Response to the Children’s Centre Consultation

Child and Family Centre Services
Flexible, Targeted and Responsive
Thank you for taking time to respond to the public consultation on Children’s Centres. We have been pleased with both the number of responses and the considered feedback you have given. We have received more than 2000 completed responses and two petitions.

We know that Children's Centres and our Early Intervention services are very important to our families across the county and we want to make sure that we continue to offer the supportive and impactful services that you depend upon.

Whilst some of the responses we have received are very supportive of our proposals, we also know that some residents are concerned about losing services that you value.

We have listened carefully to feedback and as outlined in this document we have changed some of our proposals as a result.

Our consultation proposed a saving level of £1 million. As we have worked through the feedback you have given us and further developed our plans we have revised that figure. There will be a reinvestment of £100,000 meaning that the overall savings will now be £900,000.

We know that it is critical that families get help early and easily. Whilst the proposals outlined here will mean less is spent on Children’s Centre buildings we are ensuring the same level of delivery of front line service. We can do this by delivering services in a different way, spending less on buildings, less on management and being more efficient and effective by delivering services in partnership with others.

By changing the use of some buildings we will also be increasing the capacity for childcare in key areas. We are committed to delivering services in a range of locations across Cambridgeshire and ensuring our renewed outreach offer meets the needs of more socially or geographically isolated families.

The new service is designed to be more responsive to the needs of a rapidly changing county by being increasingly flexible and targeted towards meeting families’ needs locally.

Full Council will debate these proposals on October 17th 2017.

Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director: People and Communities

Cllr Simon Bywater, Chair of Children and Young People Committee
We need to provide services within challenging financial circumstances and these proposals look to deliver savings of £900,000 whilst maintaining the same level of front line delivery.

2. Executive Summary

We received two petitions. The first petition was from a parent of a child at Caldecote Primary School which received 345 signatures. This petition was “to allow the Caldecote Care Clubs to continue to operate from the Caldecote Children’s Centre building”. Future proposals in relation to Caldecote are addressed in the district section for South Cambridgeshire.

The second was a public petition which contained more than 3,000 signatures. This petition was described as “Objecting to the proposals brought forward by the Children and Young People Committee of Cambridgeshire County Council which would cut £1 million and close 19 of Cambridgeshire’s 40 Children’s Centres”.

In line with the Council’s constitution, the number of signatories to this petition triggered the debate at Full Council where the decision about the future of Children’s Centres will be taken on 17th October 2017.

To ensure the consultation reached as many families as possible across Cambridgeshire it was publicised widely via staff events, public and partner events, media and social media (using videos and infographics). Both digital and paper copies of the consultations were made available. Please see Appendix A of this document for the full details of how we have helped the Cambridgeshire community engage with the consultation on Children’s Centres.

In total, 2,280 residents responded to the consultation. The consultation was available to all of Cambridgeshire’s 652,110 residents.

The response to the consultation was evenly spread across the county with a small majority of respondents being located in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, at 29% and 24% respectively.

Around three-quarters of respondents said they had read the full proposals. Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire had a higher overall rate, and Fenland had the lowest. The percentage of young parents and parents of children with disabilities who responded was similar to the percentage of the general parent population.

Respondents responded favourably to both (Q1) ‘Children’s Centres should meet the needs of a wider age range’ and (Q2) that they ‘should focus on those that need them the most’. However, respondents were overall more supportive of the first, with 72.6% supporting or strongly supporting Q1 and 50.9% supporting or strongly supporting Q2. More respondents were unsure (19.1%) about Q2.

We want to see all families thrive in Cambridgeshire and we believe our redesigned Child and Family Centre Offer will support this ambition. We need to provide services within challenging financial circumstances and these proposals look to deliver savings of £900,000 whilst maintaining the same level of frontline delivery. We will do this by being more flexible, making more efficient and effective use of buildings, spending less on management and delivering in a more integrated way with others. The effective use of buildings, spending less on management and delivering in a more integrated way will help ourselves, while not detracting from frontline services which will be maintained and delivered at our current level.

75.1% of respondents think that having health services in the same place as Child and Family services (Q3) is ‘very important’ or ‘good to have’, compared to 25.1% thinking it was ‘not important’ or unsure.

More respondents support (45.7%) than do not support (36.3%) the proposed redesigned offer which would include; maintaining some of our existing Children’s Centres, delivering services in shared community spaces, providing outreach programmes at a local level, and a greater online offer. (Q4). However, 18% of respondents were unsure.

Overall, young parents are more supportive than the average respondent for all questions posed.

