

YORK CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES CONSULTATION

BACKGROUND

As part of the development of new Local Area Teams City of York Council Executive agreed to undertake a public consultation on the future of children's centre services. This report provides a summary of how this public consultation was carried out and the feedback received.

SUMMARY

The public consultation has shown a strong endorsement for our proposals.

- 95% of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the proposal to do more when families need more.
- 93% of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the proposal to ensure support for all families.
- 79% of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the proposal to make the best use of our buildings and staff.

Reflecting upon all of the feedback received it is proposed that we now revise our children's centre offer so that it focuses on improving outcomes for all families and provides families with the highest levels of need with more focused support. We will build that offer into the wider work of new Local Area Teams. A summary of the proposed offer is shown below and more detailed description is provided within this paper.

It is proposed:

That Local Area Teams ensure that all families are able to access groups and support in their community, wherever that is. The offer to all families will be made up of health visitor services, voluntary and community led groups offering support, learning and social activities, good or better quality childcare and early year's education and good quality information to help families understand what is available.

That wherever families have a higher level of need that we can provide more support. This cuts to the heart of our new Local Area Teams purpose. Local Area Teams will work with families, communities and a range of partner agencies to address emerging needs at an early stage, wherever that may be. Local Area Teams will make a much broader offer to families by providing a continuity of support from pregnancy right through to adult hood. All agencies will work together in a local area to share information to secure the best possible outcomes for families. Local services will work together to be there when families reach out for support and will also pro-actively identify and engage families in need.

That families can access the right support, in the right place, at the right time. The consultation has clearly shown that residents want provision to be in place for all families and that when more support is needed that this is available. The delivery of this offer should not be limited to existing children's centre buildings. We will build on our work to reach out to communities in response to need throughout York. We must have an unrelenting focus on delivering the best possible services with families throughout our city. It is therefore proposed to change the designation of six of our children's centre buildings to allow them to be used more flexibly (to cover the age range 0-19) in response to the needs of families and communities.

To be clear this means that those buildings can continue to deliver the types of groups and services that they do today. If we change designation it means that buildings could then also be made available for a range of other provision including: developing new childcare in areas where this is needed, by schools to deliver high quality learning environments, by community groups and organisations. The offer from the buildings will provide opportunities to extend opportunities to children and young people across the 0-19 age range, rather than being restricted to 0-5. How we all use these buildings and others in the future will be shaped by the needs of the communities they serve. By changing how we use our buildings we can make best use of these spaces in communities. We can also improve our efficiency and effectiveness by reducing the amount of time and money our staff need to spend on looking after buildings. In doing so we can maximise our staff time and resources on what families need and will make the greatest difference.

The early years offer and the wider offer made by Local Area Teams will respond to need. We will base ourselves in the areas of York with the highest identified need but must work throughout York wherever we are needed. This means we need to look not just at what we deliver through our children's centre buildings but what we deliver from any council building, any partner building and also what we deliver in families homes.

We are therefore proposing that we take forward the development of our new early years and 0-19 offer through Local Area Teams. In doing so we propose:

- That all nine sites are re-named and re-launched as a range of children and family centres that enable more flexible and responsive provision which aligns with local community activity and use.
- Maintain 3 children and family centre resources as designated ‘children’s centres’ with the statutory responsibility for ensuring the delivery of integrated early childhood services across the city. These centres will be the main bases for the Local Area Teams.

CONTEXT

STATUTORY EXPECTATIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN’S CENTRE SERVICES

The 2006 Childcare Act¹ instigated the development of children’s centres across the country. Statutory guidance from 2013 provides the current definition of a children’s centre².

A Sure Start children’s centre is defined in the Childcare Act (2006) as a place or a group of places:

- *which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements with, the local authority with a view to securing that early childhood services in the local authority’s area are made available in an integrated way;*
- *through which early childhood services are made available (either by providing the services on site, or by providing advice and assistance on gaining access to services elsewhere); and*
- *at which activities for young children are provided.*

It follows from the statutory definition of a children’s centre that children’s centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as it is about providing premises in particular geographical areas.

Local Authorities are also expected to ensure “sufficient” children’s centres, as defined above. The 2013 statutory guidance states:

Local authorities must ensure there are sufficient children’s centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need. Local need is the need of parents, prospective parents and young children in the authority’s area.

As a statutory minimum children’s centre services must provide the following to children and families from birth to 1st September after the child’s 5th birthday: focus on early

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273768/childrens_centre_stat_guidance_april_2013.pdf

learning; information and activities for families; adult learning and employment support; integrated child and family health services and targeted parenting and Inclusion services (including family support).

It should be noted that central government has ‘paused’ a consultation expected last year on the future of children’s centres. The consultation will include a discussion of what accountability framework is needed to best demonstrate the effect of children’s centres. In light of this, the Department for Education have agreed with Ofsted to pause the children’s centre inspection cycle, pending the outcome of the consultation. The government is now expected to launch this consultation in summer 2016.

Any changes to the children’s centre offer will be informed by a public consultation ahead of a decision taken by elected members on the council Executive. Current children’s centre statutory guidance from 2013 states:

“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.”*

CAPITAL COSTS

York is not alone in looking at how to make the best use of its children’s centre buildings. It has been seen in a small number of cases that the DfE has clawed back capital costs associated with the original development of children’s centres following their change of use. Guidance from the DfE states:

“Claw-back of funding is triggered where an asset funded wholly or partly by DfE is disposed of, or the asset is no longer used to meet the aims and objectives consistent with the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) or Aiming High for Disabled Children Grant (AHDC).

