

# Agenda

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

**Friday, 1 July 2016, 9.00 am**  
**County Hall, Worcester**

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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اردو۔ اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی مشمولات کو سمجھنے سے قاصر ہیں اور کسی ایسے شخص تک آپ کی رسائی نہیں ہے جو آپ کے لئے اس کا ترجمہ کر سکے تو، براہ کرم مدد کے لئے 01905 765765 پر رابطہ کریں۔ (Urdu)

(Kurdish) نەگەر ئاتوانی تێبەگهی له ناوچە زکی نەم بپلەگهی و دەستت بە هیچ کەس نەگات کە و ههیهگێزێ تێوه بۆت، تکلیه تەلەفۆن بکە بۆ ژمارهی 01905 765765 و داوای رێنۆینی بکە (Kurdish)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸਮਝਣ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਇਸਦਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ 01905 765765 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

## DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:  
**'Disclosable pecuniary interests'** and **'other disclosable interests'**

### WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

**NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you**

### WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
  - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

**NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI**

### WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:  
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

### WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

### DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

### DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
  - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board Friday, 1 July 2016, 9.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

### Membership

#### Councillors:

Mr R M Udall (Chairman), Mrs E A Eyre (Vice Chairman), Mr A T Amos, Mr C J Bloore, Ms L R Duffy, Mr C B Taylor, Mr P A Tuthill and Mr T A L Wells

#### Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)

Bryan Allbut (Church of England) and Francis Mohan (Roman Catholic)

#### Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Ms C Richardson ((Parent Governor)) and Vacancy (Secondary)

### Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	
2	<b>Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	
3	<b>Public Participation</b> Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 30 June 2016). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/e-mail address below.	
4	<b>Call-In of the Cabinet Decision on the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children and Young People Including Optimising the Use of Children's Centre Buildings</b>	1 - 36

Agenda produced and published by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. For general enquiries: 01905 763763 Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765  
Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Alyson Grice (01905 844962)/Samantha Morris 01905 844963 email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agenda.aspx>

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 29 June 2016

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## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 28 JUNE 2016**

### **CALL-IN OF THE CABINET DECISION ON THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING OPTIMISING THE USE OF CHILDREN'S CENTRE BUILDINGS**

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#### **Summary**

1. In accordance with the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) needs to consider particular decisions taken by the Cabinet on 16 June 2016 in relation to the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children and Young People Including Optimising the Use of Children's Centre Buildings. These decisions have been called-in by the required number of Members – see Appendix 1. The reasons given for the call-in are set out in Appendix 1.

#### **Background**

2. Non-Cabinet Members have the power to call in Cabinet decisions in exceptional circumstances and normally only when there is evidence to suggest that Cabinet has departed from the principles of decision-making, as set out in Article 7 of the Constitution. If a decision is called in, it cannot be implemented until the call-in process is completed.
3. The called-in decision is considered by the OSPB, which then has the options set out in paragraph 8.

#### **Cabinet Decision**

4. The details and context behind the decision are set out in the report to Cabinet linked at appendix 2, and the Board is referred to that report. On 16 June 2016, Cabinet RESOLVED that:
  - c) **consultation on change of use for those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change as outlined in paragraph 26 (b) and Appendix 2 with the addition of Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be authorised;**
  - d) **the proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required as outlined in paragraph 26 (c) and Appendix 2 other than in relation to Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be approved;**
  - e) **the summary of impact of the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 and the need for further**

**equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes outlined in paragraph 40 be noted;**

- f) the final decisions for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, be delegated to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analysis; and**
- g) the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health be authorised to take all necessary steps within their respective responsibilities to give effect to the above including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and the Director of Commercial and Change be authorised to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.'**

### **Invitations to Attend**

- 5. In accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and scrutiny practice, a copy of which are available on the County Council's website [here](#) the following have been invited to attend the meeting:
  - Signatories to the call-in
  - Mr M L Bayliss, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families
  - Mr J H Smith, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being
- 6. The Director of Children, Families and Communities and Acting Director of Public Health have also been invited to attend.

(The Cabinet Members have been invited to provide a formal response to the call-in.)

### **Suggested Order of Business**

- 7. The OSPB may wish to adopt the following order of proceedings:
  - Presentation by members of the reasons for calling-in the decision.  
  
(Members are reminded that paragraph 17.10 of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules states that "*The first 3 members exercising the right of call-in and who are not either local members or members of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, an Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Scrutiny Task Group established to consider a call-in, are entitled to attend any meeting of that Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Scrutiny Task Group respectively considering the call-in and to speak but not vote.*")
    - Questions and Clarification
    - Response by the Cabinet Member/officer
    - Questions and Clarification
    - Any closing remarks by the Cabinet Member/officer

- Any closing remarks by those Members calling-in the decision.

### **Options available to the OSPB**

8. Having heard from all parties and considered the decision called-in, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board will:
  - a) accept the decision without qualification or comment (in which case it can be implemented immediately without being considered again by the Cabinet); or
  - b) accept the decision (in which case it can be implemented immediately without being considered again by Cabinet) but with qualification or comment which the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility must consider and respond to; or
  - c) propose modifications to the decision or require a reconsideration of the decision (in which case the implementation of the decision is delayed until the Cabinet has received and considered a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board); or
  - d) in exceptional circumstances ask the Council to consider whether option (a) (b) or (c) is appropriate (in which case the implementation is delayed until after the meeting of the Council to which it has been referred and, if Council resolves option (c), the Cabinet has reconsidered the matter having regard to the Council's view).

(The Council has no power to make final decisions in respect of matters which are the responsibility of the Cabinet.)

9. Such exceptional circumstances referred to in d) above may be if the decision called-in is one which the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board believes is one which:
  - the Cabinet cannot in law take; or
  - is reserved to the Full Council; or
  - raises issues of such exceptional significance and public interest to justify reference to the Full Council, although the final decision will rest with the Cabinet; or
  - is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

### **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1: Copy of the call-in (received 20 June 2016)

Appendix 2: (a) Agenda Report and (b) Extract of the draft Minutes of Cabinet: dated 16 June 2016 circulated to Members of the Board and available on the County Council Website [here](#)

Appendix 3: Cabinet Member Response to Call-in

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers,  
Commercial and Change Directorate (01905 844962/844963)

Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no further background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)



In accordance with the Constitution, I wish to call in the decision taken at Cabinet on the 16th June 2016 in relation to the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children And Young People Including Optimising The Use Of Children's Centre Buildings.

We believe that decision c) to g) taken by Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in regards to the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children And Young People Including Optimising The Use Of Children's Centre Buildings have not been taken in accordance with the principles of decision-making as detailed in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution.

Specifically we believe that Cabinet:

- has failed to demonstrate a clarity of aims and desired outcomes in that the report does not clarify which prevention/early help services will or will not be consulted on and may be impacted. It is unclear how the overall vision for 0-19 prevention services has been developed and what it actually is, especially given the failure of the original 0-19 tendering process.
- has failed to demonstrate it has conducted and taken account of due consultation. Cabinet has failed to demonstrate that it has taken account of the original Children Centre consultation exercise in which the majority of responses were supportive of the current approach. In addition the Cabinet report does not explain what the new consultation process will consist of, who will be consulted for each Children Centre and in what manner, and how the results of this exercise will be analysed and reported. Cabinet has also failed to demonstrate that the consultation process will be understood by consultees and the public as the Cabinet report makes no references to the specific services being consulted on for each Children Centre.
- has failed to demonstrate clear reasoning for the decisions being taken. It is unclear how the overall vision for 0-19 prevention services has been developed and what it actually is, especially given the failure of the original 0-19 tendering process. As the majority of those originally consulted were also supportive of the current approach Cabinet has failed to demonstrate clear reasoning as to why these consultation results were ignored.
- has failed to demonstrate it has fully taken into account the full implications of the decisions taken. As the report does not specify which services will and will not continue to be provided and to what degree, the Cabinet cannot make an assessment of the implication of their decision as they do not know who will be impacted by their decision.
- has failed to demonstrate it has acted within an open and transparent manner in that the Cabinet report does not contain details of the services that are to be consulted upon, it does not contain details of how the consultation process will be carried out and reported back, it does not contain details of what went wrong with the 0-19 tendering process or the views of Health Partners on that tendering process and the current approach being taken.

