

Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion on Children’s Centres

Delete all after:

"This council recognises the importance of early years provision provided by Sure Start and applauds the measurable, positive impact on the lives of children and families."

And insert:

The Council welcomes the consequent strength of support for the existing Sure Start Children's Centre provision in Hampshire. Further, it acknowledges the range of people helped by Sure Start Children's Centres, including parents who are anxious at the prospect of parenthood or are suffering from post natal depression; parents struggling to bring up children who have been diagnosed as having SEN or who are disabled.

Furthermore, this Council acknowledges that a child of four who is well adjusted socially and well developed in language, behavioural and social skills is more likely to be successful in later formal education and in the world of work after education, and is providing effective and carefully targeted investment in Early Years Intervention. Using the intervention grant, we believe, will help reduce the burgeoning liabilities for child protection.

This Council recognises the economic pressures faced by the Coalition Government, as a result of the dire state of the national economy left by the former Labour government and accepts that the Coalition Government needs to bring public expenditure back under control and consequently has been obliged to reduce its grants to local councils.

In addressing these economic pressures this Council has never waived in its resolve to retain and promote the range and take up of services from pre-natal through to school entry in its Children’s Centres recognising that the greatest need, and therefore range of services, will be in areas of economic and social deprivation and specifically:-

Declares its intention to maintain a comprehensive service of Childrens Centres whilst seeking economies where possible in costs of management and other bureaucracy.

Welcomes the internal review of staffing levels now being undertaken by the director of Childrens Services in a quest to identify economies that will not adversely impact on front line service provision that will be enlightened by taking account of the responses from the current consultation on the Council’s proposals.

To continue to integrate the services in Sure Start Children’s Centres with health and formal schooling and bring in further local partnerships with wider services aimed at supporting families with young children.

Deplores the irresponsible and capricious behaviour of some opposition members who have misused the position they hold, to misrepresent the Council’s intentions and have caused unnecessary expense, worry and anxiety, particularly amongst the young and vulnerable families at a critical time in their lives and who depend so much upon the support they receive from these facilities

Proposed by Councillor Stephen Reid

Seconded by Councillor Peter Edgar

Signed
Cllr Colin Davidovitz
Secretary Conservative Group

Summary of amended clusters and merged centres within the revised proposal

Cluster	Children's Centre	Number of under 5s	Average deprivation (IMD and IDACI 2010)	Link LCP
Basingstoke & Deane A	Lily Pads/The Courtyard	1,536	86.08%	Costello/Cranbourne/The Vyne
	Pebbles	1,013	40.21%	Everest/Fort Hill
	Octopus	1,222	54.84%	Costello/Cranbourne/The Vyne
	Badgers/Home Tree	1,689	78.65%	Testbourne/The Hurst/The Clere
Basingstoke & Deane B	Snowdrops	1,359	85.33%	Testbourne/The Hurst/The Clere
	Westside	930	50.36%	Aldworth/Bishop Challoner/Brighton Hill
	Honeycomb	1,463	52.17%	Everest/Fort Hill
	Bunnies/Buttercups	1,707	75.43%	Aldworth/Bishop Challoner/Brighton Hill
East Hampshire	Chase	1,380	65.95%	East Hants Bordon
	Hillside/Tree Tops	1,673	77.66%	East Hants Liss and East Hants Alton
	Heath	1,141	69.33%	
Bushy Leaze	Bushy Leaze	1,132	68.99%	East Hants Alton
Eastleigh - Southern Parishes	The Windmill and Sails	1,085	55.76%	Eastleigh
	The West End Gateway/Hop-a-long/The Nest	2,061	76.36%	Eastleigh
	Little Coppice	1,116	78.94%	Eastleigh
Eastleigh - Central	The Aviary	1,353	60.89%	Eastleigh
	Caterpillar Hill	1,120	93.40%	Eastleigh
	Chamberlayne	1,244	50.80%	Eastleigh
Fareham	Oak Meadow	1,402	72.82%	Fareham
	Keepsake	1,060	72.02%	Fareham
	Merryfields	1,526	71.85%	Fareham
	Sovereign/Strawberry Meadow	1,983	83.96%	Fareham
Gosport	The Tree House/Little Waves	1,366	53.46%	Gosport
	Haselbridge	1,292	49.92%	Gosport
	Sure Start Rowner/Stubble Hill	1,721	42.91%	Gosport
Haven	Haven	736	39.92%	Gosport
Hart	Woodlark/Water Lilies	1,544	84.16%	Hart
	Wisteria/Little Saplings	1,324	83.12%	Hart
	Fleet Fireflies/Turners Wood/Tweseldown	2,699	90.70%	Hart
Havant -	Park Futures/Sharps Copse	1,186	12.51%	Havant

