The Big Conversation: Consultation about the Reconfiguration of Children’s Centres in Derby

What is this survey about?

Derby City Council is required to make cuts of £45 million by 2019 and is undertaking a review of the services it provides. This includes looking at Children’s Centre services in Derby and exploring changes to how the buildings are run so further savings can be made and resources used more efficiently.

Please take part in the consultation about the future of the Children’s Centre services in Derby by telling us what you think about our proposals for the reconfiguration of the service, suggesting ways to deliver services more efficiently, and giving your views on the service’s proposed offer. For information about the proposals, please read the next two pages within this questionnaire before you answer the questions.

By taking part you will be helping to shape the future of the Children’s Centre services in Derby and ensuring that we make the best possible use of the money we have available whilst still providing a valuable service.

Who should take part in the survey?

We want to hear the views of everyone, whether you are a user of Children’s Centre services or not, or if you work with or for the services. This consultation is open to everyone who lives, works or studies in Derby and wants to take part.

What will be done with the information I provide?

All information provided will be analysed by an independent research company called Enventure Research and treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will only use this information to inform the consultation on the future of the Children’s Centre services in Derby. If you provide your contact details, they will not be passed on to any third parties and they will also be kept separate from your questionnaire answers, meaning that you will not be identified in any way.

How can I take part?

There are two different ways that you can take part in this survey:

- Fill in the questionnaire and post it in the envelope provided
- Use the link below to take part online. Online you can complete the survey in English, Urdu, Polish, Slovak, or Punjabi.

Questions or help?

If you have any queries about the questionnaire, please call our helpline number on 0800 0092 117. If you are using minicom please use Next Generation Text by putting 18001 in front of the number. You can also email your questions to info@enventure.co.uk

To complete online

Go to www.enventure.co.uk/derby-childrenscentres

Derby City Council
Introduction: Derby’s big challenge

Since the government cuts began in 2010, Derby City Council has had to cut millions of pounds year after year. In the last four years we have already cut £116 million and now we are required to make further cuts of £45 million by 2019.

Council Tax only covers a small part of the money needed to pay for all public services the Council provides. The majority of the money the Council gets comes from the government as a grant which we depend on. As the government continues to make cuts, we are being given less and less money to provide these services. Yet the cost of living is rising and poverty is increasing, meaning demand on our services is going up and up.

Derby has more older people in need of help, more children coming into care and more pressure on school places. These are just some of the services the Council has to provide by law, but the money from government to provide them is reducing. The money available to provide services that are not required by law, known as discretionary services, will run out.

The Council is therefore asking you to take part in the Big Conversation, to help us make decisions about how to reduce costs while still protecting services that are valued by residents from across the city. Over the next few months there will be consultations about a range of services delivered by the Council. This one focuses just on the future of the Children’s Centres – please take part and tell us what you think.

Councillor Sara Bolton
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding

What are Children’s Centres?

Children’s Centres development began in Derby in 2004 and grew from Sure Start Local Programmes, early excellence centres, neighbourhood nurseries or from partnerships with local schools. There are currently 17 Children’s Centres in Derby, all managed and run by Derby City Council.

The core purpose of Children’s Centres is to:

- Support child development and school readiness.
- Promote parenting aspirations and parenting skills.
- Host child and family health services.

Why do we need to make changes to Children’s Centres in Derby?

As a result of continued government cuts to Council funding, the Council has to make substantial changes to its budget.

The Children’s Centre budget has already been reduced by 67% over the past three years. To make these savings Derby City Council has made significant changes to the way that the Centres are run, including reducing opening hours, restructuring teams and reducing some of the programmes provided.

The severe financial pressure the Council is under means that we now need to explore more options to make further savings by delivering services differently.
What are we proposing?

As a result of this reduction in funding we need to change how we manage Children’s Centres across the city. We are not proposing to stop any frontline services; staff will continue in the Council’s employment and will continue to meet the needs of families with children under five. We are, however, suggesting that we make changes to the buildings where these services are offered.

We propose:

1. To reconfigure Children’s Centre services so that they operate from 10 rather than 17 designated buildings.
2. To consider how the current Children’s Centre buildings could be used more effectively for services for families with children under five with a focus on those Centres on school sites.
3. To consider the handover of ownership, running costs and management responsibility of seven Children’s Centre buildings to the schools they are located within.

These proposals would reduce the cost of maintaining and running buildings but maintain the delivery of centre based and outreach services to those children and families identified as most vulnerable.