Parents whose children were all over 5 were more supportive of questions 1-4 than parents who had children under 5. For questions relating to specific districts, they were slightly less supportive in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. For the rest they were about as supportive.

Parents with children with disability or illness were generally more supportive than the average respondent for all questions posed. For questions relating to specific districts, they were slightly less supportive in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. For the rest they were about as supportive.

7% of responses think that services were cut ‘too quickly’ and 57% agreed or strongly agreed that it was ‘important’ or ‘good to have’, compared to 25.1% thinking it was ‘not important’ or unsure.

Parents with children under 5 were more supportive in South Cambridgeshire and Fenland. For the rest they were about as supportive.

Parents whose children were all over 5 were more supportive of questions 1-4 than parents who had children under 5. For questions relating to specific districts, they were slightly less supportive in South Cambridgeshire, Fenland, and the Districts. For the rest they were about as supportive.

Parents with children with disability or illness were generally more supportive than the average respondent for all questions posed. For questions relating to specific districts, they were slightly less supportive in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. For the rest they were about as supportive.

3. Headline findings from the consultation

Almost 2,300 people responded to the consultation, with almost equal share of respondents from all 5 districts.

87% of our respondents have children, while 83% are current users of our Children’s Centre services.

You have told us you recognise the importance and benefit of making better use of shared spaces, in places you know and already use.

There were some concerns about these spaces being disruptive and not confidential. We will work with staff to manage our delivery effectively, and sensitively.

You have told us you highly value the services we currently provide.

You agree that it would be helpful to access supportive services, such as health, in the same places as Children’s Centre services.

We will further develop our offer so it supports those families who wish to help themselves, while not detracting from frontline services which will be maintained and delivered at our current level.
4. Key themes from the consultation and how we propose things will change

We have listened and improved our proposals in light of consultation feedback across a range of areas. Some of the significant changes are detailed below:

- Resolving issues identified at Caldecote Children’s Centre to ensure before and after school childcare is protected alongside identifying capacity for additional childcare provision.
- Increased provision in the south of Cambridge City after feedback identified gaps in the provision not identified in the original proposals.
- Increased investment in outreach provision in the north of the county, including the Farcet and Yaxley area.

Four overarching questions were asked in the survey followed by one question per District (Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire). Each gave respondents the opportunity to provide a comment. All of these comments have been read and analysed and the main themes are detailed in this section along with our response to these.

Question 1

Do you support our Children’s Centres meeting the needs of a wider age range, from expectant parents to young adults?

2,265 respondents answered this question. 72.6% of respondents supported this statement while 16.9% did not. The remaining 10.4% were unsure.

The detailed summary of the feedback on question one is in the Children’s Centre Consultation Summary Report (see Appendix E). It is clear from the responses to question one that the majority of the respondents agreed with the proposal. 625 comments were received in relation to this question.

What you said

There was significant support for the idea of offering services for a wider age range of children and young people; some responses described how their local centre already does this.

People felt that extending the age range would be beneficial to the family as a whole, that parents may need support whatever age a child is, and it would be helpful for parents with an older and a younger child if both children could visit the same centre or receive outreach services from the same worker.

Where respondents did not support the idea of extending the age range comments suggested that Children’s Centres should be focused on providing early intervention for young children. Some were concerned that this would lead to resources for younger children reducing or that the needs of teenagers and young children were different and it would not be appropriate to mix them.

Some responses suggested staff would need different skills to support children of differing ages, and that the buildings and spaces would need to be designed carefully in order to be appropriate for all age groups.

Our Response

The feedback largely supported the proposed model of Child and Family Centres. It is good to hear that people are already experiencing some of this from existing services and we will be building on this good practice. The very youngest children in our community remain a priority group with a commitment to the principles of 1,001 critical days ([http://www.1001criticaldays.co.uk/](http://www.1001criticaldays.co.uk/)). Many activities and programmes will continue to be focussed towards, and dedicated to, the youngest children in our communities.

The scheduling of activities in the buildings will be key to mitigating some of the concerns around meeting the needs of teenagers and young children in one building. Some of our Child and Family Centres and Zones are already multipurpose and support families with children of all ages, such as Broad Leas in St Ives and Scaldgate in Whittlesey. We will look to replicate this across all our Child and Family Centres.

We will deliver a wider range of services in our buildings, offering more appropriate family friendly spaces to our most vulnerable families including those children temporarily out of school or those supported by social care, and in doing so maximise the use of our resources.

Design is important to ensure that both families with young children and young people feel safe and comfortable accessing these spaces. We already have good examples where this works well and we will work with service users to make sure that we get this right.