Cluster	Children's Centre	Number of under 5s	Average deprivation (IMD and IDACI 2010)	Link LCP
East	Trospacc	1,287	24.16%	Havant
	Starfish/The Orchard	1,591	53.84%	Havant
Havant - West	Mill Hill and Small Steps/Crookhorn Lane	1,443	51.89%	Havant
	Links	1,039	48.99%	Havant
	Branches	925	79.41%	Havant
New Forest - West/Rural	The Bridges/Pathways	1,469	69.40%	New Forest
	The Phoenix	1,347	61.10%	New Forest
	All Seasons/Seedlings	1,284	67.75%	New Forest
New Forest - East/Waterside	Forest First/Cadland	777	53.93%	New Forest
	The Waterside	1,499	64.31%	New Forest
	The Patch/The Harbour	1,877	62.70%	New Forest
Rushmoor	Maple Vue	1,343	64.41%	Rushmoor
	Park/Sunflowers	1,248	59.07%	Rushmoor
	Sycamore	1,316	79.76%	Rushmoor
	Butterflies and Dragonflies	1,442	67.11%	Rushmoor
	Owls	1,390	59.20%	Rushmoor
Test Valley	Spring Meadow	1,715	57.57%	North Test Valley
	Acorns	1,429	65.08%	North Test Valley
	Poppies/Water Meadow	1,040	80.46%	South Test Valley
	Little Oaks/Sunshine	1,789	73.72%	South Test Valley
Winchester	Reign and Shine/Sunbeams	1,158	83.75%	Winchester Alresford
	Sparklers/The Carroll	1,601	63.09%	Winchester Central
	Little Petals/Happy Valley/Merry-Go-Round	2,100	77.83%	Winchester Central
Lanterns	Lanterns	1,004	83.80%	Winchester Central

Table 1: Children's Centres Proposed 2012 / 13 Funding Allocations

	2010/11 funding £m	Proposed 2012/13 funding £m	Saving £m	Saving %
Total children's centre costs	16.909	10.909	6.000	35%
Central costs	4.039	0.909	3.130	77.5%
Children's Centre delegated costs	12.870	10.000	2.870	22.3%
Estimated staffing	10.370	7.784	2.586	24.9%
Estimated Supplies & Services	2.500	2.216	0.284	11.4%

Services and activities under consideration in the development of a charging framework

Core principles-

- Priority will be given to targeted and vulnerable groups
- Services and activities will always take account of the impact on the outcomes for children and families
- Core services as outlined in the Children's Centre Statutory Guidance will not be charged for

List of services and charging arrangements

Services that will be protected	Services that are at risk and may be charged for or delivered through volunteers or community groups
Access to health services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ante-natal/post natal groups (excluding parent craft) • Child health development checks • Support for post natal depression and mental health problems • Breastfeeding support • Therapy groups such as physio, occupational and speech and language therapy • Families with disabled children (SCSP) • Health advice, information and guidance – including smoking cessation, fitness, Accident and injury prevention, immunisation • Targeted support for obesity/diet/nutrition – E.g. Cook and Eat programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips/outings • Stay and play/messy play sessions • Baby yoga • Non-targeted services delivered by external providers e.g. baby massage, music groups, buggy blast. • Fun/open days • Crèche for non-targeted activities/people • Transport • Adult keep fit • Diet/slimming clubs • Toy libraries <p>Please note that there may be circumstances where some families will be fully funded to attend such activities where it has been identified that this is likely to improve outcomes or where they fall into one or more of the priority groups.</p>

