

Early Years and Children's Centre Services for Children aged 0-11

Briefing on emerging models and proposals

**Early Years, Youth & Children Policy &
Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel**
27th January 2014

Overview of services in the budget for Children aged 0-11

- Children's Centres (0-4)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Service (0-4)
- Community Play and Specialist Family Support Services (5-13)
- Parent Support Advisors (5-11)
- Commissioned health related services (0-4)

Overview of presentation

Each service area

- Current model
- Emerging model and proposals - with a £1.8 reduction in the budget
- Impact

The impact of £2.3 reduction - additional £500K

Children's Centres

Current and emerging model

Current model

- 11 Children's Centres dispersed across B&NES, 9 provided by the council, 2 by a voluntary sector provider
- Currently managed as 4 groups:
 - Bath East
 - Bath West
 - Keynsham and Chew Valley
 - Somer Valley
- Models vary but each centre has a co-ordinator (either PT or FT) to manage the building, the staff and coordinate the services.

Who uses the current services

- Families with children aged 0-4 who have additional needs. These families are targeted by the services, either because of where they live in the community, or because of a particular need of a child or parent, or both. For instance
 - Mums with post natal depression
 - Children with disabilities
- Some families without additional needs can access the more open (universal) groups such as Stay and Play, Bumps and Babes .

Services currently provided – (models vary)

Outreach service

- 1-1 home visits (213 families and children being supported*)
- Case work and TAC/ TAF meetings
- Targeted groups run in the Children's Centres and other community venues (33 targeted groups *)
- Groups which are more open access.
- Frequency of groups vary

* Snap shot w/e 17th Jan 20134

Services currently provided

Volunteer programme

- Supports and trains volunteers to help run groups, provide peer support. Currently 72 volunteers are actively supported

Link Social Workers

- Provide case work support for complex cases

Early Years Teachers

- Support development of children to be school ready

Access

All families and children access the current outreach service by referral because they have additional needs.

Main referral sources:

- 61% (466) referred by Health Visitors (74% in Bath West, 76% in K&CV)
- 11% (87) from Social Care
- 8% (62) from Midwifery
- 8% (62) other universal groups
- 12% other

Whilst Children's Centres are open weekdays 9-5, the majority of families come into the Centres because they are attending group.

Services provided in Children's Centres by other partners

Examples include:

- Job Centre Plus– monthly surgery in each of the 4 areas by appointment.
- Breastfeeding peer support group
- CAB- monthly surgery in each of the 4 areas by appointment
- Cook it and Henry courses run periodically
- Health Visitor Clinics
- Some groups run by partners are supported by the Children Centre staff

Emerging model for Children's Centres

Remodel 4 groups into 2 new groups by centralising and consolidating management support and back office functions, but retain 11 Children's Centres and other venues for delivery.

Group the Children's Centres according to geographical location so the new groups will look as follows:

- Bath – 5 centres
- North East Somerset – 6 centres

Commission the management and running of the Children Centre buildings separately to the services.

Emerging model for Children Centre services

- In consolidating management and back office functions, a 'service centre' for each group will be housed in one of the Children's Centres. It's proposed that these are:
 - Bath – Parkside
 - North East Somerset - Radstock
- Plus two subsidiary 'service centres' at Keynsham and Twerton
- Bases for most Children Centre staff
- Health visitors and other partners can remain in these and other Children's Centres
- The consolidation will not adversely affect the delivery of the service from 11 Children's Centres and other venues

Emerging model – Children’s Centre services

Outreach Service

An outreach service which is fully targeted, only supporting families and children with additional needs. It will provide:

- Home visits to support children and parents. 220 families/children will be supported at any one time .
- Groups for children and parents. Capacity to support 44 groups in the Children’s Centres and other community venues each week, with up to 22 groups supported by 2 outreach staff and others led by an outreach worker but supported by a volunteer/ other staff
- All groups will continue to be provided in the Children’s Centres and other community venues such as Temple Cloud and Fox Hill as they do now

Emerging model – Children’s Centre services

- A volunteer / peer support programme in each of the two groups to build on the current arrangements.
- A linked social worker for each group, commissioned from Children’s Social Care to support work with complex cases.
- An Early Years teacher in each group to support effective learning and development of children.

