

Sure Start: celebration and reflection

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January 2019 marks twenty years since Tessa Jowell, then Public Health Minister, announced the first sixty Sure Start Trailblazer areas.

In tribute to Tessa Jowell, this half-day conference hosted by III in Feb 19 reflected on what has been learned from the evaluations of Sure Start and its successor, Children's Centres, what those involved at the time think now about the initiative, and what it has taught us as a way forward for integrated early years services.

[Event Programme and Speakers' Biographies](#)



Part 1

Welcome speech by **Professor John Hills** and **Torsten Bell**. Followed by **Naomi Eisenstadt** who described how Sure Start came to be, and some key features of the original design. This is followed by **Professor Melhuish** who gave main points on the comprehensive evaluation of Sure Start and **Professor Sylva** who provided a summary of the results of the evaluation of Children's Centres. Both presentations included key lessons for the future.

Podcast found here:

[Part 1](#)

Presentation slides here:

[Part 1](#)

Part 2

This session enabled a former civil servant who worked on the policy as well as commentators involved to reflect on their understanding of Sure Start, and comment on what they see as its strengths and weaknesses. With **Dr Kitty Stewart, Natalie Perera, Polly Toynbee, Baroness Philippa Stroud and Susie Owen**.

Podcast found here:

[Part 2](#)

Presentation slides here:

[Part 2](#)

Part 3

This final session reflected more broadly on different govt approaches to family policy over the last two decades, with **Carey Oppenheim**. Closing words were provided by **Jess Mills**, Daughter of **Tessa Jowell**.

Podcast found here:

[Part 3](#)

Presentation slides here:

[Part 3](#)