

Glossary

Access

Making it possible for a family to take part in and benefit from children's centre services.

Basic management unit

The group of staff who lead the planning of centre activities, groups and services.

Capacity

The amount of something available – in this context, the amount of County Council money available to pay for staff to manage and work in children's centres.

Cluster

Group of children's centres within an area of Hampshire.

Commissioner

The person who gives other organisations government money to manage and run public services.

Competitive tender

Organisations apply to Hampshire County Council for the job of managing a cluster of centres, they need to explain how they will manage the services to support families and how much they will charge to do so. The County Council will then choose the best organisations.

Deprivation, vulnerability, poverty

Families that cannot afford basic life essentials (healthy food, clean clothes, education).

Deprivation level

This is worked out for an area by considering the number of people living there who have lower incomes; are unemployed; have health or disability issues; have lower levels of education, skills and training; have difficulty finding suitable housing; have poorer living environments; and where there are higher levels of crime.

Full core

Children's centres provide support depending on the needs of the area they are in. Full core children's centres are in the greatest areas of need and offer families early learning and childcare on site and are open for 10 hours a day, as well as offering home visits, parent support, links to health services and Jobcentre Plus. For a full list of what a full core children's centre offers, please visit: www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/childrens-centres/practitioners/whats-on-offer

Funding streams

The different activities or services that receive money from the County Council's budget.

Graduated

Children's centres provide support depending on the needs of the area they are in. Graduated children's centres are found in the less deprived areas and offer families support in their local area, links to child and family health services, links to Jobcentre Plus and drop-in activities for parents/carers. For a full list please visit: www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/childrens-centres/practitioners/whats-on-offer

Lead Executive Member

The person who makes decisions for Hampshire County Council about children's services. The lead executive member for Children's Services is Councillor Roy Perry.

Merger

Joining together the management of centres.

Mixed economy

Different organisations manage children's centres, including schools, Hampshire County Council and national and local charities.

Narrowing the gap

Reducing the difference in the life chances for poorer families compared to wealthier families.

Notional catchment area

The area of the county in which a children's centre gives its services.

Operational efficiencies

Running services for less money without losing the quality of them.

Outcomes-focussed

Activities that are planned to make a difference to the lives of children and families.

Outreach

Children's centre staff and partners work out in the community with families, rather than having families come to the centre's main building.

Parameters

The things that affect a decision.

Provision

The children's centre services put in place for Hampshire County Council to support families of 0-5 year olds across the whole county.

Rationalisation

Changing how children's centre services are run across the county with the aim of maintaining the quality of the service while reducing costs.

Reach area

The number of children under five that are supported by a children's centre.

Schools budget base-line

Money made available to run all of Hampshire County Council's schools.

Service

A service can refer to a particular activity that is delivered through a children's centre or that is provided by a partner, such as health. A children's centre service could be outreach, a stay and play group, a breastfeeding support group, appointments to see a health visitor at a children's centre – there are so many.

Service delivery

How the activities, groups and support given by a children's centre are offered to families.

Sustainable

Will last for a long time.

Third-party providers

Organisations that run services without making a profit and that aren't linked to the government or a local authority.

Universal service

Every 0-5 year old and their family in Hampshire is able to take part in a children's centre activity where it is not aimed at a particular group.

Consultation questions

Questions
1. Do you agree that we should keep children's centres in areas across the whole of Hampshire?
2. Do you think we should put all our money into areas of greatest need?
3. Which activities that your centre runs do you think are the most important to protect and keep free of charge?
4. Are there particular points you want to make about your own centre, including ways in which you think it could be made more flexible and accessible?
5. Do you agree that we should cut as much as possible from central costs by managing centres through other organisations?
6. Do you agree that we should protect staff who deliver services to families by cutting management and running costs?
7. Do you agree to the proposals to combine (merge) centres in this way?
8. Some people have already told us that the mergers could be done differently. Do you have any views on which centres it would be better to combine?
9. Some people have already told us that the groups (clusters) are too large. Bearing in mind that smaller clusters probably mean more money spent on management and less on front line services, do you agree with the size of the proposed groups?
10. Do you agree that it would be reasonable to introduce some charging for non-essential services and activities, provided families in need did not have to pay?
11. Are there any other ways you think that money could be saved in the work that children's centres do and in the way they are organised?
12. Do you agree with the principles for the proposed changes to children's centres? (Original consultation 'Question 1')
13. Do you agree with the criteria used to support the rationalisation option? (Original consultation 'Question 2')
14. Do you agree with the proposals for rationalisation? (Original consultation 'Question 3')
15. Have you sent in a response before and now added to it through the supplementary questions?