Staff across our services have been working in a ‘Think Family’ way for some time which means that they focus on the outcomes of the whole family and our training and development programme for our staff supports whole family working. However, there will be some staff roles where they will retain a specialism, such as youth work or early years.

What the proposed offer will be

See detail of local provision in the District section, pages 15-24.

We will build on our current Children’s Centre offer to offer services to families with children of all ages. The new Child and Family Centre Services will support families with children from expectant mothers, to babies and toddlers, right through to young adults.
Children's Centre Services

Question 2

To what degree do you support the proposal to focus services on those families that need them most?

2,256 respondents answered this question. The majority (50.9%) of respondents supported this statement while 29.9% did not. The remaining 19.1% were unsure.

The detailed summary of the feedback on question two is in the separate Children's Centre Consultation Summary Report (Appendix E).

937 comments were received in relation to this question.

What you said

Some people strongly supported the idea of targeting services to vulnerable families and commented that services are insufficiently targeted on people with low incomes or with other needs at the moment. Some commented that targeting vulnerable families was likely to be the best use of resources in terms of impact. Other people described some difficulties they saw in targeting services – particularly around how to engage families with disadvantaged backgrounds and the risk of stigmatisation.

People commented that Children's Centres should be a universal service. Some people felt that the definition of ‘need’ is important, and the identification and assessment process needs to be robust. Some people expressed concerns that they would not be categorised as being ‘in need’, due to their income or because they are not involved with social care, family work or SEND services. They nevertheless appreciated the support they had received from Children's Centres when they had young children particularly the support for the mental health of new mothers, and the prevention of isolation. People commented that under the proposals, some parents with relatively low needs would not be supported and they could become worse and require more intensive services.

People particularly valued the contribution to the local community made by Children's Centre activities and services. A few people said they would be happy to pay a small amount to continue to attend activities.

You said:

Many of you agree we should focus our services on those who need us most.

Early Intervention is important to our residents.

We need to ensure our access routes to services is clear.

Our Response

Cambridgeshire County Council is committed to Early Intervention Services as part of our ambition to see all Cambridgeshire Families thrive. The Child and Family Centre services alongside the district Early Help teams, and the Healthy Child Programme is key in delivering this. We want to ensure that the right people get the right service in the right place and at the right time. For some families this may mean one-off support from a family worker or access to online information to enable them to help themselves or access wider community support.

An element of effective Early Intervention is Proportionate Universalism, an idea first introduced by Sir Michael Marmot (https://www.gov.uk/dfid-research-outputs/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review-strategic-review-of-health-inequalities-in-england-post-2010) meaning that solutions are made universally available, but with an intensity that is directly proportionate to the level of social disadvantage.

Within this context universal services will be a part of the Child and Family Centre offer including access to health support such as midwifery, health visiting, well baby Clinics, baby groups and stay and play activities for young families. Our Children’s Centres have parent-led universal provision and we propose this will continue. We will also have universal information available from our buildings and on our website. In 2014 we introduced charging for some activities and we would expect this to continue although public health services would, as now, be free to access.

Child and Family Centre Services will be well-placed to build on the current support for families with additional support needs. New and first time parents will continue to be a priority and we will aim to work more closely with colleagues from midwifery and health visiting to ensure that mental health needs of new parents are identified early and support offered. There are numerous examples of successful groups supporting a range of families, including young parents, families with children with special educational needs and those with English as a second or additional language. We work closely with partners to identify individual families who need one-to-one support. These proposals will continue to build on this approach.

What the offer will be

• See detail of local provision in the District section, pages 15-24.

Working alongside universal health and community and voluntary services, we will prioritise support for vulnerable families, those with children under the age of 3, families with children with disabilities, and those with other identified support needs.
Question 3

How important is it to have health services in the same place as your Child and Family services?

2,260 respondents answered this question. 75.1% of respondents thought this was either very important or good to have and 14.8% thought it was not important. The remaining 10.3% were unsure.

The detailed summary of the feedback on question three is in the Children’s Centre Consultation Summary Report (Appendix E).

533 comments were received in relation to this question.

What you said

People commented that they would find it easier (avoiding multiple appointments) to access both health and children’s services if they were delivered in the same place. A number of people also commented that it would be helpful to have a familiar environment for both health and Child and Family Services, especially for children with Special Educational Needs. People also commented that it would be easier for professionals to communicate with one another if they were located in the same building. Some people commented that this was already in place at their local Children’s Centre, which they tended to regard positively.

