Sure Start Sheerness Evaluation 2003/04

Sure Start has now been working in Sheerness for two years supporting families with children aged 0 – 3 to get the best possible start in life. This is the second annual evaluation the programme has carried out to see how well it is doing.

Thirteen local parents interviewed 270 parents of young children living in Sheerness to find out about their experiences of using Sure Start services.

The results are very positive and show that Sure Start is really making a difference to families with very young children in Sheerness. The main results from the questionnaires are:

Have parents heard of Sure Start?

Sure Start has been very successful at telling people about its services, with 95% of parents saying that they had heard of Sure Start Sheerness.

How good is Sure Start?

Sure Start is getting even better and Sheerness families are very impressed, with 64% of parents rating the services this year as Very Good, compared with 49% in 2003.

Has Sure Start made a difference to parents in Sheerness?

- 76% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start has made a positive difference to the community.
- 68% of parents felt that they have made friends because of Sure Start.
- 60% of parents interviewed felt that they were less isolated because of Sure Start.

Has Sure Start made a difference to children in Sheerness?

- 89% of the parents interviewed said that they were satisfied with the services provided for their children.
- 69% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start has helped their child to get on better with other children.
- 65% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start has helped their child’s ability to play.
- 59% of parents interviewed felt that Sure Start has helped their child’s ability to learn.
What did parents think of local services?

**Health services**

- 90% of parents thought that there are enough health services being provided locally for both them and their children. This is a big improvement on 2003 when 76% of parents were satisfied with the levels of service.

- Satisfaction with health services was very high with on average 90% of parents indicating that they were Satisfied to Very Satisfied with the various health services provided by Sure Start.

**Play and learning services**

- 89% of parents thought that there are enough play and learning services in the area compared with 82% in 2003.

- Satisfaction has got even higher for play and learning services with a particularly big improvement for Baby Pals where satisfaction rates rose to 96% in 2004 from 77% in 2003.

**Training and education facilities**

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

- Parents were extremely positive about training and education activities with 90%+ ratings given for every activity.

**Support services**

- 93% of local parents thought that there are enough support services in Sheerness compared with 83% in 2003.

- Satisfaction with support services remains very high with a particularly big improvement for Sheerness Library to 96% in 2004 from 83% in 2003.

*We would like to thank all those parents who took time to fill in a questionnaire. This has provided us with lots of valuable information that we will use to improve and plan our services for local families.*