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To:-

The Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Date: 29 November 2017
Our Ref: DAC/O&S
Your Ref:

Please contact: Debbie Campbell,
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Dear Councillor,

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2017

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following report which was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

| Agenda No. | Item |
|-------------------|--|
| 4. | The Development of Family Wellbeing Centres (Pages 3 - 324) Report of the Director of Social Care and Health <i>(A short video will be shown prior to consideration of this item)</i> |

Yours sincerely,

J. COULE

Head of Regulation and Compliance

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| Report to: | Cabinet | Date of Meeting: | 7 th December 2017 |
| Subject: | The Development of Family Wellbeing Centres | | |
| Report of: | Director Social Care and Health | Wards Affected: | (All Wards); |
| Portfolio: | Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Safeguarding | | |
| Is this a Key Decision: | Yes | Included in Forward Plan: | Yes |
| Exempt / Confidential Report: | No | | |

Summary:

In March 2017 the Council approved the proposed development of locality working in light of community feedback gathered in recent years and extensive research into early intervention prevention models. As part of this work the Director of Social Care and Health has worked with others to develop a draft strategic approach for Family Wellbeing Centres, taking into consideration Children Centres, Family Centres, School Readiness funding and the childcare subsidy. This report provides an update including the public consultation feedback, an equalities analysis and presents options considered and discounted and recommendations for consideration and decision.

In developing the proposals relating to locality working and the proposed Family Wellbeing approach the Council has actively listened to the views of the community and the recommendations in this report reflect this. The community clearly supports the principles of the 0-19 Family and Wellbeing approach and Officers will progress the implementation of this strategic approach, subject to Cabinet considering the information in this report. However, the community did not support the development of three 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres, and the recommendations in this report take account of this feedback.

If the recommendations are approved how the change is implemented will be explored and reviewed within the Council and with the Head Teachers and Governing bodies. The potential decisions and changes if approved are:

- The three 0-19 Family Wellbeing centres are not developed, and early help are wholly delivered by the Children Centres
- Seaforth is not relocated
- A new funding methodology is introduced in 2018 that considers:
 - The reach (geography) that Family and Children Centre management are responsible for thereby impacting on their budgets
 - All early help are within Children Centres
 - A possible impact on number and type of activities taking place
 - A possible reduction in opening hours for a number of Family and Children Centres
 - Management and staffing
- Officers will work with Health colleagues to look at the potential development of Health and Wellbeing Centres

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As the locality model develops and the 0-19 strategic approach is implemented the Council and partners will continue to explore future opportunities. The Council is keen to work with partners to ensure that positive approaches are put in place that will help all members of our community to live happy and healthy lives, with positive approaches in place for those that need that bit of extra support from time to time.

In the future once current service delivery has been redesigned and the duplication of current Council activity removed, a more integrated model with NHS partners could be reconsidered. Through existing work it is clear that they have an ambition to explore the development of Health and Wellbeing Centres.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to

1. Take account of the Vision Outcomes Framework at para 1.6 in considering the recommendations in this report.
2. Consider and take account of community feedback, risks, and equality reports when considering the options and recommendations
3. Approve the principles, as described at para 3.6, for a 0-19 Family Wellbeing approach, described in paragraph 6.3
4. Approve that all existing Children and Family centres remain open in their current locations; and that the offer is revised to take account of the extended age range (0-19 year olds). The funding for the Family, Children centres and School Readiness will be contained within a new funding methodology identified in paragraph 7.4 which will in many cases reduce budgets, which will in turn potentially impact on activity delivery and opening hours.
5. Approve that the Council explore its ambition to work with health and all partners to deliver Health and Wellbeing centres within the context of locality working
6. Agree that the funding methodology be refreshed on a biennial basis (every two years), using updated information
7. Approve that the management oversight of all Family and Children centres sits within Council control
8. Agree that the Council Officers continue to engage with schools on the implementation of the approved change
9. To note that the Health and Wellbeing Executive Group, with Officers, will consider opportunities for the formation of Health and Well Being Centres in Sefton that would potentially see the community able to access Health and Council services in shared locations
10. Agree the schedule of childcare subsidy removal, and the further consultation with head teachers and governors as shown at paragraph 6.9
11. Agree to the commencement of all appropriate activity as detailed, including for example, consultation with head teachers, governors, employees and engagement with partners and contractual changes. Subject to discussions the new arrangements are to be introduced by the end of July 2018
12. Note that officers will comply with agreed HR policies, with particular attention to staffing, equalities and procedures including relevant consultation with Trade Unions and reports to the Cabinet Member (Regulatory, Compliance & Corporate Services), and Officers may be permitted to implement change as required after appropriate procedures.
13. Delegate authority for future decisions relating to the implementation of this recommended change and biennial changes to the methodology, to Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding in consultation with the Director

for Social Care and Health.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Council decisions over the last 6 years have centred on the priority given to our most vulnerable people and those core services that communities expect to see delivered. The Council has a proven track record of engagement, consultation, listening and considering feedback in the decision making process. The recommendations in this report take account of community and partner feedback, the Council's Core Purpose and seek to protect the most vulnerable, shift focus towards prevention and ensure equity of funding across Children's, Family Centres and School Readiness. Only such a strategic approach can mitigate the demand and financial pressures that will continue to be faced by the Council.

The Council is at a point where doing more of the same or trying to do more of the same with less money is going to fail children, young people, families and the communities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Maintaining the status quo is not an option due to demographic and budgetary pressures and the lack of a transparent funding methodology.

There have been a number of alternative proposals submitted by schools, Family and Children centres and members of the public. These have given the Council additional useful suggestions and have been considered, however they, for the most, did not consider borough wide need nor provide the equity that a funding methodology provides. In developing the methodology Officers considered the suggestions made but not the centre focused suggestions that were given. The options considered are listed within the report at paragraph 5.4 and rejected including:

- Proposal consulted on - Move to three Family Wellbeing Centres with additional complementary bases
- Continue with current funding allocation methods

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Within the following report are details of the key revenue budget changes that will be experienced as a result of this strategic review. The financial implications focus on the removal of the childcare subsidy provided to some Children Centres on a phased basis from 2018 and a new funding formula in relation to Children's, Family Centres and School Readiness. These proposals will generate savings to the Council as set out within the report and these will be captured as part of the Councils overall Medium Term Financial Plan.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

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| Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): |
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The financial implications arising from this strategic review are as set out in the report. It is anticipated that the current childcare subsidy will reduce on a phased basis by £655,000 per annum with the budget for Children's and Family Centres reducing by around £996,550 per annum based on the formula proposed. It is proposed that this funding methodology will be reviewed on a biennial basis

The proposals contained within this report have a potential impact upon employees and the potential for both voluntary and compulsory redundancies. It will be necessary for the Authority to comply with the duty to consult with recognised Trade Unions and employees and to complete as necessary a notification under Section 188 of the Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Also form HR1 to the Department of Business Innovation and Skills notifying of redundancies has yet to be filed. Full and meaningful consultation should continue to take place with the Trade Unions and employees on the matters contained within this report.

The impact on physical assets will be assessed during the implementation phase. All Family and Children centres will remain open under these recommendations.

Legal Implications:

Childcare Act 2006 and associated statutory guidance.

The requirements for fair consultation are also set out in *R v North and East Devon Health Authority, ex p Coughlan [2001] 1 QB 213* as follows [at 108]:

- (a) The consultation must be undertaken at a time when the proposals are still at a formative stage;
- (b) It must provide sufficient information, in detail and clarity, for consultees to give the proposals intelligent consideration and an intelligent response;
- (c) There must be adequate time for the response;
- (d) The responses must be considered conscientiously and taken into account when the decision is taken.

Equality Implications:

In relation to compliance with the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, Members need to make decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented. Members need to have a full understanding of any risks in terms of people with protected characteristics and any mitigation that has been put in place. Equality Impact Assessments, including consultation, provide a clear process to demonstrate that Cabinet and Council have consciously shown due regard and complied with the duty.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: the proposed strategic approach seeks to

- Ensure a focused response on providing improved outcomes for the children and young people themselves on occasions where the "whole family" approach does not work.
- Ensure that the child's voice is heard and that safeguarding thresholds are maintained through service redesign and delivery

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: the proposed model seeks to

- Respect families starting points, and intervene early to provide the required support in a timely way.

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a “whole family” approach where root cause issues can be addressed and families limit the number of times they need to tell their story • Support children and families that are failing to thrive or reach their potential, particularly with regard to attachment, language acquisition and early childhood milestones • Promote good mental health and emotional wellbeing for all children and young people, parents and care givers in Sefton and improve access to targeted support to address health inequalities. • Recognise importance of friendship circles |
| Commission, broker and provide core services: the proposed model will see the Council act as outcome focused commissioner of services which meet the defined needs of communities, are person-centred and localised. |
| Place – leadership and influencer: the Council will work with partners, in particular Health, to work towards common goals in relation to the potential to create Health Wellbeing Centres |
| Drivers of change and reform: the proposed model seeks to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a focus on outcomes • ensure a targeted and evidence-based approach for those children and families who are in the greatest need |
| Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: |
| Greater income for social investment: |
| Cleaner Greener |

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4934/17) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4219/17) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The external consultations are detailed in the consultation report provided as a background document and summarised further in this report. The methodology was approved by Sefton’s public engagement and consultation panel.

Consultation included:

- Meetings at Children Centres – with Q&A sessions
- Meetings with head teachers, governors and advisory boards
- Council webpages giving information, a frequently asked questions section, progress updates
- Messages given out through social media
- Monitoring and collecting views from social media discussion groups (such as on Twitter and Facebook)
- Access to a questionnaire with information on Council’s internet

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- Hard copies of questionnaires at all centres, libraries, leisure centres
- Questionnaires in other languages
- Easy Read questionnaires
- Attendance and meetings with targeted representative groups
- Attendance at and meetings with specialist groups such as Making a Difference, New Beginnings and the two NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Governing Bodies responsible for commissioning health care in Sefton.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- A - Map of existing Family and Children centres
- B & C - Centre budget information
- D - Summary of proposed funding arrangements
- Consultation report;
- All Children's Centres Public Engagement and Consultation Sessions from 25 September – 17 November 2017;
- Equalities report on proposal;
- Equalities report on funding methodology.

Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet, can be accessed on the Council website:

- Children's Commissioner Family Hubs October 2016
<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13837>
- O&S report early intervention and prevention October 2017
<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13837>
- Note population data and deprivation information is available on the Council website [here](#)
- SEND Improvement Plan
<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13837>
- Equality and Diversity Policy 2016 - 2020 (refresh 2017) - <http://smbc-modgov-01/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=10437>

1. Background

- 1.1 Family is one of the most important influences in a child's life. Children depend on family to protect them and provide for their needs. By nurturing and teaching children and young people families play a lasting role in making sure that children reach their full potential. The friendship networks that families are part of also play a key role in supporting parents and carers along the way. These networks often develop through being a member of a group or attending a local community activity. Sometimes families need a bit of extra support so that children and young people thrive and parents and carers learn new skills or access information and advice. However, there are times when child protection concerns become so great that the child or young person no longer lives with their family.
- 1.2 The network that currently supports Sefton families includes 10 Children, 4 Family Centres and the School Readiness Service. However, since the introduction of the Children and Family Centres in 2006-2007 there has been no review of the strategic vision and given the significant change in successive Government and local policies, Sefton is now taking a strategic approach taking account of the Council's Core Purpose and the approved approach to locality working.
- 1.3 Currently within Sefton, there are 10 Children's Centres operating from a number of schools and Council bases with delivery points in community bases. Nine Children centres are based on Nursery or Primary School premises; operating as a commissioned service, governed by the school and quality assured by the Council's School Readiness Team, who is part of the Council's localities model. The tenth centre is under direct management of the Council and operates from a Council building. All Children's Centres are subject to inspection by Ofsted; however this inspection regime is currently paused pending a government review. For latest inspection outcomes see Annex B
- 1.4 In addition to this there are 4 Family centres, two of these Family centres are already co-located with a Children's Centre and two stand alone. The Family Centres are wholly directly managed by the Council. Again all Family Centres are subject to inspection by Ofsted.
- 1.5 In recent years the Council has carried out extensive consultation with the community and has a proven track record of engagement, consultation, listening and considering feedback in the decision making process, on occasion changing the proposal consulted on because of community feedback.
- 1.6 Members will recall the Council's commitment to taking account of the Vision Outcomes Framework in the decision making process and in considering the recommendations in this report Cabinet is asked to take particular account of the following outcomes
 - All of our communities live happy and healthy lives, with positive approaches in place for those that need that bit of extra support from time to time
 - People are influencing decisions which affect them and communities work together and with partners to deliver effective change
 - People feel safe and supported and are free from discrimination and harm

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- People understand and exercise their safeguarding responsibilities
- People are well informed
- People enjoy being part of energetic local communities with their own unique identities and sense of pride
- People are accessing improved information enabling easy access to cultural, leisure and social opportunities

2. The Current Operating Model

2.1 A Children's Centre is a place, or group of places, where individuals, local families, and those with young children can go and enjoy activities and receive support that they need. The purpose of a Children's Centre is to improve outcomes and ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential for young children and their families by shaping:

- child development and school readiness
- parenting aspirations and skills
- child and family health & wellbeing, mental health and life chances

Families are offered a wide range of universal and targeted services such as:

- postnatal services including bonding with your child
- stay and play (often supplemented with Welfare Reform Support)
- confidence to re-join the workforce
- supply of vitamins to support health and wellbeing of families

Those families who are most in need are offered tailored support pathways across a wider range of services, such as support through periods of poor mental health or low mood, from a dedicated skilled team.

Some of Sefton's Children's Centres provide childcare which is subsidised by the Council – see paragraph 6.9 and annex B.

2.2 In 2006, in line with government policy, Sefton took a phased approach to the implementation of Children's Centres, with phase 1 being for families in those areas with the highest deprivation. Phase 2 took place 2007/2008 and phase 3 in 2010 in order to provide a wider offer across the borough. Annex A provides a map of Children & Family Centres.

2.3 The table at annex B details further current information relating to Children's Centres.

2.4 Family Centres provide services to Sefton's most vulnerable children, young people and their families. Their work includes

- the development of early help (interventions that addresses families concerns to avoid them needing a statutory service, e.g. parenting help, relationship support) plans and delivery of some of the associated activity
- working with children and young people who are subject of interim care orders

- working with children and young people who are subject to Child Protection and Child in Need plans
- parenting assessments with families under any social care plan
- direct work with children on plans in order to understand their lived experience and how to improve their outcomes
- supervision of and assess contact between looked after children and their parents
- unannounced safeguarding visits to family homes where there is high risk of domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues
- supporting social workers to ensure that children who are receiving statutory intervention through social care involvement are safe to remain with their families, and to support families to improve family life to a level that they no longer require state intervention

For those children who are subject of Interim Care Orders, the assessments are filed with the Courts in order to support plans for children either to remain in permanent placements away from the family home or whether children should be remain with or be returned to their parents.

2.5 Annex C details current Family Centres funding.

2.6 School Readiness provides two elements of delivery – only part of which is aligned to proposed Family Wellbeing Centres, these are services to vulnerable young children and families. Their work includes:

- The work primarily focuses on early years children and families
- Delivering group sessions to families in Children's Centres
- Working with families through supervised contacts in Family Centres
- Supporting children and families to access and deliver the two year old offer
- 1:1 support for vulnerable families

3 Family Wellbeing Centres – A proposed new approach

3.1 For some time our communities have told us that they want a more joined up approach to working with families. In March 2017 Council approved the concept of locality working. In developing this proposal the Council adopted a collaborative approach to change. It is important to stress that the proposals consulted on are not just about reducing costs, they are driven by a combination of factors such as a desire to reduce inequalities in our communities and shift the focus towards prevention. The approach taken in developing the proposals was to enable people to have a say and a role in how we achieve the change or suggest alternative solutions. In developing the proposals for consultation Officers have endeavoured to identify the impact on the community of Sefton.

3.2 The Director of Social Care and Health has led this review of the current Children's Centre and Family Centre offer, delivery points and associated funding.

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Following extensive work a draft vision for the future of the Children & Family Centres has been developed and resulted in the draft strategic vision described below within the principles.

- 3.3 The Director of Social Care and Health also held internal working groups and conducted a number of meetings with Head teachers to develop a draft strategic approach. In addition, visits to all the Children and Family Centres have been undertaken, including some visits alongside Cabinet Members.
- 3.4 The proposal for remodelling and developing a 0-19 Family Wellbeing approach is part of a wider transformation process relating to Early Intervention and Prevention –Locality Working – an integrated approach to multi-agency working. The proposal takes account of the fact that parents are children’s first and most enduring educators. Building the capability and capacity of parents and family members to support themselves and support one another is central to our proposed approach.
- 3.5 The draft strategic approach for the Family Wellbeing approach clearly outlines the principles and approach the Council wishes to adopt. It was proposed that Sefton widens the offer to 0-19 by extending outreach support into schools and the community. This also complements the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board working group on Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy.
- 3.6 The proposed key principles of the Family Wellbeing approach are to:
- Respect families starting points, and intervene early to provide the required support in a timely way.
 - Develop a “whole family” approach where root cause issues can be addressed and families limit the number of times they need to tell their story
 - Ensure a focussed response on providing improved outcomes for the children and young people themselves on occasions where the “whole family” approach does not work.
 - Ensure that the child’s voice is heard and that safeguarding thresholds are maintained through service redesign and delivery
 - Ensure a targeted and evidence-based approach for those children and families who are in the greatest need
 - Support children and families that are failing to thrive or reach their potential, particularly with regard to attachment, language acquisition and early childhood milestones
 - Promote good mental health and emotional wellbeing for all children and young people, parents and care givers in Sefton and improve access to targeted support to address health inequalities.
- 3.7 This approach is supported by a report produced by the Children’s Commissioner in October 2016 (included as a background document) that describes the benefits of family hubs, promoting and encouraging the development of integrated support around the needs of the whole family. The report goes on to recommend a coordinated approach that provides an environment for services to work together

and not in isolation – this doesn't necessarily mean merging buildings but joining up of intelligence and working better together.

- 3.8 This approach will extend the offer at Family and Children Centres to include support for parents, carers and all children regardless of age.
- 3.9 Further evidence that supports this approach is the report of Sefton's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy working group, October 2017. This report recommends the integration of a wider set of health and clinical services to be integrated into Sefton Council's hubs, working together with an integrated approach to deliver the required services (as described within the report). This shows further synergy with the Family Wellbeing 0-19 integrated approach.

