

Delivering the 10 Year Strategy - Choice for Parents Best Start for Children

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The 10 Year Strategy - A Vision for Wigan

Wigan Council is committed to delivering the outcomes outlined in the Government's 10 Year strategy. To this end we aim to:-

- Ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life by the provision of high quality integrated early education and childcare services for children 0-5.
- Have a Children's Centre in every community offering a range of information and integrated services that meet local need, including early education and childcare, health and support services, family and parenting support.
- Increase the number of extended schools in line with DfES targets for Extended Schools and in particular enable parents to access an out-of-school childcare place for their child/ren if they so wish.
- Ensure parents have access to information and advice about locally available childcare, training and employment opportunities and other support services.
- Increase the free early education entitlement for three and four year olds in line with Government expectation.
- Maximise the involvement of local parents and partner organisations in the planning, management and delivery of local early years and childcare services.

In order to achieve these aims we intend to:-

- Develop formal and informal ways to involve parents, such as parent forums, support and learning programmes together with outreach services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families.
- Develop services on an area basis and where possible co-locate with other services to ensure that resources and support are easily available at local / community level.
- Prioritise the targeting of resources based on areas of disadvantage and under achievement or where there are gaps in universal service provision.
- Commission centrally, but delegate the responsibility for delivery to local governance / management structures that enable greater involvement from parents / carers, children and young people and other appropriate stakeholders.
- Streamline Sure Start investment with other key strategies to maximise potential. For example Extended Schools, Surplus Place Removal, Inclusion Strategy, Healthy Schools, LIFT, Building Schools for the Future etc.
- Ensure that every Children's Centre will support the complex needs of children under 5 and that all early education and day care is fully inclusive.

- Ensure that at least one Children's Centre in each Inclusion Area is linked to a Resourced Unit (Primary School) to allow continuity of care and education for children with additional needs from 0 -11 years old.
- Ensure that Children's Centres become a hub of excellent early years and childcare practice and find ways to share this good practice amongst schools and settings in close proximity to the Centre with a view to raising standards and attainment.
- Continue to work with the Children's Information Service and Job Centre Plus to provide a single point of contact at every Children's Centre and to provide a range of information, advice, and referral across the children's services sector.
- Continue to work with all other key partners, but in particular health to ensure that we have a fully integrated strategy for children under 5 and the resources to meet the Children's Centre Core Offer.
- Work with all early years and childcare settings to raise the quality of their services and the qualifications and skills of their workforce.
- Promote participation and track the use of Children's Centres and other early years and childcare services through the Sure Start Membership Scheme.
- Ensure that the provision for extended services will be reflected in the design and build of all new schools and other facilities

2 Children and Young People's Plan

The 10 Year Strategy is a key strand of the Government's Every Child Matters agenda and as required in the Children Act 2004 every local authority must produce a Children and Young People's Plan.

The Plan illustrates how the authority, together with its key partners, aim to improve the lives of children young people and their families. The five key outcomes listed below form the basis for the strategic priorities on which the plan is focused and reflect the core offer for both Children's Centres and Extended Schools, namely:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being

Children's Centres and Extended Schools must be at the heart of their local communities, addressing local needs as part of a wider strategic approach to meeting the needs of children and their families.

This document provides an overview of the work planned to meet the 10 Year Strategy including early years, childcare and Children's Centres. All areas for action can be directly linked to the Children and Young People's Plan.

3 The Sure Start Principles

The name SURE START is used by the government in all its funding and planning for very young children. As the name suggests the aim is to ensure that all children get a good start in life. Research clearly shows that if a child gets quality support in the first five years of their life, it can greatly improve their life chances and future quality of life.