Peter McDonald  
Paul Denham  
Graham Vickery  
Luke Mallett  
Andy Fry  
Pat Agar  
Joe Baker  
Robin Lunn  
Pattie Hill

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**CABINET**  
**16 JUNE 2016****THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING  
OPTIMISING THE USE OF CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
BUILDINGS**

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**Relevant Cabinet Members**

Mr M Bayliss

Mr J Smith

**Relevant Officers**

Director of Children, Families and Communities

Interim Director of Public Health

**Recommendation**

**1. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children & Families and Health and Wellbeing recommend that Cabinet:**

- a) notes the outcome of the procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service set out in paragraph 3 of the report**
- b) approves the future plans for delivering effective prevention services, within the financial parameters set out in the report (particularly paragraphs 4 to 8 and 35 to 38) and the medium term financial plan, subject to any required consultation as set out in the report;**
- c) authorises consultation on change of use for those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change as outlined in paragraph 26 (b) and Appendix 2;**
- d) approves the proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required as outlined in paragraph 26 (c) and Appendix 2;**
- e) notes the summary of impact of the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 and the need for further equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes outlined in paragraph 40;**
- f) delegates the final decisions for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analyses; and**
- g) authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health to take all necessary steps within their respective**

**responsibilities to give effect to the above including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and authorises the Director of Commercial and Change to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.**

### **Context: effective prevention services**

2. Children and Families are a key area of focus in Worcestershire County Council's Corporate Plan. The Council recognises that demand for services for children, young people and families has been increasing, and wishes to strengthen its approach to prevention, identifying and dealing with problems at the earliest possible stage.

3. In November 2015, Cabinet agreed a new approach for children and families, based on investing in an integrated prevention service for 0-19s. An evidence based service specification was prepared and a full needs assessment was completed. An invitation to tender was published in March 2016, and no compliant bids were received.

4. Feedback from some potential providers supported the vision of the service but expressed concern about the level of transformational change required to bring the current services into line with the specification and vision. Current services include health visiting, school nursing, the Family Nurse Partnership, and some of the provision delivered by the Early Help providers. The Council remains committed to commissioning an integrated evidence-based 0-19 prevention service, using the £9.5 million Public Health Ring-fenced Grant funding as agreed in November 2015 by Cabinet. The Council also wishes to ensure that the lack of bids does not present risk for those families who are currently in receipt of services.

5. The Council therefore intends to move towards the integrated service, within the available budget envelope, as soon as possible and will vary, extend, align or integrate the existing contracts of the Early Help providers and the public health nursing services by 1 October 2016 up to 31 March 2019. This allows a two year period to work with existing providers to co-produce and transform services, working towards integration and achievement of the vision of the service specification during the lifetime of the extended contracts. The next procurement exercise would commence in time for a new service to be in place from 1 April 2019.

6. This will be on the condition of re-negotiating contracts, by 1 October 2016, in accordance with the available budgets ie £3million for Early Help Contracts (of which £1.5million is the PHRFG contribution for prevention service) and a further £8 million for Public Health Nursing Contracts. The development and integration of the prevention service will be taken forward through working in collaboration with existing providers through a Transformation Board approach led by Public Health.

7. In practice, this will mean the Early Help providers will be commissioned to provide evidence-based parenting support that will be predominantly focussed in areas of disadvantage as specified within the service specification. This support will be aligned with the Public Health nursing functions (which include parenting support) and emotional well-being service provided by the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and Family Nurse Partnership. All providers will be required to work together to develop the

prevention service, improve outcomes, remove duplication and/or repetition and determine integrated service pathways.

8. In addition to providing parenting support, the four Early Help providers will also be commissioned to deliver targeted family support and support to those young people who are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training with the remainder of the contract value (£1.5 million) for the same contract length. The specification for these aspects will be developed through co-design with commissioners and providers and agreed as part of the contract negotiations.

### **Children's Centres in Worcestershire**

9. In Worcestershire, the Council currently commissions four district-based providers (known as Early Help Providers) to deliver the 'core purpose' of children's centres across the six districts of Worcestershire. The core purpose, as defined in the statutory guidance, is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- child development and school readiness;
- parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
- child and family health and life chances.

Children's centre services can be provided either at a centre, as a virtual service via the internet for example, or by providing advice and assistance to parents in accessing services elsewhere. Statutory guidance is that children's centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as they are about providing premises in particular geographical areas.

10. To meet this core purpose the Early Help providers are expected to work in partnership with other providers e.g. early years educators, job centre plus and community health services. Their current responsibilities also include the management (running costs and minor internal repairs) of 32 Worcestershire County Council-owned buildings, all of which are used as a staff administrative base and/or a facility to deliver a range of services to the public from. It is estimated that the running costs (i.e. utility cost) of all 32 buildings equates to £250-£300k per year.

11. In November 2015 Cabinet agreed to formally consult with a wide range of stakeholders on the future use of children's centres buildings throughout Worcestershire. This consultation builds on a previous decision made by Cabinet in September 2012 to maximise the use of these buildings for wider Council services e.g. Social Care, Behaviour Support, School Basic Needs. The intention of the consultation was to establish views regarding the use of current buildings and what other potential uses there might be for buildings. Alternative options included use by schools, use by communities, and use by other services or potentially closure where no alternative use can be identified.

12. A summary of the results of the consultation (which ran from 26 November to 31 January 2016) is attached as Appendix 1. Over 2,000 responses to the consultation were received. The majority of responses were from existing service users who, as expected, continued to be supportive of the current approach. However, the consultation also generated a number of ideas about how these buildings can be used to

better support families and communities, although there was a limited response to the suggestion that children's centres buildings could be used by the wider community. Further clarification has since been sought from organisations submitting proposals and comments, including head teachers of schools with children's centre buildings on their site, and current service providers (including early help and childcare providers, social care and family support) in order to inform the proposals within this report.

### **Delivering sufficient good quality early years' education places**

13. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient early years and childcare places to meet the needs of families in the county. This includes the sufficiency of places for children accessing places through Nursery Education Funding, a universal entitlement for three and four year olds and available to 2085 disadvantaged two year olds. The Department for Education and Ofsted pay particular attention to the availability of places and the take up of Nursery Education Funding.

14. Data from the spring term 2016 demonstrates that 97% of three and four year olds were accessing a funded place and 72% of eligible two year olds. Whilst the take up of two year old places is broadly similar to that in other local authority areas, increased take up is required as research shows that good quality early years education can significantly improve outcomes for children and providing two year old funding will have a significant impact in terms of narrowing the gap for disadvantaged children.

15. Managing the early years market is challenging, particularly given that a large proportion of settings are privately run, and it is difficult to manage both the sufficiency duty and the increase in places for funded children. This will become more challenging in 2017 when the entitlement for many three and four year olds will increase from 15 hours per week to 30, and there will be a need to support the expansion and creation of new places across the county. In addition we need to ensure the quality of settings containing eligible 2 year old funded places to maximise the benefits of that good quality pre-school education can provide for these children.

16. Many buildings currently used by children's centres are ideal for early years and childcare services as they were created and designed with young children and their families in mind, and because they are located in well-populated areas where early years' places are needed. Also, they are all located on school sites and / or near existing early years' provision and would therefore offer an excellent opportunity to expand existing provision.

### **Optimising the use of children's centre buildings**

17. Children's centre buildings are one of many community assets where early childhood support and activities can be located and are not the only vehicle for delivering the children's centre core purpose. However, as an important community asset every effort should be made to ensure they are used to their full potential by the communities they are located in. This is likely to mean service provision will need to flex and change over time in accordance with local need.

18. There is no requirement for the integrated 0-19 prevention service to deliver from existing children's centre buildings. Other community assets will be utilised, and of

course much of the service (intensive home visiting or digital advice and information) does not rely on buildings at all. Not all children's centre buildings are located in areas of high need and so a variety of solutions can be developed.

