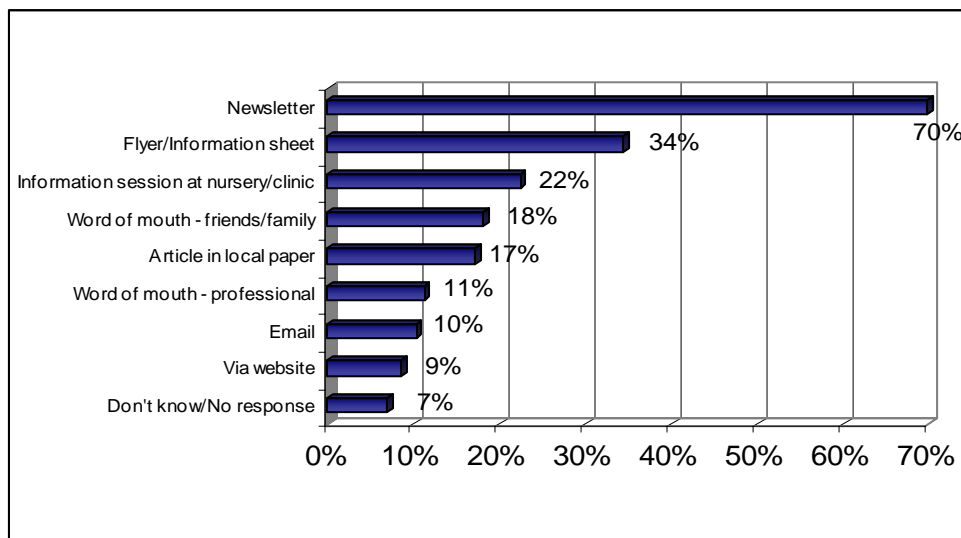
- Parents were shown a list of ways of receiving information, and asked to say which they would prefer. A newsletter is most favoured, by 70% of parents.
- Around a third of parents said they would like a flyer/information sheet and a further fifth preferred an information session at the nursery or clinic.
- Chart 4 below shows parents' responses

Table 19 – Preferences for receiving information

	%	No.
Total		(116)
Newsletter	70	81
Flyer/Information sheet	34	40
Information session at nursery/clinic	22	26
Word of mouth - friends/family	18	21
Article in local paper	17	20
Word of mouth - professional	11	13
Email	10	12
Via website	9	10
Don't know/No response	7	8

Multiple answers possible

Chart 4 - Preferences for receiving information



Base: All respondents - 116

5.1.13 Other concerns or comments about Sure Start Children's Centre

- Parents were asked if they had any other comments or concerns about the Sure Start Children's Centre. The majority (88%) did not have any additional comments or concerns.
- Those parents who did comment were positive and felt that access to Children's Centre services is a good thing.

Table 20 – Parents' comments about Sure Start Children's Centre

	%	No.
Total		(116)
A good thing/A good idea	6	7
Other	4	5
Don't know/No response	90	104

The other comments were (5):

- My experience of Sure Start has been very disappointing
- A little too formal and too much paperwork
- Feel liked being judged slightly
- They should be on different days or times to services we have now
- It is social services, the cost of sessions.

5.2 Partners' questionnaire

- A total of 18 questionnaires were received from Partners. Anonymised responses are shown in full in Appendix 5.
- Question numbers shown below relate to those in the questionnaire. Q1-4 related to partners' contact & job details shown in section 4.2, Observations on the Sample.

5.2.1 Current problems

Q5. What do you think are the current problems, or gaps in current services, for parents and young families in Edwinstowe?

- The overall view is that there is a lack of support for young parents available. This includes a need for more locally run parents' courses.
- They also felt that more information on existing services is needed.
- Being a rural location is also problematic as there is a lack of transport from the village resulting in some families feeling isolated.
- The availability of midwives and health visitors was also mentioned as an issue.

"Need post-natal drop-in facilities to offer choice of timed appointments at home or drop-in availability of midwife"

- The lack of advice and guidance for future careers was also highlighted.
- There was also a mention of providing more advice and guidance to parents on diet and nutrition.

"I think diet and nutrition is a big problem – need lots more information and advice for local families"

5.2.2 Possible Changes

Q 6. In what way do you think the advent of the Children's Centre will change the way services are delivered in Edwinstowe?

- There were positive responses to this question, with partners hopeful of a more co-ordinated approach, drawing on services already available.

"Provide more joined-up working, provide wider access of services to the local community, to enhance services already provided"

"It will be a marvellous opportunity to include the private sector with the maintained and voluntary sector. We have lots of skills and resources we would like to share"

"Better communication, less duplication. It's easier to develop new ideas when workers are familiar with each other"

"There will be a 'centre' and hopefully services will be more joined-up"

- Some felt that it would help engage more families in the services.

“It will raise families’ expectations and encourage engagement in services”

- The responses show that the vast majority of stakeholders are clear about the wider concept of a Children’s Centre meaning working together in a more joined-up way, rather than it referring to a specific building used for the delivery of services.

5.2.3 Biggest Challenge

Q7. What do you think is going to be the biggest challenge locally in developing the Children’s Centre in Edwinstowe?