4 Consulting on the proposed new approach

- 4.1 In order to ensure that people are influencing decisions which affect them a consultation commenced on 25th September 2017 and closed on 17th November 2017. In developing the approach to consultation schools and partners based within Family and Children's centres were notified that the consultation would take place, with centre managers coproducing the questionnaire and all aspects of consultation. As with other changes that impact on the community the Council has adopted a collaborative approach. Through this consultation the Council has sought to further improve its understanding of the impact associated with the proposals, the desired outcomes and associated risks.
- 4.2 A summary of the consultation report is available below and the detailed report is available as a background document.
- 4.3 The consultation asked about the proposals to create 3 Family Wellbeing Centres, working with complementary Children centres.
- 4.4 The intention of the consultation was to provide:
- Sufficient information for those being consulted to form a considered view on the matters on which they are being consulted
 - A tailored consultation process to the scale of the changes
 - A clear account of the views of those who use Family Centres and Children's Centres and the broader community which can be taken into account when re-designing the approach
 - Access for those who have more difficulty to give views but wish to do so
 - Adequate time for those wishing to respond to have the opportunity to do so
- 4.5 The consultation included groups who may not currently use the Family and Children centres and these include:
- Young parents
 - Families from minority ethnic groups
 - Disabled parents
 - Parents of disabled children / children with SEN
 - Travellers

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- People who have difficulty reading, writing or speaking English
- Parents on low income
- Groups such as 'Making a difference'; New Beginnings; Chameleons and Buddy Up.

The methods were supported by a number of tools, including:

- A maintained webpage
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Social media
- Press & Media briefings
- Radio
- Posters
- Easy read questionnaires
- Translated questionnaires (Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian)

The schedule of consultation and engagement was as follows:

| Date 2017 | Activity |
|----------------------------|--|
| 15 th September | Public Engagement & Consultation Panel papers published |
| 22 nd September | Public Engagement & Consultation Panel |
| 25 th September | Consultation commences |
| 26 th September | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) |
| 17 th November | Public Engagement and consultation closes |
| 20 th November | Analysis of responses takes place |
| 5 th December | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) |
| 7 th December | Cabinet consider recommendations |

4.6 Listening to the communities of Sefton is critical in the decision making process. Regardless of how people are engaged, it's important to understand that listening involves more than just hearing the words that are directed at the Council. The Council has actively listened and understood people's views in this consultation considered and assessed the feedback and the recommendations later in this report reflect what has been heard.

4.7 Responses have been analysed and taken into account. Findings from the evaluation have formed part of the considerations in recommending the new funding methodology and operational changes.

4.8 Consultation key points and responses:

1. There were 1662 responses to the questionnaire and not all answered every question, of these

- a. 71% (the largest group) were from parents and/or carers
 - b. 3% of respondents were from children with caring responsibilities
2. There was a good return from every centre with the highest returns from Linaker (by far); First Steps and Seaforth, of these:
 - a. 57% used their Children Centres weekly
 - b. The highest percentage walked to their centre 50%, closely followed by use of a car 33%
3. In answering the question of what activities are used regarding health and wellbeing, key responses were:
 - a. Child development 19%; vitamin collection 13% and emotional wellbeing 9%
 - b. Other responses stating popular key activities being accessed at Family and Children centres are detailed in the consultation report and include, well baby clinic; stay and play; baby massage; using the centre as a drop in.
 - c. The feedback highlights a significant amount of health services accessed by the community
4. Regarding the proposed principles for 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres and the associated proposals, the questionnaire responses, for those that answered, showed that:
 - a. For the principles 80% agreed and 15% disagreed with some or all
 - b. For the proposals to create three Family Wellbeing centres 33% agreed but 63% disagreed
5. Three best activities identified by 542 respondents are:
 - a. 298 (55%) respondents considered stay and play as a vital service
 - b. 129 (24%) people considered family support vital to them
 - c. 63 (9%) people considered breast feeding support one of the top vital health and wellbeing service
6. From the presentations and meetings the key themes raised throughout were the following:
 - a. Getting there is an issue for access to proposed 0-19 Family Wellbeing centres – as the majority walk and the difficulty of using public transport with buggies, plus for those who use their car (second highest mode of travel) parking is seen as an issue.
 - b. Friendship networks have been formed and are vital for support and the community indicated in their responses that they utilise community offers, such as those offered by the voluntary, community and faith sector, at many locations throughout their local neighbourhood
 - c. Some respondents were concerned that the proposed principles are too targeted and they won't be able to utilise the proposed 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres to access a universal offer.
 - d. Some parts of the community do not wish to travel to another centre that they view as being outside their neighbourhood
 - e. There were a number of comments about suitability and disrepair of buildings for a Family Wellbeing centre, including lack of car parking and general appearance.
7. There were a number of additional items submitted, as follows:
 - a. Keep Linaker Children's Centre Unchanged and Remaining Open for the Public - petition
 - b. Linaker – Save our only Children's Centre - petition
 - c. Seaforth children centre petition

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- d. One unnamed centre petition but with Southport postcodes
 - e. A number of letters from the community and employees
 - f. E-petition to keep Children's Centre unchanged
 - g. Letter from Hope Baptist Church
 - h. Letters with personal stories from a number of parents
 - i. Pack of information from Thornton with case studies and statistics with regard to SEN
 - j. A number video clips and presentations from the community
 - k. Note that 42 questionnaires were returned and 1 petition submitted after the consultation closing date. These have been accepted.
8. Some selected comments (all within consultation report) from the feedback within questionnaires and the various meetings include:

"I agree in principle with all these proposed approaches however I seriously doubt that they will be achieved without local centres that are fully staffed. An approach that centres around 3 bases with smaller outreach is doomed to fail. The focus will be on the most demanding and needy families and on crisis support rather than the current approach of preventative services. Health and wellbeing is the most important part of support work and without local support with consistent staff many opportunities will be missed. Children's centres have built up a reputation of being a safe place to go for help and advice so I can only assume that fewer centres means lots of families will miss out on this support due to inability to travel to the centres or due to the lack of confidence in new outreach centres"

"Agree with principles but not with reduction in centres where they can be accessed."

"There are families who are forgotten about, the ones that don't qualify for anything so having a children's centre to go to should not be taken away from them. It is not all just pupil premium children who need looking after"

"I worry about the co-location proposals because I feel it will have a detrimental effect on services for vulnerable families. In particular I feel that families who have children with disabilities will be disadvantaged due to access difficulties. There must be a focus on outreach services for this group of families and a clear pathway for support for every need. Mental health must also be given a high profile for parents, carers and children. Consultation is ok if opinions are taken into account and if these proposals go ahead then I feel it is essential that service users are given a voice in shaping future services with advocacy support for people who struggle to have a voice e.g. disabled people, people with substance misuse issues, children, children with disabilities"

"Parent run classes could be a great initiative in centres to promote social interaction from 0 years. I feel if we could get parents CRB checked and then support and encourage them to run the groups. I would be more than happy to run one via the centre on my day off when I return back to work. Donations of toys from families could help support but in terms of cost savings it means a colleague can be free to support elsewhere rather than do the stay and plays."

5 Options Discounted Based on Consultation Feedback & Further Research

- 5.1 The proposals for remodelling and developing a Family Wellbeing approach is part of a wider transformation process relating to Early Intervention and

Prevention – Locality Teams. However the consultation clearly evidences a lack of support for the proposed creation of 3 Family Wellbeing Centres with the remaining Children centres becoming complementary bases.

- 5.2 There have been a number of alternative proposals submitted by schools, Children and Family centres and members of the public. These have given the Council additional useful suggestions and been considered, however, as they, for the most, did not consider borough wide need nor provide the equity that a funding methodology provides we used general suggestions but not the individual centre focussed suggestions that were given.
- 5.3 Officers have given due consideration to these alternative suggestions and undertaken further analysis.
- 5.4 The table below summarises the options considered by officers and the reason why their progression is not recommended;

| Option | Reason not recommended |
|--|--|
| <p>Proposal consulted on - Move to three Family Wellbeing Centres and additional complementary bases</p> | <p>Having undertaken an extensive, open and transparent consultation with the community there is clear agreement with the draft strategic principles – however, there is a significant lack of support for the proposed creation of the three Family Wellbeing Centres with complementary bases proposed.</p> <p>During the consultation many people shared their life experiences openly and how their current local centre has supported them at difficult times in their lives.</p> <p>Many people raised similar issues with the proposed change such as friendship and support circles, getting to a different venue, and the mix of activity at each venue.</p> <p>One of the proposed Family Wellbeing Centres, Waterloo, is a proposal that the school governors do not wish to pursue. However, Cambridge and Seaforth has expressed an interest to become a Family Wellbeing Centre.</p> <p>In addition to the community feedback further analysis has identified building work requirements at certain locations. The locality working project has now identified potential opportunities associated with the use of buildings that would maximise customer usage of assets throughout the Borough.</p> <p>The number of other integration projects, proposed Health Wellbeing hubs and the potential integration of other public bodies suggest that a staged approach should be taken to align better, if appropriate, at a later date.</p> |

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| Option | Reason not recommended |
|--|---|
| Continue with current funding allocation methods | Current funding allocation methods are based on historical decisions, It is not recommended to continue on this basis as it does not readily provide transparency nor enable enough flexibility to be reviewed and revised when demographics change with the focus on the 0-19 principles. |
| Individual school proposals | These have given the Council additional useful suggestions and been considered, however, as they, for the most, did not consider borough wide need nor provide the equity that a funding methodology provides. In developing the methodology Officers considered the suggestions made but not the centre focused suggestions that were given. |

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 In developing these recommendations Officers have taken into account further analysis and research with the communities feedback relating to the outcomes achieved, benefits of local Family and Children centres on them as individuals, families and networks.
- 6.2 The consultation evidences clear support for the proposed Family Wellbeing principles and a lack of support to the proposal to move to three Family Wellbeing Centres and additional complementary bases. Cabinet is asked to:
- Approve the principles, as described at para 3.6, for a 0-19 Family Wellbeing approach, described in paragraph 6.3
 - Approve that all existing Children and Family centres remain open in their current locations; and that the offer is revised to take account of the extended age range (0-19 year olds). The funding for the Family, Children centres and School Readiness will be contained within a new funding methodology identified in paragraph 7.4 which will in many cases reduce budgets, which will in turn potentially impact on activity delivery and opening hours.
 - The Council explore its ambition to work with health and all partners to deliver Health and Wellbeing centres within the context of locality working
 - The funding methodology be refreshed on a biennial basis (every two years), using updated information
 - Management oversight of all Family and Children centres sits within Council control
 - Officers continue to engage with schools on the implementation of the approved change
 - To note that the Health and Wellbeing Executive Group, with Officers, will consider opportunities for the formation of Health and Well Being Centres in Sefton that would potentially see the community able to access Health and Council services in shared locations

6.3 The implications of implementing the recommended operating model are described below. For developing the principles but not the 0-19 Family Wellbeing centres, Officers will implement a Family Wellbeing approach that uses the agreed principles and applies that to the way the Family, Children centres and School Readiness work with each other to become an integrated service joining up early help and 0-19 services.

Families - The recommendations will provide the opportunity to access the current estate as it is now. Activities, including those provided as outreach, will be reviewed on a regular basis as they are now.

For some families there may be a change with their key worker, this may impact on the families' networks and friends. The early help work currently accessed by some families in Family Centres will now take place in children centres. This along with redesigning the service delivery will address current duplication.

Head teachers / Governing Bodies – The recommendations may represent a significant change to schools who have invested time and expertise in the formation of a commissioned model. Consequently careful discussion and negotiation will be needed and this has started with outline discussions. Therefore further discussion and negotiation will be required with individual schools and governors to explore the implications of this. It could be possible that a hybrid approach can be adopted to suit the needs and strengths of individual schools.

In some areas the 'reach' (footprint) is recommended to be changed producing a new footprint to support localities in accessing services closer to their communities, as well as making efficiencies across some systems. The following is the recommended footprint:

| Existing footprint | Recommended footprint |
|----------------------------|---|
| Seaforth | Seaforth |
| Waterloo & Thornton | Waterloo |
| Springwell | Springwell |
| Netherton | Netherton & Thornton |
| Hudson | Hudson |
| Freshfield | See below |
| Kings Meadow & Farnborough | Kings Meadow & Farnborough & Freshfield |
| Linaker | Linaker |
| Cambridge | Cambridge |
| Litherland | Litherland |

Given the intertwined nature of schools and Children's Centres there will be a number of ancillary issues; such as related staffing, contracts and use of buildings. This will require individual discussion with each school.

Staffing – The recommendations in this report will inevitably have consequences for employees of both the Authority centrally and those employed by schools.

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Existing procedures are in place whereby school employees are employed by delegated responsibility to schools and their Governors. Centrally employed Local Authority employees have direct line management within the Local Authority.

In terms of the implementation of the model, there will be a necessity, after considering the potential staffing implications, to follow both procedures as required.

General principles around any implementation will be discussed as normal through the recognised Joint Trade Union Forum and one particular issue that has been agreed is that there will be a necessity for some modification of existing redeployment opportunities whereby school based staff are given access as agreed with trade unions.

Some school based staff may ultimately need to also move away from the delegated responsibility of a school to become a centrally employed Local Authority employee and this again will need to be the subject of careful discussion with schools, trade unions and employees.

The officers are acutely aware of the need to deal with all matters sensitively following appropriate procedures and following recognised consultation process with trade unions.

In relation to school employees moving to centrally employed Local Authority status, schools currently hold budgets up to April 2018, so potentially the actual move of responsibility would potentially take place after this date.

Buildings – If the service is no longer commissioned (following discussion with school governors), further negotiation and work will be needed to secure the use of the current children's centres as delivery sites and/or secure the use of the children's centre footprint for delivery of 0-5 services.

- 6.4 Childcare Subsidy - Members will be aware that the current childcare service is distinct from the core children's centre offer and the Council currently provides a subsidy to a number of Children Centres who offer childcare (see annex B).
- 6.5 Since 2013 the Government has introduced funding for eligible 2 year olds to enable access to free early education and childcare. The introduction of the funded 2 year old offer coincided with the Government's push for all schools to alter their age range allowing them to admit and register children from the age of 2. This has resulted in a changing childcare landscape, as many schools have absorbed 2 year olds into their school provision, without the requirement for financial support or a subsidy. For Children Centres with childcare, this has meant a constant flow of funded 2-4 year olds into their provision.
- 6.6 Given the government changes to childcare funding policy, school priorities, community take up of two year old funding and pressure on Council budgets the childcare subsidy is no longer appropriate and is recommended to be ceased in a phased manner, in accordance with individual school/community needs and the extent of existing services. It should be noted that there are many opportunities to access high, quality childcare provision in Sefton.

6.7 Over time, a number of schools have utilised the childcare subsidy so that it supports childcare services beyond the intended 0-5 age range. In these cases, an extended and phased removal of the subsidy is suggested allowing those schools in question to make alternative provision/arrangements.

6.8 Implications:

Families - The removal of the childcare subsidy may affect some families, in that in a number of cases families will need to source alternative provision. However, the latest sufficiency data suggests that there is ample high quality provision within the pram pushing 1.5 mile radius. Whilst this may be an upheaval for some families they will be supported through the process, on an individual basis. It is worthy of note that the childcare market across Sefton is of a very high standard (above National and Regional averages) therefore finding a good or outstanding alternative provider should not be problematic. Some market development with the private child care sector may be required to cater for government to provide 30 hours free child care for working parents.

Head teachers / Governing Bodies – Each school presents a differing picture and stance on childcare. As a result transition arrangements will need to vary from school to school and be co-produced with governors and head teachers on an individual basis and within differing timescales.

Staffing – It is anticipated that the removal of the subsidy will result in a number of job losses in schools. Some schools may choose to redeploy some of those at risk internally.

Existing procedures are in place whereby school employees are employed by delegated responsibility to schools and their Governors. Centrally employed Local Authority employees have direct line management within the Local Authority.

In terms of the cessation of the subsidy, there will be a necessity, after considering the potential staffing implications, to follow existing procedures as required.

General principles around any implementation will be discussed as normal through the recognised Joint Trade Union Forum and one particular issue that has been agreed is that there will be a necessity for some modification of existing redeployment opportunities whereby school based staff are given access as agreed with trade unions.

As with other potential changes in this report officers are acutely aware of the need to deal with all matters sensitively following appropriate procedures and following recognised consultation process with trade unions.

Buildings – It is important to note that once a building is no longer used to offer childcare there is the potential of a clawback claim, it is not anticipated that this will occur as the intention is to use such space to continue activities that includes supporting 0-5 delivery.

6.9 Following engagement with schools the proposals for the cessation of the subsidy are detailed below

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| Childcare delivered from | Current Amount £ | Timescale proposals |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Cambridge Road | 103,635 | Removal of subsidy from April 2018 |
| Springwell | 118,626 | Phased reduction of subsidy with full removal by July 2018 |
| Litherland | 135,840 | Removal of subsidy from July 2018 |
| Hatton Hill | 90,471 | Removal of subsidy from July 2018 |
| Linaker | 86,183 | Removal of Subsidy from July 2018 |
| Seaforth (Sand Dunes) | 121,000 | Removal of the subsidy from April 2018 |

- 6.10 Cabinet is asked to agree the schedule of subsidy, and the further consultation with head teachers and governors as shown in the above table.
- 6.11 During the consultation period a number of issues were raised about the current numbers of children attending Seaforth Nursery School and its consequential impact and viability of the Centre. This matter will be further explored in 2018.

7 Funding the recommendation

- 7.1 Any change to the operating approach would require a new approach to funding in order to ensure future sustainability. A new funding methodology will provide a more equitable and fair distribution of monies across our most deprived areas, enabling the best possible outcomes.
- 7.2 In line with the recommended strategic vision it is proposed that a new funding methodology will underpin the new model. The need based methodology will allocate staffing and operational costs on a clearly defined basis that reflects the Council's ambition for families within the resources available according to a given reach.
- 7.3 The current Children's Centre and Family Centre budgets, including commissioned services linked to Children's Centres and the budget associated to part of the Council's School Readiness team is the baseline for the development of the methodology. The budget linked to Family Centre management has already been accounted for within locality working.
- 7.4 The recommended funding model has been developed using

- the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which is also used locally to allocate some school funding
- inequalities in particular disability, migrants (English as a Second Language), travellers
- reach footprints
- the number of new births
- an indication of the percentage of children in an area requiring social care support
- case weighting for children in need and looked after children
- a minimum funding protection factor that ensures no centre will see a reduction in funding by more than 31% of its historical funding.

The model will bring parity and see resources targeted to deprivation and disadvantage and some allocated universally. It will support the allocation of staffing and other costs on a clearly defined basis

7.5 A weighted funding methodology has been adopted which takes account of and supports a flexible and well trained workforce. The recommended methodology has taken consideration of the detailed assessment on equality in the background documents.

7.6 It is recommended that the methodology is refreshed on a biennial basis so that it reflects changing demographics and need.

7.7 The implications of implementing the recommended funding methodology include:

- Families: - Due to the weightings within the methodology, it will ensure that the requirements of those most in need are met, in particular those with protected characteristics, but will continue to recognise the benefits of universal access to information, advice and support
- Safeguarding: – balancing the risk of a reduced budget in Family Centres against a reduced budget in Children’s Centres and School Readiness is a complex issue. The proposed methodology has taken consideration of this challenge and identifies the number of staff required in every centre to ensure safeguarding activity is optimised. .
- Staff: Overall there will be a reduction in staffing with a matrix management approach. The recommended model will require flexibility as new ways of working develop. The changes in ways of working will require investment in staff development and training.