Name of initiative, policy or project	Proposed changes to the pattern of children’s centre provision in Hampshire
Department	Children’s Services
Names of people completing assessment	Francesca Binyon; Louise Brown; Don Cameron; Janet Hoff; Tracey Sanders
Date	January - May 2011 (this assessment has been updated as the proposals have been revised)
<p>A front line or direct service is highly likely to have an impact on different communities. An infrastructure service may have an indirect impact. You need to use your professional knowledge to decide if you know enough about the different customer or staff groups which might be affected. These prompts will assist you to decide if you need to do an impact assessment.</p>	
Describe main purpose of initiative, policy, project	Reshaping the pattern of children’s centre provision to meet significant reductions in funding, whilst providing universal coverage and services to targeted groups.
What are the main activities?	<p>Hampshire County Council is proposing to change children centre provision across the county as a result of a significant reduction in funding. Key revised proposals following consultation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 area-based clusters of children’s centres; • managerial mergers leading to a reduction in children’s centres catchment areas from 81 to 54, whilst still providing a service throughout the county; • third party management of all centres; and • introducing a charging framework for some services. <p>Background information:</p> <p>Children's centre’s aim to give every child the best possible start in life. They are places where families can easily access a range of different services to support them, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information and advice on family support services; • drop-in sessions for parents, carers and child minders; • access to early education and childcare for children under five; • access to child and family health services; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links with JobCentre Plus, further education and training opportunities.
Who is intended to benefit?	The aim of the proposal is to reduce management and running costs for children’s centres (as a result of funding reductions), thereby securing the service for the future; and maintaining a service that is accessible to all families, but more targeted as those in need.
<p>Based on existing knowledge and information use the following checklist to decide what the impact might be on different groups and whether a more detailed impact assessment is required. Identify and summarise the data used in the grid below.</p> <p>Further guidance on 1. equality groups 2. data sources</p>	

These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded	Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?	Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?	If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?	How could the initiative improve equality of access?
<p>Age</p> <p>Children, young people, young parents, older or retired people</p>	<p>Characteristics of children and parents registering at children’s centres are recorded in the eStart database.</p> <p>Internal profiling reports are generated to identify age profiles for individual centres. This includes data on young parents (a specific target group for children’s centres).</p> <p>46,824 children under five are registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres</p> <p>There are 1,350 teenage parents registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres.</p>	<p>Children’s centres are for children under the age of five and their families.</p> <p>The proposed reorganisation of children’s centres would have no impact on service users on the basis of age (i.e. age of users will remain the same). Parents of all ages will have largely the same access to services.</p> <p>Teenage parents, are a priority user group and would continue to access services as they do at present.</p> <p>All under 5s and their families can access children’s centre services.</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always been targeted at children under five and their families and teenage parents have been a priority user group.</p>	<p>Access on the basis of age would be unlikely to change as a result of the proposed restructure.</p>