Local authorities must notify the Department for Education of any plans to dispose of grant funded assets. Local authorities should operate on the presumption that claw-back will be enforced. However, subject to prior approval from the DfE, claw-back may be waived or deferred where an asset is sold and the proceeds are reinvested in another asset for a similar purpose consistent with the aims of the grant.

Disposal means a sale, transfer, or change of use of a capital asset. It includes the transfer of ownership of a lease, or freehold assets.

Further information on the disposal of assets and invocation of claw-back can be found in paragraphs 33 to 45 of the Capital Guidance.”

The total potential claw back figure for York is £4.3m. As stated in the Executive paper given our proposed plans satisfy the guidance above we can be confident that we should not expect to see us being subject to any capital claw back. The Legal Implications section of the Executive paper provides further detail on our position. A breakdown of the capital claw back exposure for each site is listed below.

Centre / Scheme	Total (£)
ICC Ph 2 - Haxby Road Primary	78,693.88
ICC Ph 2 - New Earswick	337,277.69
ICC Ph 3 - Knavesmire	573,501.53
ICC Ph 3 - Hurst Hall (New Earswick Satellite)	4,206.98
ICC Ph 3 - Westfield (centre extension)	329,327.10
ICC Ph 3 - Derwent Schools (Avenues Satellite)	167,811.53
ICC Ph 2 - Tang Hall (Avenues)	1,467,123.61
ICC Ph 3 - New Earswick	62,522.65
ICC Ph 2/3 - St Lawrence's	631,876.70
ICC Ph 2 - Carr	448,355.47
Clifton Green Neighbourhood Nursery	265,000.00
Total	4,365,697.14

CHILDREN'S CENTRE CONSULTATION

The children's centre consultation was carried out between the 20th of April and the 25th of May. The consultation was promoted through a number of different channels to encourage as many families as possible to take part. These included:

- All families registered with children's centres and Family Information Service being encouraged to take part
- Families attending groups or accessing children's centre services encouraged to take part.
- Children's centre staff carrying out the consultation with families.
- Promotion through children's centres, Family Information Service and the council's social media channels.
- Promotion through information screens in council buildings.
- Advertising the consultation on the council, YorOK and children's centre websites.
- Through the YorOK newsletter sent to over 2,000 practitioners who work with children, young people and families in York.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND LOCAL AREA TEAMS

The consultation carried out this year sought feedback on proposals to remodel the delivery of children's centre services within the context of Local Area Teams.

The new Local Area Teams will bring together a wide range of community based multi-agency services in response to need. These services will work alongside other agencies with families from pregnancy through to when young people reaching adulthood (18 years old or 25 years old for disabled children and young people).

Local Area Teams will work with communities and all other agencies working in different parts of York to:

- **Work with families** – Provide support to families that is responsive and proportionate to need. This will not be restricted to pre-school children but will also relocate other services into communities to provide support through to when young people reach 18 years old (25 years old for disabled children and young people). Work with families will not be restricted to existing sites and will make use of a range of appropriate venues across York including where necessary family's homes.
- **Problem solve / coordinate** – The range of different services that operate across York for families is huge and often complex to navigate. This complexity can lead to delays in accessing support, duplication and inefficiencies resulting in poorer outcomes for families. Local Area Teams will play a leading role in systematically problem solving these challenges so that families can access the right support at the right time. This will also result in improved joined up working between different agencies which is critical given the need to continue to improve efficiency.
- **Build capacity and resilience** – Building resilience in families and communities is the long term aim of the Local Area Teams. The Local Area Teams can act as a catalyst and instigator to help build capacity in communities to achieve this. This could take the form of supporting new community led groups to establish, working with other agencies or commissioning services in response to need.

The consultation was completed online or in hard copy 981 times. In addition to this further written submissions and comments were received. It should be noted that any quantitative analysis made in this document draws upon responses received online or in hard copy. Further context provided by written responses received is highlighted where relevant.

RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The majority of respondents were parents and carers, followed by practitioners and then by residents (not including parents and carers). The breakdown of respondents is shown below. Please note that as this, as is the case with other profiling questions, was not answered by every respondent.

Are you... (Please tick)	Total	Percentage
A parent / carer	683	85%
A practitioner/service provider	115	14%
A resident (not including parents/carers)	9	1%
Total	807	

The table below shows us that the percentage of parents and carers taking part with a disability is lower than the York average. Conversely we can see a higher than expected number of parents and carers of disabled children and young people taking part.

Are you disabled or do you have additional needs?	Total	Response Percentage	Census Profile ³
No	730	95.93%	89.82%
Prefer not to say	20	2.63%	-
Yes	11	1.45%	10.18%
Total	761		

Are any of your children disabled or have additional needs?	Total	Response Percentage	Census Profile ³
No	650	86.21%	97.09%
Prefer not to say	32	4.24%	-
Yes	72	9.55%	2.91%
	754		

We can also see from the table below that the ethnic profile of those taking part broadly reflects the profile we would expect for York.