Opening hours

- The two service centres, Parkside and Radstock and the two subsidiaries at Twerton & Keynsham will open full time.
- Opening times of the other Children's Centres will be matched to the times when the groups and activities are running.
- Groups delivered by other partners and organisations will still be able to use the buildings as they do now.
- The additional cost of keeping the other 7 Children's Centres open 9-5 weekdays would be £294,000

Key Changes

Not all children's centre buildings will be open full time

Consolidation of back office/management support

Universal services will not be commissioned for those children and families with no additional needs

Buildings and facilities management will be commissioned separately to the two Children's Centre Groups

Impact of new model

	Current Level	Proposed Level	Impact/change/risks
Number of families/children receiving home visits	213	220	No change
Number of targeted groups run	33	Max 44	No change
Provision of universal groups	Varies	Varies	Will not be a commissioning requirement, but may be delivered voluntarily.
No of children Centres	11	11	No change
Communities covered			No change

Comparisons with other local authorities

Many local authorities have already , or are proposing to remodel their services and reduced their costs as follows:

- Portsmouth £1 million reduction for Children Centres
- Kent is proposing to close 28 out of 97 centres
- Warwickshire proposed £2.3 million cut to Children's Centres
- Sheffield proposing to reorganise 36 early years centres into 17 Children's Centre 'areas' in order to save £3.5 million
- Possible changes to Swindon's 14 Children's Centres and cuts of £390,000 from the budget
- South Gloucestershire have already re-structured into Hub and Spoke models and reduced their Children Centre budget.

Early Years Foundation Stage Service Current, emerging model and proposals

Over view of the current service

Quality improvement and moderation

The Early Years Foundation Support Service has a statutory role to:

- ensure the council secures sufficient quality pre school places for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds
- maintain and improve the quality of pre school provision
- reduce inequalities and narrow the gap for children by the end of the Reception Year
- Moderate the Early Years Foundation Stage profile

Inclusion support for children with additional needs

- Ensure children with additional needs and disabilities have access to quality pre school settings

Current model - Quality Improvement and Moderation

- Delivered by a team of Early Year Advisory teachers & Childminding Co-ordinators
- Currently the service supports 348 different settings (with 900 staff)

Setting type	No
Day nurseries (private, voluntary & independent school nurseries)	84
Day Nurseries in Children's Centres	5
Schools	58
Registered Childminders	172
Out of school Childcare	29

- 745 visits to these settings were carried out Sept – Oct . An average of 14 a week
- 181 training sessions delivered – average of 3 a week
- 376 child assessments moderated against EYFS profile last year

Current Model - Inclusion Support for children with additional needs and disabilities

Delivered by a team of teachers to:

- Provide help and train early years settings to:
 - identify children with additional needs
 - put in place plans, Early Years Action and Action plus targets to support children to do well in setting
 - prepare paperwork for statutory assessments of special educational need.
- Fund and commission a specialist pre school, theraplay service and also packages of support for children with additional needs to access mainstream pre schools.
- 302 children supported Sept 12 – Oct 13

Emerging models

Quality Improvement and Moderation

- Business model being developed to charge for non statutory support and training to generate income to cover costs. Level of service will reduce and visits will be targeted to settings/childminders where:
 - settings /childminders need to improve i.e. poor 'Ofsted' rating;
 - there are high number of funded 2 year olds
 - There are concerns about practice and welfare standards
- Moderation is a statutory function and will be retained at the current level

Inclusion Support for children with additional needs

- The service will remain resourced as it is to retain current levels of support and support the delivery of SEND

Community Play and Specialist Family Support Current services and proposals

Community Play Services – Current model

Two Community Play services are currently commissioned from 2 voluntary sector organisations to work with children aged 5-13. One covers Bath and the other NE Somerset. Each delivers:

- After school Community Play Sessions all year (x 2 a week in each area)
- Community Playdays. (summer holidays)
- Family Play Inclusion work – 1-1 play support for children referred with additional needs (supporting 15 children at any one time in each area).
- Playful families – group play sessions for families with high needs (weekly in each area)
- Community development – supporting local volunteers to develop play provision

