

**SURE START  
LARKHALL**

**ANNUAL  
EVALUATION  
REPORT**

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## **Introduction**

This Annual Report details a summary of all monitoring and evaluation activity undertaken by the Sure Start Larkhall Programme until March 2004. This firstly includes a summary of all local programme statistical monitoring and a table of work detailing the statistical monitoring activity undertaken to March 2004. Secondly, the aims and objectives of the local programme evaluations including an exposition of all current evaluations are detailed. Thirdly, a sample of service specific self-evaluation and reviews are included to illustrate the types of evaluations conducted by Sure Start Larkhall practitioners. Fourthly, a table of work is included detailing all the strategic Monitoring and Evaluation development activity conducted within the local programme. Finally, the conclusion lists a series of recommendations made in the light of this report that aims to further improve the Monitoring and Evaluation development within the programme.

### **Local Programme Statistical Monitoring**

- **Basic population profile for programme catchment area**

Aims:

To annually monitor any changes or fluctuations in the local population and ethnicity data including the population aged under four for the programme catchment area.

Objectives:

To extract the specified data from the NHS health database (PiMS) of population data for the local programme catchment area.

- **Childcare places for programme catchment area**

Aims:

To annually monitor any changes in existing and new childcare and early education places for nought to three year olds in the local programme catchment area that are provided by Sure Start funding and those places which are provided through non-Sure Start funding.

Objectives:

To extract data on the number of childcare and early education places for nought to three-year-olds from the Children's Information Service, Lambeth.

▪ **Monthly Reach figures for local programme**

Aims:

To monitor the number of children, parents, pregnant women and families seen each month by the local programme in order to meet the Sure Start Unit target of reaching a quarter of all children living in the local programme catchment area each month.

Objectives:

All local programme practitioners to enter contact data for the above groups on the JNA system (local programme IT database) in line with programme deadlines.

▪ **Annual progress towards PSA and SDA objectives and targets**

Aims:

To monitor the local programme and its progress towards meeting all PSA and SDA targets on an annual basis set by local government.

Objectives:

To extract specified data from the JNA system.

Table of Work: local programme statistical monitoring activity - March 2004

<b>Monitoring Activity</b>	<b>Input Indicators</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b>
Basic population profile data for programme catchment area.	Appropriate methods of data collection undertaken. 1 annual return made to Sure Start Unit.	Availability of robust and current data available to programme about population levels.
Childcare places for programme catchment area.	1 annual return made to Sure Start Unit.	Information available about the number of childcare places.
Monthly Reach figures for local programme.	Local programme monitoring system in place to ensure all contact data is recorded onto JNA system by Sure Start practitioners. All quarterly returns submitted to Sure Start Unit.	Availability of information about the number of children and families who are using Sure Start services.
Annual progress towards PSA and SDA objectives and targets.	1 annual return made to Sure Start Unit.	Information available about the local programme progress towards targets.

## **Local Programme Evaluation**

### **Aims:**

- To use evaluation as an essential tool for maintaining and raising the quality of services and planning for new developments.
- To understand how local programme and services are performing.
- To keep track of progress against targets and objectives.
- To make changes to programme and ensure continual improvement.
- To influence the delivery of mainstream services.
- To identify good practice.

### **Objectives:**

To use the local evaluation as a tool to answer key questions about Sure Start as a new intervention. In order to answer such questions the following areas of work need to be examined:

1. Monitoring of local programme progress towards objectives and targets set in the PSA and SDA agreements and progress towards other locally set milestones and targets.
2. A review of the working practices and processes through which Sure Start is being delivered. This includes the role that local evaluation plays in identifying good practice within service delivery that can not only be shared with other local programmes, but also other mainstream organisations working with children and families.
3. An assessment of whether the services being provided by Sure Start are cost-effective.

Table of Work: current and completed local programme evaluations - March 2004

<b>Local Programme Evaluation</b>	<b>Input Indicators</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b>
1. An evaluation of the childcare needs of refugee and asylum seeking families in the Larkhall Sure Start area.	Survey research project currently being undertaken to identify those childcare needs of the refugee and asylum seeking population.	Report due to be completed: August 2004.
2. West Stockwell Primary Care Project: rapid health impact assessment currently being undertaken.	Rapid HIA will provide information to the West Stockwell Partnership Board to assist with decision making with a particular emphasis on making recommendations to assist the Board to reduce any short-term negative impact on health of the redevelopment of the site. It will also make recommendations on ways of continuing to inform and involve people in the development, and to build on opportunities for employment, provided by the construction and management of the project.	Recommendations to be Presented to the West Stockwell Partnership Board: May 2004.

1. An evaluation of the childcare needs of refugees and asylum seeking families in the Sure Start Larkhall area:

This evaluation that is currently being conducted meets the following objectives:

- Monitoring of local programme progress towards objectives and targets set in the PSA and SDA agreements and progress towards other locally set milestones and targets.
- An assessment of whether the services being provided by Sure Start are cost-effective.

This because locally set targets and objectives reflect the need to engage with the refugee and asylum seeking community. In addition to this, the evaluation will provide the opportunity to respond to the needs that have been identified in the most cost effective way.

The key evaluation aims that were formulated to guide this evaluation include the following:

- The evaluation is an analysis of need that will require consultation with local families.
- The findings of the evaluation are to inform the development and planning of the programme with particular reference towards the re-shaping of services to be delivered at the end of the financial year 2005.