What is your ethnic background?	Total	Response Percentage	Census Profile ⁴
White British	658	86.69%	90.20%
White Other	51	6.72%	3.50%
Other (please specify)	22	2.90%	1.90%
White and Asian	6	0.79%	0.40%
White Irish	6	0.79%	0.60%
Chinese	4	0.53%	1.20%
White and Black African	3	0.40%	0.20%
White and Black Caribbean	3	0.40%	0.30%
Asian Indian	2	0.26%	0.80%
Asian Pakistani	2	0.26%	0.20%
Asian Bangladeshi	1	0.13%	0.20%
Black African	1	0.13%	0.50%
Total	759		

³ 2011 Census - Long term health problem or disability by sex by age

⁴ 2011 Census - Ethnic group

Respondents were asked to provide their home postcode so that feedback could be profiled against different areas of York. The following table shows the wards that different responses were received from. It should be noted that 97 of the postcodes provided could not be exactly matched to a ward. This could be a variety of reasons including an invalid postcode or not enough of the postcode being given to determine which ward it should be counted in.

Although not exclusively so we can see that in wards where there is less of an existing children’s centre services presence there has been a lower response compared to other areas. This would suggest that whatever is taken forward as the new early years offer should work to ensure families across York are engaged.

Ward	Number of responses
Acomb Ward	39
Bishopthorpe Ward	18
Clifton Ward	32
Copmanthorpe Ward	7
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	41
Fishergate Ward	21
Fulford & Heslington Ward	17
Guildhall Ward	16
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	17
Heworth Ward	52
Heworth Without Ward	15
Holgate Ward	58
Hull Road Ward	20
Huntington & New Earswick Ward	30
Micklegate Ward	70
Osbalwick & Derwent Ward	16
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward	21
Rural West York Ward	11
Strensall Ward	13
Unknown	97
Westfield Ward	85
Wheldrake Ward	3
Grand Total	699

The final profiling table shows the age profile of children of respondents. It is clear that many families have children at different ages and stages. Feedback would suggest that purely providing support in relation to one child or age can be less effective than delivering a child centred response which reflects on the needs of the entire family.

Age Range	Number of children
0-2 years	413
2-4 years	360

In primary school	224
In secondary school	92
16-19 years	62

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Are you pregnant?	48	617	31

FEEDBACK ON PROPOSALS

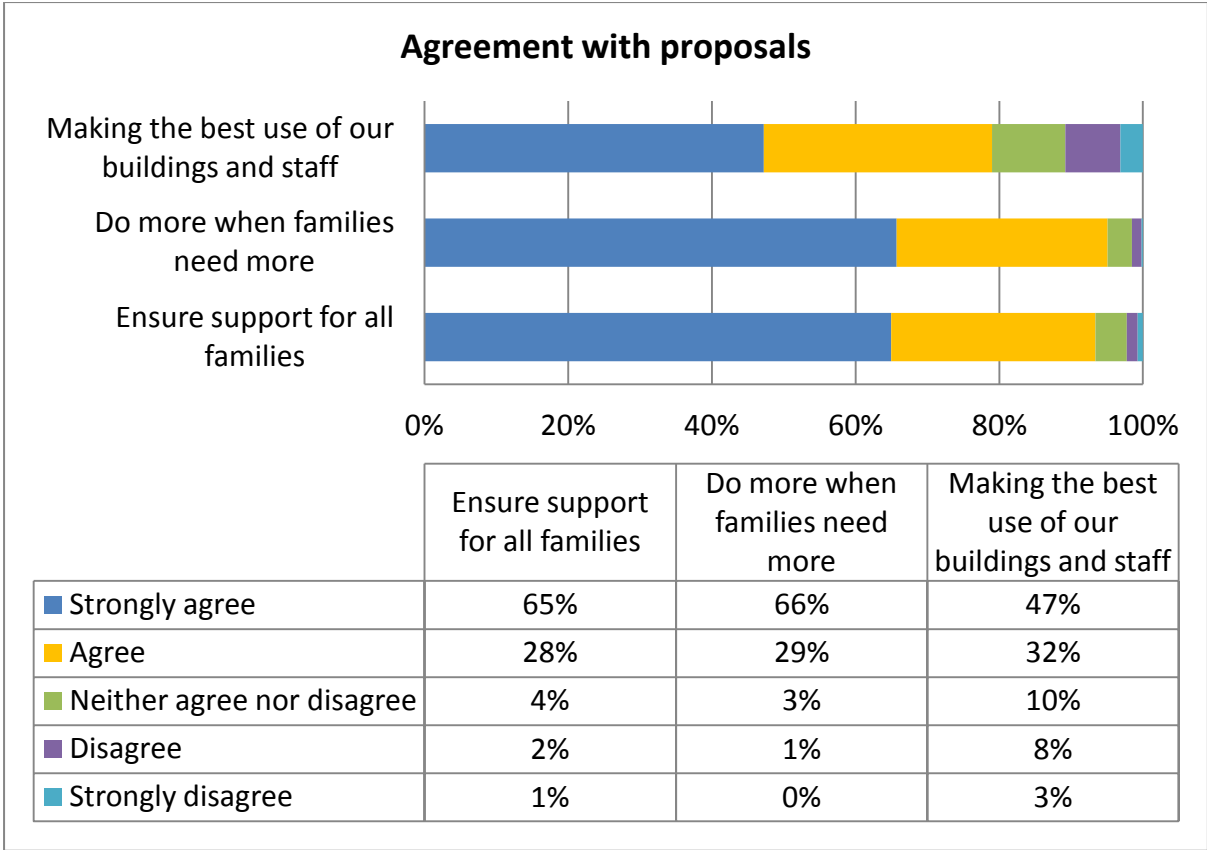
The consultation carried out this summer put forward in detail how these proposals would develop the existing offer from children’s centre services. The proposals were put forward under three key headings:

- **Ensuring support for all families** – How the Local Area Teams will ensure that all families are able to access support.
- **Do more when families need more** – That when families have a greater need of support that we can respond alongside our partners to do more.
- **Make the best use of our buildings and staff** - We proposed that by creating new Local Area Teams we would locate our services in communities and work right across York. Two key features of this proposal were:
 - That we review our use of buildings and associated costs in order to make the best use of our staff.
 - That by expanding the children’s centre offer into Local Area Teams that we would need to explore if all of our buildings should continue to be independently registered with the government as "Children's Centres".

A copy of the consultation used is provided at the end of this paper and shows in detail how these proposals were described to members of the public.

The chart below shows the breakdown of how much respondents agreed or disagreed with the responses being put forward. The results clearly show a strong endorsement of the proposals.

- 95% of respondents either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ with the proposal to do more when families need more.
- 93% of respondents either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ with the proposal to ensure support for all families.
- 79% of respondents either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ with the proposal to make the best use of our buildings and staff.

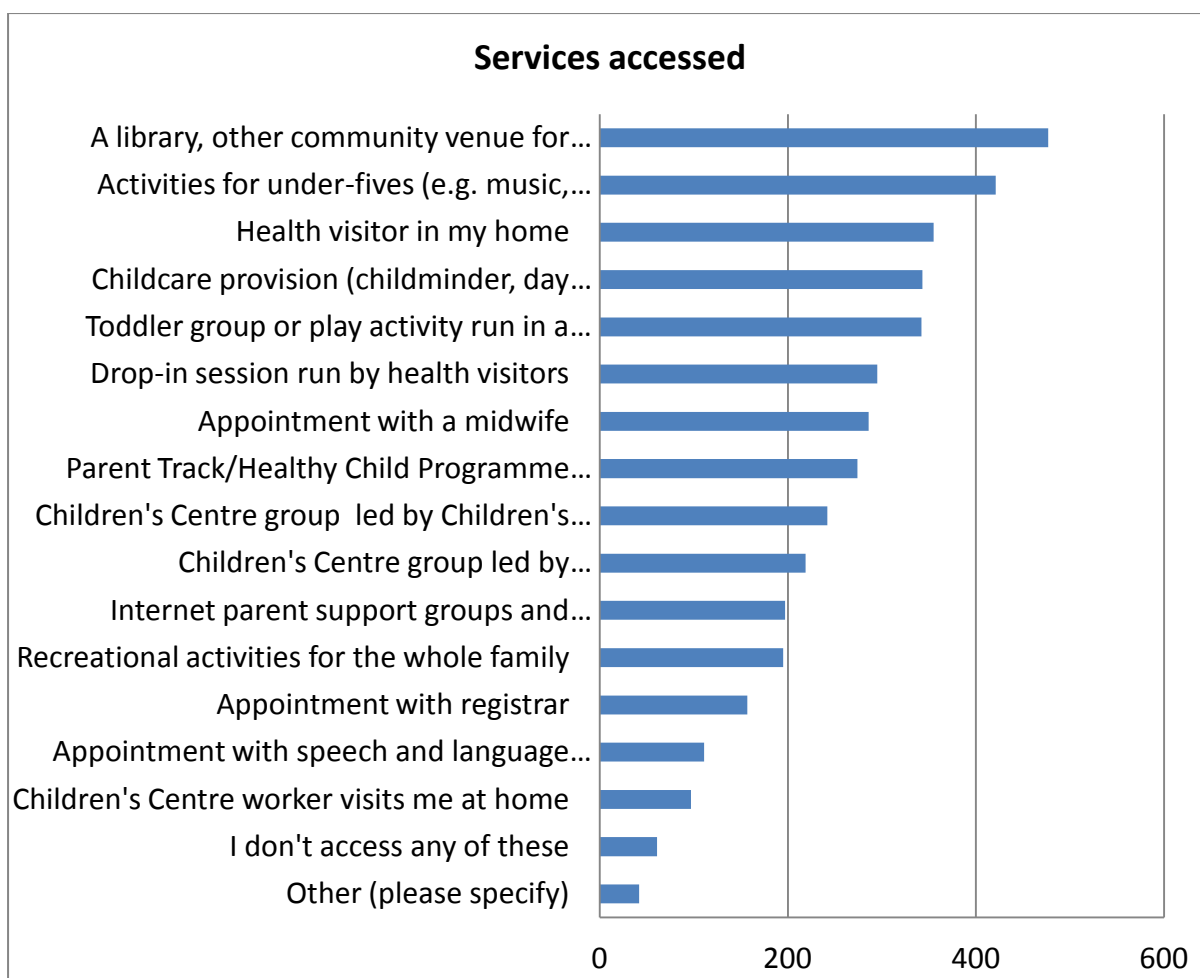


More detailed feedback against each proposal is explored below.