Specialist Family Support Service – current model

Currently commissioned from a voluntary sector organisation to provide:

- Support to families with complex needs, in particular families experiencing domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health problems
- Intensive outreach and home support packages
- Therapeutic and counselling services
- A ‘community parents’ scheme which is led by trained volunteers to offer practical support to other families
- Support to 280 adults and families

Proposals for the Community Play contracts

Both Community Play Contracts will reduce by £25K each from April 2014 and both are currently remodelling their services to develop a more targeted approach. The key changes are :

- The number of after school Community Play sessions will reduce to and be targeted to more vulnerable children.
- The number of Community Play days will reduce from approx 20 a year to 9
- Community development of local volunteers to develop play provision will reduce from 20 to 3 hours a week.
- The play inclusion work on a 1-1 and in groups with referred children will remain at the same level

The two Community Play Contracts expire during 2015. The proposal is to tender for one contract for Community Play to cover all of B&NES.

Proposals for the Specialist Family Support

- The family support contract expires during 2015 and the proposal is to tender for a new service at a reduced contract value of £200K, a reduction of £100K
- A review will be undertaken as part of this process to ensure effective alignment with the Connecting Families team as well as the other Children's Centre and Early Years services

Parent Support Advisors Current and emerging model

Parent Support Advisor Service – current model

Delivered by a team of parent advisors to support parents, children 5-11 and schools to achieve best outcomes for a child having difficulties at school.

They provide a targeted service to parents to help them develop confidence to engage well with their child's school and to improve the child's learning.

Delivered through parenting programmes and 1-1 support

Referrals over last year from schools (114) and parents (56)

Proposals for Parent Support Advisers

- A business model is being developed by the service to charge schools and Behaviour and Attendance panels in order to cover costs.
- There is a risk that the service may reduce if sufficient income cannot be generated.

Health related services for families with children 0-4 Proposals

Health related services for families with children 0-4

The Early Year Service currently commissions Sirona to deliver:

- a Speech and Language service to support the early identification of needs in all pre school settings
- a targeted breast feeding support service.

The Early Years Service also makes a contribution to wider PriCAMH's contract.

It is proposed to reduce these budgets and reshape these services through the commissioning process as and when the contracts expire.

Impact of the £2.3 m reduction (£500k)

If we had to make a £2.3m reduction we would lose:

- 4 FTE outreach workers in the Children's Centre Service, which would mean 40 less families/children supported.
- Two teachers in the Children's Centre Groups
- The subsidy of Children's Centre nurseries to retain enhanced staffing to support children with additional needs.
- The current level of support the Early Years Foundation Stage team provides to children in pre school settings with the greatest needs, and our ability to effectively respond to the SEND reforms.

Next Steps

Cabinet 12th February

Council Budget 18th February

Consultation March/April 2014

Glossary of Terms	
Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups run according to child/parental need (i.e. isolated dads or teenage parents) • By Area – i.e. Fox Hill/Twerton/isolated rural area of poverty • By individual (by referral, usually for outreach service)
Universal	Open to all parents/carers with children under 5
Volunteer/Volunerring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionals wanting to offer their experience and knowledge back to society • Parents with vulnerabilities themselves who want to give something back to the Children's Centre they have received support from • Opportunities to volunteer in order to have a better chance of getting back to work
Voluntary/faith groups locally	Non Council funded but offering "free" services i.e. church run toddler groups; youth groups
Vol	Funded sector – usually through formal contracts run: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally i.e. First Steps, Southside, BAPP, WPA • Nationally i.e. Barnardos; 4Children; Children's Society • These Charities are often funded by the council or nationally, with paid staff. Can attract other funds through their charitable status
CCs Core Officer	The core purpose of Sure Start children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those in greatest need. They work to make sure all children are properly prepared for school, regardless of background or family circumstances. They also offer support to parents. (Department of Education 2013)
CC/Locality Groups/Hubs	Administrative centre for staff and services to be delivered from in 2 key parts of the local authority
EYFS	The Early Years Foundation Stage which runs from birth to the end of Reception Year in school