The seven Centres that would be directly affected are:
- Mickleover/Littleover
- Chellaston
- Oakwood
- Meadow Lane
- Babington
- Spondon
- West End

These seven Centres have been identified because of their location in the less deprived areas of the city and because they are on or near school sites and would create space for schools to extend their offer for children under five.

Who does this affect?

The proposals described above would affect families who use or are planning to use the services in the seven Centres that are directly affected. These families would have to travel further to access Children’s Centre services and also some NHS services would need to move their clinics to different locations.

What are we consulting with you about?

We are consulting with you about our proposals. By taking part in the Big Conversation and giving us your opinion on our proposals for the future of Children’s Centres, you will be helping to shape the future of these services in Derby. This will help to ensure that we make the best possible use of the money we have available, so please take part and tell us what you think by completing our questionnaire online or by picking a questionnaire up from your local Children’s Centre.

What happens next?

This consultation will be open until 27th May 2016. We will use the responses to help us develop proposals for the future of Children’s Centres in the City.

In the meantime, please tell us what you think by taking part in the current consultation and completing the questions within this survey.
You and the Children’s Centre Service

Q1 Have you and your family visited a Derby City Council Children’s Centre in the last 12 months? Tick one only

☐ Yes GO TO Q2

☐ No GO TO Q9

The following questions are about using Children’s Centres. If you have not used a Centre in the last 12 months please go to Q9.

Q2 Which of the following Children’s Centres have you and your family used in the last 12 months? Tick all that apply

Q3 Which is your preferred Children’s Centre? Tick one only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre Name</th>
<th>Q2. Used in the last 12 months</th>
<th>Q3. Preferred Centre</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alvaston</td>
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<td>Audrey Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Sunnyhill</td>
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<td>Babington</td>
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<td>Becket</td>
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<td>Boulton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chellaston</td>
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<td>Derwent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackworth Morley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meadow Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mickleover / Littleover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osmaston Allenton (First Steps)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosehill</td>
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<td>Sinfin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spondon</td>
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<tr>
<td>West End</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Q4 Why is this your preferred Children’s Centre? Tick all that apply

☐ Close to home

☐ Close to school / college

☐ Close to shops

☐ Parking facilities

☐ On a convenient bus route

☐ Services provided at this Centre

☐ I work / volunteer at this Centre

☐ Other Please specify below

Q5 Approximately how often do you and your family visit your preferred Children’s Centre? Tick one only

☐ 3-4 times a week

☐ Once a month

☐ 1-2 times a week

☐ Less than once a month

☐ 2-4 times a month

☐ I’ve only used it once / it was my first visit

Q6 How do you / members of your household usually travel to your preferred Children’s Centre? Tick one only

☐ On foot

☐ Taxi

☐ Bus

☐ Car

☐ Other Please specify below
Q7 Please tell us about the services you and your family have used in the Children’s Centre during the last 12 months.  
*Tick all that apply*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Selected</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay and Play sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay and weigh, assessment checks, speech and language support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family visitor support, parenting support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult education / training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advice and guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Please specify below</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Q8 Of all the services and activities offered by the Children’s Centre, which is the most important to you / members of your household? *Tick one only*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<td>Childcare</td>
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<td>Outreach service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Please specify below</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Planning for the future

Derby City Council continues to face a challenging financial situation due to government cuts. Because of this we need to find ways of reducing the cost of the Children’s Centre services. We are therefore proposing that we make changes to the buildings where Children’s Centre services are offered. It is important to note, however, that we are not proposing to stop any frontline services and we would continue to meet the needs of families with children under five, particularly those who are the most vulnerable.

We propose:

1. To reconfigure Children’s Centre services so they operate from 10 rather than 17 designated buildings
2. To consider how the remaining 10 Children’s Centre buildings could be used more effectively for services for families with children under five with a focus on those Centres on school sites
3. To consider the handover of ownership, running costs and management responsibility of seven buildings to schools where they are located

The Children’s Centres that we propose to make changes to are:

- Mickleover / Littleover
- Chellaston
- Oakwood
- Meadow Lane
- Babington
- Spondon
- West End

The information at the beginning of this questionnaire gives more information about the financial background and the proposals we are considering.

