

Ballymena South SureStart

Expansion proposal Fairgreen and Dunclug wards

On the 24th May 2006 we were advised that the NCP propose to resource Ballymena SureStart project up to £25 000.00 per year to expand into Fairgreen and Dunclug wards.

To avail of this funding, a submission as to how we propose this should be used must be made by the 9th June 2006.

Background Information

Tentative work in Ballymena North began during 2005-06 where we established partnerships with two playgroups and two community houses. We also undertook a needs analysis of the area and a development group has been established to consider how best to develop our services for the area in the future if resources became available.

Our expansion plan is aimed towards the most disadvantaged areas in Ballymena. Fairgreen ward is alongside Dunclug ward and surrounded by Summerfield ward and Castle Demense ward.

<u>Electoral Ward</u>	<u>Children under 4 yrs (2001 Census)</u>
Dunclug	246
Fairgreen	99
Summerfield	217
Castle Demesne	84

Dunclug is the 118th most deprived ward in Northern Ireland Crime and disorder is ranked 2nd worst in Northern Ireland. Education and skills 59th income 86th health 258th (NIMDM May 2005).

Fairgreen is the 113th most deprived ward in Northern Ireland and ranked 4th worst in Northern Ireland for crime and disorder. Education and skills 97th income 107th and health 137th (NIMDM May 2005)

This highly populated urban area has difficulties which relate to crime, recent publicised sectarian unrest and tensions and a settled traveller community within. In light of social unrest in the area of Ballymena as recently as last month a need for seamless services is vital to continuing our good community relations and access to all section of the communities within

For example Fairgreen ward is further divided and social stress is increasing especially as July holidays approach so it is important that SureStart responds positively and is accessible and equitable to all families within SureStart areas.

Ballymena North has been identified by our needs analysis 05-06 to be an area with new challenges for SureStart. It is an area with fragmented services for families and

children, there is an anxiety that two primary school closures during 07-08 will mean the closure of two playgroups.

Expansion into Dunclug and Fairgreen will enable a further 345 children 0-4 years (2001 census) to avail of SureStart.

EXPANSION PROPOSAL

£25,000.00 expansion expenditure during 2006-07

In line with good practice and community development we have consulted with Dunclug and Fairgreen and mapped their local needs and contrasted them against our current SureStart area. To develop equal partnerships and a locality based approach we need to duplicate what SureStart is offering in our current areas.

Additional support staff

To remain unbiased we need to offer SureStart to Dunclug and Fairgreen by duplicating our services and to do this with a very limited budget we propose the recruitment of support workers to enable us to run SureStart events and groups at the same time in Dunclug and Fairgreen as those being run in our current areas.

We propose to recruit three 12hr Play Workers to enable *new* morning crèche sessions alongside additional services in Dunclug and Fairgreen **£15 422.00**

We propose to increase Play Supervisor hrs from 25 to 30 hrs to enable planning, and *increased* daily staff supervision and coordination **£2 656.10**

We propose to increase Family Support Worker post from 25hrs to 30 hrs to develop *new* outreach work and home visits in Dunclug and Fairgreen
£ 2 656.10

We propose to increase Toy Librarian hrs from 25 to 30 hrs to enable *additional* home visits, exchange of toys and cleaning in Dunclug and Fairgreen
£2 656.10

We propose to recruit a team of Toy Library volunteers to undertake weekly duties of Toy cleaning and tidying to *support* our Librarian. This will mean better use of our Librarian's time and instead of cleaning toys she will be able to work with more children in their own homes and in groups. Volunteer expenses and support
£800.00

Increase in staff travel expenses moving between Ballykeel and Dunclug and Fairgreen
£800.00

Training costs have not been included in this proposal to move into Dunclug and Fairgreen, but this relates to the fact that our budget for staff training 06/07 will be reduced as we will be sharing our training and development budget with a further three staff.

Refurbishment of a venue in Fairgreen / Dunclug

Due to marked sectarian divides and cultural differences in Ballymena we will be unable to bring the communities together in a cost effective manner by inviting families to attend SureStart services being run in Ballykeel or Ballee who live in Dunclug and Fairgreen.

SureStart venues need to have two rooms one for group work and one for the crèche. Venue needs to be warm and inviting, have a tea making facility, seating for adults, toilets and is in a location accessible to all families.

We propose to use first quarter 06/07 slippage from the £25,000.00 against non recurrent costs associated with fitting out a new SureStart space in Dunclug Fairgreen area.

(£6000.00 non recurrent)

TOTAL £25 000.00

Please be advised that we cannot achieve the following expansion plans due to limited resources

We originally proposed that to move into Dunclug and Fairgreen to accommodate the needs of a further 345 children we would need £80 000.00 to ensure adequate service provision to make certain that no dilution of services to 480 children in Ballykeel, Harryville, Moat and Ballee would occur.

Proposed additional expansion resources yet to be funded

Increase our Health Visitor input from 30hours to 37.5 hours and recruit 2 Health Visitor Assistants to carry out home visiting duties and group work support on her behalf.

£36 000.00

Increase our Midwifery input from 18 hours to 37.5 hours to ensure that all SureStart families have the opportunity to meet the SureStart Midwife on a more regular sustained basis during their pregnancy and beyond

£15 000.00

Recruit a Family Support Worker to act as a flexible worker who can, co-facilitate groups, run coffee mornings, give talks, assist professional staff with home visits and retain and befriend users of SureStart in a manner that is non intrusive but familiar and safe.

£13 000.00

Additional funds will be required against increased client service outputs in the expansion area,

- Additional home safety equipment
- Additional group work resources.
- Additional Bookstart packs
- Additional video cameras
- Additional play and learning equipment

Amanda McGall
1st June 2006