Centre budgets: The impact on each centre’s budget is summarised in annex D

7.8 Members should be aware that the proposed funding methodology does not include any allowance for childcare.

8 Implementation of the recommendations

8.1 The implementation of this change, subject to approval of Cabinet, will be complex. Once decisions are made, an implementation plan will be developed and progress reported back to Cabinet Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding on a regular basis.

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8.2 The change will be managed by the newly appointed Localities Service Managers, in conjunction with the Corporate Support and Strategic Support team. This will ensure that dependencies on other projects, other areas of the Council and partners are understood and carefully managed.

8.3 Where the service is commissioned it will be based on the 0-19 Family Wellbeing principles as described in paragraph 3.6, the implementation plan will be co-produced with governors, head teachers, partners and management of the Children centres.

8.4 A continuous open dialogue has continued all through the development and consultation period. This will continue with each school and governors to discuss the practical application of the model and the management model they wish to adopt.

8.5 Further engagement with families

8.5.1 As plans develop activities in the Children Centres may change the early help support currently delivered in Family Centres will be accessed at Children's Centre locations, some activities may stop and some may be offered as outreach, and new activities may be added. Already in our children's centres we regularly review the activities that offered as need, demand and the seasons change. For example peer support coffee mornings have recently stopped, open access play and stay where universal credit support and advice is available introduced which is being taken up by many families. A mental health and wellbeing pathway has recently been introduced which includes Nurture and Thrive sessions and a Theraplay approach.

8.5.2 As now families will be kept fully informed of planned changes to activities and schedule. It will be important that changes are effectively communicated to ensure that the expectation of our communities can be managed.

8.5.3 The Council will ensure that children and young people continue to be safeguarded.

8.6 Workforce Development & Training

8.6.1 If the recommendations in section 6 are agreed staff will require development and specific training relating to 0-19 age range. An understanding of the functions and integrated working model will be analysed to look at the skills required and the mix available. For some it may mean a change in culture for approach with the locality multi-disciplinary model will be developed across the localities.

8.7 Locality working including partners

8.7.1 The approval in March 2017 for the multi-agency locality model is now entering into phase 2. Phase 1 has developed the Council's approach and staffing for locality working with a number of services. Phase 2 widens this

approach by including social care and phase 3 includes partners being part of this model, such as health and other partners. As described earlier in this report this is a staged approach and this model will fit within the approach and will be part of this integrate and matrix management approach.

8.8 Policy, Process & Procedural Change

8.8.1 If the recommendation is approved officers will examine all policies, processes and procedures detailed within this work area, linking to the wider integration agenda.

8.9 Commissioned activity and Performance Management

8.9.1 Understanding and measuring performance will be paramount to develop so performance and successful outcomes are considered and addressed. A clear considered set of outcome measures will be controlled and managed by the teams to ensure the service continues to deliver at a very high standard and is meeting the needs of our community.

9 Legal considerations

9.1 In order to implement the new operating model, consideration has been given to the relevant legislation incorporated within the Childcare Act 2006. Key aspects which have been considered and addressed are:

9.1.1 Section 5A which places a duty on local authorities to make “arrangements for sufficient provision of children’s centres to meet local need”. “Local need” is the need of parents, prospective parents and young children in the authority’s area.

9.1.2 Section 5D which requires a local authority to secure that such consultation as they think appropriate is carried out –

- Before any significant change is made in the services provided through a relevant children’s centre or
- Before anything is done that would result in a relevant children’s centre ceasing to be a children’s centre [i.e. closing a children’s centre].

9.1.3 In discharging this duty, local authorities must have regard to statutory guidance. Statutory guidance states that local authorities “should not close an existing children’s centre site in any reorganisation of provision unless they can demonstrate that, where they decide to close a children’s centre site, the outcomes for children, particularly the most disadvantaged, would not be adversely affected and will not compromise the duty to have sufficient children’s centres to meet local need. The starting point should therefore be a presumption against the closure of children’s centres”.

9.1.4 With regard to consultation, statutory guidance states that local authorities should allow adequate time for responses actively encourage parents from disadvantaged groups to participate and demonstrate in their decision that they have taken consultation responses into account.

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- 9.2 The proposed new model will support the concept as outlined in the Statutory Guidance for Children's Centres 2013, which states that children's centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as they are about providing premises in particular geographical areas. In practical terms, this means less Children Centres will be registered as standalone children's centres with Ofsted. The remaining Children centres will be listed as linked or satellite sites and will no longer be subject to individual inspections. However, it is to be noted that these sites will remain open and accessible to the community.
- 9.3 The proposed model also aligns with how we anticipate Children's Centres will be inspected by Ofsted in the future. Rather than a single centre inspection, it is expected that they will be considered as part of the overall Children's Service inspection regime; as recent Joint Targeted Area Inspections have included some inspection of Children's Centre service delivery. Therefore the existing single centre configuration, managed by schools, does not necessarily lend them to an Early Help, preventative approach.

10 Risk Management

- 10.1 As part of the review process Officers have regularly reviewed strategic and operational risks associated with the review and put in place measures to manage those risks.
- 10.2 In considering those risks identified, Officers continue to be mindful of a range of risk factors including but not limited to the following:
- No change in way of working
 - Existing Family or Children centres and School Readiness are no longer sustainable as a result of new funding methodology
 - The wider integration model does not materialise
- 10.3 There is always a risk that future demand exceeds the funding provided by the methodology. As this new service encompasses children in greatest need there is the potential of future safeguarding risks. However, this will be mitigated by a biennial review of the methodology and the new operating model would see Children and Family centres working in an aligned and integrated way supporting each other's workload. Also, the current restructure within Social Care could provide additional capacity for social workers to have greater contact with families.
- 10.4 Cabinet is asked to note and take account of the risks & mitigating actions outlined above.

11 Equality Analysis

- 11.1 As members make decisions, there is a need to be clear and precise about our processes and impact assess potential change proposals, identifying any risks and mitigating these as far as possible. The impact assessments, including any feedback from consultation or engagement, are made available to Members when recommendations are presented for a decision. This ensures that Members make

decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

- 11.2 In order to ensure a greater understanding of the specific changes to services on offer, an analysis of information and data will be required on which services will continue to be delivered, reduced and or ceased in line with the new proposals linked to protected characteristic, demographic needs and usage trends. Assessment will also be required on the how families currently access or are signposted into the provision along with the reasons why.
- 11.3 The Council is under a statutory duty to pay due regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 - the Public-Sector Equality Duty. Two full equality analysis reports have been completed on both the proposed changes to the children's centres and the funding methodology. The equality analysis on the proposed children's centres recognises that the proposal has been revised to take account of community feedback and further analysis; the equality analysis strongly supports this position and in addition recommends:
- In developing implementation plans the Council will take account of understanding the needs of disabled users and there is an active process to meet this need
 - English as a second language courses/programmes are embedded services in the most appropriate Family and Children centres
 - The funding methodology takes the above points in to consideration, to ensure Family and Children centres providing for disabilities or English as a Second Language are not disproportionately impoverished compared to other Family and Children Centres.
 - In developing implementation plans the Council will take account of concerns over safeguarding. Issues have been raised in relation to merging Family and Children's Centres and increasing the age of users to 19. Whilst there is evidence of good practice where these two services already share facilities, it's recommended that a policy and practice review takes place, including interested parties and partners, to address public concerns and to alleviate any public anxiousness
- 11.4 The equality analysis on the new funding methodology recognises that it is a clear way forward, with the recommendation that the methodology ensures that:
- There is consideration and revision/ adjustments to the mechanism to include weighting for disability and language needs
 - There is a clear assessment of the Children Centres that were in receipt of the 'subsidy' as to what they used the subsidy on. That the council will work with head teachers and governing bodies during the recommended schedule of subsidy removal to ensure that the impact on the community is minimal.
- 11.5 Cabinet is asked to consider and take account of the equality analysis report when considering the recommendations.

12. Summary

- 12.1 In developing the proposals relating to locality working and the proposed Family Wellbeing approach the Council has actively listened to the views of the community and the recommendations in this report reflect this. It is clear at this

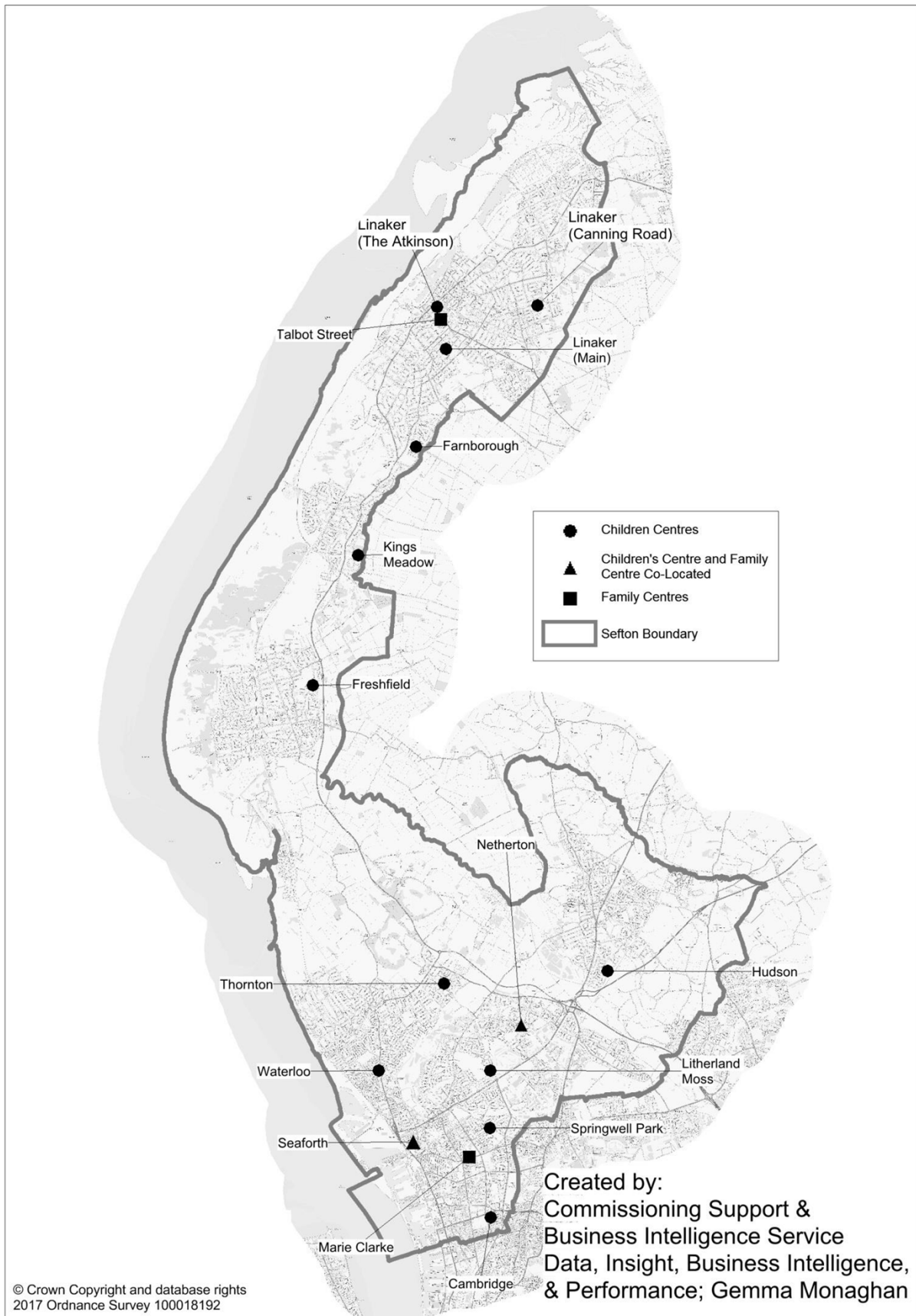
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stage that the community supports the principles of the 0-19 Family and Wellbeing approach and Officers will progress the implementation of this strategic approach, subject to Cabinet approval. However, the community did not support the development of three 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres, it should be recognised that the community expressed concern about safeguarding, travelling, building suitability and the importance of the locality of the Family and Children centres.

- 12.2 As a result it is proposed that the new funding methodology addresses these areas and focuses on deprivation and other areas set out within this report. Therefore, it is possible to retain the Family and Children Centres within their current bases, however to accommodate the changes within the available budget, it will not be possible to provide the same level of opening hours within all the Children Centres. This will be explored and reviewed within the Council and with the Head Teachers and Governing bodies.
- 12.3 As the locality model developments and the 0-19 strategic approach is implemented the Council and partners will continue to explore future opportunities. The Council is keen to work with partners to ensure that positive approaches are put in place that will help all members of our community to live happy and healthy lives, with positive approaches in place for those that need that bit of extra support from time to time.
- 12.4 In future once the current service delivery has been redesigned and the duplication of current Council activity removed, a more integrated model with NHS partners could be reconsidered. Through existing work it is clear that there is a joint ambition to explore the development of Health and Wellbeing Hubs. Cabinet is asked to agree the creation of a working group to consider the formation of Health and Wellbeing Hubs in Sefton that would potentially see the community able to access Health and Council services in shared locations.

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Annex A Location of Current Children's Centres and Family Centres



Annex B – Current Children Centre budget, Ofsted outcome and childcare subsidy

| Children's Centre Phase & established yr. | Ofsted Outcome & Date of Inspection | Children's Centre Budget (£) (without subsidy) | Governance | Childcare Offered | Childcare Subsidy (£) |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cambridge 1 27/04/2007 | Good (Feb 13) | 228,456 | Commissioned service, governed by Cambridge Nursery School | Yes | 103,635 |
| Linaker 1 11/07/2006 | Outstanding (Sept 2010) | 568,767 | Commissioned service, governed by Linaker Primary School | Yes | 86,183 |
| Litherland 1 24/03/2006 | Requires Improvement (July 14) | 419,710 | Commissioned service, governed by Litherland Moss Primary School | Yes | 135,840 |
| Netherton 1 18/09/2006 | Good (April 12) | 413,650 | Local Authority | No | 0 |
| Seaforth 1 13/02/2006 | Good (Nov 11) | 382,050 | Commissioned service, governed by Sand Dunes primary School | Yes | 121,000 |
| Springwell 1 23/03/2006 | Good (Nov 10) | 264,676 | Commissioned service, governed by Springwell Primary School | Yes | 118,626 |
| First Steps (Kings Meadow & Farnborough Road) 2/3 25/02/2008 | Good (Nov 14) | 207,300 | Commissioned service, governed by Farnborough Road Infant School | No | 0 |
| Hudson 2 | Requires Improvement | 187,600 | Commissioned service, governed by | No | 0 |

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| Children's Centre Phase & yr. established | Ofsted Outcome & Date of Inspection | Children's Centre Budget (£) (without subsidy) | Governance | Childcare Offered | Childcare Subsidy (£) |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 25/02/08 | (Feb 14) | | Hudson Primary School | | |
| Waterloo/Thornton 2 01/11/07 | Good (Jul 14) | 325,800 | Commissioned service, governed by Waterloo Primary School | No | 0 |
| Freshfield 3 28/02/2010 | Not inspected | 97,250 | Commissioned service, governed by Freshfield Primary School | No | 0 |
| | Hatton Hill (not a children centre but childcare only with subsidy) | | | | 90,471 |

ANNEX C – CURRENT FAMILY CENTRE BUDGET

| Family Centre | Family Centre Budget |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Southport (Talbot Street) | 571,700 |
| Marie Clarke (Bootle) | 500,000 |
| Netherton | 503,300 |
| Seaforth | 496,000 |

ANNEX D Summary of proposed funding arrangements

| | Linaker | First Steps (including Freshfield) | Waterloo (without Thornton) | Seaforth CC | Hudson | Netherton CC (including Thornton) | Litherland | Springwell | Cambridge | TOTAL |
|---------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Change in funding | -£ 104,418.48 | -£ 57,159.27 | -£ 66,185.45 | -£ 93,648.71 | -£ 58,156.45 | -£ 163,044.74 | -£ 130,110.69 | -£58,833.76 | £ 126,290.43 | -£ 605,267.11 |
| Protection factor | | | £7,222.00 | | £16,071.00 | £103,087.00 | £56,503.00 | | | £ 182,883.00 |
| % change in funding | -18.36% | -18.77% | -31.00% | -24.51% | -31.00% | -31.00% | -31.00% | -22.23% | 55.28% | |

| | Talbot Street | Seaforth | Netherton | Marie Clarke | Total |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Change in Funding | -£ 177,227 | -£ 25,232 | -£ 49,087 | -£ 41,199 | -£ 292,745 |
| Protection factor | £5,258 | | | | £ 5,258 |
| % change in funding | -31.00% | -5.72% | -10.31% | -8.72% | |

FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE CONSULTATION
REPORT NOVEMBER 2017

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1 Introduction

In March 2017 Council approved the concept of locality working. The Director of Social Care and Health has led this review of the current Children's Centre and Family Centre offer, delivery points and associated funding.

The approach taken in developing the proposals was to enable people to have a say and a role in how we achieve the change or suggest alternative solutions. In developing the proposals for consultation Officers have endeavoured to identify the impact on the community of Sefton through the consultation seeking to better understand the impact identifying potential mitigating actions.

The proposal for developing a Family Wellbeing service is part of a wider transformation process relating to Early Intervention and Prevention –Locality Working – an integrated approach to multi-agency working. The proposal takes account of the fact that parents are children's first and most enduring educators. Building the capability and capacity of parents and family members to support themselves and support one another is central to our proposed approach

The Director of Social Care & Health held internal working groups and conducted a number of meetings with Head teachers to develop a draft strategic approach.

2 Key Results

In order to ensure that people are influencing decisions which affect them a consultation commenced on 25th September 2017 and closed on 17th November 2017. In developing the approach to consultation schools and partners based within Family and Children's centres were notified that the consultation would take place, with centre managers coproducing the questionnaire and all aspects of consultation. As with other changes that impact on the community the Council has adopted a collaborative approach. Through this consultation the Council has sought to further improve its understanding of the impact associated with the proposals, the desired outcomes and associated risks.

The consultation asked about the proposal to develop three Family Wellbeing Centres, with complementary centres.

The intention of the consultation was to provide:

- Sufficient information for those being consulted to form a considered view on the matters on which they are being consulted
- A tailored consultation process to the scale of the changes
- A clear account of the views of those who use Family Centres and Children's Centres and the broader community which can be taken into account when re-designing the service
- Access for those who have more difficulty to give views but wish to do so
- Adequate time for those wishing to respond to have the opportunity to do so

The consultation included groups who may not currently use the centres and those who are seldom heard, these include:

- Young parents

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- Families from minority ethnic groups
- Disabled parents
- Parents of disabled children / children with SEN
- Travellers
- People who have difficulty reading, writing or speaking English
- Parents on low income
- Groups such as 'Making a difference'; New Beginnings; Chameleons and Buddy Up.