19. In considering the proposed future use of the Council-owned children's centre buildings, the following categories of use have been considered:

- Continued use to deliver early childhood services (i.e. the children's centre statutory duty) by a range of providers including schools, childcare providers or family support providers.
- Use by school for normal provision i.e. to meet basic need
- Use for other service provision e.g. community library, health base, base for family contact
- Closure/disposal.

20. A centre by centre review has been carried out taking into account how each centre is currently used (they are all used differently), their location, feedback from the previous consultation and further discussions with schools, community groups and existing providers. Consideration has also been given to which organisation would be the most appropriate lease holder where centres will be used by a number of providers/organisation.

### **Consultation on changes to children's centres**

21. Under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006, Local Authorities must ensure there is consultation before:

- opening a new children's centre;
- making a significant change to the range and nature of services provided through a children's centre and / or how they are delivered, including significant changes to services provided through linked sites; and
- closing a children's centre; or reducing the services provided to such an extent that it no longer meets the statutory definition of a Sure Start children's centre.

22. Children's Centre Statutory guidance April 2013 (included in background papers) clarifies the expectations on local authorities (or a third party acting on the authority's behalf) around whom and when to consult regarding changes to children centres.

23. There are no proposals to formally close or reduce the services to extent that the statutory definition is no longer met. However, the proposals outlined in paragraph 26(b) would result in a 'significant change' from how the centre is currently used therefore a formal consultation will be carried out.

24. There is no national definition of 'significant change' when considering when consultation would be required. There is also a wide and varied use of centres so the impact of proposed changes will differ between centres. Therefore, a centre by centre approach has been taken based to assess the impact of the proposed changes on service users.

25. If approved, consultation on the proposals would start on 24 June 2016 and run for six weeks up to 5 August 2016 with the intention of decisions made ahead of the new

school term starting in September 2016. The Council will lead the consultation working closely with schools, existing providers and/or the new main provider of services. The consultation will be centre-specific and focus mainly on collecting views from service users on the proposals. Wherever possible, face to face consultation with service users will be held ahead of the start of school holidays to maximise attendance. School governing bodies and children's centre advisory boards will also be pro-actively targeted to seek view and confirm support for the proposals. There will also be the opportunity for wider stakeholders to feed in views about the centre specific proposals using an online survey.

### **Proposals for future use of buildings**

26. The proposals for each building are detailed in Appendix 2 (spreadsheet).

In summary they are:

- a) Worcestershire County Council, unlike other local authorities, remains committed to using these buildings for their core purpose to deliver early childhood services from and / or wider services that meet local need. Therefore there are no recommendations for the closure or disposal of buildings.
- b) As explained in paragraphs 23 to 24 formal consultation will be required for 17 buildings as the proposals for future use are considered to be significantly different to the services currently delivered from them as follows:

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Proposed change of use</b>	<b>Proposed lease holder</b>
Conkers at Hagley Primary School - Bromsgrove	Transfer to school for mixed use including increased childcare, before and after school provision and health provision	School
Tulip Tree at Catshill First School – Bromsgrove	Transfer to school for mixed use including support for children open to social care and health provision	School
Sunny Fields at Charford First School - Bromsgrove	Transfer to school to extend nursery provision and to release space for before and after school provision, parenting support and health provision	School
Riverboats at Upton upon Severn Primary School – Malvern Hills	Transfer to school to deliver early years provision along with health and wider early help services	School
Cherry Trees at Batchley First School - Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including early years provision	School
Maple Trees at Roman Way First School – Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including childcare and health provision	School
Maple Trees at Tenacres First School – Redditch	Transfer to school to deliver a fully operational nursery including increased early education provision.	School
Oaktrees at Oakhill First School –	Transfer to school for nurture and health provision and to support work with families	School



<b>Centre</b>	<b>Proposed change of use</b>	<b>Proposed lease holder</b>
Redditch	(social care and family support)	
Woodlands at Woodrow First School - Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including parenting support, nurture and additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision	School
Bluebell Wood at Perrywood Primary – Worcester City	Transfer to school for a range of provision including health, nursery and a potential safeguarding team base	School
Lavender at Oasis Academy – Worcester City	Transfer to school for mixed use including 2 year old funded provision, before and after school activities and support for parents	School
Applevale and Broadway First School – Wychavon	Transfer to school to deliver provision for parental engagement, joint work with the existing childcare provider and a space for community use.	School
Rainbow at St Mary's School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to childcare provider with access for health and other providers	Childcare provider
Chestnuts at Franche First School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to the school to deliver early education provision and continued offer of health related provision	School
Treetops at Birchen Coppice School – Wyre Forest	Develop a shared use between school, early help provider and childcare provision with the school being the lease holder	School
Half Crown Wood at Stourport Primary – Wyre Forest	Transfer to school to deliver increased early education provision	School
Riverside at Bewdley Primary School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to the school to deliver extended nursery provision along with continued use for other providers including health	School

c) Proposals for use of buildings where formal consultation is not required

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Proposals for future use</b>	<b>Proposed lease holder</b>
Pear Tree Sidemoor - Bromsgrove	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Sunshine Poolbrook Centre – Malvern Hills	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Sunshine The Grove Primary School – Malvern Hills	Continued use by parenting and family support providers	Parenting and Family Support provider
Hollytrees at St Stephen's First School - Redditch	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Hollytrees at St George's First School - Redditch	Formal transfer to school in line with current usage which will result in an increase in childcare places	School

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Proposals for future use</b>	<b>Proposed lease holder</b>
Oaktrees and St Luke's First School – Redditch	Formal transfer to childcare provider to maintain and increase childcare provision	Childcare provider
Buttercup at Fairfield Centre – Worcester City	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including health and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Saffron at Stanley Road Primary School – Worcester City	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including health provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Tudor Way at Dines Green Primary School – Worcester City	Continued and expanded use by parenting and family support providers including childcare and social care provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Blossomvale at Abbeypark First School - Wychavon	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including a base for family support	Parenting and Family Support provider
Greenwood at Wychbold First School	Currently used as an office space only – transfer to school to meet basic need and make available for multi-agency use	School
Orchard vale at Evesham Nursery School – Wychavon	Continued mixed use including parenting, family support, health and increased use for childcare provision	Nursery school or Parenting and Family Support provider
WANDS at Westlands First School - Wychavon	Continued and expanded use by parenting and family support providers including childcare, family support and potential community library	Parenting and Family Support provider
Halfcrown wood at St Bartholomew's Primary School – Wyre Forest	Continued use by parenting and family support providers	Parenting and Family Support provider
Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including a base for family support	Parenting and Family Support provider

### **Impact of proposals for the future use of buildings**

27. All of the proposals continue to meet the statutory definition of Sure Start children's centre.

28. Proposed uses would result in increased childcare provision in at least 11 buildings (see paragraphs 13 to 16 above regarding the need for additional early years and childcare places)

29. Proposed uses would result in the transfer of leases to schools and/or childcare providers in 20 cases.

30. The proposals would lead to increased use of the buildings (longer hours and/or wider range of providers) for early childhood services in the majority of buildings. As indicated in the detail in Appendix 2 there will also be a change to the mix of provision which may include a reduction in the range/variety of early childhood services in all buildings compared to current provision. An example would be a building currently used by a range of providers to deliver a mix of sessions and childcare/early years provision which may revert to predominantly childcare/early years provision with a weekly health-related session.