The Government set out seven Sure Start Principles which continue to guide our work and that of all the services we help to develop. They are:-

i. Working with Parents and Children

Every family should get access to a range of services that will deliver better outcomes for both children and parents, meeting their needs and stretching their aspirations.

ii. Services for Everyone

But not the same level of service for everyone. Families have distinctly different needs, both between different families, in different locations, and across time in the same family. Services should recognise and respond to these varying needs.

iii. Flexible at Point of Delivery

All services should be designed to encourage access. For example, opening hours, location, transport issues and care for other children in the family need to be considered. Where possible we must enable families to get the health and family support services they need through a single point of contact.

iv. Starting Early

Services for young children and parents should start at the first antenatal visit. This means not only advice on health in pregnancy, but preparation for parenthood, decisions about returning to work (or indeed, starting to work) after the birth, advice on childcare options and on support services available.

v. Respectful and Transparent

Services should be customer driven, whether or not the services are free.

vi. Community Driven and Professionally

Co-ordinated All professionals with an interest in children and families should be sharing expertise and listening to local people on service priorities. This should be done through consultation and by day to day listening to parents.

vii. Outcome Driven

All services for children and parents need to have as their core purpose better outcomes for children. The Government needs to acknowledge this by reducing bureaucracy and simplifying funding to ensure a joined up approach with partners.

4 Working in Partnership

Since the introduction of the National Childcare Strategy in 1998 Wigan has worked closely with a range of sectors to develop early years and childcare services.

For example 39% of early education provision in the Borough is delivered by the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors (PVI). The Council for Voluntary Services has received regular Sure Start funding to support and develop the Voluntary Sector, and in the past the private sector providers have also received grant funding to develop a network. Childminders also receive substantial developmental support via the Link Childminders Support scheme managed by Wigan Children and Young People's Services.

We believe that the best way to meet the needs of children and their families is to have a healthy and sustainable mixed economy of services which between them can provide the flexibility required.

We aim to continue this successful partnership strategy and where possible ensure that existing local providers are offered the opportunity to actively participate in new developments such as Children's Centres and new childcare where it is required. This will be particularly pertinent to the Extended School agenda where working together will be the only way to provide the two core offers. Children's Centres and Extended Schools will meet the needs of local communities as part of a wider strategic approach for all children, young people and their families.

Wigan's strategic partnership body, Children and Young People and Family Partnership (CYPF) oversees the Children and Young People's Plan.

All work associated with the 10 Year Strategy is currently planned and monitored via the CYPF partnership infrastructure and membership from all sectors is actively encouraged.

5 Meeting the 10 Year Strategy

There are a number of key priority areas that will help deliver the 10 Year Strategy – Choice for Parents Best Start for Children. These include:-

- Integrating services and the creation of Children and Young People's Services
- Early education and childcare
- Children's Centres
- Partnership with Health
- Parental involvement
- Extended Schools

5.1 Children and Young People's Services

A new department called Wigan Children and Young People's Services was launched at the beginning of April 2006. These changes are helping to ensure that all the work around the 10 Year Strategy will be permanently embedded in to the work of the Council. It will also involve quite a lot of re-structuring of staff teams to ensure that we can make best use of the resources and skills available.

For example there is a new Children's Workforce Strategy Team who will be responsible for developing and delivering a vast range of training and support to the whole of the children and young people's workforce including the early years and childcare sector.

The Sure Start Workforce Development Team have already been integrated in to this new team. Providers of early years and childcare services, including Children's Centres will see no difference to the support, advice and training they receive. Many practitioners know that the Wigan Sure Start Team were the first to develop Area Teams and this infrastructure will continue to work in the three areas.

Early years and childcare practitioners have been consulted, received support and information updates via regular Area Cluster sessions which are set to continue. It is likely that many more services working with children, young people and their families will start to use the 3 Area Model to help refocus their work.

5.2 Early Education and Childcare

The 10 Year Strategy signalled the Government's intention to give local authorities a bigger role in determining the childcare market.

This means ensuring that supply is sufficient to meet local needs, that local providers are supported to develop a sustainable market, and retaining the diversity of good quality provision. Any place creation should be driven by identifiable current or future demand and based on an understanding of local supply. This has been achieved via an extensive consultation with parents and analysis of the Childcare Audit.

Wigan has just produced the latest Childcare Place Creation Plan for the strategic period 2006-2008¹. In terms of childcare provision the audit records the total number of childcare places available in the borough 8364 (March 2006 Ofsted data). By the end of March 2008, we anticipate the total number of childcare places to be 9072, which is the current baseline at December 2005 plus the new additional places we believe are required to meet parental demand.