The methods were supported by a number of tools, including:

- A maintained webpage
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Social media
- Press & Media briefings
- Radio
- Posters
- Easy read questionnaires
- Translated questionnaires (Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian)

The schedule of consultation and engagement was as follows:

| Date 2017 | Activity |
|----------------|--|
| 15th September | Public Engagement & Consultation Panel papers published |
| 22nd September | Public Engagement & Consultation Panel |
| 25th September | Consultation commences |
| 26th September | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) |
| 17th November | Public Engagement and consultation closes |
| 20th November | Analysis of responses takes place |
| 5th December | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) |
| 7th December | Cabinet Consider recommendations |

Listening to the communities of Sefton is critical in the decision making process. Regardless of how people are engaged, it's important to understand that listening involves more than just hearing the words that are directed at the Council. The Council has actively listened and understood people's views in this consultation considered and assessed the feedback and the recommendations later in the Cabinet report reflect what has been heard.

Reponses have been analysed and taken into account. Findings from the evaluation will form part of the considerations in implementing the new funding formula and operational changes.

Consultation key points and responses:

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1. There were 1662 responses to the questionnaire and not all answered every question, of these
 - a. 71% (the largest group) were from parents and/or carers
 - b. 3% of respondents were from children with caring responsibilities
2. There was a good return from every centre with the highest returns from Linaker (by far); First Steps and Seaforth, of these:
 - a. 57% used their Children Centres weekly
 - b. The highest percentage walked to their centre 50%, closely followed by use of a car 33%
3. In answering the question of what activities are used regarding health and wellbeing, key responses were:
 - a. Child development 19%; vitamin collection 13% and emotional wellbeing 9%
 - b. Other responses stating popular key activities being accessed at Family and Children centres are detailed in the consultation report and include, well baby clinic; stay and play; baby massage; using the centre as a drop in.
 - c. The feedback highlights a significant amount of health services accessed by the community
4. Regarding the proposed principles for 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres and the associated proposals, the questionnaire responses, for those that answered, showed that:
 - a. For the principles 80% agreed and 15% disagreed with some or all
 - b. For the proposals to create three Family Wellbeing centres 33% agreed but 63% disagreed
5. Three best activities identified by 542 respondents are:
 - a. 298 (55%) respondents considered stay and play as a vital service
 - b. 129 (24%) people considered family support vital to them
 - c. 63 (9%) people considered breast feeding support one of the top vital health and wellbeing service
6. From the presentations and meetings the key themes raised throughout were the following:
 - a. Getting there is an issue for access to proposed 0-19 Family Wellbeing centres – as the majority walk and the difficulty of using public transport with buggies, plus for those who use their car (second highest mode of travel) parking is seen as an issue.
 - b. Friendship networks have been formed and are vital for support and the community indicated in their responses that they utilise community offers, such as those offered by the voluntary, community and faith sector, at many locations throughout their local neighbourhood
 - c. Some respondents were concerned that the proposed principles are too targeted and they won't be able to utilise the proposed 0-19 Family Wellbeing Centres to access a universal offer.
 - d. Some parts of the community do not wish to travel to another centre that they view as being outside their neighbourhood

- e. There were a number of comments about suitability and disrepair of buildings for a Family Wellbeing centre, including lack of car parking and general appearance.
- 7. There were a number of additional items submitted, as follows:
 - a. Keep Linaker Children's Centre Unchanged and Remaining Open for the Public - petition
 - b. Linaker – Save our only Children's Centre - petition
 - c. Seaforth children centre petition
 - d. One unnamed centre petition but with Southport postcodes
 - e. A number of letters from the community and employees
 - f. E-petition to keep Children's Centre unchanged
 - g. Letter from Hope Baptist Church
 - h. Letters with personal stories from a number of parents
 - i. Pack of information from Thornton with case studies and statistics with regard to SEN
 - j. A number video clips and presentations from the community

Note that 42 questionnaires were returned and 1 petition submitted after the consultation closing date. These have been accepted

Conclusion:

Feedback from the presentations and discussions and subsequent question and answer sessions at the centres with service users and the community, at specifically organised events proved informative and stimulated a number of questions. This gave everybody an opportunity to understand more and be able to express their views.

There is a clear indication that people support the principles proposed for a 0-19 Family Wellbeing service, however, it is also clear that people do not want changes to location and activities currently on offer at the existing centres, some key reasons cited include:

- a. Transport is an issue for access to proposed 3 Family Wellbeing centres – as the majority walk.
- b. Friendship networks have been formed and are vital for support – these will be disrupted.
- c. Many parents are concerned that the proposed principles are too targeted and they won't be able to utilise the proposed Family Wellbeing centres for universal activities.
- d. Some parts of the community do not wish to travel to another centre that they view as being outside their neighbourhood
- e. Difference in use of Family and Children centres causes concern as activities are very different and some people feel nervous and concerned.

People and professionals both responded concerning their own situation and centres. There was anxiety around whether or not they would be able to attend an integrated Family Wellbeing centre away from their usual centre.

At this stage service users and professionals were not provided with information on what exact activities would be provided at each main centre and complementary centre. An

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anxiety therefore is naturally expected as shown in that there was strong support with 84% of people agreeing with the principles but not the creation of three Family Wellbeing centres with complementary bases with 65% disagreeing.

3. The Consultation and Engagement Process

What were the aims of the consultation and engagement process?

The main aims and purpose of the consultation and engagement process were:

- To provide information to the people who currently utilise family and children centres, also local people and communities, service providers, and staff on the potential changes. Also linking in the challenges facing the Council in seeking to create 3 Family Wellbeing centres against the issues faced by the Council with a reducing budget.
- To assist the people who currently use the centres, also local people and communities and staff to give us their views on how the change can achieve the proposals as described within the questionnaires and engagement events.
- To engage with other specific groups such as minority groups and those who speak another language than English and users of the centres who have difficulty understanding, to get their views on the proposal, all the changes and seek views on alternative options.

What we did and why

There was a wide range of methods utilised as part of this consultation to ensure that all interested parties could exercise their views. The range of methods used included:

- Meetings with specific minority groups assisted by the VCF networks.
- Meetings and workshops with professionals and professional bodies.
- Engagement events at Children Centres to provide face to face information, engage in a Q&A session and provide advice and support to service users.
- Communication with head teachers, governors and advisory boards to invite them for discussions on any alternative suggestions.
- Responding to individuals requests for 1 to 1 meetings and discussions.
- Responding to written correspondence and emails.
- Making available a helpline and responding to all enquiries.
- Specific engagement events at other sites outside of the centres such as Sefton Carers Centre.
- Extensive use of media such as:
 - A dedicated web page
 - Use of twitter and Facebook
 - Press releases

- Radio

Specific measures were taken to ensure that people who have additional needs such as English as a Second Language, Learning Disability (for example) could exercise their voice and influence the outcomes of the consultation process.

The methods were supported by a number of approaches/tools, which included the following:

- Easy Read questionnaire, letters and documentation available
- Questionnaires in other languages (Latvian; Lithuanian and Polish were used as requested)
- Question and answers updated continually and made available on the webpage
- Press & Media briefings.

The targeted audience were:

- Users of Family and Children centres
- The wider community
- Young parents
- Families from minority ethnic groups
- Disabled parents
- Parents of disabled children / children with SEN
- Traveller community
- People who have difficulty reading, writing or speaking English
- Parents on low income

To ensure that the consultation was robust, fair and unbiased and to provide as much independent support and advice for the service user and carer as possible, the Children and Family centre managers were also part of a working group taking the consultation forward.

How did we engage?

As the changes mainly affected those currently using Children Centres and potential future users, they were subject to a targeted consultation and considered a priority. As it would be a subject of general interest to tax payers, we also made available, within reasonable resource constraints, the opportunity for the public to comment either via Sefton's website or questionnaires located in centres, libraries and leisure centres. This option was advertised through Sefton Council's main webpage and on Twitter/Facebook.

The key method of engagement was by face to face meetings at all the Children Centres and the availability of hardcopies of the questionnaires at all centres and the advertised questionnaire on the Council's website for all to complete. Meetings were also held at various other venues and groups of people such as|:

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- Making a Difference group
- Sefton Carers
- New beginnings
- Young Advisors
- Young Carers
- Chameleons
- Buddy Up
- Travellers

Media

The Council issued a media release to inform of the start of the launch of the consultation on 15th September and proactively sent another one out on 13th October highlighting the face-to-face sessions taking place at various centres.

In terms of direct media enquiries, the Council received two. The first was from the Liverpool Echo over concerns of Bootle residents having to travel to Waterloo for services and one from the Southport Champion following a media release issued by concerned residents and users.

Sandgrunder Radio made an enquiry and the Council issued a statement which was read out on air. The Council also proactively highlighted the consultation in a live interview on Sandgrunder Radio on 24th October with Cllr John Joseph Kelly speaking with presenter Neil Newton.

Further enquiries were received by the Southport Champion and Southport Visitor. We also responded proactively to On The Spot News Webpage on at least two occasions following articles and comments that appeared online. This resulted in separate articles with our comments being published on the news/blog site.

The collation of the social media responses showed that:

- Facebook: The Council reached, potentially, 27,814 people, & 585 people visited the consultation link because of Facebook
- Twitter 7,383 reached, 28 consultation visits

Service User Events

In addition to the questionnaires, the Director of Social Care and Health visited all of the children centres. The Director gave a presentation and led a good discussion in the consultation, covering the proposals followed by a question and answer session.

The children centres visited were as follows:

Litherland Children's Centre – 18th October
Seaforth Children's Centre – 20th October & 10th November
Netherton Children Centre – 20th October
Waterloo Children's Centre – 27th October
Freshfield Children's Centre – 1st November
Linaker Children's Centre – 6th November
Cambridge Children's centre – 7th November
First Steps (Kingsmeadow and Farnborough) Children's Centre – 8th November
Hudson Children's Centre – 8th November
Springwell Children's Centre – 13th November
Thornton Children's Centre – 15th November

The full transcript of the questions and answers can be found in the background documents

Meetings/events with other interested parties:

There were a number of meetings and discussions throughout the Borough during the consultation period. This was a mix of adding agenda items on to existing meetings, providing information on the consultation and also attending meetings and events that were being held specifically about the consultation – these are listed below.

Netherton Advisory Board (pre-consultation briefing) – 19th September
Children Centre and Family Centre Managers – Fortnightly throughout consultation period
Springwell Head teacher – 3rd October
Freshfield Head teacher – 4th October
Waterloo Head teacher, Governors and Advisory Board – 29th September, 9th October & 9th November
Linaker Governors and Advisory Board – 11th October
Head Teachers meeting – 18th October
Head Teachers Kingsmeadow and Farnborough – 18th October
Making a Difference Group – 25th October
Buddy up group 12-17 year olds – November
0-19 North West Boroughs – 30th October
Sefton Parent Carers Forum – 7th November
Sefton Carers – 16th November
Clinical Commissioning Group – Various dates throughout consultation period

Other materials received and included within the consultation analysis:

- a. Keep Linaker Children's Centre Unchanged and Remaining Open for the Public – Petition with 207 signatures
- b. Southport Petition – Stop Cutting the funding from our local heroes, listen to the community, we NEED the Children's Centres – signed by 520 signatures

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- c. E-petition – statement and Justification from Linaker Children’s Centre
- d. Linaker – Save our Only Children’s Centre – Petition with 220 signatures
- e. Linaker - untitled – Petition with 34 signatures
- f. Seaforth children centre - We Need it and So Do our Kids – Petition with 199 signatures
- g. Springwell Children’s Centre – Springwell Park Children’s Centre is a very special place where all are valued in a caring and supportive environment. It is the heart of our community, we are in threat of our centre closing, please help by signing this petition not only for our children but for our families – Petition with 268 signatures
- h. One unnamed centre petition but with Southport postcodes
- i. A number of letters from the community and employees
- j. Letter from Hope Baptist Church – A letter expressing views that Cambridge Rd Children’s Centre should not be turned into a satellite centre. In turn, they have contacted the local MP (letter not seen)

Letters with personal stories from a number of parents and community members

- a. Letter from parent about the invaluable support received by Cambridge Children’s Centre
- b. Letter from parent about the invaluable support received by Hudson’s Children’s Centre
- c. Letter from parent about the invaluable support received by Waterloo Children’s Centre
- d. Letter from parent about the invaluable support received by Litherland Children’s Centre
- e. Letter from 104 parents at Litherland Children’s Centre with comments on personal experiences and maintaining services as they are
- f. Pictures of children at Cambridge Children’s Centre enjoying themselves
- g. Comments and suggestions from Seaforth Parents Forum Group
- h. Letter from parent who attends Cambridge Children’s Centre describing the assistance and support given

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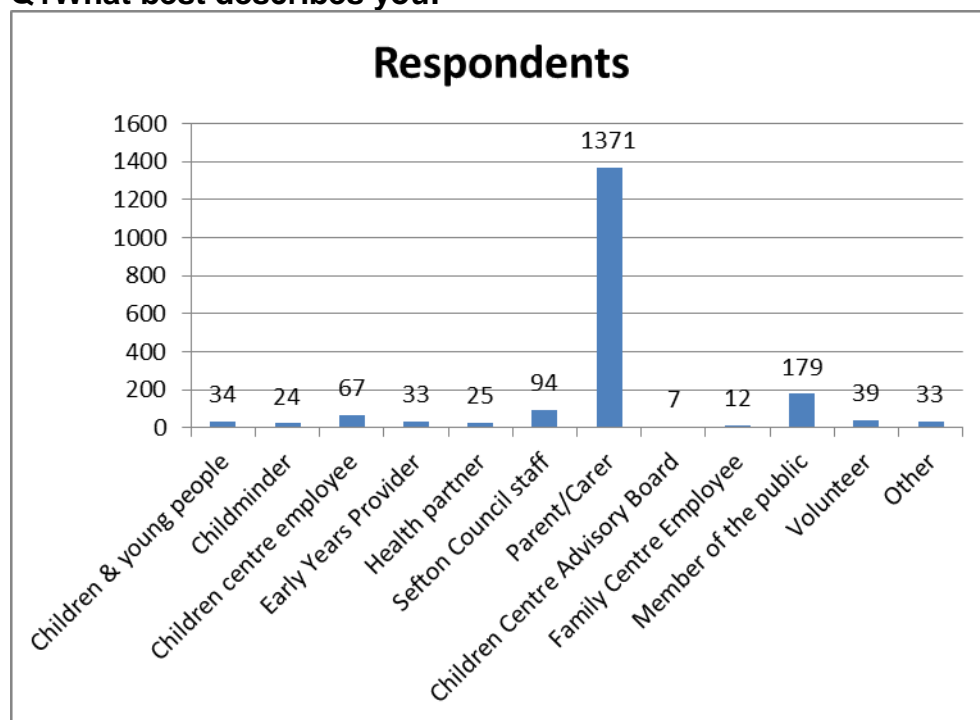
- i. Letter from parent attending Seaforth Children's Centre praising help given by Children's Centre and Family Support Worker
- j. Presentation from Cambridge Children's Centre
- k. Letter from constituent received by Bootle MP, Peter Dowd
- l. Video clips depicting inspirational parent stories from Children's Centres
- m. Letter from Damian Moore MP to Cllr Kelly concerning the closure
- n. Letter and questions from a professional regarding the proposals
- o. Email from a member of the community to Cllr Kelly regarding Linaker Children's Centre
- p. An image from Netherton Children's Centre advertising the consultation
- k. Pack of information from Thornton with case studies and statistics with regard to SEN - A pictorial description of activities enjoyed by the children accessing Thornton Children's Centre
- l. A number video clips and presentations from the community
- m. There have been a number of alternative proposals submitted by schools, centres and members of the public. These have given the Council additional useful suggestions and have been considered, however they, for the most, did not consider borough wide need nor provide the equity that a funding methodology provides. This will be examined during the ongoing negotiations with head teacher and governing bodies.

The submitted letters and petitions do contain personal information i.e. names and addresses. For this reason they are not replicated in this report, but are available for Cabinet inspection as required.

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The results from the questionnaires are as follows:

Q1What best describes you:



By far the largest group was parents and carers (1371) and then members of the public (179).

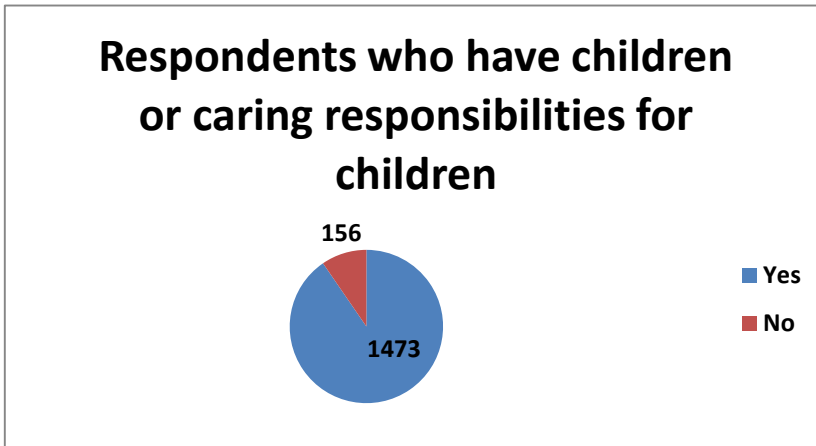
Q2: What is your post code?

Postcodes and numbers responding

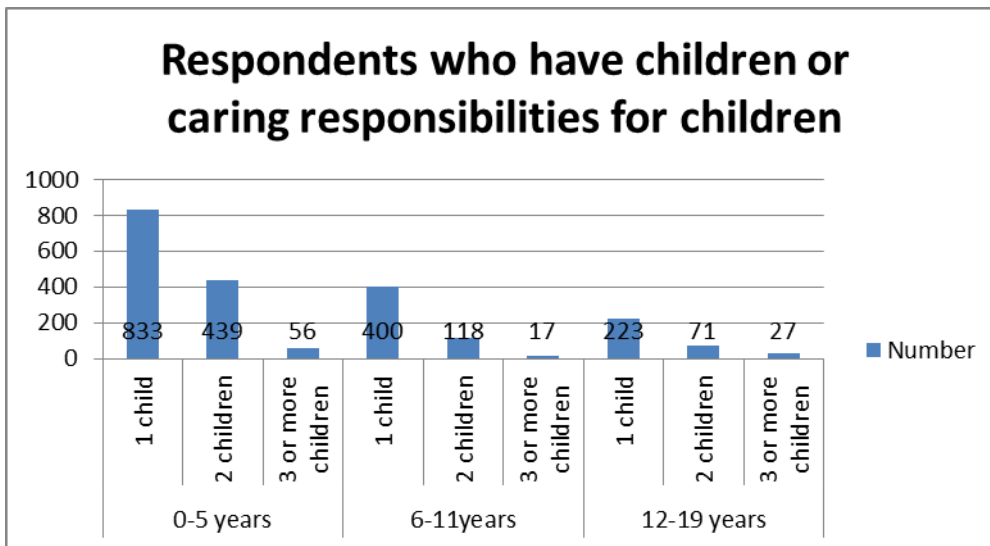
| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|
| CA16 | 1 | CH43 | 2 | LU7 | 1 |
| L10 | 27 | L12 | 2 | L13 | 1 |
| L14 | 1 | L15 | 2 | L16 | 2 |
| L20 | 218 | L21 | 158 | L22 | 74 |
| L23 | 113 | L25 | 1 | L29 | 2 |
| L30 | 105 | L31 | 133 | L37 | 93 |
| L38 | 5 | L39 | 1 | L4 | 14 |
| L6 | 2 | L9 | 22 | PR8 | 446 |
| PR9 | 175 | voids | 3 | WN8 | 1 |
| L32 | 2 | PT8 | 2 | CH42 | 1 |
| L1 | 1 | L7 | 1 | L8 | 1 |

This shows the all areas within the centre reach have had a response, with a heavy weighting where the centres are.