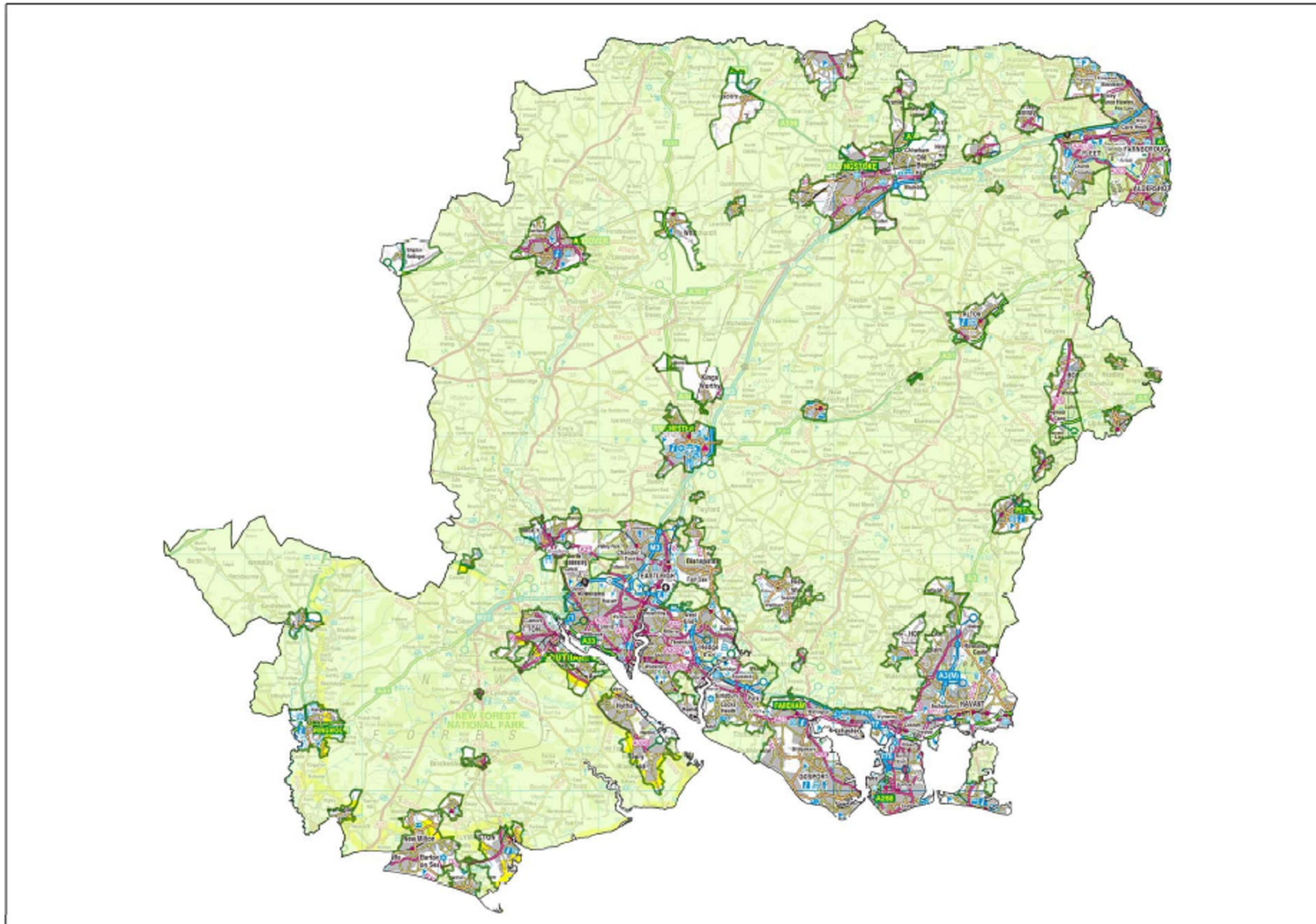
<p>These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded</p>	<p>Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?</p>	<p>Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?</p>	<p>If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?</p>	<p>How could the initiative improve equality of access?</p>
<p>Disabled People Mobility, sight, hearing, speech & language disability or difficulty, mental health/distress</p>	<p>Disabled children and parents are a specific priority user group for children’s centre services.</p> <p>The profile of service users is recorded in the eStart database, although this may not include whether a person has a disability.</p> <p>Currently there are 692 children under five registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres who have been identified by their parent/carer as having a special need or a disability.</p> <p>There are 304 parents/carers registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres who have identified themselves as having a disability or special need.</p>	<p>Children and/or parents with disabilities and special needs, are a targeted user group and would continue to access services as they do at present.</p> <p>The reorganisation of children’s centres would have minimal/no impact on service users on the basis of disability. It is anticipated services will largely continue to be offered in the same buildings as currently.</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always been targeted at all children under five and their families, including children and families with disabilities and special needs.</p>	<p>Access would be unlikely to change for disabled children and parents, as services would largely continue to be offered in the same buildings (a range of outreach services are delivered at community venues).</p>
<p>Faith Communities or individuals with different religions or beliefs</p>	<p>Those registering at a children’s centre are not asked about their beliefs and so the profile of service users by faith is unknown.</p> <p>Some third party organisations who currently manage children’s centres may be affiliated to faith</p>	<p>The reorganisation of children’s centres would not have an impact on service users on the basis of faith.</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always been targeted at all children under five and their families, to include all communities with</p>	<p>Access on the basis of faith would be unlikely to change as a result of the proposed restructure.</p>

