Consultation about the Reconfiguration of Children’s Centres in Derby

Frequently Asked Questions

Background

What is the consultation about?

Derby City Council is required to make cuts of £45m by 2019 and is therefore 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. Before making any decisions on the future of the Children’s Centre service, the Council wishes to find out about the views of the public. Derby City Council is therefore asking you to take part in a consultation, to help make decisions about how to reduce costs while still protecting services that are valued by people across the city.

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.

What is being proposed for the future of the Children’s Centre service?

As a result of a 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
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.

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.

**Who are Enventure Research?**

Derby City Council is working with Enventure Research, an independent research company, on this consultation. Enventure Research are hosting the survey and will be undertaking independent analysis of the feedback provided. You can find out more about Enventure Research on their [website](http://www.example.com).

**When does the consultation finish?**

The consultation closes on 27 May 2016. Please ensure you have provided your feedback before this date.

**What will the consultation cover?**

The consultation has four aims. These are:

1. Collect information about current use of the Children’s Centre service.
2. Seek views on the proposed reconfiguration of the Children's Centre service.
3. Explore the impact of the proposed reconfiguration for families.
4. Explore any other ideas that you have to save money.

**What will be done with my feedback?**

Derby City Council will use the consultation responses to help us develop proposals for the future of Children’s Centres in Derby.
Taking part

How can I take part in the consultation?

You can take part in the online survey or by visiting a Children’s Centre, taking a questionnaire pack and filling out the paper survey. Questionnaires are also being distributed at various other locations across Derby and you may see one of our survey posters or be given a flyer, which feature a link to the online survey.

Who should take part in the consultation?

The consultation is open to everyone who lives, works or studies in Derby and wants to take part, whether they are a Children’s Centre user or not. If you work or volunteer in a Children’s Centre in Derby, we also want to hear your views.

Can I take part in another language?

When you log in to the online survey you can choose which language you would like to answer the questions in. You can answer in English, Urdu, Slovak, Punjabi or Polish. These languages have been chosen as, according to the Census conducted in 2011, they are the most widely spoken languages in Derby. The easiest way to take part in another language is online. However, please also ask your local Children’s Centre if you would like a copy of the paper questionnaire in Urdu, Punjabi, Slovak or Polish.

Are questionnaires available in large print?

Yes. Please ask a member of staff at a Children’s Centre or other location supporting the survey if you would like a Large Print questionnaire.

Can someone take part if they don’t live, work or study in Derby?

As the consultation is about the Children’s Centre Service in Derby, we are only seeking the views of people who live, work or study in the city.

Can I take part more than once?

No, please only complete the survey once, whether that is online or by completing a paper survey.

Taking part using the paper survey

Where can I pick up a paper version of the survey?

You can pick up a paper version from any Council Children’s Centre in Derby or from the following locations in the city:

- The Council House
- Ashtree House
- Stanley Road Children and Young People Service building

Where can I find paper questionnaires in Urdu, Polish, Slovak or Punjabi?

Classification: OFFICIAL
Please ask the reception staff at any of the locations listed above where the questionnaire is being distributed.

**How do I return the paper survey?**

The questionnaire will be supplied to you in an open envelope. Please take out the questionnaire, fill it in and put it back in the envelope, and seal the envelope. Please either return the sealed envelope as instructed in the location you took the questionnaire from or put it in a post-box (as the postage for the envelope is pre-paid).

**I want to return the paper survey but I don’t have an envelope. What should I do?**

Please take part online instead or put the completed questionnaire into a large envelope, affix a stamp (please remember it will need to be the postage for a large letter) and send it to Enventure Research, Thornhill Brigg Mill, Thornhill Beck Lane, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 4AH.

**Your privacy and details**

**How will my details be used?**

Your details will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your details will not be passed on to any third parties and will be kept separate from your questionnaire answers, meaning no-one will know who said what. If you have provided your contact details because you are interested in taking part in further research, you may be contacted by Derby City Council or Enventure Research for these purposes. Your details will not be used for any other purpose.

**Why do you ask questions about me in the consultation?**

We ask certain questions about you such as your age, and ethnic group, amongst others, in order to ensure that we hear everyone’s views and that the feedback we receive is as representative of the population of Derby as possible. The information you share with us will remain confidential and will not be held alongside your name, nor be used to identify you in any way.

**Troubleshooting and queries**

**I have a problem accessing the online survey, who do I contact?**

Please call the Enventure Survey Helpline number on 0800 009 2117 or email us at info@enventure.co.uk. If you wish to use minicom to contact us please use Next Generation Text by putting 18001 in front of the number listed above. The helpline is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

**I have a question that’s not listed above, how do I ask it?**

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