Q3a: Do you have any children and/or caring responsibility for any children:



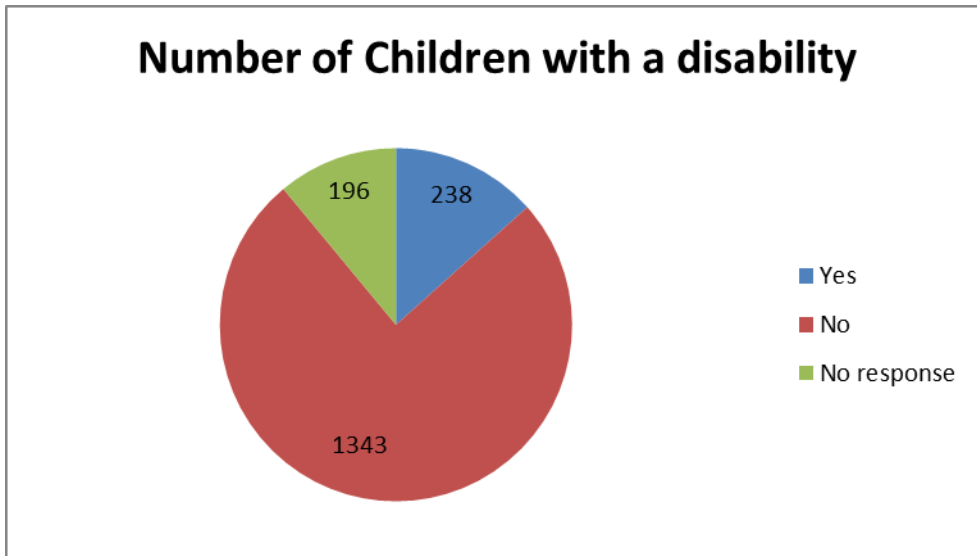
Q3b: How many of those children you care for are aged 0-5; 6-11 and 12-19



The highest responders in total were from the 0-5 age group, indicating that from the respondents they have a strong interest in a Children’s Centre.

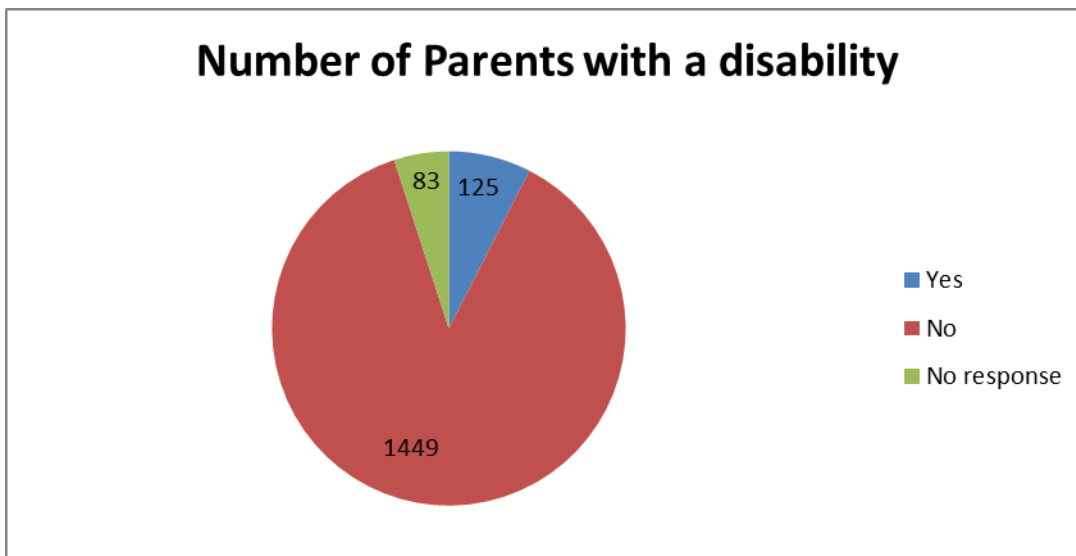
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Q3c: Do any of your children have a disability, and type:



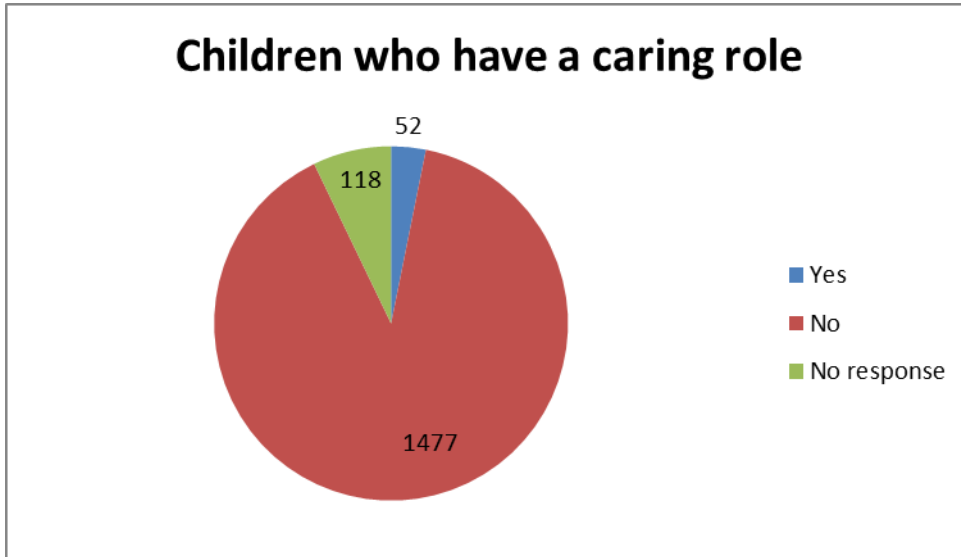
The results above indicate that a high proportion of children accessing either a Children's Centre or Family Centre have a disability

Q3d - Parents with a disability:



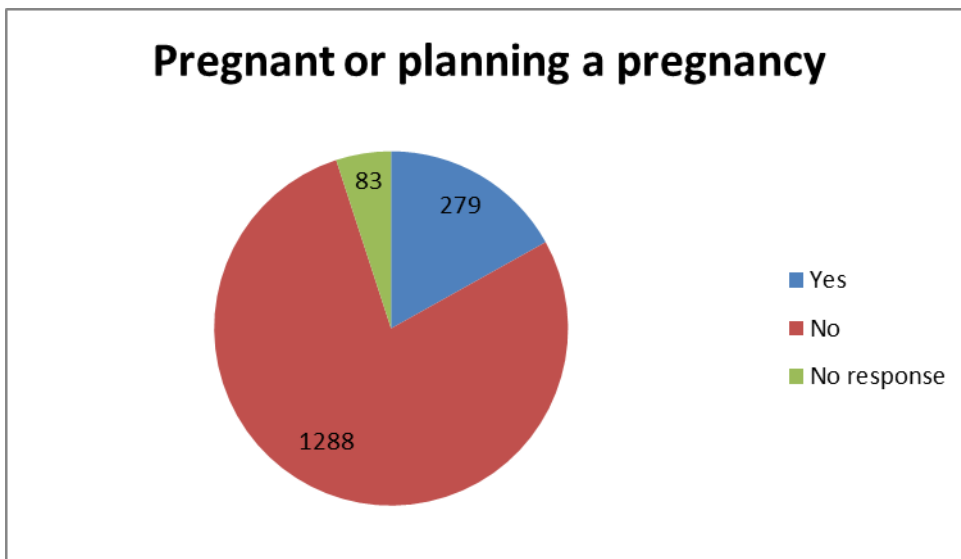
Indication from respondents show that 8% of parents has a disability

Q3e: Do any of your children have a caring role?



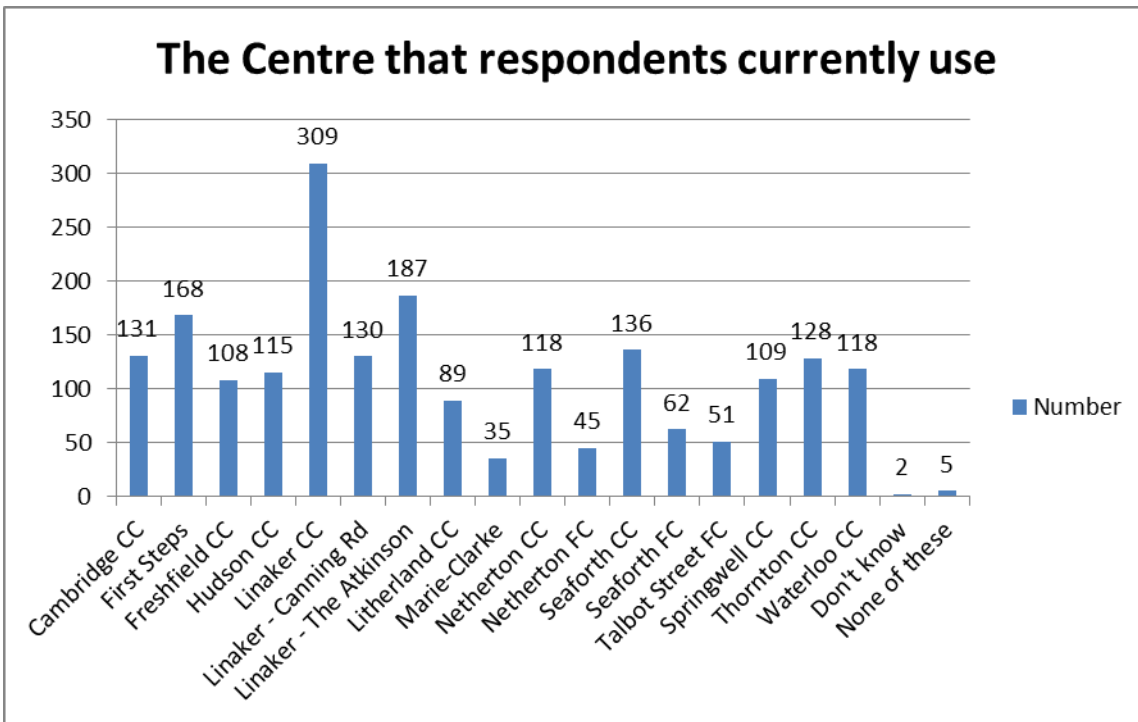
3% of respondents stated that their child has a caring role

Q4: Are you or your partner pregnant or planning to become pregnant:



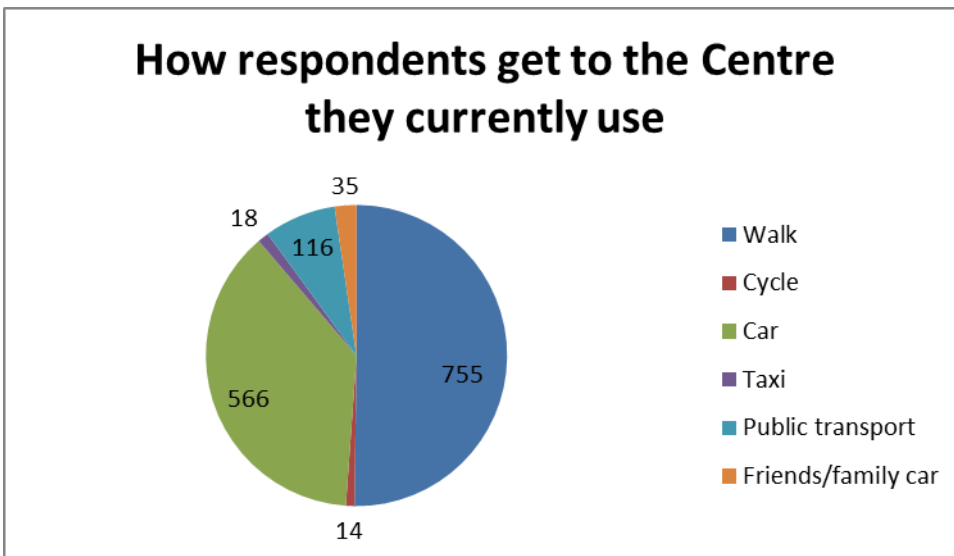
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Q5a: Do you use a children and/or a family centre, which one?



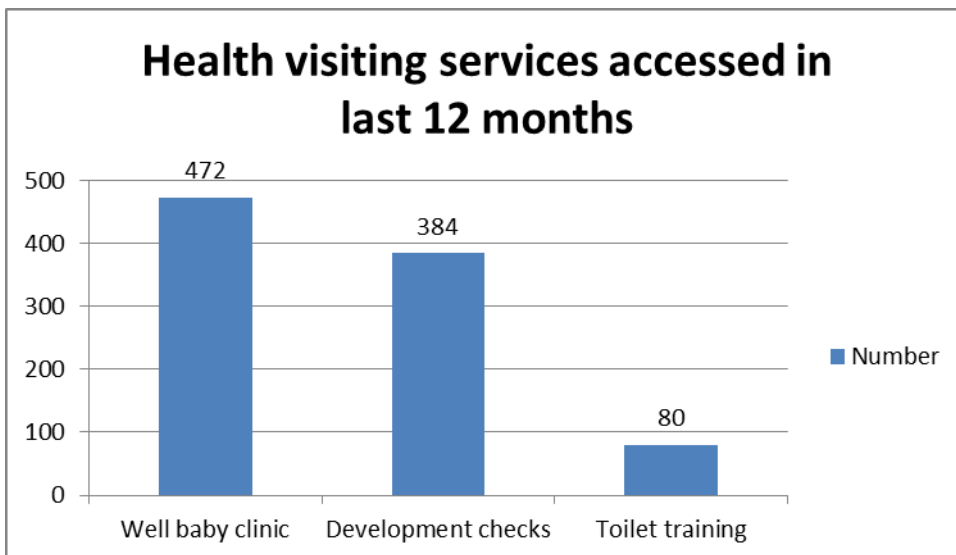
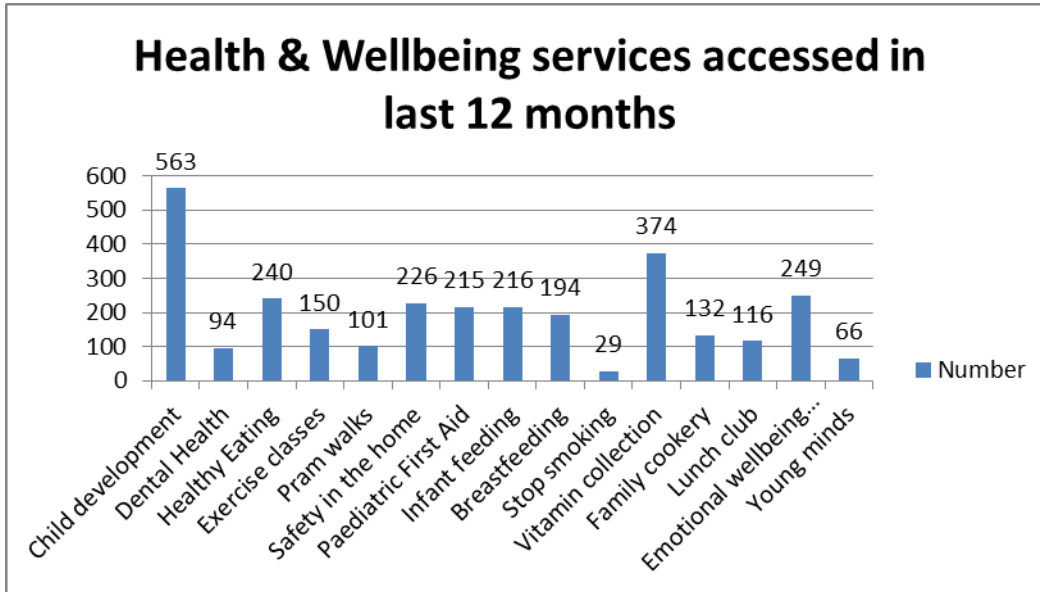
Of the respondents 27%, by far the highest accessed Linaker Children’s Centre. However responses were made from every Centre

Q5b: How do you get there?

