Sure Start Sheerness Evaluation 2002/03

Sure Start Sheerness is a programme that has been set up to help families with children aged 0 – 3 in the Sheerness area get the best possible start to life. Sure Start Sheerness got off the ground in 2001/02 and so carried out an evaluation to see how it is getting on and what parents think of its services.

Eight local parents interviewed 110 parents of young children living in the Sure Start area.

The main results from the questionnaires are:

Have parents heard of Sure Start?

Sure Start has done very well to date, with 96% of parents who were interviewed saying that they had heard of Sure Start Sheerness. Parents were most likely to hear about Sure Start via word of mouth (from friends and family).

How good is Sure Start?

- 81% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start Sheerness was Good or Very Good.

Has Sure Start made a difference to parents in Sheerness?

- 86% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start Sheerness has made a positive difference to the community.
- 68% of parents interviewed felt that they have made friends because of Sure Start Sheerness.
- 63% of parents interviewed felt that they were less isolated because of Sure Start Sheerness.

Has Sure Start made a difference to children in Sheerness?

- 66% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start Sheerness has helped their child to get on better with other children.
- 66% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start Sheerness has helped their child’s ability to play.
- 63% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start Sheerness has helped their child’s ability to learn.
What did parents think of local services?

**Health services**

- 76% of parents thought that there are enough health services being provided locally.

- Satisfaction with health services was very high with between 88% and 100% of parents indicating that they were Satisfied to Very Satisfied with different health services in the area.

**Play and learning services**

- 82% of parents thought that there are enough play and learning services in the area.

- Satisfaction with play and learning services was also high from 77% of parents Satisfied to Very Satisfied with Baby PALS to 93% with Little PALS.

**Training and education facilities**

- 83% of parents thought that there are enough training and education services locally.

- Parents were positive about training and education facilities with 78% of parents Satisfied to Very Satisfied with driving lessons to 93% with first aid training.

**Support services**

- 82% of local parents thought that there are enough support services in Sheerness.

- Satisfaction with support services ranged from 69% of parents Satisfied to Very Satisfied with outdoor play facilities to 95% with exercise classes.

*We would like to thank all those parents who took time to fill in a questionnaire for providing us with so much valuable information that will go on to help Sure Start plan its services in the future.*