Some respondents disagreed with the proposal feeling that a ‘medical’ environment was not one that was relaxing or a space for play and social activities. Others felt they wanted to access some medical services in a clinical environment and that joint spaces were not always compatible. Some people mentioned specific local places in their comments. The use of Brookfields in Cambridge raised some concerns in relation to the presence of a drug rehabilitation services in the same building.

For many people, accessibility of services was more important than co-location. People said it was difficult to travel without a car with small children.

You said:

Having health services based with Children’s Centre services could make it easier for people to access.

There were concerns this could create a space that was too clinical, and not welcoming.

Our Response

We believe that having more professionals co-located is generally beneficial and we already have good examples of this in our Children’s Centres. Families will continue to be able to access other universal health services such as GPs in the way that they do now. Scheduling of activities and making the best use of building space has worked well to ensure that other health provision such as well baby clinics and midwifery can run alongside other Children’s Centre activities.

We have carried out a range of data to tell us about areas of need across the county to inform our Child and Family Centre services model. We want to ensure that our services are available to the right people, at the right time and in the right place. We have developed a model that is designed to be more responsive to the needs of a rapidly changing county by being increasingly flexible and targeted towards meeting local needs. Some of the existing centres and venues are not necessarily in the areas of highest population or need. Some provision has a lower level of usage and some are difficult to access due to opening hours or location suitability.

Services such as drug rehabilitation services help some of our more vulnerable families to stay safe. Any Child and Family offer would be managed alongside these services as appropriate and for Brookfields this would not be in the same part of the building. The Brookfields site has a range of good, shared delivery spaces and plenty of parking spaces.

What the offer will be

> See detail of local provision in the District section, pages 15-24.

You told us that being able to access support from health colleagues like midwives, health visitors and speech therapists from Children’s Centres has been a good thing. This is important and we will look to further integrate our work with these partners across a range of venues to offer a seamless service to families.
**Question 4**

**Our Child and Family Services will include the following:**
- Maintaining some of our existing Children’s Centres
- Delivering services in shared community spaces
- Providing outreach programmes at a local level
- A greater online offer.

**To what degree do you support this?**

2,260 respondents answered this question. 45.7% of respondents supported this statement while 36.3% did not. The remaining 18% were unsure.

The detailed summary of the feedback on question four is in the Children’s Centre Consultation Summary Report (Appendix E). It is clear from the responses to question four that more people have accepted this statement while 36.3% did not. The remaining 18% were unsure.

1897 comments were received in relation to this question.

**What you said:**

Some respondents’ comments showed that people recognise the importance of making the best use of community buildings and sharing resources across services makes sense, and saves money. Many have accessed outreach provision and supported this approach continuing in areas where there will no longer be a designated Children’s Centre.

Some people commented that they were concerned about the proposals and, did not want to see any changes to the services they access. People suggested that it should not be preventative services where cuts are made, as it is felt that taking away money from these services could lead to greater problems in families later down the line.

Several people stated that they would like to see buildings kept, even if they are under-used and some respondents stated that they support the proposals in general, but they want their own local centre to remain open.

These comments especially related to the south of Cambridge City where provision will reduce significantly if the proposals are accepted. People have concerns that the population growth in that area of the City will mean that the proposed level of service will not be enough to meet their needs. There were also some particular concerns about what the proposals could mean for certain centre buildings where before and after school care is currently provided from.

There was support for an improved online offer via a good, clear website with information about all the services on offer, and links to other websites, and information and advice leaflets. People commented that this could save time and staff resources, as parents will be able to access this rather than phoning up or visiting a centre.

Some people commented that many families do not have access to the Internet and that we must be wary of discriminating against the families that potentially are in greatest need of our services if they cannot access online services.

**Our Response**

The Local Authority remains committed to Early Intervention Services including delivery of the healthy child programme, district early help teams and sufficient early years provision alongside the proposed new Child and Family Services. We will protect the level of frontline delivery, although this will continue to change in emphasis and location as we respond to the changing needs in the county.

We will deliver a more flexible offer across Cambridgeshire, with an expanded outreach offer delivered into more communities and new housing developments. Restricting large proportions of our budget to maintain under-used buildings would mean we were unable to deliver this flexibility and limit our responsiveness to changing needs across the growing county.

In all areas where we are planning to re-designate the current Children’s Centres we will maintain an outreach offer to enable families to access appropriate support within easy travelling distance.

We know that being able to access safe, consistent and up to date information online is important to support families. This online support will form an important part of our offer but will not replace face-to-face support for families.

