

Evolving Governance Arrangements (Guildford)

*Guildford Children's Centre, Surrey
March 2007*

Guildford Children's Centre opened in September 2002 and operates on two sites, both of which offer nursery provision - one in the town centre and one in North Guildford, plus a third site from a play bus.

Governance was originally managed through two bodies. A Centre Council included local parents, residents, councillors and representatives from health, social services and the voluntary sector. The nurseries had a governing body. Despite having link members to ensure a joint partnership, there were 'grey areas' of understanding and responsibility. The Centre Council is therefore being developed into a new Community Partnership, as part of an extended governing body.

The Community Partnership will include two to three governors and co-opted members from the community, partnership agencies and voluntary groups.

The planned outcome is for greater unity and consistency, with good understanding and visibility of all issues. There will be clear lines of communication and accountability and, through a diverse membership, will provide an opportunity to respond coherently to the needs of the local community. The Family Forum – a less formal user group - will continue to feed into the partnership and the exercise will also provide the opportunity to relaunch and promote involvement in the governance of the centre.

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