

# Legislating for Sure Start Children's Centres

## Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 6  
November 2008

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for  
**children, schools and families**

**THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families e-consultation website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>).**

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name Chris Goodey  
Organisation (if applicable) Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE)  
Address: New Redland Building  
Coldharbour Lane  
Frenchay  
Bristol  
BS16 1QU

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Peter Gibb on:

Telephone: 020 7273 4881

e-mail: [SSCClegislation.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SSCClegislation.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 0870 000 2288

Please tick one box that best describes you as a respondent

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sure Start Children's Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Departmental Public Body/Inspectorate              | <input type="checkbox"/> School          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare provider           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voluntary and Community Sector organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Care Trust           | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Centre Plus  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                        |   |  |

Please Specify:

See paras 9-13: Legislating for SSCCs

1 Do you support putting SSCCs on firm legislative basis?

|   |                                   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

See paras 14-15: Duty to Provide SSCCs

2 Do you agree that local authorities should have this duty?

|   |                                   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:



See paras 16-18: Defining SSCCs in legislation

3 Do you agree that these are the defining characteristics of a SSCC?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

See paras 19-22: Involvement of statutory partners in delivering outcomes through SSCCs

4 a) Do you agree that these duties would reinforce partnership working between key local services?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

4 b) Are these the right partners to include?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

See para 23: Embedding current practice

5 a) Do you agree these elements of current good practice should be included as requirements in the legislation?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:



5 b) Should there be any others?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

There should be a place reserved on the parental section of the advisory board for the parent of a child with significant disabilities (that is to say, not just "special educational needs").

See para 24: Inspection

6 Do you agree that there should be a duty to inspect SSCCs at the request of the Secretary of State?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

See para 25: Future regulations

7 a) Do you agree we should take a power to make such changes through secondary legislation?

|   |                                   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

7 b) Do you agree with the list of potential requirements?

|                                |                                   |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Comments:

7 c) Can you think of any others at this stage?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Do you agree with this being used as an opportunity to create a fully inclusive early years service nationally with respect to disabled children?

8 If you are a SSCC provider, how would these proposals affect your organisation?

Comments:

9 Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

Comments:

CSIE is concerned that there is no mention of disabled children in this document. It is not set out to specifically enhance inclusive practice. Since the inception of SureStart, the number of children with significant disabilities included in mainstream early years provision has not increased. This is in keeping with Early Start, which despite being a programme for disabled children does not mention inclusion either. In order to be credible, this new document must address the issue directly. Government policies in other departments recommend inclusion in mainstream institutions for all disabled adults: this is the life for which the "Sure" start is meant to be preparing these children. We know that segregation and social isolation have a negative impact on life-chances and well-being, and by failing to prevent this, for example by stopping professionals (particularly in healthcare) from encouraging parents towards segregated ("special") school nursery provision, is precisely to fail to provide a sure start.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply ✓**

Here at the Department for Children, Schools and Families we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes  No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Website:  
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44364.pdf>

Phil Turner - DCSF consultation Co-Ordinator 01928 794304

**The consultation has been timed to coincide with the new academic year, when more interested parties will be available to comment. As a result it will be shorter than the standard 12 week period, in order to allow the results to be considered in advance of the forthcoming Education and Skills Bill.**

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 6 November 2008

Send by post to: Consultation Unit, Area B, Ground Floor, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn WA7 2GJ

Send by e-mail to: [SSCClegislation.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SSCClegislation.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)