We will ensure that families without easy online access can receive support as needed in other ways, including face-to-face, telephone support and supported internet access in community venues.

We have looked closely at our proposed delivery in the south of Cambridge and our revised proposals have built in additional capacity in the South of the City to address these concerns. In centres where we are currently co-located with before and after school care we will ensure that those services are not impacted.

**What the offer will be**

- See detail of local provision in the District section, pages 15-24.
- We will create a network of 10 Child and Family Centres over 15 sites across the 5 districts – Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland
- We will create 12 Child and Family Zones across the County
- We will identify and allocate resource to deliver outreach provision in other areas to complement the Child and Family Centres or Zones.
- We will create an accessible and well informed online information service outlining the local offer of services for families across the county.
- We will re-designate some of the remaining Children’s Centre buildings, to provide additional early years childcare provision

The detailed specification for the new Child and Family Centre model is attached at Appendix C.

A map showing where our Child and Family Centres and Zones will be located is shown on the next page.
**Child and Family Centres and Zones locations**

**Services at a local level – Consultation questions focussed on District areas**

**Question 5**

To what degree do you support our proposals for Cambridge City?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we have</th>
<th>What we're proposing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 sites</td>
<td>2 centres across 3 sites + 3 sites + 4 sites</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**What we proposed**

- Proposed Child and Family Centres
- Proposed Child and Family Zones
- Proposed Children’s Centres to be re-designated

**What you said – key themes**

1,356 respondents answered this question, 662 of which were from Cambridge. Respondents, overall were more unsupportive (60.2%) than supportive (21.8%), with nearly one fifth unsure (18%).

- Respondents want to retain Romsey Mill, Homerton, Fawcett and Cherry Hinton as designated sites.
- Respondents proposed a second site is needed in the south of the City.
- Responses were received relating to transport – difficult accessing public transport with small children and buggies, cost, and accessibility.
- There were responses regarding the service provided by centres proposed for re-designation.
- There were responses regarding library space not being suitable.
- There were responses querying Brookfields as a site – queries included parking, being 0.2 miles from Romsey Mill and respondents referenced the substance misuse treatment service located on the site.
- There was support for the proposals for this area.
- There were comments about the cost of parking at the Grand Arcade and across the City.
- There were comments about the suitability of an online offer.
- There were responses asking about the future of the Romsey Mill young parent offer/contract.
- Respondents asked for clarity around the future of jobs at Homerton, Fawcett and Romsey Mill.

**Our response**

We received feedback in relation to the level of resource in the south of the City. We have listened to this, along with the information presented in relation to an increase in the primary population, and have put additional support in Trumpington as a result. In addition we will be increasing our offer from Cherry Hinton as described below.

We will continue to run outreach provision in other areas of the city, building on our current practice as indicated in the attached ‘What’s On’ (please see appendix F). We will be responsive to the changing needs in other growth areas of the city including Darwin Green and Eddington. There is no evidence of additional need that would support the wish to retain other named designated sites.

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We will continue to run outreach provision in other areas of the city, building on our current practice as indicated in the attached ‘What’s On’ (please see appendix F). We will be responsive to the changing needs in other growth areas of the city including Darwin Green and Eddington. There is no evidence of additional need that would support the wish to retain other named designated sites.
Question 6

To what degree do you support our proposals for in South Cambridgeshire?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we proposed</th>
<th>What we have</th>
<th>What we're proposing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 sites</td>
<td>1 centre</td>
<td>+ 4 sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you said – key themes

1236 respondents answered this question, 519 of which were from South Cambridgeshire. More Respondents were unsupportive (62.9%) than supportive (20.2%), with 16.9% unsure.

- There were responses highlighting isolation across the district.
- There were responses specific to the future of the after school club in Caldecote.
- There were responses highlighting the building at Bassingbourn as being very good and fit for purpose.
- There was support to retain services delivered from Sawston and Linton.
- There was support for proposals in this district.

Our response

We understand that in South Cambridgeshire many families live in small villages in rural areas which requires services to be flexible, as a result much of our delivery in South Cambridgeshire will be via our outreach programme. An example of what this might look like is shown in the attached “What’s On” (please see appendix F).