These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded	Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?	Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?	If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?	How could the initiative improve equality of access?
	<p>groups (e.g. Children’s Society, Barnados). However, this does not impact on the day to day running of the centres (including access to services by people with different beliefs, or the actual services offered). This is ensured through robust contact award and monitoring processes.</p>		<p>different religions or beliefs.</p>	
<p>Gender Women, Men, boys, girls, carers (of children, disabled or older people) Transgender (those who have changed gender or are in the process of change)</p>	<p>Characteristics of children and parents registering at children’s centres are recorded in the eStart database.</p> <p>Internal profiling reports are generated to identify profiles for individual centres. This includes data on the number of fathers accessing services (a specific target user group for children’s centres).</p> <p>48.4% of the children under five registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres are female, and 51.2% are male. The remaining 0.4% have an unknown gender. This is due to the parents/carers not specifying</p>	<p>Specific groups are set up to encourage the participation of fathers.</p> <p>The reorganisation of children’s centres would have no impact on service users on the basis of gender.</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always been targeted at all children under five and their families, regardless of gender.</p>	<p>Access on the basis of gender would be unlikely to change as a result of the proposed restructure.</p>

These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded	Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?	Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?	If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?	How could the initiative improve equality of access?
	<p>on the registration form what gender the child is.</p> <p>There are 19,518 male parents/carers registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres.</p> <p>There are 48,369 female parents/carers registered with Hampshire children’s centres.</p>			
<p>Race</p> <p>Black and minority ethnic individuals and communities, gypsies and travellers, migrant workers</p>	<p>Characteristics of children and parents registering at children’s centres are recorded in the eStart database.</p> <p>Internal profiling reports are generated to identify profiles for individual centres. This includes data on BME and Travellers, who are specific target groups for children’s centres.</p> <p>There are 2,883 BME and Traveller families registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres.</p> <p>There are 8 families registered who are asylum seekers.</p>	<p>Outreach work would continue to be offered to BME groups and Travellers at a local level (e.g. work with Nepalese families in Rushmoor).</p> <p>The reorganisation of children’s centres would have no impact on service users on the basis of race.</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always been targeted at all children under five and their families, regardless of race</p>	<p>Access on the basis of race would be unlikely to change as a result of the proposed restructure.</p>
<p>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual</p>	<p>Those registering at a children’s centre are not asked about their sexual preference and so the</p>	<p>The reorganisation of children’s centres would have no impact on service users on the basis of</p>	<p>No – the services provided by children’s centres have always</p>	<p>Access on the basis of age would be unlikely to change as a result of</p>

