

News release

10 September 2009

Creating the Strongest Link for Sunderland Communities

Sunderland Children's Centres are looking to prove they are the 'strongest link' as they celebrate National Sure Start Children's Centre Week (14/09/09 – 19/09/09).

Children's Centres in Sunderland are creating a giant paper chain to promote the extent of services they offer to families. Every parent and child attending a National Sure Start Children's Centre event in Sunderland next week will be asked to add their very own link to the chain.

To help support the city's Sure Start celebrations, families will be able to design their paper link to highlight their favourite aspect of Children's Centres. At the end of the week each of the 17 centres' paper chains will be joined together to create the Sunderland Children's Centre Strongest Link.

Councillor Pat Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City within Sunderland City Council, said: "Sunderland Children's Centres offer families a huge number of services which are all designed to give every child the best start in life. The Sunderland Children's Centre Strongest Link is the perfect way to celebrate these services and demonstrate how Children's Centres are helping to build stronger communities.

"We would like everyone who visits a Children's Centre during National Sure Start Children's Centre Week to get involved and create their strongest link," Cllr Smith added.

Designed for children aged from birth to five years and their families, Sunderland Children's Centres bring together early education, childcare, health services and parenting support to help every child in Sunderland reach their full potential.

Through working in partnership with other local organisations the city's Children's Centres are able to offer a comprehensive network of services which are tailored to meet the needs of young children and their families.

National Sure Start Children's Centre Week aims to celebrate the vital services available to communities through Children's Centres. There will be free celebratory events and activities taking place throughout the week across the city's Children's Centres.

Location	Date	Time
Farringdon Jubilee Centre	Monday 14 September	1pm – 3pm
Sunderland Children's Centre (Grangetown) Grangetown Primary School	Monday 14 September	1pm – 2.30pm
Sunderland Children's Centre (Monument) Dubmire Primary School	Wednesday 16 September	9am – 11.30am
Sunderland Children's Centre (Washington) Rainbow Family Centre	Wednesday 16 September	1pm – 4pm
Sunderland Children's Centre Bunny Hill	Wednesday 16 September	3.30pm – 5.30pm
Raich Carter Sports Centre, Hendon	Wednesday 16 September	9am – 12noon
Sunderland Children's Centre (Hetton) Hetton Lyons Nursery School	Thursday 17 September	1pm – 3.30pm
Sunderland Children's Centre (Hendon) Hudson Road Primary School	Thursday 17 September	9 am – 11.30am
Ryhope Community Association	Thursday 17 September	1pm – 2.30pm
Ryhope Community Association	Saturday 19 September	10am – 11.30am