There are plans for large new communities to be developed across South Cambridgeshire and we will look to respond to the needs of these communities as they develop.
What the offer will be (supported by an on-line offer)

Where the provision will be in the South Cambridgeshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child and Family Centres</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambourne</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child and Family Zones</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterbeach</td>
<td>This will be a Child and Family Zone with additional midwifery delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northstowe</td>
<td>This will be sited in the temporary community space at the Primary School until the permanent Civic Hub is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawston</td>
<td>We are proposing a Child and Family Zone and have funding agreed to locate this in a permanent site in the new community hub building, alongside the library. We will continue to deliver from our current CC venue until construction is complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourn</td>
<td>We are committed to delivering a Child and Family Zone in Melbourn. We are in discussions with Health colleagues, parish council and the local pre-school to investigate an improved multi-use space in Melbourn. We will continue to operate from our current location until this has been confirmed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is what re-designation will look like in the South Cambridgeshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repurpose for childcare or community use</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bar Hill</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Bar Hill Children’s Centre. We are working with the school to explore future community use of the space, including maintaining outreach and health activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassingbourn</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Bassingbourn Children’s Centre. We are working with the onsite preschool to agree future usage of the building for families. We will continue to deliver outreach activities in Bassingbourn at our current site and other venues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldecote</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Caldecote Children’s Centre. A petition was submitted with 345 signatures requesting that the Caldecote Care Clubs be allowed to continue to operate from the Caldecote Children’s Centre building. We are working with the school to agree future usage of the building for families including the continuation of wrap-around care. We will continue to deliver outreach activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histon</td>
<td>We will de-designate the Histon Children’s Centre. We are working with the nursery school to maintain outreach activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linton</td>
<td>We will de-designate the centre but we are working with the Cathodeon Trust to agree significant outreach delivery from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papworth</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Papworth Children’s Centre. We are working with the School and local community to explore future community use of the space, including possibilities for maintaining outreach activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 7

To what degree do you support our proposals for in East Cambridgeshire?

What we proposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we have</th>
<th>What we're proposing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 sites</td>
<td>2 centres across 3 sites + 1 site + 2 sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you said – key themes

1078 respondents answered this question, 269 of which were from East Cambridgeshire. Respondents were more unsupportive (54.9%) than supportive (24.8%), with 20.3% unsure. Residents in East Cambridgeshire seem to be more supportive of their local proposals than the total set of respondents. The reverse is true of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

- There were respondents wanting to retain services from sites proposed for re-designation (Bottisham and Sutton).
- Responses suggested investigating other sites such as Princess of Wales in Ely and the health centre at the Eastern Gateway in Soham.
- There was support for proposals in Soham and highlighting growth in the town.

You said:

You have been clear that transport links are an issue, with many of you living in rural locations. We will tackle this by offering outreach provision in areas that are accessible to many.

Our response

We are aware that many families living in East Cambridgeshire live in rural locations with limited access to transport. A large part of our offer will be via our outreach provision as outlined in the attached ‘What’s On’.

Where there is growth in the district we will respond to the needs of the area through our flexible outreach programme.
What the offer will be
(supported by an on-line offer)

Where the provision will be in the East Cambridgeshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child and Family Centres</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>Ely Child and Family Centre will operate across a split site with Ely Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ely Library</td>
<td>We will work with the Library Service to deliver child and family programmes and activities in conjunction with the Ely Children’s Centre in High Barns. Our programmes and activities will take advantage of the library’s central location within Ely, high footfall, existing offer for children and families at the library, and the longer opening hours available at the library, to target the needs of children and young people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleport</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is what re-designation will look like in the East Cambridgeshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repurpose for childcare or community use</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottisham</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Bottisham Children’s Centre. The building will be occupied by the District Early Help team and will continue to be a venue for outreach and health provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Sutton Children’s Centre. We are working with the onsite preschool to expand the childcare provision for that community along with maintaining outreach activities and health provision from the site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 8

To what degree do you support our proposals for in Huntingdonshire?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What we have</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Proposed Child and Family Centres | Proposed Child and Family Zones | Proposed Children’s Centres to be re-designated |

You said:

Keeping access to services in a number of sites across the district is important as transport links aren’t always good.

We have been in conversations with partners to continue and increase the delivery of our outreach programme.

What you said – key themes

1,047 respondents answered this question, 308 of which were from Huntingdonshire. Respondents, were more unsupportive (56.3%) than supportive (23.3%), with 20.4% unsure. Residents in Huntingdonshire seem to be more supportive of their local proposals than the total set of respondents.

- Some respondents wished to retain services from sites proposed for re-designation (Godmanchester, Somersham, Brampton and Farcet).
- There were queries about the proposed location of centres and why St Neots has two sites.
- There were responses about access to services in Yaxley and cross border into Peterborough.
- There was support for proposals in this area.