31. These proposals would be expected to lead to changes for parenting and family support providers, at a district level, as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Bromsgrove	Proposals would result in provision from one standalone centre by the current provider as well as delivery in other community venues including buildings transferred to schools. Currently four children's centre buildings are leased to the current provider.
Malvern Hills	Proposals would result in provision from two of the three centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues including one building leased to the school. An additional base is currently rented by the provider and this is also under review.
Redditch	Proposals would result in provision from one centre leased to the provider, and other community venues including at least one building leased to a school. Currently five main centre buildings and three outreach sites are leased to the provider. The provider also has access to a range of other buildings in the area from which to deliver services.
Worcester City	Proposals would result in provision from three of the five centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues. This level of provision reflects the needs of the provider for bases to support service delivery across the district.
Wychavon	Proposals would result in provision from three of the five centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues. This level of provision reflects the needs of the provider for bases to support service delivery across the district.
Wyre Forest	Proposals would result in provision from two centres leased to the provider, and other community venues including at least one building leased to a school. Currently six main centre buildings and one outreach sites are leased to the provider. The provider has access to other buildings in the area from which to deliver services.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

32. Cabinet's attention is specifically drawn to the various legal duties imposed by the Childcare Act 2006 as amended, summarised concerning children's centres in the statutory guidance linked as a background paper. The Council has a duty to improve the well-being of young children in its area and secure early childhood services are provided in an integrated manner calculated to facilitate access to them and maximise their benefit to parents and young children, including as far as reasonably practicable sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need and consideration of whether early childhood services should be provided through them.

33. Lease agreements are in place between Worcestershire County Council and Early Help/Childcare Providers for the use of the 32 buildings. All leases will be reviewed to ensure they reflect the agreed use. Where changes are proposed these leases will need to end by mutual agreement and then be re-instated with the new provider including where the school is taking over the use of the facility. All new leases will need to have built in flexibility to continue to ensure service provision is able to flex and change over time in accordance with local need. Leases will also stipulate the need to continue to brand centres as Sure Start children's centres. Leases are being used to continue to protect children's centre buildings as important community assets as well as mitigating the risk of financial clawback if centres close or no longer meet the statutory definition (all centres where there has been a capital investment are subject to financial clawback from the Department for Education). Leases will also apply where schools convert to academy status as the children's centre building is ring fenced and therefore out of scope of transfer.

34. There are no HR implications for staff employed by Worcestershire County Council. However, the four early help providers will be expected to review and adjust their staffing structures and levels in line with changes to their contract expectations and use of buildings.

35. The original values of the six 0-19 early help contracts equated to £8.5million in August 2013. These contracts were reduced across 2012-2016 by £4million and savings were phased in through using a reserve from the Early Intervention Grant to 'cashflow' the necessary budget reductions.

36. Further savings of £1.5million by early help providers will need to be delivered for 2017/18 with the implementation of integrated 0-19 prevention service with a reduced annual budget of £3million (£1.5m base budgets and £1.5m Public Health Grant). The implementation of integrated 0-19 prevention services will need to be delivered in this reduced budget envelope and providers will need to transform their services to bring the cost in line with a £3million annual budget.

37. Further savings of 10% by Public Health Nursing providers will need to be delivered by 17/18 due to reductions in the PHRFG as detailed in July 2015 Cabinet paper.

38. The optimisation of children's centre buildings will ensure that utility costs can be continued to be picked up by the new lease holder, and avoid a further burden on local authority budgets. An annual sum of £250k is retained for property maintenance and ensure to ensure the Council's asset is preserved.

### **Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments**

39. The proposals support the need to significantly shift resources to focus on delivery in disadvantaged communities and to those at risk to tackle the inequalities in outcomes between those communities and those that are more advantaged. A full PHIA has not been completed.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

40. An equality impact assessment (see background papers) was carried out in respect of the initial redesign and 'considerable potential positive impact' for Protected groups

was identified. However, the potential impact of proposals listed in paragraph 26 (b) will need to be individually assessed for each of the centres in order that local usage and other relevant factors can be taken into account. This individual centre by centre assessment will be carried out prior to the final decision on the use of the buildings and taking into account the outcome of the formal consultation on the proposed changes.

### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Children's Centre Building Consultation
- Appendix 2 – Detailed spreadsheet on proposed future use of children's centre buildings

### **Contact Points**

#### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### Specific Contact Points for this report

Names: Hannah Needham or Liz Altay

Tel: 01905 843658 or 01905 846503

Email: [hneedham@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hneedham@worcestershire.gov.uk) or [laltay@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:laltay@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Children's Centre Statutory Guidance
- Equality impact assessment
- [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6506/2015\\_early\\_help\\_needs\\_a  
ssessment](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6506/2015_early_help_needs_assessment)

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# Worcestershire County Council Directorate of Children, Families and Communities Children's Centre Buildings Summary Report

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Contact: Debbie Herbert

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## Background information

Early Help services for children and young people in Worcestershire include those services currently delivered in and from a number of Children's Centre buildings.

A recent Early Help Needs Assessment made a number of recommendations to improve key outcomes for children and young people:

- Redesign the approach to 0-19 prevention and early help to include universal provision but with greater resources targeted at those at risk or where problems have emerged (often referred to as a progressive universal approach)
- Fully commission and implement the local Healthy Child Programme (HCP) led by midwifery, health visiting and school nursing and preventive interventions such as parenting, support and building family and community resilience, avoiding duplication and ensuring appropriate skill mix.
- Review, identify and commission only evidence-based interventions consistently across the county and in accordance with NICE guidance
- Ensure a renewed focus in early years provision on maternal mental health, secure attachment, nutrition and exercise, language & communication, high quality early years education and childcare to improve school readiness
- Review local provision for supporting parenting, promoting resilience and good emotional health & well-being and for the prevention of young people who are not in education, employment or training
- Focus Children's Centres on disadvantaged areas, making use of a "virtual" service in more advantaged areas
- Develop a new workforce approach, to work in a more integrated way in support of the 'whole family' and with other services to collectively reduce dependency and empower parents, and
- Review and implement an effective digital advice and information service to parents and families

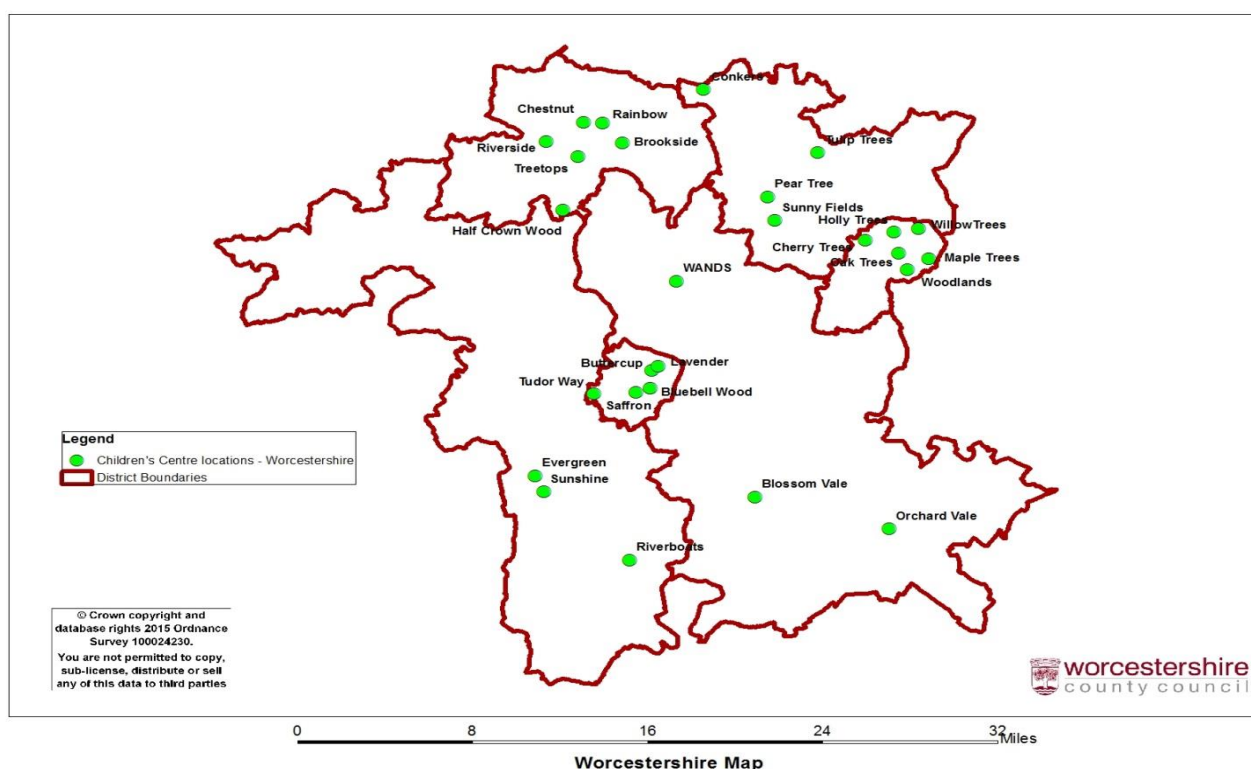
Implementing these recommendations, so as to improve outcomes for children and young people, and make the best use of the money available, will include commissioning a new 0-19 integrated prevention service (Starting Well)

[The full assessment can be accessed here](#)

## Worcestershire's Children Centre and Children Centre buildings

There are 29 designated Children's Centres across Worcestershire. Services are delivered through a variety of venues including 34 dedicated children's centre buildings, community halls, libraries and individual family homes. 32 of the 34 dedicated children's centre buildings are owned by Worcestershire County Council.