These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded	Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?	Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?	If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?	How could the initiative improve equality of access?
	profile of service users by this characteristic is unknown.	sexual preference.	been targeted at all children under five and their families, regardless of sexual preference	the proposed restructure.
Low or no Income	<p>Characteristics of children and parents registering at children’s centres are recorded in the eStart database, however this may not include details on income.</p> <p>Internal profiling reports are generated to identify profiles for individual centres. This includes data on the number of households in poverty (a specific target group for children’s centres).</p> <p>There are 1,429 families dependent on workless benefits, registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres.</p> <p>There are 2,356 families on other benefits registered with Hampshire’s children’s centres.</p>	<p>The proposed reorganisation of children’s centres would have no impact on service users on the basis of income. Services would continue to be targeted to children under five and their families living in poverty (including outreach work).</p> <p>Any future proposals to charge for specific services would have no impact on those with low/no income, as they would be exempt from charges.</p> <p>Funding for centres is based upon a formula that includes deprivation levels in the local area.</p>	Families who are not classed as ‘in need’ may be disadvantaged as they may have to pay for some non-core services, however, only if they are not on low incomes.	As services become re-focused on those in need, access may be improved for those with low/no income.
Rural	The home address of children and parents registering at	Although proposals may involve the merging of the management	No – the services provided by children’s	Access on the basis of rurality would not

<p>These different customer groups are more likely to be excluded</p>	<p>Do you know about the breakdown of people who use your services compared to the community profile?</p>	<p>Will some people be unable to use or benefit from this service?</p>	<p>If any groups are disadvantaged, is this likely to be unlawful?</p>	<p>How could the initiative improve equality of access?</p>
	<p>children’s centres is recorded in the eStart database.</p> <p>Internal profiling reports are generated to identify profiles for individual centres.</p> <p>Families living in rural areas are a target group and are served via outreach venues in the community. In addition to this, parts of rural East Hampshire and the New Forest are served by two mobile children’s centre buses.</p> <p>Please see map for areas of Hampshire that are classed as rural.</p>	<p>of some centres, services will continue to be offered through existing community venues. Therefore, impact on rural areas should be minimal.</p> <p>The mobile children’s centre buses would continue to operate within their current rural areas to mitigate against disadvantaging those who have a greater distance to travel to access children’s centre services.</p>	<p>centres have always been targeted at all children under five and their families, regardless of where they live.</p>	<p>change as a result of this initiative.</p>



Rural parts of Hampshire according to the Government's rural classification denoted in green.

What conclusions have you reached about the potential impact ?

Possible Impact	Group/s Affected	Evidence
Greater distance to travel to access services	Rural Low/no income Limited access to public transport.	The size of the children’s centre notional catchment areas are increasing. The majority of current children’s centre buildings would continue to be used but the availability of those that do not belong to the County Council or have had no capital investment is always at risk and therefore other venues would need to be found.
Benefit to target groups due to the principles of the funding model.	All hard to reach/target groups	The funding model will reflect the level of deprivation in each Lower Super Output Area within the notional catchment area. Therefore, those children in areas of higher deprivation would have access to a greater proportion of the children’s centre budget.
Children and families who are not classed as a target group may have to pay for some discretionary services.	Children and families who are not classed as hard to reach or target families, or those with no identified needs.	The charging framework, which is currently under consideration, would allow centres to charge families for non-essential services if they do not fall into a hard to reach or target groups.

Actions to be taken

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Impact identified	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Expected Outcomes	Review date
Greater distance to travel to access services	Retain the full complement of children’s centre buildings for the delivery of services and, where this is not possible, seek alternative venues within the locality.	Children’s Centre and Inclusion Service Manager	June 2011 – February 2012	Minimal increased distance for families to travel to access services	September 2011
Benefit to target groups due to the principles of the funding model.	To be identified following the Executive Member decision about changes to the children’s centre service.	Children’s Centre and Inclusion Service Manager	May 2011 – September 2011	Reduction in services available to all families minimised.	March 2012
Publish Results at this stage		Yes			
Reasons: to support the Executive Member decision					
Carry out further Impact Assessment		Yes			
Reasons: Pending the Executive Member decision, Impact Assessments will be carried out on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The charging framework - The workforce profile These impact Assessments will be continually reviewed and updated in response to developments					
Agreed by:		John Coughlan			
Summary published on web date:		20 May 2011			