Our response

Huntingdonshire in addition to its urban areas has a wealth of rural communities and as such a significant part of our delivery in this district will be via our outreach programme. We have been in conversations with partners in Godmanchester, Brampton and Somersham and we will continue to deliver outreach from these sites. We have looked closely at the needs in the north of the district and have identified that we will need significant outreach provision around this area. We will maintain use of our building in Farcet for this purpose, delivering child and family centre activities alongside SEND provision and onsite childcare. An example of what this might look like is shown in the attached ‘What’s On’.

Due to the space available in the buildings in Huntingdon and St Neots, we will operate our provision from two sites in each town (Huntingdon Town and Huntingdon Youth Centre in Huntingdon, Eynesbury and Eaton Socon in St Neots) in order to ensure we have sufficient capacity.
What the offer will be (supported by an on-line offer)

Where the provision will be in the Huntingdonshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child and Family Centres</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eaton Socon</td>
<td>This will operate as a split site Child and Family Centre with Eynesbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynesbury</td>
<td>This will operate as a split site Child and Family Centre with Eaton Socon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntingdon Youth Centre (HYC)</td>
<td>This will operate as a split site Child and Family Centre with Huntingdon Nursery School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntingdon Nursery School</td>
<td>This will operate as a split site Child and Family Centre with Huntingdon Youth Centre (HYC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is what re-designation will look like in the Huntingdonshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repurpose for childcare or community use</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farcet</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Farcet Children’s Centre. We are working with the district team, school and local pre-school to address the community needs for this area which will include maintaining significant outreach activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godmanchester</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Godmanchester Children’s Centre. We are working with the school to explore future community use of the space, including maintaining outreach and health activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Brampton Children’s Centre. We are working with the school and local community to explore future community use of the space, including maintaining outreach activities from the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somersham</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Somersham Children’s Centre. We are working with the school, onsite kids club and the onsite preschool to agree future usage of the building for families. We will continue to deliver outreach activities in Somersham at our current site and other venues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 9

To what degree do you support our proposals for in Fenland?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What we have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6 sites           | 3 centres across 4 sites + 1 site + 2 sites

What you said – key themes

1,181 respondents answered this question, 430 of which were from the Fenland district. Unlike in other districts, residents of Fenland were more supportive (64.5%) than unsupportive (16.3%) of proposals for their area, with 19.3% unsure. When including all respondents, overall views of the Fenland proposals were only slightly more unsupportive (39.7%) than supportive (38.9%), with 21.4% unsure. Residents in Fenland seem to be substantially more supportive of the local proposals than the total set of respondents.

- There were comments about the proposal to re-designate Murrow with some respondents confusing the proposals to re-designate Murrow Children’s Centre with closing the pre-school provision.
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- There were comments about the proposal to re-designate Murrow with some respondents confusing the proposals to re-designate Murrow Children’s Centre with closing the pre-school provision.

Our response

We are committed to significant delivery across Fenland as we know from the data analysis that we have substantial need.

- Responses were received relating to transport – poor links, cost and travelling with small children.
- Respondents stated that the quality of service provision is more important to them than retaining buildings.
- There were queries relating to retaining Chatteris and Whittlesey becoming Child and Family Zones.
- There were responses highlighting the need for outreach services in rural areas.
- Respondents living in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City queried why resource is being allocated to Fenland rather than where they live while others understand and support the proposal.

We will maintain the same level of provision in Whittlesey but relocate the services in a shared use building more suitable for providing activities for children of all ages.
5. Interdependent Priorities

There are a number of interdependent priorities that are linked to the redesign of the Child and Family Centre model. These are outlined below.

**Library Service**

We will continue to work with the Library Service, jointly pursuing opportunities to deliver child and family activities and programmes using library buildings and services. Opportunities will vary according to location and need. In some instances this will entail operating jointly in a single building. In others, we will work with the Library Service to plan and deliver outreach programmes from libraries, based on the specific local needs.

The Library Service is currently looking to further transform services. This includes exploring ways in which libraries can serve as the ‘front door’ of public services. This and future consultations will inform changes to library service delivery.

**Supervised Contact**

Child and Family services will be run from family-friendly buildings and we want to ensure these are available to facilitate the delivery of supervised contact visits for some of our most vulnerable children.

Cambridgeshire supports contact between looked after children and their family members and friends where it is in their best interest. It is often deemed necessary in the interests of safeguarding the child that this direct contact is supervised. Our Child and Family Centres and Zones will be enabled to ensure this happens in appropriate surroundings for these families.