ENSURING SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILIES

There was strong endorsement from families that the redeveloped early years offer made by Local Area Teams should ensure support for all families (93% either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’).

The consultation asked families what provision they accessed in their communities with their children. The responses to this question are shown in the chart below. This data tells us a number of things. Firstly, that there is a diverse range of community provision available to families and that families regularly access this provision.



The importance of ensuring support for all families was underlined in comments received by children's centre staff and to the children's services feedback email address.

- Families fed back that they would like to see the existing community and parent led offer continue. Feedback from a drop in session at a children's centre highlighted that many parents, especially new parents, come to the volunteer run groups to get out the house, make new friends (both for the parents and the children) and some parents were worried there will be nothing left for them if these groups go. They felt it was important to keep them.
- Parents also expressed concern about the potential costs to access different groups. Feedback suggested that the developing offer made by community and parent led groups worked best when costs to families to attend groups was kept as low as possible.
- One suggestion included encouraging accessible groups for working parents at times outside of working hours: *"I support the review and changes. For me one of the most useful changes would be to increase the times of the day or days of the week that I can access the services. Parenting isn't 9-5 and I am a full time working mum with a long commute daily so my weekdays are very long."*

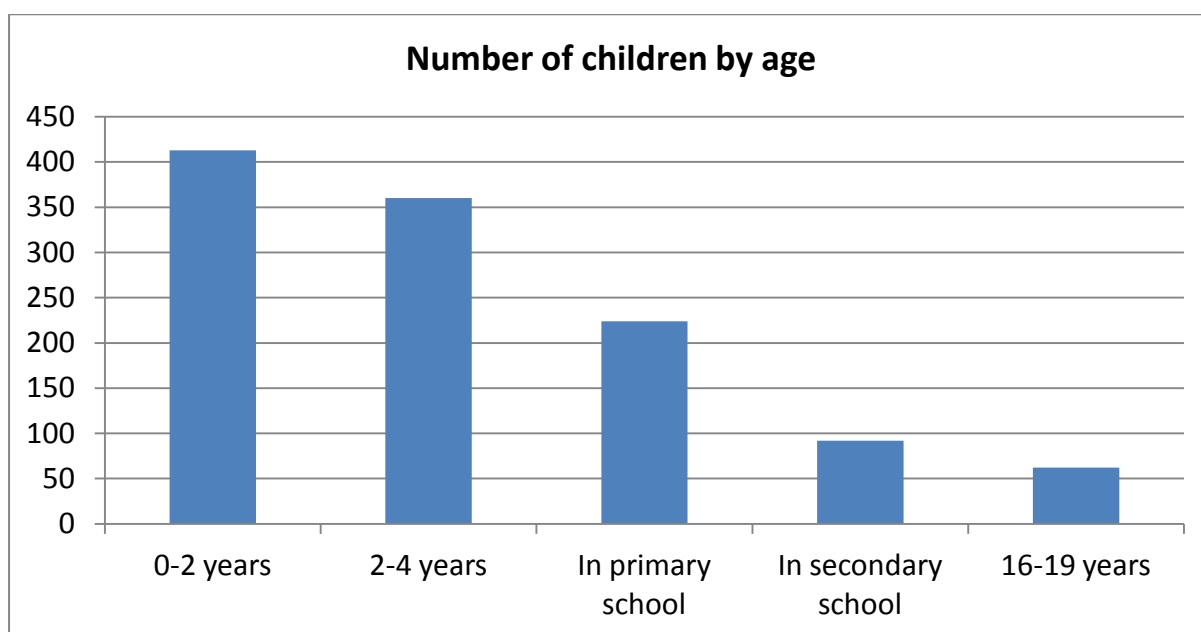
DO MORE WHEN FAMILIES NEED MORE

The proposal to 'do more when families need more' received strong endorsement with 95% of respondents saying they 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the proposal. It is clear that the early years offer made by Local Area Teams must be able to identify and support families at times where more support is required.

Comments made through the consultation supported this proposal.

- "The children's centre were my link to the outside world and helped me to see the light at the end of the tunnel"
- "Been really helpful for us. Never used to like to ask for help but have started to and nice to have someone suggest things alongside us rather than do to us."

The chart below shows the profile of families taking part in the consultation. It is clear that many families have children at different ages and stages. Feedback would suggest that purely providing support in relation to one child or age can be less effective than delivering a child centred response which reflects on the needs of the entire family.



MAKING THE BEST USE OF OUR BUILDING AND STAFF

The feedback made clear that families value the quality of the staff delivering services.

- "I really appreciate the care and support to me and my children"
- "Been really helpful for us"

There was strong endorsement for 'making the best use of buildings and staff' with 79% of respondents stating they either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the proposal. The level of

endorsement is not as emphatic as for the other proposals but is still very strong with only 11% stating they 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree'.

From reviewing comments made alongside the consultation there are some important themes to reflect upon.

- That value is placed on having staff in place and able to respond to need as opposed to unmanned or underused buildings.
- That people endorse the exploration of alternative arrangements for buildings as long as it doesn't undermine the first two proposals (ensuring support for all families and doing more when families need more).
- That we should explore other opportunities for where families can access support in communities right across York and not limit delivery to existing children's centre buildings.
- That some concern was put forward about using the same space for direct work with young children and older young people. It is not proposed to have a single building which is the only point of delivery. The proposal is to make use of a range of locations across York which would be suitable for the delivery of services that are age appropriate.