The main sites are shown on the map below:



District	Children's Centres (including outreach buildings)
Bromsgrove	Conkers, Pear Tree, Sunny Fields. Tulip Trees
Malvern	Riverboats, Sunshine (Poolbrook), Sunshine (The Grove Primary School)
Redditch	Cherry Trees, Holly Trees (St. George's First School), Holly Trees (St. Stephen's First School), Maple Trees (Ten Acres First School), Maple Trees (Roman Way First School), Oak Trees (Oak Hill First School), Oak Trees (St. Luke's First School), Woodlands
Worcester City	Bluebell Wood, Buttercup, Lavender, Saffron, Tudor Way
Wychavon	Apple Vale, Orchard Vale/Spring Vale, Blossom Vale, Greenwood, WANDS
Wyre Forest	Rainbow, Chestnut, Tree Tops, Half Crown Wood (St. Bartholomew's Primary School), Half Crown Wood (Stourport Primary School), Riverside, Brookside

## Use of Children's Centre Buildings

Worcestershire County Council has already made the decision (following consultation in 2012) to maximise the use of these buildings, including proposals to use Children's Centre buildings more flexibly across the age ranges (0-19) and maximising the use of buildings for wider Council services e.g. Social Care, Behaviour Support, School Basic Needs.

This decision was in line with the statutory definition of a Children's Centre as "a place or group of places managed by or on behalf of .... the local authority with a view to ensuring that early childhood services are made available in an integrated way..."

Early childhood services are defined as:

- Early years provision (early education and childcare);
- Social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;
- Health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;
- Training and employment services to assist parents or prospective parents; and
- Information and advice services for parents and prospective parents

Services can be provided either at a centre, as a virtual service via the internet for example, or by providing advice and assistance to parents in accessing services elsewhere.

## Children's Centre Building Consultation

Worcestershire County Council, in line with its statutory responsibilities, launched a consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 running to the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to seek the views on the future use of Children's Centre buildings. This consultation aimed to determine, on a building by building basis, how these important community assets can be best used in order to provide the right support to those that need it most. All current buildings were included in the consultation. All options were welcomed and included

- Use for the delivery of integrated 0-19 service (Starting Well),
- use by schools, communities or other services,
- or potentially closure where no suitable use can be identified.

The consultation was promoted widely across the county through a variety of channels. This included the Council website, local press and via social media (including paid targeted Facebook advertising). Information and website links was also shared with potential providers for the Starting Well service, health colleagues, schools and Positive Activities providers as well as through the Health and Well-being Board and County Councillors. Early Help Providers (who manage Children's Centres) did a lot to promote the consultation themselves including displaying posters, hosting face-to-face feedback sessions and providing information to parents via activity sessions, their website and their social media pages.

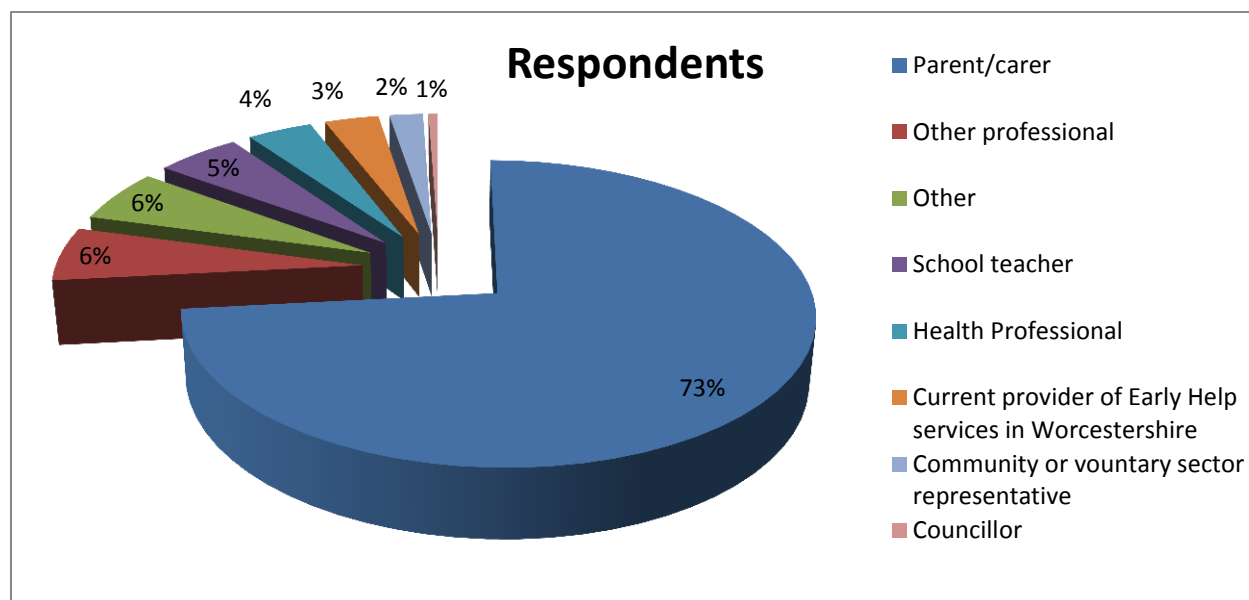
The consultation asked the following questions:

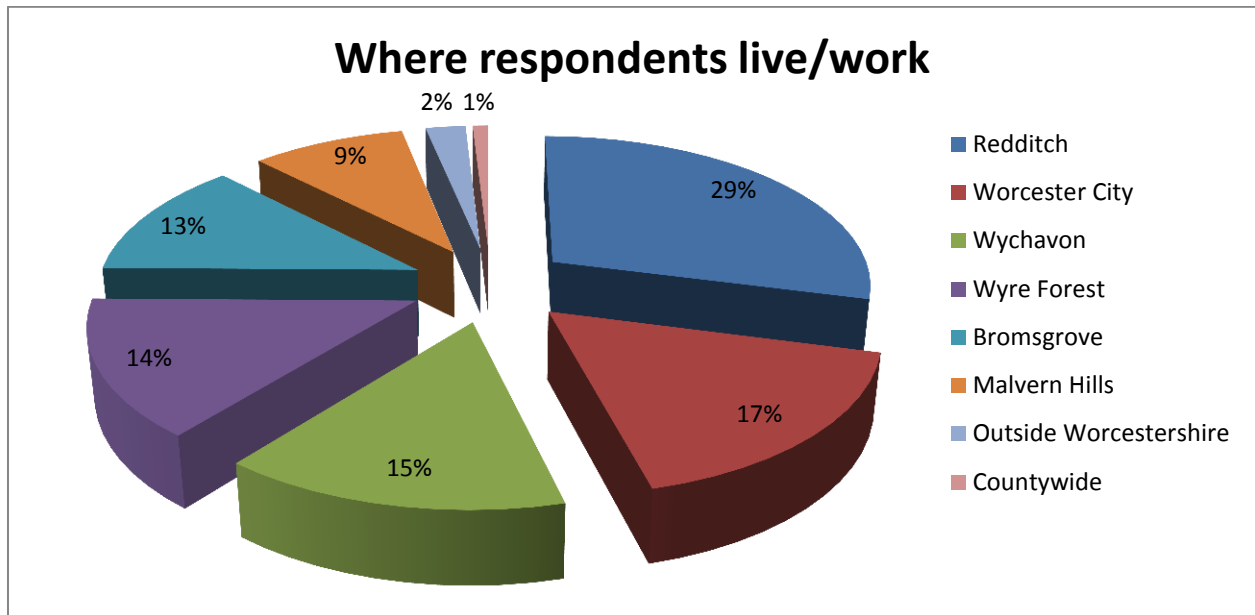
1. What is your interest in Children's Centre buildings? – options were school teacher; parent/carer; Health professional; other professional; current provider of Early Help services in Worcestershire; Councillor; Community or Voluntary Sector representative; other (with an option to specify)
2. Where do you live work? – options included all six districts in Worcestershire; countywide; outside of Worcestershire
3. In general, how do you think that current early help buildings should be used in the future? – respondents could add free text to comment
4. Would you like to comment on the potential use of any specific building(s)? – respondents could select from the list of children's centre buildings used by current Early Help Providers and a list of ways in which the building could be used in the future
5. Please include any additional comments you have here - respondents could add free text to comment