Table showing response rates to each question

Question	Total Responses for Question	Total Number of Yes Responses	%	Total Number of No Responses	%
1. Do you agree that we should keep children's centres in areas across the whole of Hampshire?	364	345	95%	19	5%
2. Do you think we should put all our money into areas of greatest need?	358	48	13%	310	87%
3. This question does not have a 'Yes/No' response					
4. Are there particular points you want to make about your own centre, including ways in which you think it could be made more flexible and accessible?	303	199	66%	104	34%
5. Do you agree that we should cut as much as possible from central costs by managing centres through other organisations?	314	102	32%	212	68%
6. Do you agree that we should protect staff who deliver services to families by cutting management and running costs?	330	208	63%	122	37%
7. Do you agree to the proposals to combine (merge) centres in this way?	343	118	34%	225	66%
8. Some people have already told us that the mergers could be done differently. Do you have any views on which centres it would be better to combine?	286	120	42%	166	58%
9. Some people have already told us that the groups (clusters) are too large. Bearing in mind that smaller clusters probably mean more money spent on management and less on front line services, do you agree with the size of the proposed groups?	190	71	37%	119	63%
10. Do you agree that it would be reasonable to introduce some charging for non-essential services and activities, provided families in need did not have to pay?	335	272	81%	63	19%
11. Are there any other ways you think that money could be saved in the work that children's centres do and in the way they are organised?	265	169	64%	96	36%
12. Do you agree with the principles for the proposed changes to children's centres?	1120	344	31%	776	69%
13. Do you agree with the criteria used to	1061	215	20%	846	80%

Question	Total Responses for Question	Total Number of Yes Responses	%	Total Number of No Responses	%
support the rationalisation option?					
14. Do you agree with the proposals for rationalisation?	1073	127	12%	946	88%
15. Have you sent in a response before and now added to it through the supplementary questions?	251	41	16%	210	84%

Alternative proposals for children's centre merges by district (including number of responses)

District	Suggestion	% of the number of respondents making a suggestion	Number of respondents making a suggestion
Basingstoke & Deane	Keep Brighton Hill together	5.4%	8
	No amendments to Honeycomb	2%	3
East Hampshire	Do not merge Hillside and Tree Tops	0.7%	1
Eastleigh	Merge Chamberlayne, Caterpillar Hill and Little Coppice	0.7%	1
	Merge The Aviary with Caterpillar Hill	0.7%	1
Fareham	Keep Oak Meadow and Strawberry Meadow together	9.5%	14
	Do not put Wickham into Oak Meadow	0.7%	1
	Leave Merryfields as it is	0.7%	1
	Merge Sovereign, Strawberry Meadow, Oak Meadow and Merry-Go-Round	1.4%	2
	Merge centres to fit secondary school catchment areas: - Neville Lovett (Merryfields) - Henry Court (Oak Meadow) - Brookfield (Sovereign) - CAMS/Portchester (Keepsake) - Strawberry Meadow could be divided according to the catchment area boundaries - Merry Go Round could be divided between Swanmore and Henry Court	0.7%	1
Gosport	Do not merge Stubblee Hill and Sure Start Rowner	8.2%	12
	Do not merge Little Waves and Haselbridge	1.4%	2
Hart	Woodlark/Water Lilies, Wisteria/Little Saplings, Turners Wood/Fleet Fireflies/Tweseldown	17.7%	26
Havant	Do not merge Starfish and The Orchard	1.4%	2
	Merge Park Futures and Trospacc	1.4%	2
New Forest	Move Marchwood back to The Harbour	1.4%	2
	Do not merge Seedlings with All Seasons	8.2%	12
	Leave The Waterside as it is	7.5%	11
	Do not merge The Bridges and Pathways	0.7%	1
	Merge The Phoenix and All Seasons	0.7%	1
Rushmoor	Do not merge Park and Sunflowers	0.7%	1
	Have just two centres in Rushmoor, one covering Aldershot, one covering Farnborough	0.7%	1
Test Valley	Merge Poppies with Acorns, merge Water Meadow with Little Oaks and Sunshine	2.7%	4
	Merge Poppies and Water Meadow and Acorns and Spring Meadow as one centre	0.7%	1
	Merge Spring Meadow and Poppies and Water Meadow	0.7%	1
	Merge Spring Meadow and Acorns	0.7%	1