THE PROPOSED EARLY YEARS OFFER WITHIN LOCAL AREA TEAMS

We want to create new Local Area Teams which can work alongside communities to support families. The new teams will expand beyond the offer that children's centres alone currently make to families.

We are proposing that by creating new Local Area Teams we will:

- Ensure support for families in the crucial early years of a child's life but also for families with children up to 19 years old (or 25 years old for disabled children and young people)
- Locate more of our services in communities where families need them.
- Spend as much time as possible working with families.
- Work throughout York where families need us.

The following sections outline in more detail the early years offer made by Local Area Teams in response to the outcome of the public consultation.

ENSURING SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILIES

It is proposed that following consultation, work to ensure support for all families is taken forward by the Local Area Teams. This specifically means:

- That Health visitor and school nursing services (as part of the 0-19 healthy child service) continue for all families and integrate with Local Area Teams.
- That the Local Area Teams dedicate identified capacity to support community and partner run groups to become established right across York. These groups will build on the existing universal offer of support and social activities for families. The development of this universal offer for all families will be driven by what families and communities want for themselves and also by identified need.
- The Local Area Teams will work directly with voluntary, independent, private childcare providers and also with schools that provide childcare. This is so that these valued partners can continue to play their important role in supporting early childhood development. We will also strengthen the capacity of childcare providers to work in partnership to support families with emerging needs to access appropriate support at an early stage.
- As well as ensuring support for all families we must support families to understand what is available. Local Area Teams across the city will work together so that families can access good quality information to help them to understand what is available.

DO MORE WHEN FAMILIES NEED MORE

In moving towards new Local Area Teams it is really important that when families need more support that this is available. In response to this it is proposed:

- Local Area Teams work with families and communities so that they know how to access support when required.
- That Local Area Teams put in place pro-active ways of reaching out to families who need the most support. This will be achieved by identifying the most vulnerable families through sharing our data and pooling our local knowledge. The Local Area Teams can then reach out to families who may need our support at an earlier stage. This should reduce families where need has been hidden throughout the early years until children start at primary school.
- Local Area Teams must put in place dedicated resource to support families with pre-school children. It is also very important though that this resource can also work to the needs of the wider family including children and young people who may be at different ages and stages. This can improve the holistic support families receive and improve transitions for families with higher needs into starting school.
- That Local Area Teams work together with other services in a family's life to be more effective, reduce duplication and reduce the number of people families have to deal with. This means that people working in a Local Area Team may lead a coordinated plan and work with multi-agency partners to provide a proportionate response to emerging needs.

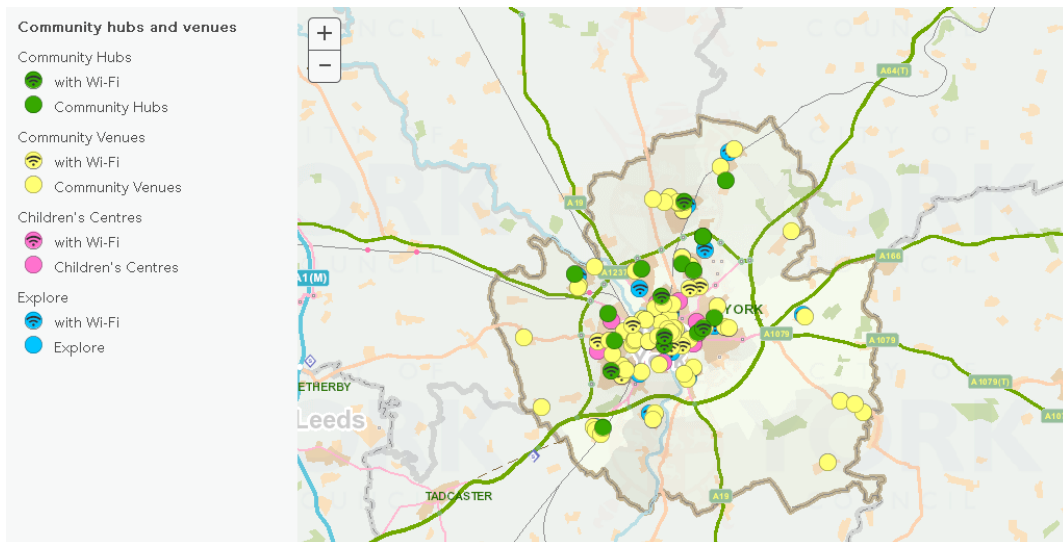
WORK THROUGHOUT YORK WHERE FAMILIES NEED US

The consultation has clearly shown that residents want provision to be in place for all families and that when more support is needed that this is available. The delivery of this offer should not be limited to existing children's centre buildings. We will build on our work to reach out to communities in response to need throughout York. We must have an unrelenting focus on delivering the best possible services with families throughout our city. It is therefore proposed to change the designation of six of our children's centre buildings to allow them to be used more flexibly (to cover the age range 0-19) in response to the needs of families and communities.