We believe that there are sufficient early education places for all three and four year olds. However with the Government's targets to increase early education provision to 15 hours per week by 2010, together with the parent's right to take the free nursery entitlement over three days, will mean that we will need to work with all sectors to ensure that they adapt to meet the demand.

As a result of the plans set out in the 10 year childcare strategy, DfES proposes to make changes to the current arrangements, replacing Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and Birth to 3 Matters with a single framework for care, learning and development to be called "The Early Years Foundation Stage" (EYFS).

This will be a statutory framework for all children from birth to the end of the reception year, regardless of the type of setting they attend. It is intended that it will increase coherence, provide a flexible approach to care and learning and raise quality through the whole sector.

Close scrutiny of Ofsted Inspection outcomes enables advisory teachers and other quality assurance staff to monitor, challenge and support settings to improve the quality of their provision and to ensure they are fully inclusive.

In addition, Wigan has developed the Wigan Quality Standard (WQS) which has received Investors in Children status. The WQS provides a robust self-evaluation framework for all early years practitioners and consequently is making a strong contribution to the development of quality in early years and childcare services in the borough. This view was positively supported in a recent cross sector consultation and evaluation exercise.

¹ The Childcare Place Creation Plan (2006-2008) can be found on Wigan's Children and Young People's Services Website under Sure Start.

The total percentage of early years and childcare settings that had been accredited or were working towards accreditation as at December 2005 was 84% in the maintained sector and 74% in the non maintained sector.

WQS is in the process of being further developed to address the needs of the out of school childcare sector and is also being linked to the Healthy Schools Standard and the I CAN Early Talk quality standard.

In addition, Wigan provides a comprehensive training and workforce development programme for the early years and childcare sector. This is regularly evaluated and reviewed to ensure that it meets changing requirements. The DfES have allocated special funding called the Transformation Fund to enhance the skills and qualifications of the early years and childcare workforce. The Transformation Fund will be used to:-

- Provide financial support for training routes towards the new graduate-level status of Early Years Professional.
- Supporting progress towards the Government's objective of ensuring that by 2015 all full day care settings employ a graduate with Early Years Professional status to lead work with children and parents.

Action 2006-2008

- Meet the targets in the Childcare Places Plan 2006-2008.
- Provide targeted support to schools and sessional care providers to help extend their early education services.
- Continue to provide advice and guidance on business planning and sustainability.
- Provide a guidance and training programme for all early years practitioners to introduce and facilitate the implementation of the new Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Continue to develop and implement the Wigan Quality Standard to raise the quality of early years and childcare services.
- Continue to deliver high quality cross sector training and monitor uptake and impact.
- Implement the requirements of the Transformation Fund.
- Implement the Early Support and safeguarding Strategy to ensure that all children's services work together consistently according to agreed principles to meet the needs of children under 5 with additional / complex needs and their families.
- Support the implementation of I CAN.

5.3 Children's Centres

In 2004 the Government provided the first of two grant allocations to support their target of a Children's Centre in every community by 2010. Each Centre must meet a Core Offer which includes:-

- Early education integrated with day care
- Family support and parental outreach
- Child and family health services
- Links with schools and Children's Information Service
- Links with Job Centre Plus

It has been recognised that the Children's Centre core offer links closely with the Extended School core offer. Children's Centres are being placed within schools to enable a seamless delivery of services for families. Through the two strategies, all families will have access to a range of information, services and support by 2010.

Phase 1 of the Plan (2004-2006) was to create eight Children's Centres across the Borough by March 2006. To date four Centres have received designation and the remaining four are all significant capital build projects that make use of a variety of funding sources including LIFT, Primary School Capital and Single Regeneration Budget. Although the building programme has been hampered by slippage in building schedules and contractors going out of business we aim for all centres to be completed by 2006. With regards to targets for Extended Schools, the target of 15% of schools delivering the core offer will be met by 2006.

Phase 2 of the Plan (2006-2008) will see a further 10 Children's Centres developed although most will not be of the scale developed in Phase 1. Clear criteria plus an expression of interest and endorsement process has helped us identify the areas and sites for development.

The sites for all Phase 1 and 2 Centres can be seen on the map below.