- The main challenge was to overcome barriers and encourage families to come and use the centre.

“Engaging parents who do not currently access the services already provided”

“Getting ‘hard to reach’ families to attend”

“Overcoming barriers which stop parents/carers getting involved”

“Reaching families who do not engage with ‘traditional’ service delivery”

- The issue of finding a suitable base from which to deliver services was seen as an additional challenge by partners.

“Finding a ‘base’ – I have been involved in Ollerton, Boughton and Tuxford Children’s Centres and the practicality of a virtual centre is alien to many parents”

“Identifying base/bases to deliver services”

- A few partners felt that encouraging partnership working could be an issue.
- The lack of support for older children in the village was also mentioned by one partner.

5.2.4 Effectiveness of Meetings

Q8. If workers from different settings/services have regular meetings, how useful are these? Are parents invited?

- The Partners were asked to identify cross-agency/service meetings already held in the area to discuss local issues.
- The vast majority of partners were not aware of any meetings or could not comment on how useful these meetings were to everyone.

“No, not that I am aware of. We hear news via other people e.g. Pre-school Learning Alliance. We have been unsuccessful in arranging meetings with local groups”

- Of the few having regular meetings, parents were not invited.

“Community midwives meet local health visitors monthly or bi-monthly. Parents are not invited”

- Some groups engage with one another less formally.

“I try to engage with local groups to keep up to date with current changes, i.e. King Edwin, Playgroup, Starting Blocks, Homestart, but they do not meet together formally”

5.2.5 Partners’ Priorities

Q9. What are your top three priorities for developing services or facilities or resources for parents and young children in Edwinstowe?

- The main area mentioned was to ensure clear communications with parents. Ensuring that parents are made aware of all of the services/resources/courses available.

“Making everyone aware of what is on offer through newsletters for parents or local Acorn magazine”

“Guidance/support and information on the available services, more publicity”

- Another priority was to ensure that parents are able to access the services.

“Making services more accessible to parents and children of 0-3 who do not usually engage with services”

“Easy access and transport to venue”

- There was also the issue of providing parent education in a suitable venue in the village.

“Ability to run a crèche alongside a training area for parents”

“Ante-natal parent education within walking distance”

- Also mentioned were strengthening links with other agencies/services, smoking cessation classes, encouraging reading, social activities to encourage involvement, funding to enable existing venues to develop, and a mobile toy library.

“Agencies sharing information. Many young mothers are not getting the help they need”

Q10. What 3 things in your opinion would most improve the area for families with children under 5?

- There were a number of different areas mentioned but no issue dominated. The main ones were:
 - Crèche facilities available to families on a regular basis
 - A central building in the village providing information and services
 - Appropriate transport for children and families to gain access to services
 - Provision of indoor and outdoor play areas

“Parents to be able to access groups with crèche facilities as this is currently lacking”

“Central point of access to info and services”

“Good local bus service”

“More free play opportunities 0-5”

- Other mentions were for a more co-ordinated approach to the provision of services, a place for parents/carers to learn skills for themselves, service providers being more approachable, outreach by Jobcentre Plus, funding for services for families living in the pocket of disadvantage in Edwinstowe, and more joint events for parents and families.

“Approachable people! Disadvantaged people often feel threatened by traditional services. We want to help families access these services and help change opinions about them”

“Regular programme of family learning opportunities”

“Better communication through all the organisation”

6 Key messages for the future

- The consultation with parents and partners in Edwinstowe has provided comprehensive feedback about the needs of parents and young children in this area for the provision of Children's Centre services in 2008.
- There is one main need particularly emphasised by parents;
 - Provision of an outdoor play facilities/park for young children

Other key needs highlighted by partners and stakeholders highlighted are:

More support for parents both in terms of parenting courses, adult education and general lifestyle and diet information and advice.

Better links and communications of existing services

Better transport links to Mansfield and Ollerton for the minority who do not have access to a car

- The village is well supplied with toddler groups and pre-school provision and over three-quarters of parents have a toddler group within walking distance. This should be taken into account when developing and organising future service provision.
- Edwinstowe is also in close proximity to the Sherwood Children's Centre, particularly Clipstone, and the Ollerton & Boughton Children's Centre. The majority of parents who do have access to a car may use these services more fully if awareness is raised by clear and regular communications of their services and facilities.
- The Sure Start brand itself has a high level of awareness amongst parents in this area, with 87% of respondents stating awareness of Sure Start. This is much higher than in many other areas where consultations have taken place. A further 33% have attended a Sure Start event.
- The consultation has established a good base on which to build the development of services in Edwinstowe, but involvement of all parties is crucial to its success, as well as allowing parents to take ownership of the Children's Centre/centre services.

This consultation and the planned feedback session are the starting points from which services for children under 5 and their families will develop. This should be seen in the light of a "first conversation" with the community. There is every reason to think from these responses that parents will become involved, so that the Children's Centre becomes their service, rather than something delivered to them, and that key service providers are keen to engage with the Children's Centre as it develops

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Parents' Questionnaire

Appendix 2 – Questionnaire for Service Providers/Partners

Appendix 3 – Partners and Service Providers Responses

Appendix 4 – Mapping exercise: Current Services as provided by Partners and Service Providers