

Kent Children's Centre Consultation

4th July 2013 – 4th October 2013

Some Key Facts

Shaping the future of
Children's Centres
in Kent



Strategic Commissioning (Children's)

24.07.13

[K:\CFE Commissioning Unit\6 Children's Centres\1. Make Buy Sell Review\1. Communication Consultation and Engagement\DCCMs\DCCM Pack](#)



Consultation principles

- Protect services (not buildings) which improve health, education and social care
- Deliver savings of at least £1.5million
- Continue to offer parents and expectant parents a choice about which Centre they use
- Ensure we give support to those children and families who need it most
- Improve co-ordination and access to a range of service for families with children aged 0-11 where a least one child in the family is under 5 years old (new model of delivery using Children's Centre Plus.)

How are we proposing to do this?

- To reduce the number of Children's Centres
- Linking Children's Centres to reduce management and administrative costs
- Reduce hours at some Children's Centres

Why close my Centre or reduce it's hours?

These Centres may have;

- Smaller numbers of children and families needing early support; and/or
- Another “essential community resource” that is able to signpost to Children’s Centre services nearby; and/or
- The majority of users attending another Children’s Centres; and/or
- Been identified locally with support from local Managers and local engagement workshops.

What else has been considered?

- Equality Impact Assessments,
- Access to Centres by transport (driving and public transport)

Why do some Districts have more proposed Centre closures than others?

- There are differences across Kent. Services need to reflect the communities that they serve.
- We want to ensure that we give support to those children and families who need it most. (Based on need).

Some key points

- The closure of a Children's Centre does not mean the closure of an on site nursery.
- Parents will still be able to access Children's Centre services in other Centres and we will continue to bring services to you (in community venues), where they are needed.
- Decisions about the use of spare accommodation as a result of any closures will be made after the consultation process.
- A separate consultation would happen before any staffing changes are made.

Travel distances

Based on the proposal the following access figures have been calculated:

- **Drive times:**
 - 99% of 0-4 year old KCC population are within a 15 minute drive time of a Centre
- **Public Transport:**
 - 97% of 0-4 year old KCC population are within 90 minute of a Centre by public transport
 - 78% of 0-4 year old KCC population are within 20 minute of a Centre by public transport

Children's Centre Plus

- Located in communities where larger numbers of children and families need early support services
- Generally bigger buildings
- Will lead co-ordination of services across a network of linked centres
- May deliver more support than they do now

Why Clinical Commissioning Groups?

- We have modelled the future shape of Children's Centres in Kent around the 7 Clinical Commissioning Group boundaries to align Children's Centre with recent changes to the Health System.
- Key Partner - Children's Centres are key to the delivering the Healthy Child Programme in Kent. Children's Centres have to improve child and family health and life chances by law.
- Greater opportunity for joint working and integration to improve outcomes for children and families effectively and efficiently.
- Improved joint commissioning giving better value for money.
- Public Health now part of KCC and Health Visitors join in 2015.

What happens next?

- Closes 4th October
- October - thorough analysis of results
- December - a decision taken by County Council
- December – notification of decision and feed back available at www.kent.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Contacts

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