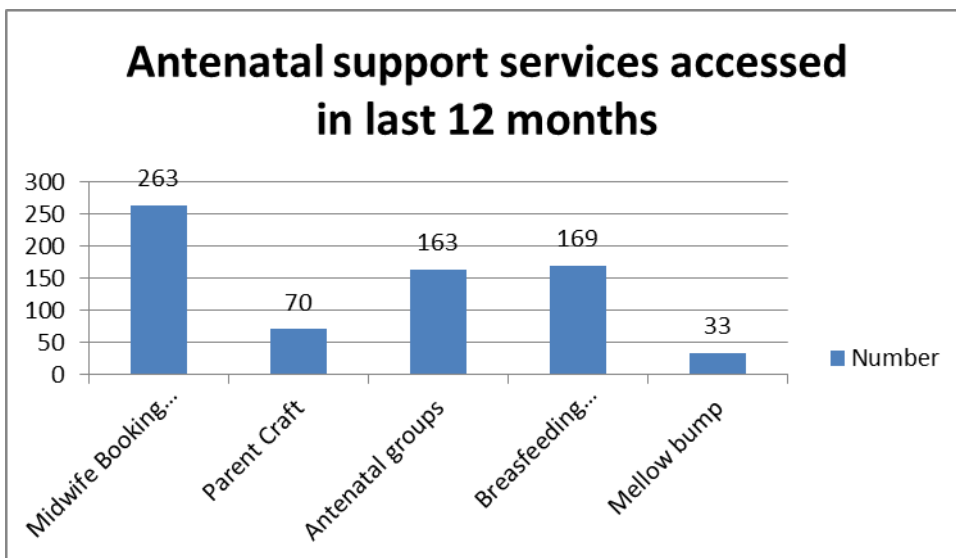
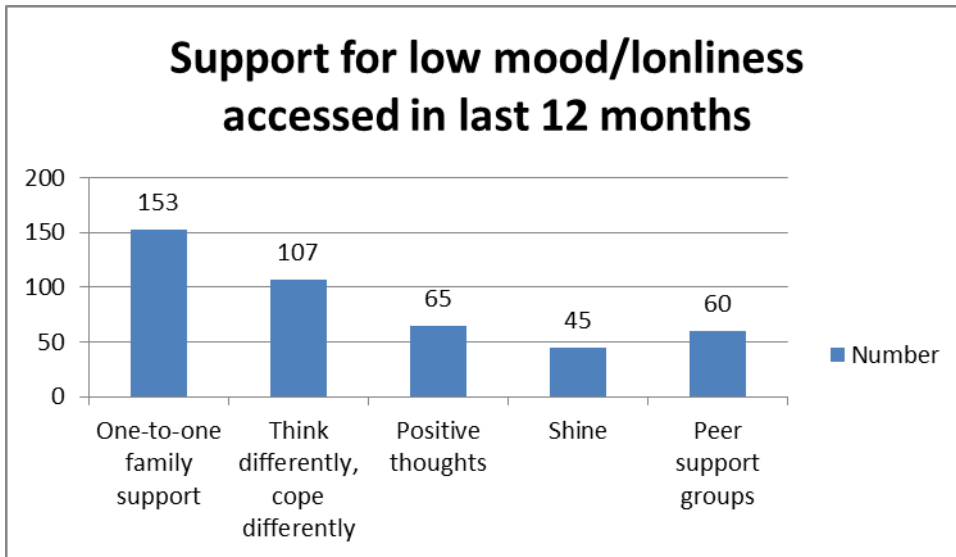


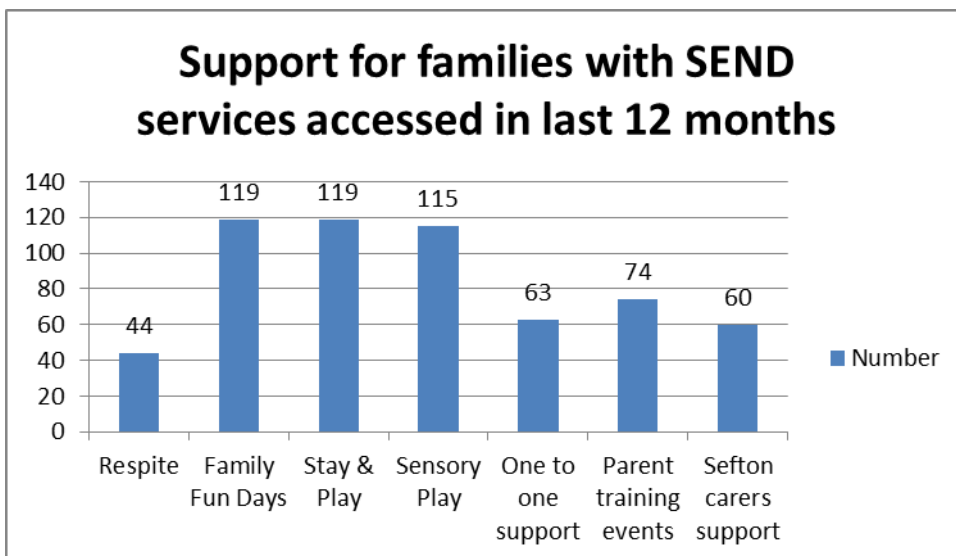
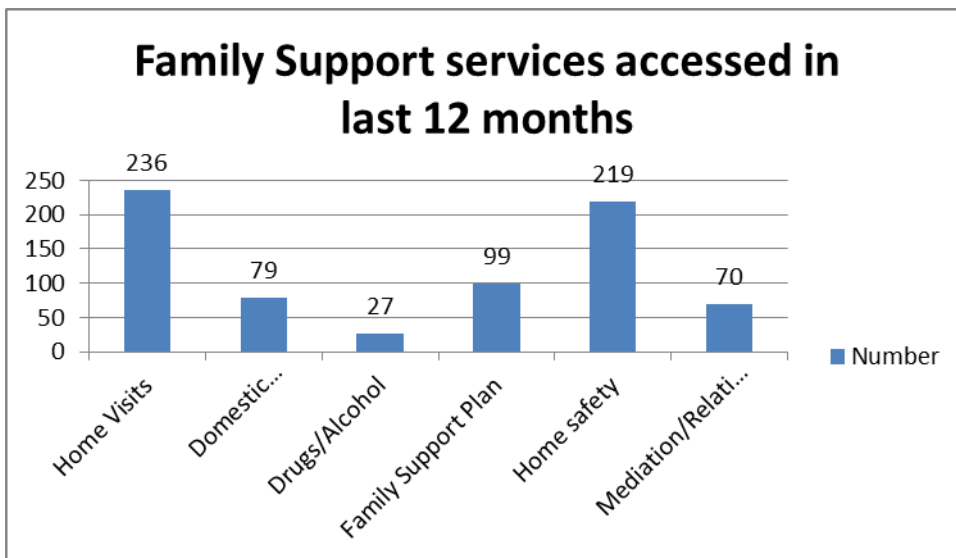
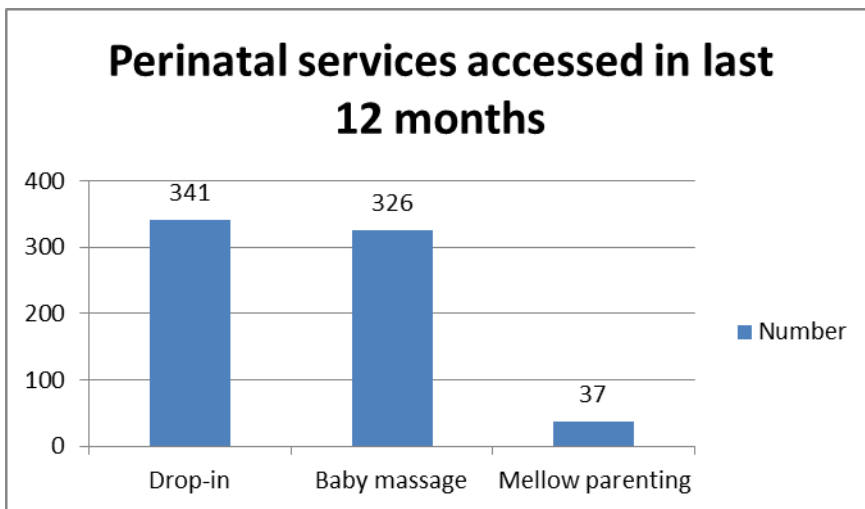
50% of respondents walk to access centres, with a further 19% travelling by car

Q6a: Which centre service have you used in the last 12 months:

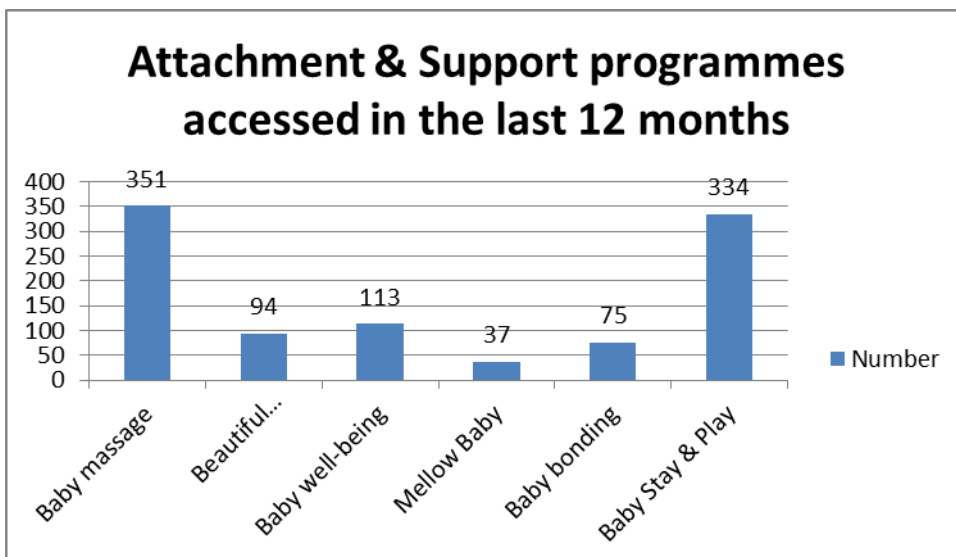
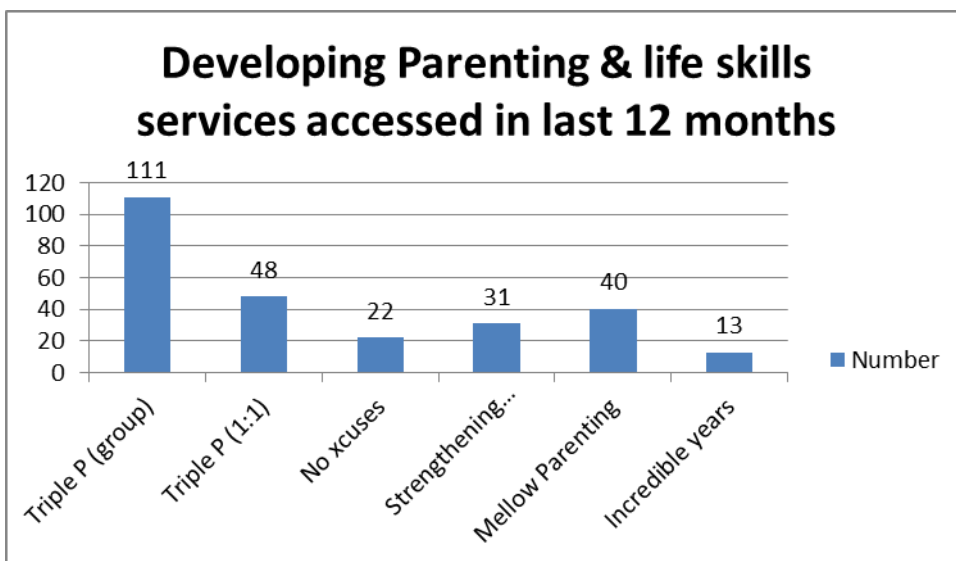
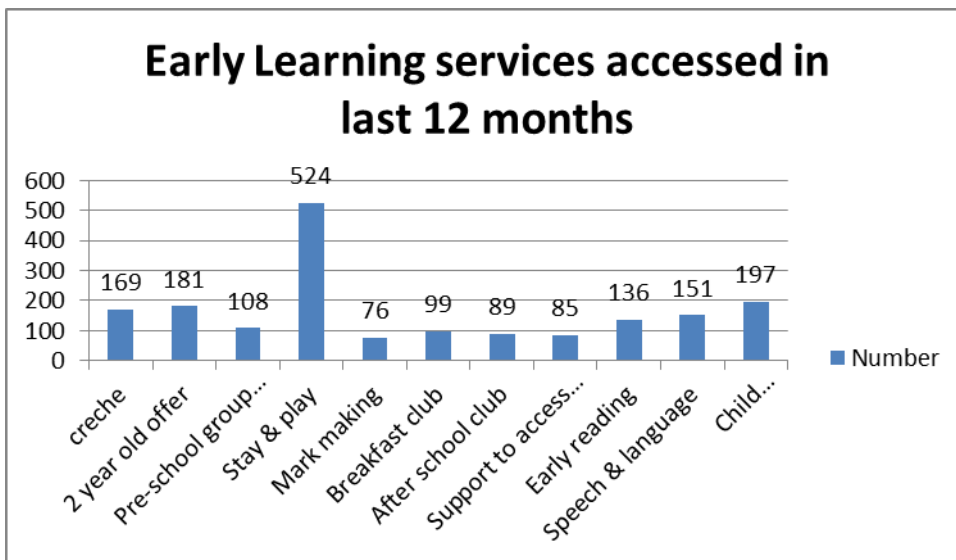


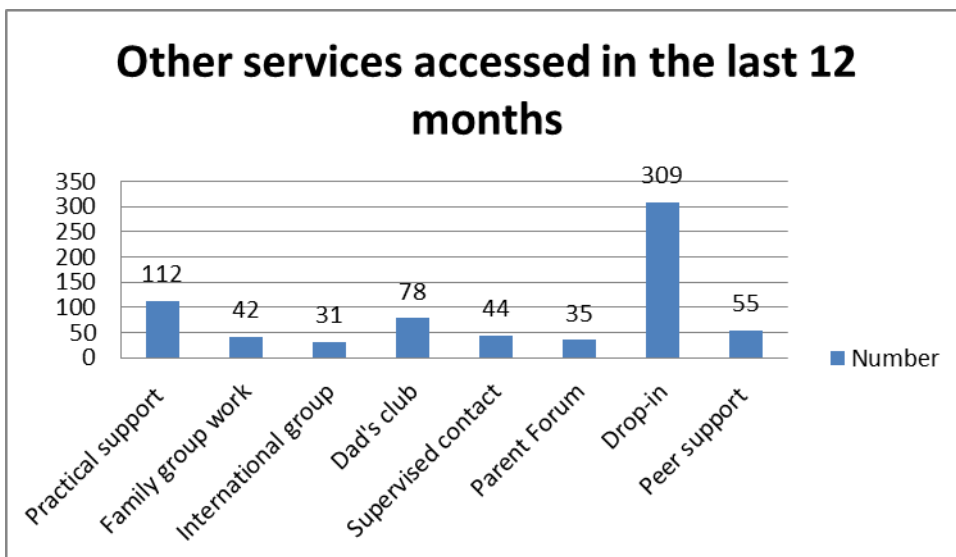
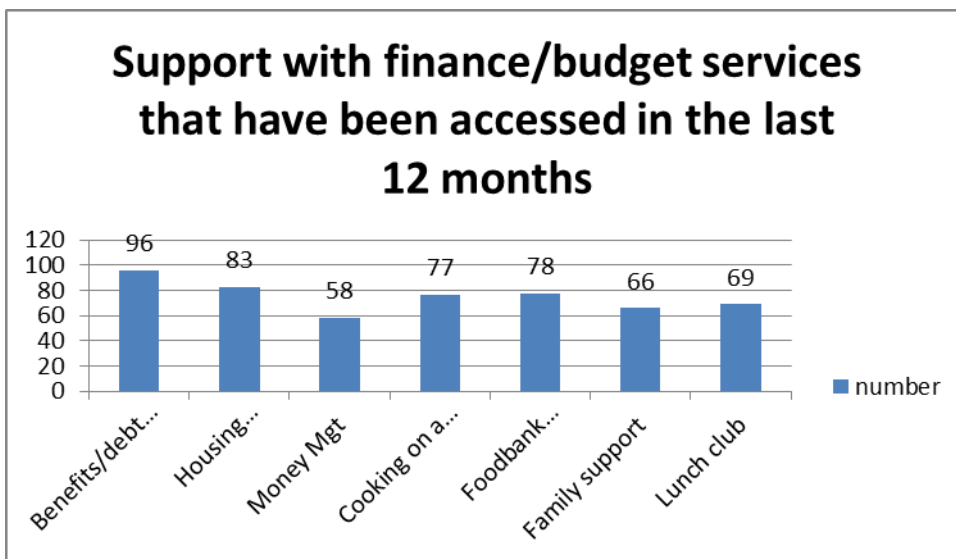
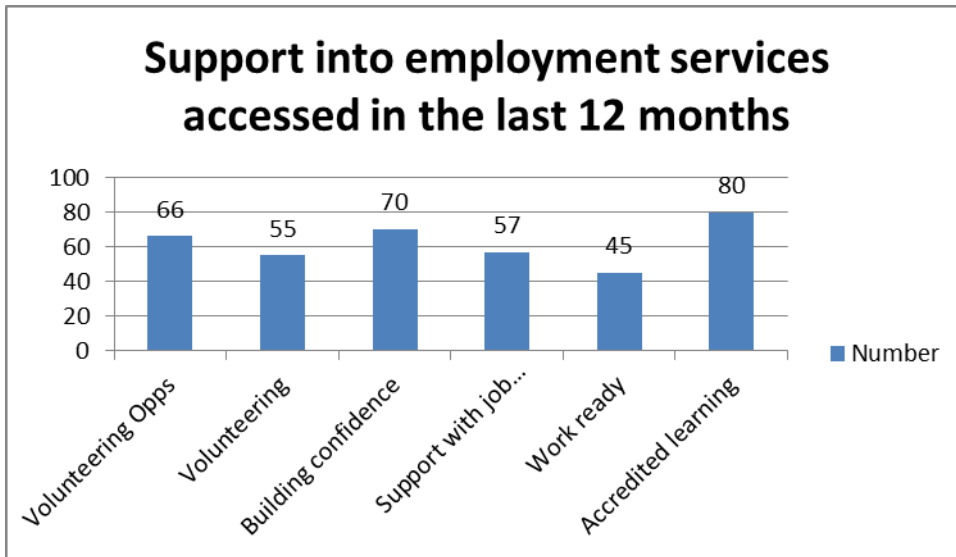
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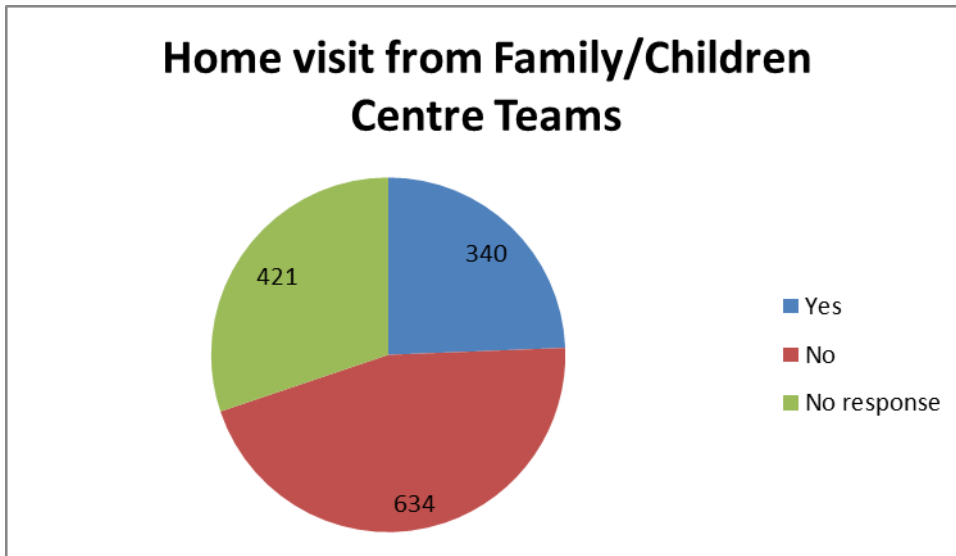




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It is clear from the respondents that a large number of the activities are well utilised with child development type services being the highest.

Q6b: Have you had a home visit from our Children's and Family Centre team(s):



The respondents' reasons for a home visit were as follows:

- Safety equipment/ home visit 42%
- Development 12%
- Social Care involvement 8%
- Mental Health 8%
- Additional needs 4%
- Family Support 22%
- Early learning 3%
- Other 1%

Q6c: To inform our future offer, from the above list of centre services which three do you consider vital to the health and wellbeing of you and your family?