## Summary of the consultation responses

There were over 2000 responses (2171 on-line) to the survey. The majority of responses were from parents and carers, making up nearly three quarters of the respondents, and most of these will have been current service users surveyed during engagement sessions and by the current service providers.

The charts below give further detail on the different categories of stakeholders who responded and where they lived/worked.

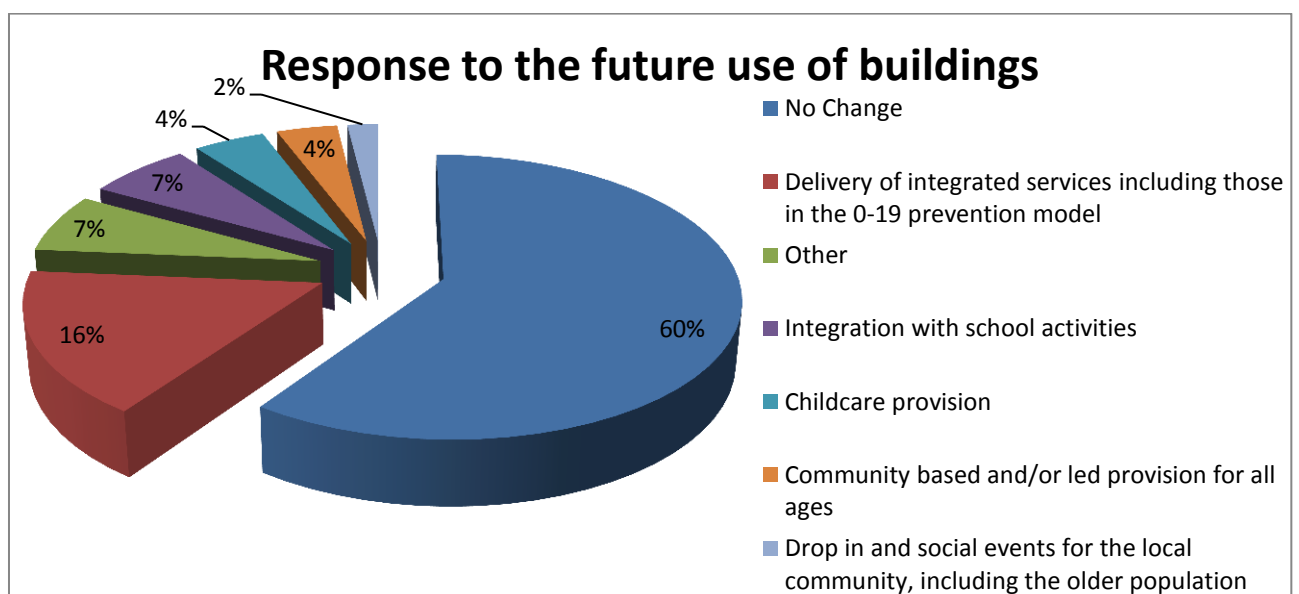




Question 4 asked respondents to select from the following options for future use of the list of children's centre buildings:

- No change
- Delivery of integrated services including those in the 0-19 prevention model
- Childcare provision
- Integration with school activities
- Community based and/or led provision for all ages
- Drop-in and social events for the local community including the older population
- Other

The chart below outlines the responses with 60% of respondents suggesting no change, 16% delivery of integrated services, including those in the 0-19 prevention model/Starting Well service and 7% integration with schools:



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Whilst responses were received for all the buildings/centres in the consultation, the number of responses varied from 23 to 249 reflecting both the use of the building and the efforts to promote the on-line survey at individual sites. Some responses included comments on more than one building:

<b>Children's Centre</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Cotton Wood - Wythall Library - non-WCC building*	23
Sunshine - The Grove Primary School	27
Teme Valley - non-WCC building*	27
Conkers - Hagley Primary School	34
Greenwood - Wychbold First School	67
Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School	67
Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School	69
Half Crown Wood - St Bartholomew's Primary School	80
Apple Vale - Broadway First School	90
Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School	98
Sunshine - Pickersleigh Poolbrook Centre	101
Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School	105
Tudor Way - Dines Green Primary School	107
Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School	108
Riverside - Bewdley Primary School	108
Brookside - Comberton Primary School	115
Maple Trees - Ten Acres First School	121
Blossom Vale - Abbey Park First School	122
Chestnut - Franche Primary School	124
Sunny Fields - Charford First School	128
Buttercup - Fairfield Centre	132
Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon	135
Saffron - Stanley Road Primary School	139
Evergreen - non-WCC building*	141
Holly Trees - St George's First School	143
Tulip Tree - Catshill First School	146
Oak Trees - St Luke's First School	150
Orchard Vale / Spring Vale - Evesham Nursery School	150
Pear Tree - Sidemoor (Standalone building)	170
Maple Trees - Roman Way First School	177
WANDS - Westlands First School	177
Oak Trees - Oak Hill First School	186
Holly Trees - St Stephen's First School	191
Woodlands - Woodrow First School	194
Willow Trees - Church Hill Community Centre - non-WCC* building	229
Cherry Trees - Batchley First School	249

\*these centres were included for completeness to ensure that all current centre users could comment on their particular centre/site.

## Proposals for alternative/additional use of Children's Centre buildings

Many respondents supported the continued delivery of Children's Centre activities (including childcare) from these buildings (60%), and the delivery of integrated services including those in the 0-19 prevention model (16% of those completing the on-line survey).

In addition, respondents proposed a wide range of potential future uses of the buildings either via the on-line survey or by direct communication with Children's Services. These proposals can be grouped into the following categories:

- Additional childcare, in particular funded places
- Specialist SEN provision for a range of age groups
- Integration with school activities/extended school provision/nurture base
- Family contact and safeguarding services including case conferences and 1:1 work with children
- Use by local community partnership/community use
- Library services
- Touchpoint/base for county council staff based in the community

