

Statement: Cllr Sally Davis, Chair, EYCY PDS Panel

I would like to start by thanking a number of people:

- the public who have engaged with the EYCY PDS Panel over the last 18 months & helped us focus on aspects which needed careful consideration,
- staff from both the Voluntary & Statutory services which allowed us to be fully aware of the work they were delivering,
- & finally Officers for their continual support providing information so that any recommendations we made we were aware of their impact.

The Cabinet were aware that changes to Early Years Funding covered a range of services not just Children's Centres & they now have to look at how a new model will ensure vulnerable children & their families needs are met across the board.

This is not the end for the EYCY PDS Panel as we expect to be consulted & kept informed of progress - as the Panel title suggests we will scrutinise decisions as they are made, ask questions & expect answers, part of our remit is to ensure that Early Years provision meets the needs of families & young people in a range of situations.

At the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on Monday 8th September 2014

The Panel agreed the following resolutions.

1. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel recognises the service needs to remove duplication and consolidate operations to make sure the service is efficient and all components dovetail appropriately.
2. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel notes the results of the consultation and recognises the work that has gone in to developing new models which seek to minimise the adverse impact of the budget reductions;
3. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel notes in particular the consultees' concerns about the loss of universal services delivered by the Children's Centres and requests a report back on how alternative ways of delivering universal groups without council funding is progressing, ahead of implementation of the new model;
4. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel supports the concept of the staff mutual and requests a further report on this as the business case develops;
5. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel welcomes the recommendation for a further report on implementation of the new models in due course and will want that report to include evidence of the implementation of the mitigating actions and the impact that the remodelling has had for families.

Sally Davis, Chair EYCY PDS Panel.
10th September 2014