**Childcare Sufficiency**

With effect from September 2017 the universal entitlement to 15 hours weekly free childcare for all 3 and 4-year-olds will be extended to 30 hours for working parents. This will have an impact to a greater or lesser degree in all districts and require an increase in the number of available childcare places if the Council is to fulfil its sufficiency duty with regard to the provision of childcare places for this age group.

The redesigning of Children’s Centre services will lead to some spaces becoming available for childcare provision.

---

**What the offer will be**

(supported by an on-line offer)

Where the provision will be in the Fenland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child and Family Centres</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chatteris</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oasis, Wisbech Town</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisbech South</td>
<td>This will operate as a Child and Family Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This is what re-designation will look like in the Fenland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repurpose for childcare or community use</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murrow</td>
<td>We will re-designate the Murrow Children’s Centre. We are talking to local childcare providers to expand the childcare provision for that community along with maintaining outreach activities and health provision in Murrow and surrounding villages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Financial implications

The 2017/18 budget for Children’s Centres is £5,272,159. This budget includes property service budgets for our current Local Authority managed Children’s Centres. By building a new service for Cambridgeshire Families, a permanent budget saving of £900,000 will be delivered. A £900,000 saving, represents 17% of the current total budget for Children’s Centres. The revised budget for the Child and Family Centre offer in 2018/19 will therefore be £4,372,159 (subject to a potential uplift for cost inflation).

A £900,000 saving will be achieved by re-designating existing Children’s Centre buildings and streamlining both our management and back office support and overhead costs. We intend to maintain the current level of expenditure on frontline delivery.

Many of the Children’s Centre buildings were funded wholly or partly from Sure Start Capital grant funding received from the Department for Education. We know that claw-back of capital grant funding could be triggered where an asset funded wholly or partly by the Department for Education is either disposed of, or if the asset is no longer used to meet the aims and objectives consistent of the grant payment. We will mitigate against any claw-back and will make best use of our buildings in order to increase childcare capacity, working with existing providers that are currently rated good or better by Ofsted.

The table below shows the different areas of spend, the current budget versus the proposed budget and the savings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Spend</th>
<th>Current Budget 2017/18 £</th>
<th>Current Budget % of total spend</th>
<th>Proposed Budget 2018/19 £</th>
<th>Proposed Budget % of total spend</th>
<th>Proposed Budget Saving £</th>
<th>Proposed % Budget Saving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management costs</td>
<td>1,228,942</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>772,665</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>456,277</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and infrastructure costs</td>
<td>706,150</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>456,702</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>249,448</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Support costs</td>
<td>773,975</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>513,708</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>260,267</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Line Delivery Costs</td>
<td>2,563,092</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>2,629,084</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>(-65,992)</td>
<td>(-7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,272,159</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4,372,159</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Workforce implications

The proposals to redesign and deliver Children’s Centre services in a different way will have an impact on the workforce and its configuration. In addition there is expected to be movement of staff between organisations which will be covered by TUPE regulations. We will inform and consult with individuals affected by any proposals by way of a 45 day consultation period.

The iterative structure in Appendix B proposes the new staffing structure. Where roles could be placed at risk of redundancy postholders will follow the process previously put in place in previous structural changes.
8. Implementation Timeline

An implementation team will be set up following full Council decision on 17 October 2017. This group will develop the key milestones and activities required to implement the model for April 2018.

The following outline timeline has been drafted for the staff consultation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation timeline for the staff consultation</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briefing of trade union representatives</td>
<td>October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation document to be launched including an explanation of the rationale for the changes and arrangements for providing comments on the proposal. Launch for a 45 day consultation.</td>
<td>October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At risk of redundancy notifications issued.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUPE information and consultation sessions for affected staff</td>
<td>Dates to be arranged with current employers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop in sessions for all affected staff</td>
<td>Dates to be confirmed – throughout November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently asked questions will be issued a regular intervals</td>
<td>Weekly/fortnightly throughout the consultation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for consultation. All comments and suggestions from staff to be received by this date.</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to consultation. All feedback and comments will be considered and the final structures, including any resulting changes, will be communicated to staff.</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisting</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment to new posts</td>
<td>January / February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm all roles</td>
<td>January / February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice of redundancy to be issued to those who have been unsuccessful in applying for new roles.</td>
<td>Following appointment rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals against dismissal on grounds of redundancy to be lodged within five working days of notice stating the grounds for appeal.</td>
<td>Following appointment rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>1st April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Storage: We are committed to ensuring that personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure. You are entitled to request copies of the information we hold about you or your child under the Data Protection Act. If you are concerned about a child or young person and want to speak to someone, contact us on 0345 045 5203 and please give us as much information as you can.