Q9  To what extent do you support or reject the proposals outlined above as a way of reducing our costs?  
   Tick one only  
   □ Strongly support □ Reject □ Don’t know
   □ Support □ Strongly reject

Q10  Do you visit / use the services at any of the seven Children’s Centres that we propose to make changes to listed above? Tick one only  
    □ Yes □ No GO TO Q15 □ Don’t know GO TO Q15

Q11  If services do move out of the seven Centres listed above, would it make it more difficult for you to access Children’s Centre services? Tick one only  
    □ Yes, definitely □ No
    □ Yes, to some extent □ Don’t know

Q12  With this proposed reconfiguration of services, what would you and your family do? Tick one only  
    □ Go to another Centre, as often as now GO TO Q14 □ Stop using Centres altogether GO TO Q13
    □ Go to another Centre, but not as often as now GO TO Q14 □ Other Please specify below
Q13 If you said you would stop using Centres altogether, why is this? Tick all that apply

- The other locations do not offer the services we need
- I / we will not know anyone at another Centre
- I am / we are unable to travel to the other locations
- There is a lack of parking facilities at the other locations
- The other locations’ opening times do not suit us
- I am unable to find time to travel the extra distance to the other locations
- Other Please specify below

Q14 If you said you would use another Centre in Derby, how can the Council assist you to make it easier for you? Please write in the box below

Q15 ‘Children’s Centres should be targeted at those most in need.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement? Tick one only

- Strongly disagree
- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree
- Strongly agree

Q16 Do you have any further comments about these proposed changes? Please write in the box below

Your preferred options

Q17 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Tick one option for each statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing costs by delivering services from 10 buildings rather than 17 is acceptable to me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I accept that the number of Children’s Centres may reduce, and am willing/able to travel further to visit one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing costs by transferring management of buildings to school ownership is acceptable to me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Other ideas**

Q18  Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for things we could stop doing or do differently to help us reduce the cost of the Children’s Centre services? *Please write in the box below*

**About you**

The next few questions will help us to make sure that we hear everyone’s views, whatever your background or circumstances. The information will not be held alongside your name if you have given this. Your identity and the personal information you have shared with us will remain confidential.

Q19  Please enter your postcode

Q20  In what capacity are you mostly involved with Derby’s Children’s Centre service? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Use one of the Children’s Centres
- [ ] Staff member / school governor at a Derby school
- [ ] Children’s Centre staff member
- [ ] Representative of a partner organisation *Please specify below*
- [ ] Friend or relative of a user
- [ ] I help pay for the service through my Council Tax
- [ ] Local ward councillor
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other *Please specify below*

Q21  Are you…? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q22  Which of the following age categories do you fall into? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Under 16
- [ ] 35-44
- [ ] 65-74
- [ ] 16-24
- [ ] 45-54
- [ ] 75+
- [ ] 25-34
- [ ] 55-64
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q23  Do you consider yourself to have a disability? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q24  Do you have or look after / care for children aged five or under? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say
Q25 Which of the following best describes your working status? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)
- [ ] Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week)
- [ ] Self-employed: full or part time
- [ ] On government supported training programme (e.g. Modern apprentice / Training for Work)
- [ ] Full-time education at school, college or university
- [ ] Unemployed and available for work
- [ ] Unemployed and not available for work due to long term illness or impairment
- [ ] Wholly retired from work
- [ ] Looking after the home
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other *Please specify below*

Q26 What is your ethnic group? *Tick one only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Dual heritage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Indian</td>
<td>[ ] White and Black Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Pakistani</td>
<td>[ ] White and Black African</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Bangladeshi</td>
<td>[ ] White and Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Chinese</td>
<td>[ ] Any other Dual heritage background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Any other Asian background</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or Black British</td>
<td>[ ] English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] African</td>
<td>[ ] Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Caribbean</td>
<td>[ ] Gypsy or Irish Traveller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Any other Black background</td>
<td>Any other White background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ethnic group</td>
<td>Other ethnic group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Arab</td>
<td>[ ] Any other ethnic group <em>Please specify</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Prefer not to say</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking part in discussion groups

As part of this research, we will be running a small number of discussion groups to explore what residents think about the future of the Children’s Centre service. Discussion groups will be held in the next few weeks with a small number of invited people. If you are invited to attend, the groups will last for 90 minutes and take place at a select number of Children’s Centres in Derby. If you indicate that you are interested in attending a discussion group, you may be contacted by Enventure Research to provide you with more details. Reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled people to take part in the groups. Please note that if there is a lot of interest in taking part in discussion groups, we cannot guarantee that everyone will be invited to take part.

Q27 Are you interested in attending a discussion group? *Tick one only*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If you have indicated you are interested in taking part in a discussion group, please provide us with your details below.

Name: 
Contact number: 
Email address: 

Your details will be kept strictly confidential, will be kept separate from your questionnaire answers, and not passed on to any third parties. Your details will only be used for the purposes of conducting further research.

Thank you for your time in taking part in the consultation. Now please hand your completed questionnaire to a member of staff at the Children’s Centre or post it back to us in the postage paid envelope provided.