Kent Children's Centre Consultation

4th July 2013 – 4th October 2013

Some Key Facts
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 at 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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/childrenscentres)
Contacts

- [www.kent.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.kent.gov.uk/childrenscentres)
- [cc.consultation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:cc.consultation@kent.gov.uk)
- Tel: 0300 333 5540
- Freepost RTER-RZXC-HCJC
  Children's Centres
  Facts International
  Ashford
  TN24 8FL