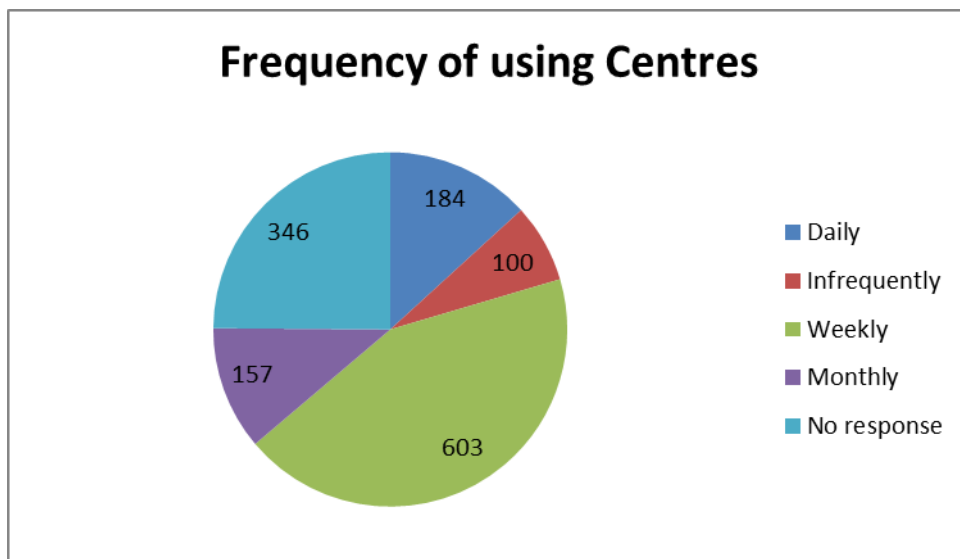
Out of all of the health and wellbeing services the following three services came out as the top three :

- 55% respondents considered stay and play as a vital service to them
- 24% people considered family support vital to them
- 9% people considered breast feeding support one of the top vital health and wellbeing service

Note that, 37% people did not respond to the question however they requested that the services in a named location should remain the same

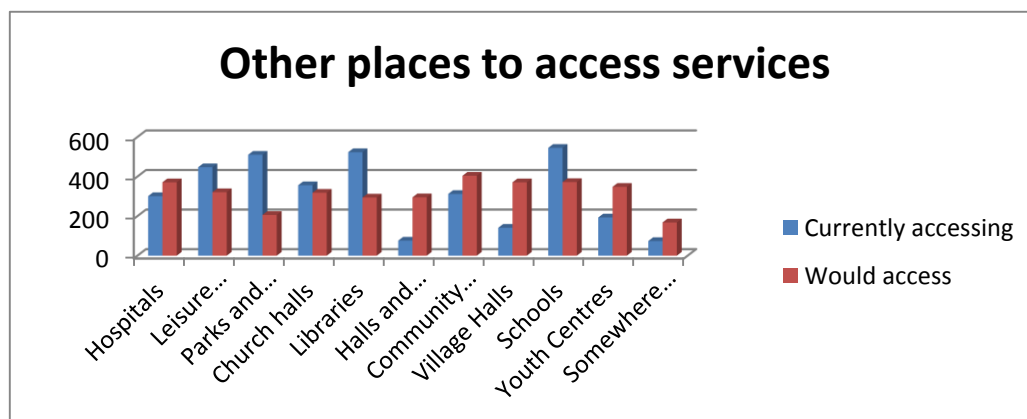
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Q7: How often do you use the centre?



The vast majority of respondents 57% attend Centres weekly with 17% attending daily

Q8: Which of these other places do you use and which would you feel comfortable assessing services for children and families in the future?

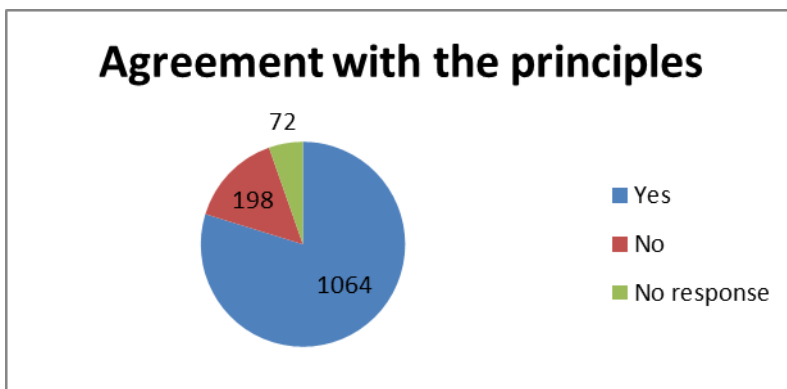


The table shows the numbers of respondents

| Other place | Currently accessing | Would access |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Hospitals | 301 | 371 |
| Leisure Centres | 447 | 321 |
| Parks and | 510 | 206 |

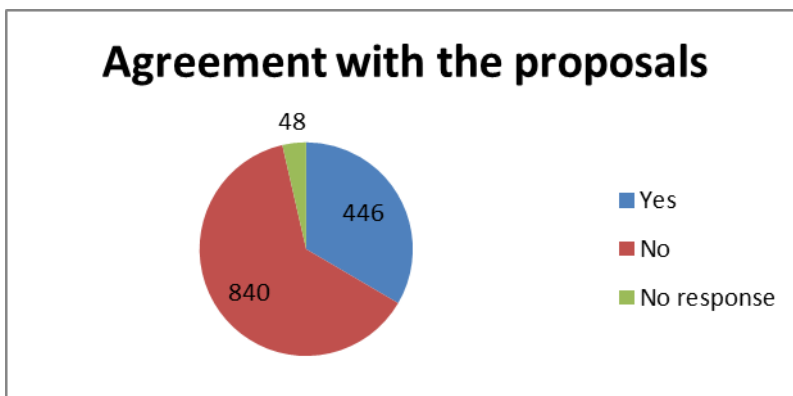
| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Coast | | |
| Church halls | 356 | 318 |
| Libraries | 523 | 294 |
| Halls and places of worship | 76 | 295 |
| Community Centres | 312 | 404 |
| Village Halls | 141 | 371 |
| Schools | 545 | 372 |
| Youth Centres | 193 | 348 |
| Somewhere else | 74 | 168 |

Q9: Do you agree with these principles?



80% of respondents agreed with the principles and 15% did not agree with all or some of the principles

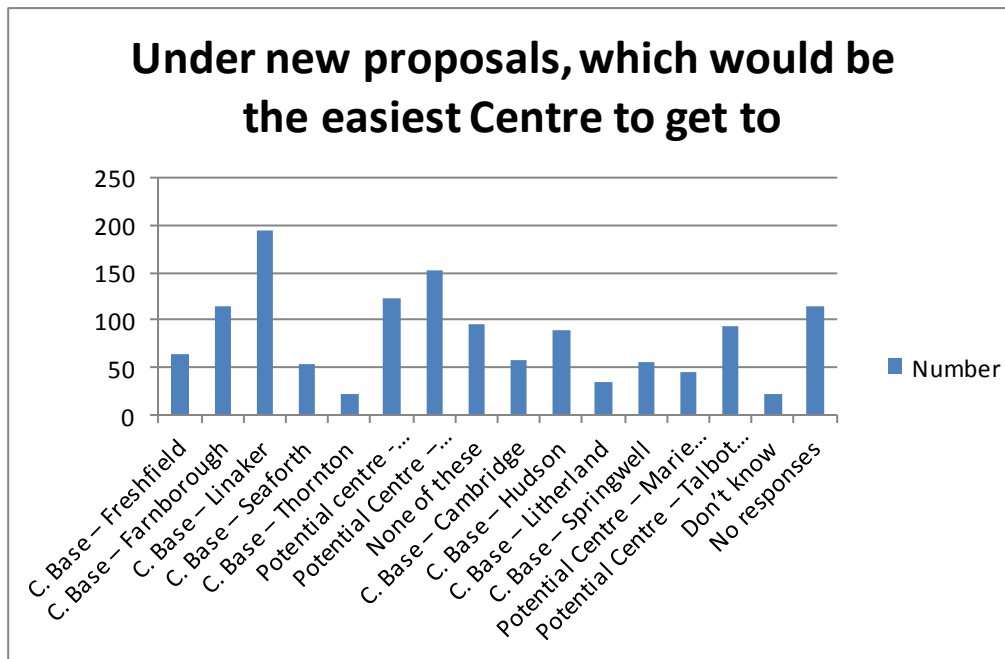
Q10 Do you agree with the proposals?



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63% disagreed with the proposals, whilst 21% agreed.

Q11 Which centre do you think will be the easiest for you to attend under our new proposals?

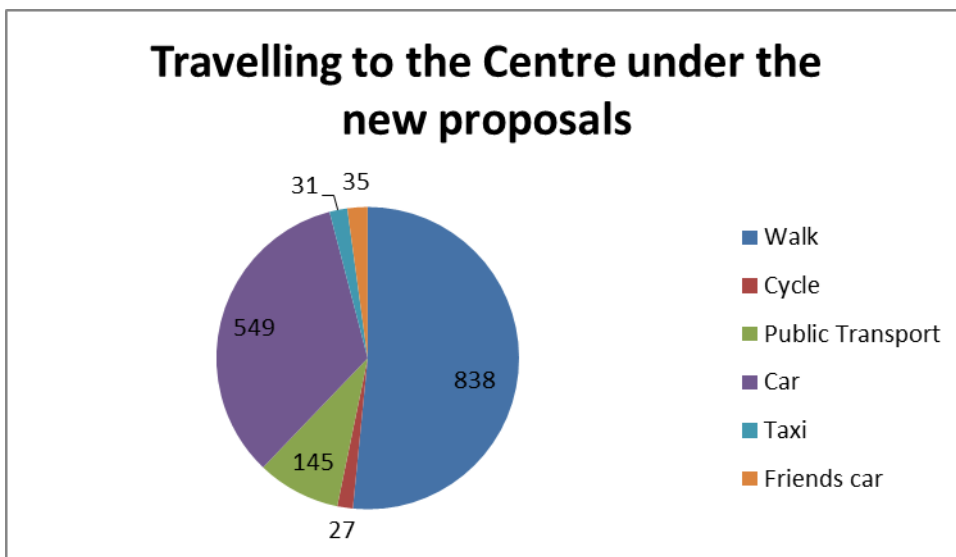


The table below shows the numbers associated

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| C. Base – Freshfield | 64 |
| C. Base – Farnborough | 115 |
| C. Base – Linaker | 195 |
| C. Base – Seaforth | 53 |
| C. Base – Thornton | 21 |
| Potential centre - Netherton | 122 |
| Potential Centre – Waterloo | 152 |
| None of these | 95 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| C. Base – Cambridge | 57 |
| C. Base – Hudson | 89 |
| C. Base – Litherland | 34 |
| C. Base – Springwell | 56 |
| Potential Centre – Marie Clarke | 45 |
| Potential Centre – Talbot Street | 93 |
| Don't know | 21 |
| No responses | 114 |

Q12: How will you get there?



52% of the respondents stated they would walk, 34% would travel by car and 3% would take public transport

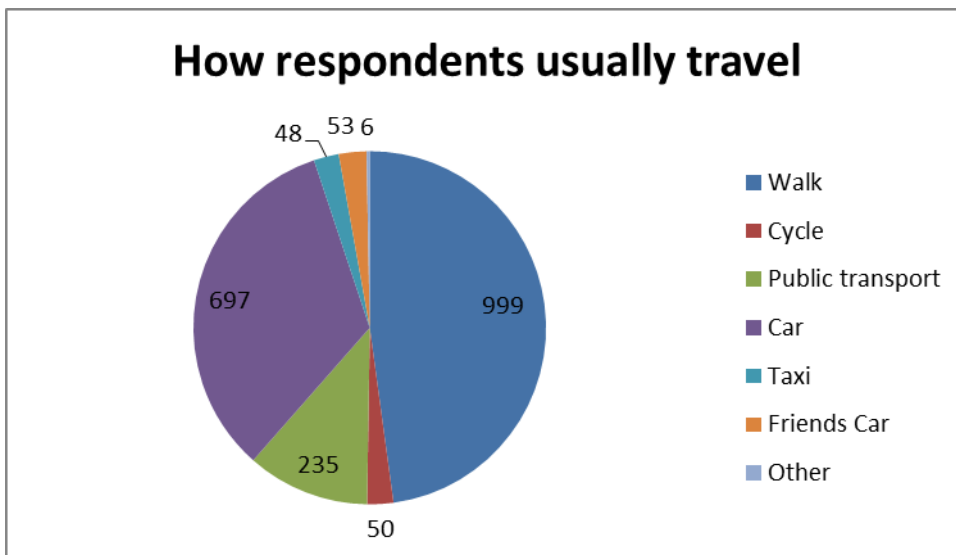
Some comments received associated with this question

- *Other one's no idea as I don't know where they are!*
- *id have to park then walk in as i wouldnt want to pay to park.*

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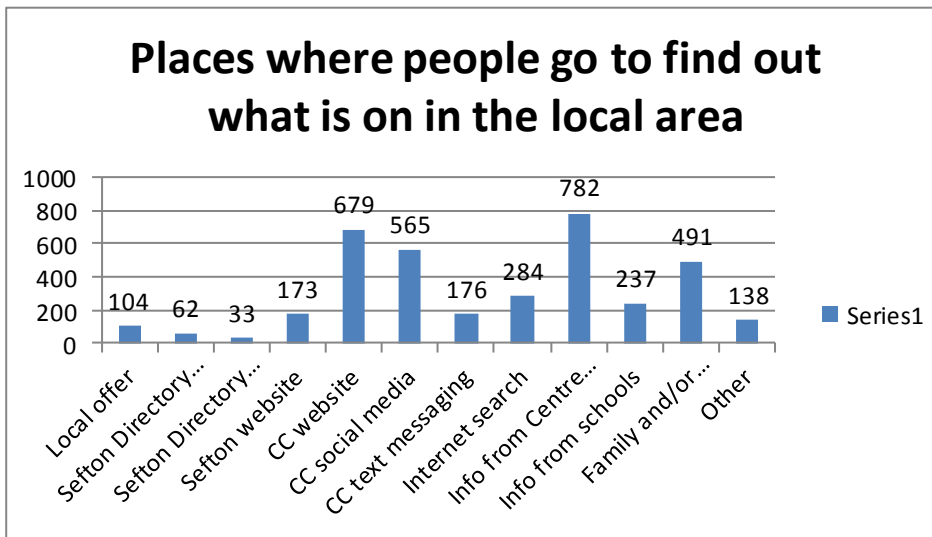
- *i would struggle to walk to these*
- *Takes me 20 mins to WALK NO BUSES go near it*
- *I live 20 mins away from it no public transport for me to get to these places*
- *other one's no idea as I don't know where they are!*
- **LINAKER CENTRE**
- *Linaker*
- *Its local I don't drive and have several children with additional needs*
- *Drive*
- *i couldnt walk to netherton*
- *car to waterloo and netherton - walk to thornton*

Q13: How do you normally get about?



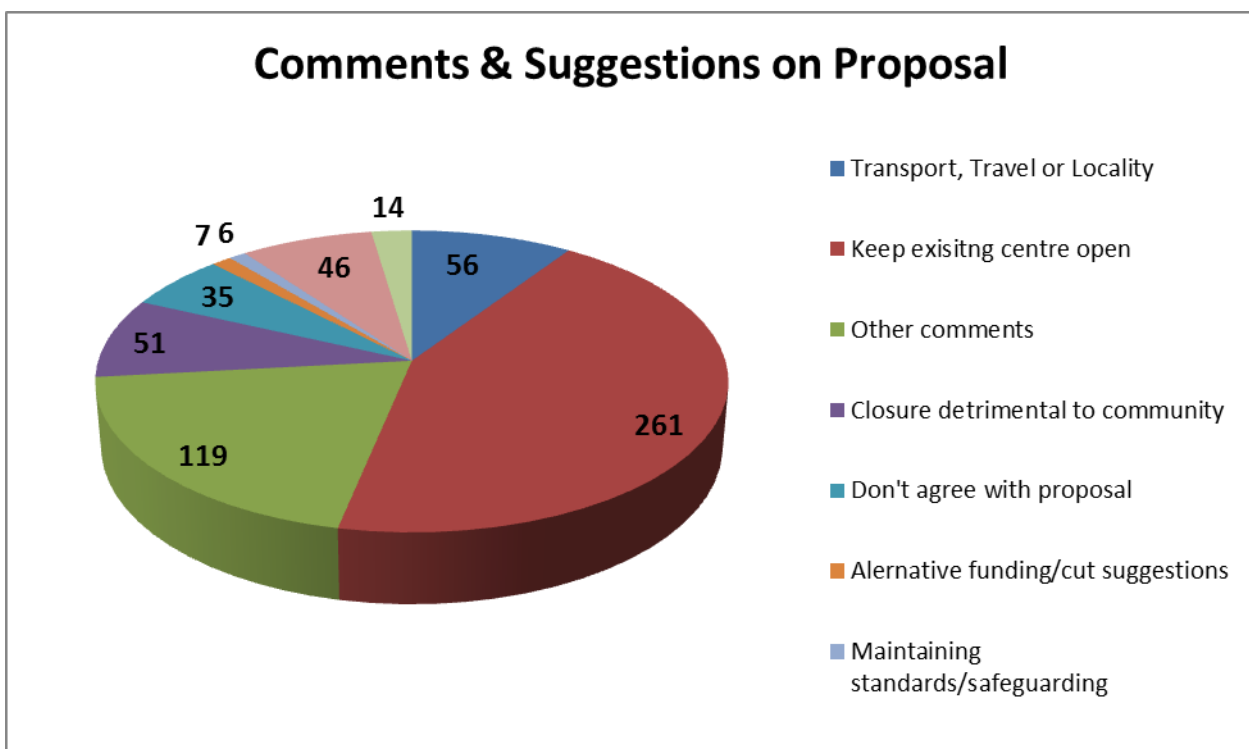
A similar percentage 48% of those who travel to a centre also normally walk and 33% travel by car again a similar percentage

Q14: How do you find out what is going on in the local area?



59% of respondents find out what is on in the local area through the Children’s Centre website, social media and staff

Q15: Any other comments?:



The comments and suggestions have been grouped into topics with the key topics shown above. The majority of comments related to keeping Centres open.

Note that the analysis for the equalities part of the questionnaire is contained within the Equalities Impact Assessment Report.

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The following is a transcript from the comments provided within the questionnaires (note that names and any other personal references have been removed)

Comments linked to the Principles

How this relates to Closing the Centre? Centre is necessary for local residents, especially parents

Above suggestions are already available at Linaker and I can't see anything different in this new proposition.

Whole family approach, but cannot see this happening seen as social services are meant to do this but are still very much budget (adult/child) orientated.

I agree with vulnerable families being kept safe and understand that this is a priority. I think that people who are not classed as vulnerable might be isolated from the services and may still need support but may not be able to access it.

