

Children Centre Services - examples of changes due to budget reductions in other Local Authorities

1. **Swindon.** £380k budget reductions achieved to date through the amalgamation of Children Centre services and the closure of 4 out of the 14 centres. A further budget reduction of 37% of the £2.1m budget has been proposed from April 2015 and suggestions for making these reductions are currently out to consultation. Options include combining Children's Centre Services, closing further centres and remodelling to make the brief of the centres wider.
2. **North Somerset.** Children Centre Service reviewed in 2012 following £80k budget reduction and service remodelled with 14 Children's Centres combined into 4 groupings and many lower-demand centres open on a part time basis.
3. **Somerset.** Children Centres combined into 5 groupings, 17 out of 44 buildings 'de-designated' as Children's Centres. Staff reductions made in management and administration, with resources focused on front-facing family support work. Children's Centres now deliver 0-19 Early Help services.
4. **Devon.** All Children's Centres are externally commissioned. 5% reduction of the £8.6m budget has been achieved and further 15% planned. They consulted on proposals earlier this year to achieve this. Main proposals are to redesign services by reducing management and overheads; focusing the funding on services for young children and families rather than on running Children Centre buildings; changing the number of buildings used as Children's Centres and transferring other buildings for use by other Early Childhood Services. Other community venues may be used to deliver Children's Centre Services, plus the reviewing of opening times and the further development of community groups to deliver universal services in Children's Centres.
5. **Suffolk.** Proposed reduction of £2.9 million from Children's Centre services. Proposals currently being consulted on. Proposal is not to reduce service levels but close 9 Children's Centre buildings with high running costs and low take up, and deliver services through more outreach in other venues and through home visits.
6. **Plymouth.** In light of significant budget reductions, reshaping Children's Centres by clustering 16 centres into 6 clusters and consolidating management and administration.