Extensive work has taken place on commissioning a range of projects and services in order that each centre meets the Core Offer. This reflects our commitment to a mixed economy of services. The commissioning process has continued alongside the capital programme and in some cases projects and services are already being delivered even though they have not yet got a Centre to deliver from. For example they may be delivering from venues within the local Children's Centre catchment area.

Examples of the types of projects and services already available are:-

- Midwifery Support
- Home Start Wigan
- Wigan Family Welfare (Family Counselling)
- Sunflower Project
- Bookstart
- Embrace (formerly Scope) - Early Start
- Community Consultant project - (Parental Involvement) Development Officer
- Family Group Meeting/Family Decision Making
- Food and Physical Activity (partnership between Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and the PCT)
- Community Parenting

In addition, strategic negotiations continue with key partners such as health with a view to securing a consistent approach across all Children's Centres, particularly in relation to the provision of child and family health activity and care closer to home.

Action 2006-2008

- Continue with the current programme of development of 18 Children's Centres by 2008.
- Identify Phase 3 Children's Centres.
- Develop a sustainability strategy for Children's Centres beyond 2008.

5.4 An Integrated Strategy with Health for Children Under 5

In order to give very young children the very best start in life, it is essential to ensure a fully integrated approach between Health and Children's Services.

We have excellent examples of where working in partnership with colleagues in the Health Service is having an impact, these include:-

- Joint protocols ensure very young children with complex needs have their health, social care and education needs met in a co-ordinated way and

enable most children to access mainstream early years and childcare services.

- Joint training programmes, in particular on the introduction of Birth to Three Matters, that have ensured a consistent understanding of the developmental needs of children 0-3.
- Health visitors actively promoting the take up of the free early education entitlement for 3 and 4 years olds by distributing information to parents during their visits has helped ensure that 100% of 4 year olds and 90% of 3 year olds receive their entitlement.
- Being active participants in the Sure Start local programmes (Hindley and Tyldesley) and developing new models of working in particular around the promotion of breast feeding, reducing smoking in pregnant women as well as supporting the Right From the Start project targeting families who are not making use of Sure Start services.
- Midwifery and health visitor teams promoting the Sure Start Membership scheme in areas where there is Children Centre development, helps to ensure that children and families access services.
- Use of Children's Centre funding to enable two Community Nursery Nurses to be released for one day per week to deliver Portage in partnership with the CYPS Quality and Inclusion Team
- I CAN training and Quality Assurance project work with Speech and Language therapists.

However this is just the start and we need to ensure that there is a consistent approach across all areas of the borough and that examples of good practice are mainstreamed.

In December 2005 the report 'Inequalities in Child Health, 0-5' was published which identified the extent to which local health and local authority services are implementing evidence based interventions to reduce health inequalities in under 5's across the Greater Manchester Authority conurbation. This information will be used to help plan services at a local level.

Action 2006-2008

- Develop joint commissioning arrangements to ensure that further integration of services for children under 5 and their families takes place, with a particular focus on children with complex needs and meeting the Children's Centre core offer.
- In Partnership with Health liaise with Neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure effective information exchange where children access cross border provision.

5.5 Developing the Involvement of Parents

We aim to ensure that within Children's Centres and other early year's and childcare services there is a coherent approach to parental involvement so parents and carers are better involved, informed and supported.

We know that if we can encourage and support parents whilst their children are young it is more likely that they will continue to be involved throughout their children's life. Raising self esteem, aspirations and ambition via parental involvement can also be the best way of fighting the long term effects of poverty.

Parental Involvement is a pathway to promoting effective relationships between parents / children and communities and to ensuring that services remain appropriate to meet local needs. It is important that Parental Involvement activity is creative and diverse and provides for both informal and formal interaction, this can include:-

- Being a member of a parent forum, committee, a governing body, or community groups.
- Being a volunteer in early years and childcare programmes under the guidance of a practitioner.
- Being supported to become employed in a range of early years and childcare services or projects.
- Taking part in family learning activity and attending parent and child activities such as Parent and Toddler Groups, baby massage, baby signing and Bookstart.
- Through outreach programmes such as access to a Health Visitors, Home Start, and Right from the Start (which targets families who are not making use of Sure Start services).
- Providing incentives and practical support to enable parents to get involved, such as providing crèches, transport, expenses, training and qualifications.

