

## **Sure Start Hemlington and Newham** **Evaluation Report January 2004**

### **Context**

This round 6 local programme was approved in April 2003. There are currently 15 members of staff in post; many of them are part time. The approved level of capital funding is £ 1,000,000.

### **Local Evaluation Strategy**

#### **Development**

A variety of evaluation models and methods were examined by the programme. The Board agreed that any work undertaken by an external organisation should conform to the very specific needs of the programme.

#### **Key considerations**

- Relevance to local needs
- Cost effectiveness
- Parental involvement, to encourage personal development and linkage to the aims of objectives of the programme
- Flexibility, ensuring that the evaluation strategy is not set in a rigid structure for the long term period, but can be amended and adapted to local conditions
- Use of data collected to inform future developments, in a format that is both parent friendly and meets statutory requirements
- Training parents as evaluators

A local evaluation strategy has been developed and approved by the regional Sure Start Team.

#### **Evaluation by Sure Start Team**

Every event and activity is evaluated by parents and informs future developments. The programme has conducted a Baseline Satisfaction Survey which was adapted from a sample on the NESS website. The survey was completed by 55 families and the programme is in the process of collating the results.

### **Progress with Evaluation Strategy for the programme**

The Management Board agreed to employ an external agency and the programme contacted several recommended agencies. These agencies were given a copy of the evaluation strategy and presented to the Board. Acton. Shapiro was appointed as evaluators for the programme. An evaluation plan has been completed, Sure start team members have been interviewed .and several Board members will be interviewed. Acton. Shapiro will train parents in evaluation methods and support them through the evaluation process. The training will be accredited through the TROCN and parents will receive vouchers for work undertaken after completion of the training package.