The methods that were used to conduct this evaluation include:

- Semi-structured interviews with local professionals who currently work with refugee and asylum seeking families.
- Postal questionnaires sent to community organisations in the Sure Start Larkhall area.
- Postal questionnaires sent to childcare providers in the Sure Start Larkhall area.
- Childcare questionnaire conducted face-to-face with parents.

This evaluation is due to be completed in June 2004.

## 2. West Stockwell Primary Care Project - Rapid Health Impact Assessment:

The proposed development of the West Stockwell Primary Health and Community Resource Centre in Lambeth is a response to a need to improve primary care services in a deprived neighbourhood and against a background of significant urban regeneration initiatives. The objectives of the scheme are:

- To develop an integrated health and social care model of service.
- To improve the quality of primary care premises in West Stockwell.
- To attract GP and nurse practitioners to an under served area.
- To provide accessible and flexible services to the local population.
- To establish links with existing community development initiatives.

Sure Start Larkhall as part of its capital programme is a key stakeholder in the project working in partnership with other organisations including Lambeth Primary Care Trust. The completion of the construction of the West Stockwell Project will serve as the location for Sure Start Larkhall. As a key stakeholder in the project, Sure Start Larkhall also has an integral role in the conduction of the rapid health impact assessment. The final recommendations to be presented to the West Stockwell Partnership Board involve the following objectives:

- Mapping known local communities and organisations in the geographical area to be covered by the new centre.
- Reviewing the published evidence about the impact of construction and on people living and working nearby.
- Linking with community based workers to establish contact with target communities with a view to facilitating their involvement with the HIA process.
- Holding a number of rapid HIA workshops with those communities.
- Conducting interviews with 'hard to reach' communities.

### Service specific self-evaluation and review

Table of work: sample of self-evaluation conducted by Sure Start Larkhall practitioners

Service	Input Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Community Nutrition	Early Years Free Fruit and Healthy Eating Programme: A Report of the Evaluation with Early Years' Staff at the project's 6 month stage.	The following recommendations were made as a result of this evaluation: that a pack of activity ideas are to be developed as a time-saving resource for staff to support the programme and to introduce different varieties of fruits each month to the nurseries.
Parent Development	Questionnaire conducted for 'Breakfast Club' outreach activity	Informed further development and improvement of this outreach activity.
Clinical Child Psychology	<p>Parental feedback questionnaires conducted in response to the publication of Sure Start Parents Calendar.</p> <p>Weekly qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the Parents' Group.</p>	<p>Results to be used to inform future publications.</p> <p>Assessment of the level of parental satisfaction used to inform development of future groups.</p>
Midwifery	<p>Parental feedback questionnaires have been conducted for the following workshops:</p> <p>Infant Massage            Mother and Baby Support Group            Antenatal Clinic</p>	Informed the development of continuing midwifery workshops.

## Strategic Monitoring and Evaluation Development

Table of Work: strategic monitoring and evaluation development

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Input Indicators</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>
Monthly Monitoring Progress Report: 16/9/2003	Report compiled and presented to Partnership Board for the local programme monthly reach figures: May - August 2003.	Sharing of information with Partnership Board provides opportunity to discuss reach figures and to develop a strategy for increasing reach.
Monthly Monitoring Progress Report: 20/1/2004	Report compiled and presented to Partnership Board for the local programme monthly reach figures: September - November 2003.	Sharing of information with Partnership Board provides opportunity to discuss reach figures and to develop a strategy for increasing reach.
South London Sure Start Meeting: 19/3/2003	Attended South London Sure Start meeting.	Strategic meeting of South London Sure Starts to share good practice around Monitoring and Evaluation e.g. data collection/partner engagement.
Evaluation Workshop: 24/9/2003	Presentation submitted to practitioners' group and subsequent programme meetings about the local programme Monitoring and Evaluation requirements and how this relates to practitioners.	Increase in involvement and understanding of all Monitoring and Evaluation requirements.
Links with NESS: 2003	Conferences/Meetings	Developed understanding of the links between national and local evaluation; point of reference for sharing good practice with other Sure Starts.
Research and Evaluation Training	Conferences / Meetings and Training Courses Including training on working with refugees and asylum seekers / HIA training.	Increased understanding of research methods and processes in the context of community evaluation and involvement.

## **Conclusion**

As a result of providing a summary of all the monitoring and evaluation activity conducted within the programme the following recommendations have been made to further develop the monitoring and evaluation of the programme:

1. The development and implementation of a strategy that assesses the aims and objectives and progress to date of all monitoring and evaluation activity that is regularly reviewed .
2. To include the monitoring and review of all Service Levels Agreements as an integral element of this strategy.
3. To include within the monitoring and review of all Service Level Agreements a component of self-evaluation for all practitioners.
4. To create a clear pathway for making policy recommendations from the review of both statistical monitoring; local evaluation and service level agreement reviews as the three elements of the monitoring and evaluation strategy to include:
  - Progress towards meeting PSA/SDA targets
  - Recommendations regarding future evaluations
  - Identification of good practice within the delivery of service level agreements
5. Finally, an integration of the processes of monitoring and evaluation with a view to aligning these two systems in order to allow for monitoring to assist in the choices that are made surrounding evaluation activity.