The local Care to Learn Strategy offers career pathways into various sectors for teenage parents. Taster sessions are provided for teenage parents who have expressed a direct interest in working in a range of services, i.e. the early years sector, hairdressing, beauty and salon services. The courses had a direct impact on the increased figure for the take-up of the Care to Learn scheme. This also assisted with achieving target recruitment figures for the children's workforce in the early year's sector as a number of teenage parents progressed onto the NVQ level 2 in childcare.

Action 2006-2008

- Implement the Sure Start Parental Involvement Strategy with a particular focus on developing practice in Children's Centres and extending the Men Matter programme.

- Continue to develop and implement the 0-8 Projects Programme to enable parents to support their children's early learning.
- Continue to implement the Children's Workforce Recruitment programme including Care to Learn.

A big area for development in the borough is the involvement of men in their children's lives. This will be essential to combat the cultural issues in relation to the lack of good male role models for young boys. Some good programmes of work have been developed in the two Sure Start local programmes under the heading Men Matter. This work will need to be mainstreamed as part of the Sure Start Parental Involvement Strategy and developed across all Children's Centres.

5.6 Extended Schools

Many schools are already offering extended services to pupils, families and communities. In some cases schools are involved in the delivery or direction of these services, while other schools are working in partnership to provide access to enhanced opportunities for their pupils and communities.

Extended Schools are about building services in an integrated way around children and their families, using the school as the hub of the community to provide learning and welfare for children, families and the wider community. Extended services enable schools to focus on raising attainment, achievement and aspirations for all by challenging barriers to learning.

There is not one model of an extended school. What families need in one community will not necessarily be the same in another. There are, however, core services which it is expected will be available in or through all schools. Some elements of this core offer will be available to pupils and families throughout their school life while others are specific to either the primary or secondary phase.

By 2010, all schools are required to provide access to a core of extended services, with half of all primary schools and a third of all secondary schools doing so by 2008. The core offer will comprise:

High quality childcare provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements, where appropriate, available 8am – 6pm all year round.

- A varied menu of study support to be on offer, such as homework clubs, 'catch-up' provision, gifted and talented provision, sport, music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs, visits to museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering and enterprise activities.

- Parenting support, including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's service, and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents.
- Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services, such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, and sexual health services (some services could be delivered on school sites).
- Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.

Children's Centres and Extended Schools share the same philosophy and issues; this is particularly so in Wigan where for the most part Children's Centres are co-located on school sites. The core offer for Children's Centres is also reflected in the core offer for Extended Schools although the focus is on children under five and their families rather than school aged children.

We are encouraging schools to collaboratively work in clusters/networks around Children's Centres to share resources and expertise and develop partnership to ensure the development of extended services is based on local need.

More information regarding Extended Schools can be found in the Extended Schools Toolkit.

6 What are the benefits for children and families?

As the 10 Year Strategy Plan is gradually translated into action, families with young children will see more and more benefits, including:

- Less confusion about what services are available
- More services available under one roof, meaning less travelling
- Some children will have a key worker who can co-ordinate all the help they are entitled to, and bring it to their home where appropriate
- Good quality services that are welcoming to everyone, and focus on the child's individual development and needs
- Better support with family difficulties that can affect young children as they are growing up
- More co-ordinated protection from harm
- Better opportunities for parents to get involved and improve their own skills
- More direct information and incentives for parents to actively support their children's development and care

7 How can parents and carers get access to services for their children?

We are setting up a free membership scheme for all children under five living in designated areas (i.e. in or around a Sure Start Children's Centre). In addition children with additional needs will also get free membership which will enable them to use the mainstream services being offered by the Sure Start Children's Centres. Additional needs can include:

- Physical disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- English as a second language
- Children who have been identified as at 'risk'
- Children of Teenage Parents

All children in the membership scheme will have a range of benefits:

- Direct information about all the Sure Start
- Services that they are entitled to use Resource packs
- Information sheets for parents and carers relating to stages in the child's development (eg Foundation Stage at three years, Key Stage 1 at five years)

The membership scheme will be based on a pilot membership scheme developed in the Sure Start local programmes. Each child will have a unique number, so that we can make sure that all children and families get the support they need and the resources they are entitled to.

