

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 15 JULY 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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#### **Summary**

1. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, and Health and Well-being and the Director of Children, Families and Communities and Interim Director of Public Health have been invited to the meeting to discuss the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children and Young People Including Optimising the Use of Children's Centre Buildings.
2. Early years providers and representatives from schools have also been invited to the meeting to give their views on the proposed changes.

#### **Background**

3. On 16 June 2016, Cabinet considered the Provision of Effective Prevention Services for Children and Young People Including Optimising the Use of Children's Centre Buildings and **RESOLVED: that**
  - a) **the outcome of the procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service set out 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.**

4. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, parts (c) to (g) were subsequently called-in. If a decision is called-in, it cannot be implemented until the call-in process is completed.

5. The call-in was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 1 July 2016. The Board agreed to accept the decisions taken by Cabinet and clear implementation on the 1st July.

6. The Board did however agree to forward the following comments to Cabinet:

- That the final decision on the use of children's centres buildings, where consultation is required, is made at full Cabinet and not by Cabinet Member delegation. The purpose of this request is to provide clearer transparency of the decision in the public's eye, provide a further opportunity for public participation at a Cabinet meeting on the matter and to ensure all Cabinet Members fully understand the implications of the decision being taken;
- That the Children and Families O&S Panel should undertake further pre-decision scrutiny prior to the conclusion of the consultation and report back to OSPB on this. OSPB can then provide Cabinet with feedback before they take the final decision; and
- The Board welcomes the Cabinet Member's offer to hold meetings with local members on Children's Centre sites, in order to discuss local options.

## **Public Consultation**

7. Following the Call-in meeting on 1 July, consultation was launched on proposals for the change of use of Children's Centres (as set out in 16 June Cabinet decision). Full details of the consultation can be found at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenscentres)

## **Role of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

8. As stated above, the Panel has been asked by the OSPB to undertake further pre-decision scrutiny prior to the conclusion of the consultation and report back to OSPB on this. OSPB Members will then provide Cabinet with feedback before final decisions are taken.
9. Additionally, early years providers and representatives from schools have been invited to the meeting to give their views on the proposed changes.

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

10. Following the discussion, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
  - Agree any comments to be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board for feedback to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families ; and
  - Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny.

## **Background Information**

Agenda Report and Minutes of Cabinet: dated 16 June 2016 available on the County Council Website [here](#)

Agenda Report and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board dated 1 July 2016 available on the County Council Website [here](#)

## **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.](#)