Winchester	Do not merge Lanterns and Reign and Shine	0.7%	1
	Merge Lanterns with Sparklers	1.4%	2
	Merge Lanterns, Sparklers and The Carroll	1.4%	2
	Merge Little Petals, Happy Valley and Merry-Go-Round	2%	3
	Do not merge Sunbeams, Little Petals, and Happy Valley	2.7%	4
	Merge Merry-Go-Round with Little Petals and Happy Valley	1.4%	2
	Merge Merry-Go-Round with Little Petals and Hop-a-long	0.7%	1
	Merge the Meon Valley area of Happy Valley with Merry-Go-Round	0.7%	1
	Southern part of Sunbeams should be merged with Little Petals	1.4%	2
	Whiteley ward in Merry-Go-Round should be merged with Sovereign	0.7%	1
	Keep Sunbeams as it is	2%	3
	Merge Sunbeams and Reign and Shine	0.7%	1
	Separate Sparklers and The Carroll	2%	3
General	Align children's centre NCAs with secondary school catchment areas	1.4%	2

Alternative proposals for clustering children's centres by district (including number of respondents)

District	Suggestion	% of the number of respondents making a suggestion	Number of respondents making a suggestion
Basingstoke	None	0%	0
East Hants	Remove Bushy Leaze from the cluster	2.8%	3
Eastleigh & Winchester	Separate Eastleigh & Winchester	11.1%	12
	Move Happy Valley into the Havant cluster	0.9%	1
	Remove Lanterns from the cluster	2.8%	3
	Have a Winchester urban and Winchester rural cluster	1.9%	2
Fareham & Gosport	Separate Fareham & Gosport	18.5%	20
	Remove Keepsake out of the cluster	1.9%	2
	Haven should be removed from the cluster	3.7%	4
Hart & Rushmoor	Separate Hart and Rushmoor	2.8%	3
	Split Rushmoor and Hart into 3 clusters – Farnborough, Fleet and Aldershot	0.9%	1
Havant	Match to the 4 LCP clusters	0.9%	1
New Forest	Split the New Forest into East and West	9.3%	10
	Cluster 1 – Phoenix and All Seasons/Seedlings	0.9%	1
	Cluster 2 – Pathways/The Bridges		
Cluster 3 – The Patch/The Harbour, The Waterside, Forest First/Cadland			
Test Valley	Split Test Valley to match the LCP boundaries	1.9%	2
General	Cluster centres in line with school pyramids	0.9%	1
	Too big	29.6%	32
	Cluster in line with Local Children's Partnerships	8.3%	9
	Cluster centres in line with Extended Services boundaries	0.9%	1