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District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Bromsgrove	Conkers - Hagley Primary School	Park Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, DY9 0NS	Strong proposals from school to provide funded childcare places on site, with potential for sessional use by partners for delivery of eg health visitor/midwife sessions. School have also proposed wider use of building for the delivery of after school and holiday provision plus evening/weekend sessions	Y	Sessions such as stay and play, baby clinics and mother and toddler groups are delivered in and from this building by a mix of independent providers, parents, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Childcare provision should increase together with before and after school provision.	Transfer to school
Bromsgrove	Pear Tree - Sidemoor (Standalone building)	Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LW	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including childcare and family support.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Bromsgrove	Sunny Fields - Charford First School	Lyttleton Avenue, Charford, Bromsgrove, B60 3FG	Proposal to transfer to school to extend nursery provision and to release space for before and after school clubs, parenting support and health provision if needed.	Y	Sessions such as young mums stay and play, midwife clinics baby yoga etc are delivered in and from this building by a mix of independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Childcare provision should increase and health provision could continue.	Transfer to school
Bromsgrove	Tulip Tree - Catshill First School	Gibb Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 0JP	School has expressed an interest on using the CC to facilitate support for children open to social care and families needing support. CC would become the entrance to the school (improving security), releasing other areas for confidential meetings etc. Delivery of health related services would continue to be supported.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and before and after school provision	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Malvern Hills	Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School	Price's Lane, Upton-upon-Severn, WR8 0LY	School are keen to use the space to deliver funded childcare places for 2 year olds, and would propose allowing ante-natal and breast feeding support to continue. Potential also for other providers (including Early Help) to use the space for delivery of early years related sessions if needed.	Y	The centre is currently closed two days a week. Under these proposals the centre should be better utilised throughout the week with an increase in 2 year old funded places being the main change. Some sessions may stop or move to other venues, health provision should remain.	Transfer to school
Malvern Hills	Sunshine - Pickersleigh Poolbrook Centre	Poolbrook, Bluebell Close, Malvern, WR14 3SW	No change proposed. Space is integral to the wider centre provision and serves a 30% SOA. Active health provision on site.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Malvern Hills	Sunshine - The Grove Primary School	Pickersleigh Road, Malvern, WR14 2LU	No change proposed. The building is needed as a base for the provision of integrated 0-19 services	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Redditch	Cherry Trees - Batchley First School	Cherry Tree Walk, Batchley, Redditch, B97 6PD	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including community provision, parenting support, additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision if needed.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school will allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and community use	Transfer to school
Redditch	Holly Trees - St Stephen's First School	Mabey Avenue, Redditch, B98 8HW	Building currently leased to RBC on a 25 year lease. Strong support to maintain childcare provision on site and a range of services for families, including early years.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	Leased to RBC on a 25 year lease. No change

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Redditch	Holly Trees - St George's First School	Stevenson Avenue, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 8LU	School are keen to use this additional space for the provision of funded childcare places. This is an outreach site and few services are currently delivered due to the small amount of space available.	N	This is an outreach site and few services are currently delivered in the building due to the small amount of space available.	Transfer to school
Redditch	Maple Trees - Ten Acres First School	Quilbury Close, Winyates East, Redditch, B98 0PB	Strong proposal from school to expand the existing playgroup to a fully operational nursery. This is currently an outreach centre and the proposal would make more effective use of the space. Potential for sessional use by partners can be explored.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site by a mix of providers, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Redditch	Maple Trees - Roman Way First School	Colts Lane, Winyates West, Redditch, B98 0LH	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including childcare and health provision if needed.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and continuing before and after school provision	Transfer to school
Redditch	Oak Trees - Oak Hill First School	Wirehill Drive, Lodge Park, Redditch, B98 7JU	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including parental support and programmes, nurture groups, mentoring and wider health provision if needed,	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and will maximise the use of the building	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Redditch	Oak Trees - St Luke's First School	Plymouth Road, Redditch, B97 4NU	Strong support for the existing childcare provider to continue to deliver provision as the main user of the site. Discussions needed on better integration with the school provision and use of the building during holidays.	N	Childcare provider will maintain and increase childcare provision at this site	Transfer to childcare provider
Redditch	Woodlands - Woodrow First School	Longdon Close, Woodrow, Redditch, B98 7UZ	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including community use, parenting support, additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Worcester City	Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School	St. Alban's Close, Worcester, WR5 1PP	School proposing to use the space for a range of uses including health related provision, expanded nursery provision, parental engagement, and to meet basic school need. Worcester South safeguarding team also need provision in this area if mixed use were to be negotiated.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Worcester City	Buttercup - Fairfield Centre	Fairfield Primary School, Carnforth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9HG	This is already a mixed use CC on a wider mixed use site.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Worcester City	Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon	Edgeworth Close, Worcester, WR4 9PE	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including 2 year old funded provision, before and after school activities and support for parents	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Worcester City	Saffron - Stanley Road Primary School	Stanley Road, Worcester, WR5 1BD	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including health provision if needed.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Worcester City	Tudor Way - Dines Green Primary School	Tudor Way, Worcester, WR2 5QH	Proposal to maintain the existing mix of provision on site including nursery provision (provider has a 25 year lease), and to explore the possibility of accommodating some family contact provision.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wychavon	Apple Vale - Broadway First School	Lime Tree Avenue, Broadway, WR12 7BD	School have expressed interest in using the space to facilitate provision for parents, meetings with parents and joint work with playgroup (which would remain on site) prior to children joining reception, and as a space for community use/rental.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and help, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals	Transfer to school
Wychavon	Orchard Vale / Spring Vale - Evesham Nursery School	Four Pools Lane, Evesham, s	Currently has mixed provision of early years, childcare and health provision. Additional demand for childcare places. Proposal is that mixed use continues with discussions between providers to maximise the use of the building, including evenings and weekends.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	Possible transfer to nursery school (tbc)
Wychavon	Blossom Vale - Abbey Park First School	Abbey Road, Pershore, WR10 1DF	This is a small centre situated directly between two schools. The continued use of the centre is supported by the school, as well as a base for the linked family support worker.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wychavon	Greenwood - Wychbold First School	School Lane, Wychbold, Droitwich, WR9 7PU	Strong proposal from school to integrate building and to make available for professional meetings etc, and to support school's basic accommodation needs.	N	The building is currently used as an office and meeting room only. No direct impact on delivery of session based activity.	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Wychavon	WANDS - Westlands First School	Farmers Way, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9EQ	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including childcare and health care provision. Explore potential for additional community use of this building (including library services) as this seems to be an identified need.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wyre Forest	Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School	Stoney Lane, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 2LX	Proposal to transfer the building to the current childcare provider with continued access for health and integrated 0-19 provision in order to maximise the use of the building	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to childcare provider
Wyre Forest	Chestnut - Franche Primary School	Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 5QB	Strong proposal from school to use the rooms for unmet childcare needs (including 2 year old funded places and additional 3 year old hours), to support meetings with parents of children in childcare and for the continued delivery of health related provision on site.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. Childcare provision will increase.	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School	Woodbury Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7JJ	This is a large centre - proposal is that discussions are held between school, childcare provider and current early help provider to ensure that the centre is fully utilised for the provision of a mixed delivery of childcare and early years services including health related services.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. The intention is to maximise the use of the building across school, health, childcare and early help providers.	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Half Crown Wood - St Bartholomew's Primary School	Princess Way, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 0EL	Strong support for this centre to continue to provide a range of services, including support from school for 0-19 services.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Wyre Forest	Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School	Park Lane, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 8SH	Strong support for the expansion of current nursery provision from mornings to full days. It is currently an outreach centre with occasional use in the afternoons which could be delivered if necessary from alternative venues.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Riverside - Bewdley Primary School	Stourport Road, Bewdley, DY12 1BL	The centre is currently used part of the time for nursery provision and part for CC activities. Proposal is to transfer to the school for extended nursery provision with continued access for health and early help provision.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. The intention is to maximise the use of the building across school, health, childcare and early help provision.	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Brookside - Comberton Primary School	Borrington Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 3ED	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including health provision if needed.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change

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## Appendix 2 (b) – Draft Cabinet Minutes 16 June 2016

### 1734 Optimising the Use of Children Centre Buildings (Agenda item 5)

The Cabinet considered the future plans for delivering effective prevention services for Children and Young People including optimising the use of Children's Centre Buildings. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Communities introduced the report and commented that it was recommended that the Council work with Early Help providers and public health nursing services to transform service provision and move towards a new integrated approach. The Council faced significant financial challenges in the future which would mean that the service would need to work with providers to deliver services in a more cost effective way with continued focus on improving outcomes for children, particularly those in greatest need. It was not intended to close any Children's Centres but rather identify different uses for the buildings and therefore it was proposed that consultation arrangements be commenced where changes occurred with due diligence on quality impact. There would not be any County Council redundancies but there might be an impact on provider organisations but every attempt would be made to minimise that impact. The Early Help contracts had reduced to £4.5m and were expected to reduce to £3m by 2017/18. The use of a reserve from the Early Intervention Grant had helped protect services but would be exhausted in this financial year. An amendment was proposed that further consideration be given to a change of use of the at the Brookside Children's Centre at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest and a formal decision be taken following consultation
- The Cabinet Member for Health emphasised that the proposals were only going out for consultation at this stage. It was encouraging that informal feedback from schools regarding the change of use of the buildings was positive as it would provide greater flexibility in the use of the buildings by schools. The service would change in the future and therefore it was important to target particular young people in need rather than across the board
- The Chairman of the Children, Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity for the Committee to meet the relevant Cabinet members at a future scrutiny meeting in July 2016