To be clear this means that those buildings can continue to deliver the types of groups and services that they do today. If we change designation it means that buildings could then also be made available for a range of other provision including: developing new childcare in areas where this is needed, by schools to deliver high quality learning environments, by community groups and organisations. The offer from the buildings will provide opportunities to extend opportunities to children and young people across the 0-19 age range, rather than being restricted to 0-5. How we all use these buildings and others in the future will be shaped by the needs of the communities they serve. By changing how we use our buildings we can make best use of these spaces in communities. We can also improve our efficiency and effectiveness by reducing the amount of time and money our staff need to spend on looking after buildings. In doing so we can maximise our staff time and resources on what families need and will make the greatest difference.

The early years offer and the wider offer made by Local Area Teams will respond to need. We will base ourselves in the areas of York with the highest identified need but must work throughout York wherever we are needed. This means we need to look not just at what we deliver through our children's centre buildings but what we deliver from any council building, any partner building and also what we deliver in families homes.

The map below shows just some of the key community locations available in York for the delivery of this new offer to families. It is clear that we have an opportunity to engage more families across York with this offer than if we were to limit delivery to our existing buildings.



We are therefore proposing that we take forward the development of our new early years and 0-19 offer through Local Area Teams. In doing so we propose:

- That all nine sites are re-named and re-launched as a range of children and family centres that enable more flexible and responsive provision which aligns with local community activity and use.
- Maintain 3 children and family centre resources as designated ‘children’s centres’ with the statutory responsibility for ensuring the delivery of integrated early childhood services across the city. These centres will be the main bases for the Local Area Teams.

TIMEFRAME FOR PROPOSED CHANGES

There are two key stages to move delivery towards the proposals outlined for the early years offer within the context of new Local Area Teams. These are:

- Align our staff and structures to deliver the offer – This will be completed by January 2017.
- Re-designation of existing children’s centre sites as part of the new early years offer – The decision on this is being presented to the council Executive in July 2016. Following a decision being made on this matter implementation could be aligned with the staff changes described above.

York Children's Centre Services consultation

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

City of York Council is developing a new way of working across everything that we do. This is so that the council can play its part with communities in York and with the people of York. We want York to be a great place for families to live and grow up.

Children's Centres and their services play a really important role in supporting families from pregnancy through to children turning five years old. Children's Centres are part of a range of local services, providing access to community health services, parenting and family support, early education and childcare, and links to training and employment opportunities for families with children under the age of five.

Many of our children will lead happy, healthy lives without the need for intensive support. But we need to be able to help those most in need, so that every child in York has the best possible start in life. We know that providing support early in a child's life or at times when families need more support, rather than waiting for issues to grow, is better for everyone. Supporting early means better life chances for children and young people and reduces demand for expensive high-need services.

We want our children's centre services to be a key part of new **Local Area Teams** we are creating to support families in the crucial early years of a child's life through into adult hood (up to 19 years old or 25 years old for disabled young people). We will do this by locating more of our services in local communities.

We want your feedback on our ideas about how we develop children's centre services into these new Local Area Teams. This is where you come in.

As part of the new approach for families we are proposing we:

- **Ensure support for all families** – We want all families to be able to access support through Health Visitors, good quality childcare and groups for families that provide social, supportive and developmental activities.
- **Do more when families need us more** - At times many families need a bit more support. This can be as simple as talking to someone, through to support around post-natal depression or domestic abuse. We want our services to be there to respond when families need more.
- **Make the best use of our buildings and staff** – We want to expand our offer to families in communities by locating more services where families need them. To do this we want to spend our money on staff to work with families and spend less on

buildings. Because of us growing our teams in communities this may mean moving away from calling our buildings “children’s centres” and working with communities to understand and meet the needs of local families.

YOU SAID, WE DID...

We held a consultation in 2014 on what the future of the service should look like. Below shows what you told us in 2014 and how we responded.

You said...	We did...
You wanted more community use in Children's Centre buildings.	We encouraged more community groups to make use of our buildings. Now, most groups run in Children's Centre buildings are led by communities and voluntary groups with some support from our staff. This means that communities and partners are now providing 60% to 80% of open access groups run in Children's Centre buildings.
You wanted services which met families' needs.	By encouraging more community and voluntary groups to help meet families' more general needs, this frees our staff to respond to families that need more support. Much of the valuable work carried out by Children's Centre staff is unseen and takes place away from the buildings themselves. For example, to support families experiencing cases of post natal depression, domestic violence, or needing support bringing up their children, staff will visit families at home, in community bases, or wherever the family needs them to be.
You wanted services that are local to you.	Children's Centre services have reached out from the Children's Centre buildings. This has meant working alongside community and family groups which operate in locations throughout York. This has allowed us to support families where they need us rather than services being delivered just through Children's Centre buildings.

We would like your feedback on how we can best deliver services for families within the resources available. When drawing up our ideas we looked at what you told us in 2014 and the changes we made since then.

We want your feedback on each idea and would like to know a bit more about how you and your family access services.

ENSURE SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILIES

It is really important that all families have access to support, especially in the crucial early years of a child's life.

We are proposing that we continue to develop work to ensure that all families with children under the age of five will be able to access:

- Health visitor services (as part of the 0-19 healthy child service)
- Community and partner run groups offering support and social activities
- Good or better quality childcare delivered by voluntary, independent, private childcare providers and schools
- Good quality information to help families understand what is available.