Consultation support meetings

DATE	MEETING TITLE	ADDRESS	VENUE	TIME	OFFICERS
31-Jan	Centre leaders (HCC)	Eastleigh	Chamberlayne CC	09:30 - 12:00	RV/ST
31-Jan	Centre leaders (HCC)	Havant	Mill Hill CC	13:30 - 15:00	RV/SS/MN
02-Feb	Centre leaders (HCC)	Basingstoke	Pebbles CC	09:30 - 11:30	RV/KL
03-Feb	Centre leaders (HCC)	Petersfield	Heath CC	13:00 - 14:00	RV/DC
07-Feb	Public consultation	Bordon	Mill Chase Community Tech College	18:00 - 20:00	TS/RV/ST
08-Feb	Public consultation	Fleet	Harlington Centre	09:00 - 11:30	BE/RV/KL
08-Feb	Public consultation	Eastleigh	The Aviary Children's Centre	14:00 - 16:00	RV/BE/ST
10-Feb	Public consultation	Andover	Spring Meadow Children's Centre	14:00 - 16:00	RV/DC/SS
11-Feb	Public consultation	Basingstoke	Oakridge Hall for All	15:00 - 17:00	RV/DC/KL
14-Feb	Public consultation	Bordon	Mill Chase Community Tech College	09:30 - 11:30	RV/DC/MN
14-Feb	Public consultation	Fareham	Oak Meadow Children's Centre	14:00 - 16:00	RV/BE/SS
15-Feb	Headteachers of school managed centres	Winchester	Falcon House	13:00 - 15:00	JH/RV
15-Feb	Public consultation	Basingstoke	Oakridge Hall for All	18:00 - 20:00	JH/BE/KL
16-Feb	Public consultation	Farnborough	Rushmoor Borough Council	09:30 - 11:30	RV/JH/LMS
17-Feb	Public consultation	Havant	Mill Hill Children's Centre	09:00 - 11:00	RV/TS/MN
28-Feb	Public consultation	Eastleigh	Crestwood College for Business & Enterprise	18:00 - 20:00	RV/BE/ST
01-Mar	Third Party Providers	Winchester	Basing room	10:30 - 12:00	JH/RV
04-Mar	SOCC	Winchester	Beaulieu rm	09:30 - 10:30	John Coughlan/ JH/TS/Cllr Perry
04-Mar	Partners (Health & JCP)	Winchester	Denning room	09:00 - 10:30	RV
04-Mar	Public consultation	Winchester	Lanterns Nursery School & CC	14:30 - 16:00	RV/DC/LMS
07-Mar	Public consultation	New Milton	The Phoenix Children & Young People's Centre	10:00 - 11:30	RV/MN/ST/JH
07-Mar	Public consultation	Gosport	Sure Start Rowner CC	14:30 - 16:00	JH/BE/DC
14-Mar	SOCC	Winchester	Sparklers CC	10:15 - 11:15	John Coughlan/JH/TS
18-Mar	Centre leaders (all)	Winchester	Ashburton Hall	09:30 - 11:30	JH/TS

Supplementary information to the consultation

Drop in sessions feedback

Basingstoke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The catchment around Brighton Hill cut the area in half and therefore does not work. It might be better to have a larger catchment and keep the area together as this would be better for the community. There are many rural areas and the bus service and access routes make it difficult and dangerous for families (however this is the same now and is not worsened as a result of the changes). Bushy Leaze should be kept separate (suggested by attendees from East Hampshire)
East Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns over links with voluntary organisations Maintained Nursery Schools should be kept separate.
Eastleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete objection to proposals Clusters too large, split Eastleigh and Winchester Disadvantage small organisations in tendering for the cluster Savings should be found elsewhere
Fareham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable families had particular concerns over losing the staff they have got to know and trust. Do not want to lose use of the buildings or any services Concern over clustering of Gosport and Fareham – does not make any sense. Wickham ward should go with centres in the Meon Valley such as Happy Valley and Little Petals
Gosport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of the integrated nature of service delivery for Haven was raised specifically The importance of understanding and delivering high quality early years education was raised with a slight suggestion that third party management may have an impact on this The Stubble Hill/ Rowner merger was raised as an issue. Most particularly the fact that the merger masks the deprivation level for the Rowner NCA and the fact that these are very different communities Concern over clustering of Fareham and Gosport – does not make any sense.

Hart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the proposed mergers
Havant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete objection to proposals • Clusters too large, Havant should be split into more than one cluster. • Concerns that centres will lose good staff • Services will suffer
New Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding staffing issues and the future of jobs • Concerns that families would have to travel further • Queries regarding the future use of the bus • Concern that the cluster model disenfranchises schools in particular • Concern around having third parties on a school site and the impact changing to this model would have on the integrated nature of service delivery in school managed centres
Rushmoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that centres continue to reach vulnerable families • General agreement to cluster but some suggest splitting Rushmoor and Hart due to the difference in size and demographics, and to encourage smaller providers to tender • Concern over the NCA for Sycamore where it doesn't quite work for the community • Concern regarding the transition from one provider to another, particularly re staff, during the mobilisation period • Concern about the identification of vulnerable families and assessment of need if the universal element is lost
Test Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over losing service families • Clustering is the right approach and makes sense • Could the centres be clustered to match the LCP boundaries. • Poppies work closer with Spring Meadow and Acorns
Winchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some support for clustering proposal • Acceptance that savings need to be made • Maintained Nursery Schools should be left separate