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- It was important to use the funding envelope and resources available to target the most needy and vulnerable children in society
- For the proposals to be a success, it was vital that head teachers and governing bodies were fully informed of the proposals in their school given their leading role
- A member from outside the Cabinet welcomed the proposed amendment to include Comberton Primary School in the consultation arrangements. There had been progress in tackling the number of NEET's and RONIs and it was important that these proposals did not impact on progress made to date. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Communities commented that it was important to continue to monitor the number of NEETS effectively and keep it as a priority
- A member from outside the Cabinet commented that the proposals represented a budget reduction to children's services and ignored the views of the majority of people who were satisfied with the current service provision. He was concerned that leasing facilities to Academies could lead to charging arrangements in the future. People required face-to face interaction not a virtual service. To be meaningful, the consultation process should be held after the consideration by the Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Communities emphasised that there were no proposals to close any Children's Centres as a result of these proposals. The proposed leases would guarantee usage to a category appropriate to children's centres. It was not appropriate to delay the consultation process because the Scrutiny Committee would not meet until July which would mean that the consultation exercise would take place during the school holiday period
- A member from outside the Cabinet expressed concern about the vague nature of the proposals and the potential staff redundancies. She also queried what provision would be made in the Bromsgrove area and in particular at Conkers at Hagley Primary School. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Communities responded that all councillors would be contacted about proposals in their division.

### **RESOLVED: that**

- a) **the outcome of the procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service set out**

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in paragraph 3 of the report be noted;

- b) the future plans for delivering effective prevention services, within the financial parameters set out in the report (particularly paragraphs 4 to 8 and 35 to 38) and the medium term financial plan be approved, subject to any required consultation as set out in the report;
- c) consultation on change of use for those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change as outlined in paragraph 26 (b) and Appendix 2 with the addition of Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be authorised;
- d) the proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required as outlined in paragraph 26 (c) and Appendix 2 other than in relation to Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be approved;
- e) the summary of impact of the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 and the need for further equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes outlined in paragraph 40 be noted;
- f) the final decisions for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, be delegated to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analyses; and
- g) the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health be authorised to take all necessary steps within their respective responsibilities to give effect to the above including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and the Director of Commercial and Change be authorised to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.

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# THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING OPTIMISING THE USE OF CHILDREN'S CENTRE BUILDINGS – CABINET MEMBERS RESPONSE

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### Relevant Cabinet Members

Mr M Bayliss

Mr J Smith

### Relevant Officers

Director of Children, Families and Communities

Interim Director of Public Health

### Cabinet Members Response

The call-in identified a number of challenges to Cabinet, all of which have been answered in turn below.

**Call-in challenge one:** Cabinet has failed to demonstrate a clarity of aims and desired outcomes in that the report does not clarify which prevention/early help services will or will not be consulted on and may be impacted. It is unclear how the overall vision for 0-19 prevention services has been developed and what it actually is, especially given the failure of the original 0-19 tendering process.

**Call-in response one:** The report clarifies that consultation will be on change of use of buildings. The overall vision and proposed development of the 0-19 prevention service was outlined in paras 9 – 17 of the 19 November Cabinet paper. These paragraphs explained that a comprehensive Early Help Needs Assessment had been completed as a first stage in the commissioning cycle and gave the conclusions and recommendations of the needs assessment. The needs assessment and other relevant documents were listed as background papers, and these helped to define the overall vision. The needs assessment included extensive data analysis as well as review of best practice guidance and national requirements. The November and June Cabinet papers clarify that the 0-19 integrated prevention service includes health visiting, family nurse partnership, school nursing and some of the provision delivered by Early Help Providers.

**Call-in challenge two:** Cabinet has failed to demonstrate it has conducted and taken account of due consultation. Cabinet has failed to demonstrate that it has taken account of the original Children Centre consultation exercise in which the majority of responses were supportive of the current approach. In addition the Cabinet report does not explain what the new consultation process will consist of, who will be consulted for each Children Centre and in what manner, and how the results of this exercise will be analysed and reported. Cabinet has also failed to demonstrate that the consultation process will be understood by consultees and the public as the Cabinet report makes no references to the specific services being consulted on for each Children Centre.

**Call-in response two:** In November 2015, Cabinet agreed to formally consult with a wide range of stakeholders on the future use of children's centres buildings. The intention of the consultation was to establish views regarding the use of current buildings

and what other potential uses there might be for buildings. Over 2,000 responses to the consultation were received. The majority of responses were from existing service users who, as expected, continued to be supportive of the current approach regarding the use of building. However, the consultation also generated a number of ideas about how the buildings could be used to better support families and communities. All of the responses has been taken into account as the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 in the June 2016 report and do not include closure or disposal of buildings but retains all buildings for ongoing future use.

**The June Cabinet report explains that the new consultation on optimising the use of children's centre buildings** "would start on 24 June 2016 and run for six weeks up to 5 August 2016 with the intention of decisions made ahead of the new school term starting in September 2016. The Council will lead the consultation working closely with schools, existing providers and/or the new main provider of services. The consultation will be centre-specific and focus mainly on collecting views from service users on the proposals" **as well as there being the "opportunity for wider stakeholders to feed in views about the centre specific proposals using an online survey" (para 25).**

Expanding on the text within the Cabinet report, consultation documents are being prepared for each centre. These documents explain in more detail the current services delivered from the specific centre and explain what the alternative proposals will be. Face to face sessions will be carried out with service users within each Centre. These will be led by the Local Authority but be supported by the school or childcare provider (whoever is proposing to take over the lease). Results will be analysed by Worcestershire County Council's Research unit.

**Call-in challenge three:** Cabinet has failed to demonstrate clear reasoning for the decisions being taken. It is unclear how the overall vision for 0-19 prevention services has been developed and what it actually is, especially given the failure of the original 0-19 tendering process. As the majority of those originally consulted were also supportive of the current approach. Cabinet has failed to demonstrate clear reasoning as to why these consultation results were ignored.

**Call-in response three:** The overall vision for 0-19 prevention services, how it has been developed and what it actually is has been given above in response to call-in challenge one. The vision was based on the findings of a comprehensive needs assessment which was referenced in the November Cabinet report.

The tendering process did not receive any compliant bids although due process was followed. The development of the service specification included engagement with partners and the public as described in the November Cabinet paper, including the local NHS. Potential providers supported the vision of the 0-19 service specification.

As described the consultation feedback around the use of the children's centre buildings showed that many users of children's centres were supportive of the current approach with regard to the use of the buildings. The proposals for alternative use of buildings all continue to support the use of the centres for early childhood services and it is envisaged that in the majority of cases an increase of community services (e.g. early year's education) will be provided

**Call-in challenge four:** Cabinet has failed to demonstrate it has fully taken into account the full implications of the decisions taken. As the report does not specify which services

will and will not continue to be provided and to what degree, the Cabinet cannot make an assessment of the implication of their decision as they do not know who will be impacted by their decision.

**Call-in response four:** This will be addressed as in e) of the June Cabinet report. The planned consultation and further impact assessment will be carried out to inform final decision making.

**Call-in challenge five:** Cabinet has failed to demonstrate it has acted within an open and transparent manner in that the Cabinet report does not contain details of the services that are to be consulted upon, it does not contain details of how the consultation process will be carried out and reported back, it does not contain details of what went wrong with the 0-19 tendering process or the views of Health Partners on that tendering process and the current approach being taken.

**Call-in response five:** Due procurement process was followed and ended when no compliant bids were received. As explained in the report, feedback from potential providers supported the vision of the service but expressed concern about the level of transformational change required to bring the current services into line with the specification and vision. 'Potential providers' in this context included a health partner.

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