8 How does the Plan benefit people who provide services for children?

Early years, childcare and Children Centre services have access to support from a range of teams within Children and Young People's Services. This includes:-

- Business and sustainability advice, service development, Ofsted registration and inspection requirements.
- Training, qualifications and recruitment opportunities including funding.
- Quality assurance, including input from qualified teachers and area SENCOs, and achievement of Quality Standards.
- Inclusion, including dedicated SENCO support and where appropriate Portage and Inclusion Assistant input.
- Marketing and promotion of services to young children and their families, including the Children's Information Service, Startwrite and locally targeted information.
- Support, guidance and training in Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- Advice and support on Parental Involvement.

All services are now being co-ordinated and supported by area-based teams, training, quality assurance and information-sharing activities are being delivered in clusters or within easy reach of where services are based.

Shared/integrated practice and self-evaluation continue to be a key component of this work. Monitoring is being developed and improved to ensure that services exceed minimum standards and, in the case of those receiving grants, making sure they are underpinned by the 7 Sure Start Principles, and the targets and outcomes they have agreed to meet.

9 Jargon Buster

This section will explain words, phrases or acronyms from this booklet that you may not be familiar with.

Birth to 3 Matters

A framework to help support the development and learning of children 0 - 3 years old.

Building Schools for the Future

A Government initiative that will involve the review of all secondary schools with a view to improving the school and learning environment for all secondary school aged young people.

Care to Learn

A Government Scheme that enables young people with children to receive support with childcare to enable them to attend education or training.

Children's Information Service

A service provided by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust which helps parents and carers identify early education and childcare (fully, day, after school and holiday care).

Child Protection

A process that is managed by the local authority that ensures the most vulnerable children are no longer in danger from harm or abuse.

Commissioning

A process by which resources are assessed and services are developed and / or purchased to meet needs and outcomes, in this case for young children and their families.

Early Years Foundation Stage

A new curriculum framework which will be introduced in 2008 for children 0 to the end of the Reception year, that helps to support their learning and development. It will be based on the current Foundation Stage Curriculum Guidance and Birth to 3 Matters.

Extended Schools

A school that develops a range of extra curricular services to meet the needs of children, their family and the wider community.

Foundation Stage Curriculum Guidance

A curriculum framework which supports the learning and development of all children aged 3 to the end of their Reception year.

Healthy Schools

A Healthy School will be a school that has achieved a set of Standards that are designed to improve all aspects of the school in relation to supporting the child or young person's health, social and emotional development.

I CAN Early Talk

The I CAN Early Talk programme aims to create 'communication friendly' settings for all children with flexible pathways between settings to facilitate the provision of timely and appropriate support where a child may have difficulty with communication.

Inclusion Assistant

A practitioner whose role it is to provide an additional resource thereby facilitating the access to mainstream provision by children with additional needs.

Inclusion Strategy

A Wigan Borough Council Strategy which outlines how the authority intends to meet the educational needs of children with additional needs.

Job Centre Plus

A Government agency which is designed to help people back in to work or training.

Key Stage 1

A curriculum framework for children which follows on from the Foundation Stage for children in their first year of school after Reception.

LIFT

Local Implementation Finance Trust (LIFT) which is a public private partnership that helps to improve facilities for the delivery of health and social care services.

NVQ

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

PCT

Primary Care Trust (PCT) plans and commissions health services.

Portage

Portage is a home-visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional support needs and their families.

Resourced Unit

A school in Wigan that has a resourced unit will be a mainstream school that has additional resources to support the assessment process for children with additional needs.

Safe Guarding

A set of arrangements that all local authorities and their partners including service providers must have in place to enable them to carry out their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

SENCO

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is a role that all education services, including early years settings, should have in place with a view to ensuring the needs of children with additional needs are identified and met.

Startwrite

A termly magazine produced by Wigan Children and Young People's Services which is targeted at the early years and childcare sector.

Surplus Place Removal

The process by which school places are assessed in relation to population need and when they are surplus to requirements they are closed.

Wigan Quality Standard

A quality assurance scheme which supports the process of self assessment against a set of quality indicators with a view to improving the quality of early years and childcare services.