This will mean that all families have access to support during pregnancy, in the child's early years and beyond. We will work with partners to ensure support for all families wherever they live in the city.

If we don't do this it will mean our staff will have less time to work with families at times when they need more support.

Q1) Please tick below to show how much you agree with our proposal to ensure **support for all families**.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
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DO MORE WHEN FAMILIES NEED MORE

At times many families need a bit more support. This can be as simple as talking to someone, through to support around post-natal depression or domestic abuse. We want the new Local Area Teams we create to be able to support families when they need us.

“Support services seem to be very good once you can get into 'the system'. There is little support for those just on the outside and it seems that in some cases support is only available once someone is at breaking point. It would be better to focus more on early intervention and prevention rather than cures”

A York Mum.

We are proposing that when families need more support we focus on:

- Families knowing how to access support when they need it
- Reaching out to families who need the most support
- That our staff are able to concentrate their time on providing that support
- That we work together with other services in a family's life to be more effective, reduce duplication and reduce the number of people families have to deal with

This will mean that our staff can be there for families when they need us. We know providing early support can have a long term, positive impact on the lives of children, young people and families.

If we don't do this it will mean we won't be able to fully support families at times when they need more support. This could mean more families needing more intensive support at a later stage.

Q2) Please tick below to show how much you agree with our proposed approach to do more when families need more

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree
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MAKE THE BEST USE OF OUR BUILDINGS AND STAFF

We want to create new Local Area Teams which can work alongside communities to support families. The new teams will expand beyond the offer that children’s centres alone currently make to families.

We are proposing that by creating new Local Area Teams we will:

- Ensure support for families in the crucial early years of a child’s life but also for families with children up to 19 years old (or 25 years old for disabled children and young people)
- Locate more of our services in communities where families need them.
- Spend as much time as possible working with families.
- Work throughout York where families need us.

For us to be able to do this we need to review how we run our existing buildings. Every year we spend over 20% of our budget, plus staff time, on running our children’s centre buildings. We want to reduce this so that we can maximise the number of staff we have to work with families. To do this we want to explore for each of our buildings if transferring ownership and management to partners and communities could save money but still ensure services for families. We will make sure that any transfer agreements would allow for activities for children under five years old such as childcare or access for community groups and partners to still take place.

“Share the buildings – make sure it is a full share with schools and nurseries” – A York parent

As we are expanding the offer we make to families in communities we want to explore if all of our buildings should continue to be independently registered with the government as "Children's Centres". What we are proposing to deliver in communities goes beyond the government definition of the services a children's centre would traditionally provide. By moving away from registering all of our buildings as children's centres it gives us more scope to provide a wider range of our services throughout York. Expanding the offer to families and looking at who runs the buildings also gives us the opportunity to strengthen links with local schools and improve the transition from pre-school to primary school.

This will mean:

- Our staff can spend less time managing buildings and more time with the families they need to focus on
- Families can continue to access services for children under the age of five, but the buildings would be owned or managed by another organisation
- Families will be able to access a greater range of services in their community not just for young children but through into adult hood. Because of this expanded offer in communities we may no longer define our buildings as Children's Centres.
- We can deliver our crucial services in more locations across York, still reaching families who don't live near one of the existing Children's Centres.

If we don't do this it will mean we need to achieve more of our savings from our children's centre workforce resulting in less support for families.

Q3) Please tick below to show how much you agree with our proposed approach to **making the best use of our buildings and staff.**

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree
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Q4) Please tick below to show what type of services and activities you access for your 0-4 year old. (Tick as many as apply)

	Toddler group or play activity run in a community centre or church hall (e.g Gateway, Foxwood)		Health visitor in my home				Children's Centre group led by volunteers or parents
	Parent Track/Healthy Child Programme appointments		Drop-in session run by health visitors				Children's Centre group led by Children's Centre Support Workers

	Activities for under-fives(e.g. music, sport, groups etc)		Appointment with a midwife	A library, other community venue for learning or play
	Childcare provision (childminder, day nursery, playgroup etc)		Appointment with registrar	Appointment with speech and language therapist
	Recreational activities for the whole family		Internet parent support groups and social media	Children's Centre worker visits me at home
	I don't access any of these	Other (please state):		

ABOUT YOU

Q5) Are you... (Please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A parent / carer
<input type="checkbox"/>	A resident (not including parents/carers)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A practitioner/service provider

Q6) If you are a parent/carer please put how many children you have in the following age ranges

0-2 years	2-4 years	In primary school	In secondary school	16-19 years
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Are you pregnant?				

Q7) What is your home postcode?

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Q8) Are you disabled or do you have additional needs?

Yes	No	Prefer not to say
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Q9) Are any of your children disabled or have additional needs?

Yes	No	Prefer not to say
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Q10) What is your ethnic background?

White British	White and Black African	Asian Pakistani
White Irish	White and Black Caribbean	Black African
White Gypsy or Traveller	Asian Bangladeshi	Black Caribbean
White Other	Asian Indian	Chinese
White and Asian	Other (please state)	

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views. It is really important that as the council develops new ways of working that you can be involved in helping us to find the best way forward. The feedback you have given here will be taken into account when designing how best to deliver services in the future.

Please be aware that your response to this consultation may be published as part of any decision taken on the future delivery of services. Where responses are published no information would be made public from which you could be identified.