I am extremely concerned about the location of services South Sefton being Waterloo or Marie Clarke and Cambridge being a complementary base. Family's in Bootle have no resources for children to attend, our two community centres have been closed

Families do not have spare cash to travel on public transport to access services. The majority of people accessing the centre do not drive. The effect of austerity continues to impact on those who need the service the most who are reliant on benefits or on a low income if the choice was food on the table or bus fare to a centre food would always be priority. Families come to centre for food bank vouchers they have no money to travel to venues to collect food parcels we support them by collecting and delivering parcels if Cambridge is not staffed who will "intervene early to provide support in a timely way" The proposed model will promote good mental health and emotional wellbeing for all children young people and parents carers and improve access to targeted support. However the proposal is to reduce services at Cambridge it is short sighted to expect families who have poor mental health and low emotional wellbeing to travel to services. Early intervention begins in making relationships and building trust and reducing barriers and "Respecting families starting points" we support people to engage with our services and by building trust family's then engage with targeted services in a more meaningful way which results in improved outcome for children and young people good mental health and emotional wellbeing. It is shortsighted to cut Early Intervention to such an extent Sefton will have massive demands for targeted services which will result in long waiting lists and less staff. How will Sefton then ensure "child's voice is heard and safeguarding thresholds are maintained. Children's centres groups are often open to all children and family's supporting all children to reach their potential. Families who are subject to plans have their anonymity protected this results in them engaging with people from different backgrounds this raises aspirations helping children and families to have ambition and hope and respect for the community. If centres are open on a part time basis and families come for support and no one is available or the centre is shut they will stop accessing services this

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will be tragic Please learn from Wirral Children's services we do not want this to be repeated in Sefton. I do worry for the future generations of children in Bootle we are a Phase 1 children's centre for a reason we are in a highly deprived ward why reduce services in our local area Sefton says it wants stronger healthier communities unsure how a Family Wellbeing centre in Waterloo will impact positively on Bootle families Also I think children our are main customers could you not have Children and Family Centres as the new name

I agree with the principles but I do not agree with closing children's centres to make way for this. Surely well being centres should be ran differently as are offering different benefits.

The principles are ok but don't match the offer. There is nothing in here to help me with the behaviour And social emotional development of my school aged children.

This is much more narrow than previously and will be a real reduction in resource.

Poorly explained offer and survey does not include what I would like in there. Not much of a consultation in truth.

any cuts to these services would be detrimental to myself, our communities and families in the area. This will also impact the services provided by family centres too, there is no way that every service user would receive the same level of care and support currently supplied if these proposals are implemented.

It should not just be about the 'most vulnerable' but to also simply provide a service for all children and their families.

The service works now why fix something that's not broke.

I agree in principle with all these proposed approaches however I seriously doubt that they will be achieved without local centres that are fully staffed. An approach that centres around 3 bases with smaller outreach is doomed to fail. The focus will be on the most demanding and needy families and on crisis support rather than the current approach of preventative services. Health and wellbeing is the most important part of support work and without local support with consistent staff many opportunities will be missed. Children's centres have built up a reputation of being a safe place to go for help and advice so I can only assume that fewer centres means lots of families will miss out on this support due to inability to travel to the centres or due to the lack of confidence in New outreach centres.

SPRINGWELL PROVIDES ALL OF THE ABOVE SO WHY CLOSE SOMEWHERE THIS HAPPENS.

your statement supporting 'all families' is not matched by the bullet points. What is proposed although essential for those 'at risk' groups/ children would not achieve the statement of ambition. Therefore the bullets need re-assessing to ensure the ambition is fulfilled - otherwise this seems a pointless and meaningless statement. All Sefton's children need your support to ensure a bright future for the area.

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I rather keep 0-5 in one centre and 19+ in another center

agree with principles but not with reduction in centres where they can be accessed.

I want a safe environment for my children and feel Talbot street isn't going to provide this.

everyone should have access to services. s all families at one stage can have vulnerable times.

I would only agree if the environment/ building was a safe one.

so long as these services are voluntary

all

ALL OF THE ABOVE

but don't forget families and children who don't have issues, where they going to go play and socialise?

all of them

all

whats the criteria for 'vulnerable' !!

I agree but not the way it is being done & moving the center which is not in easy access

the proposal should be for all families. when was the community asked, regarding re-design of centres, as I have not seen or heard anything regarding proposal.

I AGREE WITH ALL ABOVE, BUT MORE CONSIDERATION NEED TO BE GIVEN TO MAIN HUBS, I DON'T FEEL YOUR PROPOSAL IS FAIR TO DEPRIVED AREAS AND SOME PEOPLE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL FURTHER

I think the 'family wellbeing' centre should be available to everyone, not just the most vulnerable, this service is vital as a prereutable measure before families do become 'most vulnerable'

I would only say yes if it was in a safe place and location.

I don't think that the age range of 'whole family' is suitable. Particularly teenager/young adults with younger families.

I agree however less focus on children and families at earlier stages may lead to more long term issues

No consideration for families with no car, mental health issues, who are not well off.

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All of them.

I feel seaforth CC is vital to offer family support and they work faintly with ourselves as health partners regularly. I access the centre for families I work with weekly.

However walking distance from areas of deprivation need to be considered. Im lucky I have a car but if I felt low I would not be bothered accessing service if I had to use public transport or walk for. Also relationships with current staff have already been formed on the basis of trust.

however, I feel we get this from our children's centre @ Springwell. Taking it away will be detrimental to some of our families

The childrens centre needs to stay open so that families have these services available in our area and don't have to travel.

sefton say they will do this but they wont.

Supporting families to thrive and developing the whole family approach :)

but this is what centres do already - why change it

But its not just about these principles. its about the whole community in the long run. Not everyone who attends has such issues but that doesn't mean we benefit from the other services.

Families should be supported to access services in the community. Disadvantaged families could become isolated.

this does not give a full picture - what services will be reduced/ stopped? it appears to focus on vulnerable people, and not 'general' families that could become vulnerable without the current services.

I feel that springwell provides this and the proposals are a waste of time. Springwell offers a friendly + supporting services and should be left well alone. Better than Liverpool ones!

Number 5- There are families who are forgotten about, the ones that don't qualify for anything so having a children's centre to go to should not be taken away from them. It is not all just pupil premium children who need looking after.

I agree with all of them. They are all very important and help families.

NOTE: I personally feel that these principles are already being implemented through the work that the children's centre workers carry out. The groups (stay and play etc) provide a safe place for parents and their children to come & engage in a positive way that aids healthy development and prevents some families from reaching a point in their lives where they need to access further services.

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All of them

This is what Springwell Childrens Centre does so why change this

SPRINGWELL PROVIDES ALL OF RHE ABOVE SO WH CLOSE SOMEWHERE WERE THIS HAPPENS

No, because this is not specifying how it's gonna improve or change these centres

Im a single parent with 3 kids. Its accessible and around the corner. The support I see of these people if amazing.

As we don't want to be moved out of this centre because of easy access and studies and childcare facilities

Waterloocentre sessions have been a life line for me. The support I have received have helped me and my family thrive.

YES BUT TARGETED MAY NOT REACH FAMILIES WHO FALL OUTSIDE. KEEP DROP IN PLAY + STAY 0-5YRS THEY HAVE CLOSED OVER THE YEARS

Childrens centres should be use of all children & parents not just for parents who are struggling as currently all parents are struggling financially

We need this center and would be lost without it

I agree but if you close them you will be isolating families who cant travel to different areas.

I agree to none, keep our childrens centre as they are. DO NOT DISRUPT OUR CHILDREN.

all of the above

As long as services are still delivered locally

I do agree but I know for sure the local council wont act on this in seaforth area were its really needed to support our community.

childs voice being heard - professionals need to listen to them and do what they say.

I agree with them all but I also think children should have the access to early learning in the centres my 2 youngest children where beyond ready for school & thrived on leaning before they started in school, I think it is important for parents to bond & mix with other parents also.

All, if you reduce services and reduce employees then those left will feel the pressure of doing too much for too many - this is where mistakes are made. When mistakes are made it then proves the point that cost cutting effects lives not just of staff but those who use the services. - Don't decrease the funding - Increase. Don't re do lords street of a cost of millions invest it in the next generation of goomy families and children.

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BUT I DON'T SOMETIMES FEEL THAT JUDGEMENTS AND TARGETS BASED ON STATISTICAL EVIDENCE AND STATISTICAL TARGETS ARE TOO NARROW TO APPLY ACROSS THE BOARD

these principles are already in place in all children/ family centres.

I agree with the principles but we already have this in our children centre. Will It stay open? Would not access anywhere else.

As a SENCO in a primary school, I am aware of how many services all schools have to provide to offer alternative support for this. Although I agree that these are beneficial, they should not come at the cost of the loss of Childrens Centres as they provide valuable support to families where an alternative is not available.

N/A

Yes and n who doesn't want to develop a whole family approach But on the other hand there are families who need help before it gets to that point.

The way these proposals are being implemented is wrong. So many families make use of current services because of confidence and quality of life reasons, and the proposed changes will be detrimental to their well-being.

number 5 as all families are in need of some point or other, despite their financial or social circumstances.

? THIS IS WHAT MY CHILDRENS CENTRE DOES ALREADY

Hudson great, centre is lovely staff are really helpful and friendly.

TOO VAGUE TO AGREE WITH. PLEASE ADAPT THESE TO HOW IT WILL AFFECT MY FAMILY, MY LOCAL COMMUNITY AND MY LOCAL AND ONLY CHILDREN'S CENTRE...

support all families not just those who are ***** to thrive so to promote equal opportunities - to provide the best for our children and families.

I agree with the principles but don't see how we will build relationships with staff if we haven't got access to a centre.

these principles already exist. These are not new principles. Merging centres equates to minimising service not maximising.

I feel that this could be achieved in Hudson on itself rather than merging centres.

Hudson is amazing and local to us. we love it here.

I think childrens centres are an important part of the community. They are good to have to help families who need support. New mums access centres to help with their mental health.

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already in place at Netherton childrens centre

Already in place at Netherton Children Centre

I attended with my first born baby to a lot of classes and would continue with my second baby.

childrens centres need to be readily available for all families and new mums as they are a huge help in regards to mental health. I believe without the groups I have attended my mental health would have suffered.

Is this not what they do anyway

Don't agree with them being moved to another area.

shutting down local services is in direct opposinon to your aims. To state otherwise is disingenuous.

childrens centre should be 1 centre per 7000 children

sounds like there wont be much for ordinary families - very sad! All about social care... Not fair, because everybody is vulnerable!

No- Children's Centre is for little ones, you can not put 2YO & 15YO in the same room! Why just targeted? How fair it is on the rest of the community?

WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO JUST NEED SOME HELP

I am happy with the service I have now, I don't want to have to travel throughout sefton to get any help.

All families need support and it needs to be accessible for everyone.

LINKAKER CHILDRENS CENTRE ALREADY PROVIDES ALL OF THESE THINGS

How is this target based/ evidence based, I would like to see this? "Children and families that are failing to thrive??" How would this be notified/logged without childrens services being accessible "focussed Response"- with less services, less staff, how will this be applicable?

Not accurate , just general.

However- I'm sure that the changes will impact on many people and I am massively concerned about job losses.

easy to access everything as didn't have to walk miles to different places to access it time management and some services might not be available.

everything is located in one place and also its at my daughters school and I don't drive

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I do agree with principles but what about the other families that don't fit that criteria. Parents of children not at risk of poverty or social problems also need a base to go for advice and support.

I agree with all the above but feel there is no provision for families that don't meet the criteria and will end up falling through the system.

the childrens centre at Linaker offers so much and I am always made to feel welcome I feel that having to access new surroundings will stop me from X for X.

that families in need should have support in the centre they feel comfortable in

Although I am concerned about the services offered at Linaker- where will I go to get support as I am isolated & unable to drive.

All of them Springwell needs to stay.

I do agree but this is already provided within seaforth centre.

Yes I agree but should be at separate centre focusing on mental health & wellbeing and leave childrens centres alone.

but it is needed in seaforth area of poverty, children need this centre, families need this centre.

I do but would really like to keep this centre as I need it also do my kids, without it there nothing around here for them.

I do agree just I don't get why you close this one as there is no where else for us to go round seaforth an to feel safe as you do here in this centre.

yes I agree with the principles proposed. BUT seaforth is an area of high - socio economic deprivation. There is a severe need for the wellbeing already provided here. As the services in this area are already none existent.

see answer to 15

seaforths childrens centre does this already.

UNSURE

unsure, not sure we should be mixing families together if they are having problems.

we are already involved with most of this and happy to participate with.

key principles all focus on children/ families with needs and who require interventions to thrive. What about all of the others? do they not matter?

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I agree with supporting the vulnerable. I also agree with providing equal opportunities for all children, regardless of social status, as well as their parents/ carers.

I feel you are taking our childrens centre away and replacing it with something for 'targeted' families. This wont be something for everyone which will lead to parents feeling isolated.

seems to be about targeted families and not considering the benefit family groups have to the development of children an also parents who after having children may struggle to socialise with other families which is invaluable to promoting parent skills.

diagnosed inequalities but what about general well being and support to prevent illnesses??

In principle I agree with these I just do not agree with the proposed closures of the local centres for a central one.

last 2 , because other families who aren't failing to reach their potential/ in greatest need still need support.

I do agree with these principles but believe they are not achievable with regards to the changes in locations of the childrens centre.

already get this at Netherton childrens centre

yes I agree with these, this is because the ideas are already in place and being carried out within Netherton childrens centre. Many families already access these services.

I find Netherton childrens centre always do their best will all above great centre.

I thought this centre does this anyway

these are proposals, they are already pre-existing principles already upheld by the childrens centre. Please do your research before trying to pass things off as your own ideas.

this already happing in our centres already.

my local childrens centre currently offers these principles.

my childrens centre currently offers all of the above, so unsure of how this is an ambition as we already have this.

my local childrens centre already has these key principles for family wellbeing. for both my childrens the childrens centre was amazing, I moved back to the area, see back page!

well being centre needs to be accessible (local) + well staffed/ resources.

However, I feel the quality of support will be affected. I also feel it will affect the open door and open to all approach.

really enjoyed centre for high weaning staff or lohes

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I don't agree with any of these principles as it means there won't be a service for all, only those in the greatest need will get one.

all as groups should be for all

I feel that the seaforth area has been forgotten about - we are living in a disadvantaged area closing seaforth childrens centre will be detrimental to the peoples health and wellbeing, the centre is possibly a life line to some they rely on the care they receive from the staff.

seaforth centre to remain open as fabulas staff like home to home care, very supportive, easy to talk. Good with both my children brilliant centre.

got no money to travel

travelling to other centres

in order to develop a 'whole family' approach I feel services need to be located at the three main bases, otherwise it could become splintered and ineffectual.

as I agree with all of these I don't agree with having services taking away like one on ones with people who we have learned to trust and built relationships with.

these are ok but not only families in the system need support. Going the childrens centre prevents things getting worse.

without my children centre myself and my children would have starved they have helped me out so much.

I think the targeted support is misguided on paper I have a wide family, good income and lots of support. I would not have been targeted but without the support I've had would have been completely lost.

don't agree with making bigger centres they become less personal and also can put off some vulnerable people who feel more comfortable in surroundings they know. Over the last 4 years we have worked with hundreds of families who have benefitted from the community feel. Also, I have witnessed the benefits of the most vulnerable working alongside some of the most affected families. I have seen the benefits and support to both. All families regardless of income can struggle emotionally.

however I believe all families and not just vulnerable families should be catered for.

yes if you don't stop the excellent work that the childrens centre are already doing !

I do agree but also feel these main principles are targeted solely on families that need support in a specific way. They should also have key principles targeted to wards families that just need support in a social way and families/ parents where this is their main source of company/ their children socialising.

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I don't see the above statements as anymore than typical mission statements ! HOW will less specialised children centres help children?

think centre should be for younger children.

Why change what is working effectively? Why only disorderly families will receive support?

I think small local Centres serve the community better. I think this is a streamlining for cost exercise. I think people will lose community support through this change and I value the friendly and local Childrens Centre

Why are you shutting such a great centre as Linaker, they have got everything: fantastic staff, supportive team, great services to meet all families needs - youth connect for older ones, mental health on a ball with relax kids, etc. Family centre has got stigma about it (social care involved), the building is very tired, cold, uninviting, no parking, would not go there myself. What is limited services? Why fix what is not broken?!!!

These are all to support families in crisis and families who need support with getting ready for school and social/emotional issues are not going to be addressed, therefore more families will become vulnerable. The stay and play type sessions are of a high quality that addressed guided play and positive parenting through role modelling behaviours in a more inclusive manner.

Keep freshfield open!! Stop cutting vital services shame on you sefton council. Every child deserves tge best start yet you're taking away tge vital services and support offered in freshfield children's centres. Enough is enough with these savage cuts to youth services!

Dont change linaker it offers huge support at both its sights southport cant afford to loose this support

I do

It is nonsensical to refer to a model you haven't introduced and then ask us to comment on the principles upon which the model is based. Of course the principles are sound, but on their own they are vague and offer no indication of how services will be offered and how families that are most vulnerable will be effectively supported. This engagement effort feels very much like a tick box exercise and I am disappointed in the lack of effort to really engage with communities. All I can see the is that you are further removing centres away from areas from deprivation such as Canning road same as you did from Crossens 5 years ago. Please don't think that this is anything other than a cost saving exercise and your vague principles will only ever be aspirational and never achievable.

What about those families who do not have a safeguarding need? Even families where there are no safeguarding concerns need support from services like our children's centres. Shouldn't the offer be to ALL children and families and not just those families who are failing to meet the needs of their children??

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I agree to the principles but I object that it is always only for the children from families in need or with problems. Yes, they do need support and every effort should be made to ensure their wellbeing and safety. However, there are a lot of families who do not fall into those categories but whose children and their carers benefit greatly from those services and who cannot afford to access them from private providers. I fear that a big proportion of children from households on lower incomes but not struggling or problem families will lose out!

I feel as though the current Childrens centres all offer the above mentioned proposals already. The staff are so welcoming, friendly and approachable. They remember who you and your children are and give so much support and advise for so many different topics and issues. Having Childrens centres in different areas gives you a sense of community and belonging and make them more personable to families as the staff get to know their service users.

I agree with all the principles however in society today condensing services to one main centre or 2 centres will not work. Families in need of support have trust in the centres they already use. Instead of condensing more funding needs putting into the already very successful centres and services available.

4. Ensure that the child's voice is heard and that safeguarding thresholds are maintained through service redesign and delivery. By having a main bigger centre will make services less personal and children will get "lost" in the service. My children have grown up knowing the staff at our local first steps children centre and I hope our next child will have the opportunity to too.

This would make the service far too impersonal - the children would become just a number. The childrens centres currently run well and are manned with excellent staff who know all the children - this is a terrible idea which would alienate both children and parents alike.

As I use the centre for the childrens uses. Removing those and making me travel with anxiety wouldn't be useful for myself or anyone else

The children are best served by the centres staying as is. There is a localised environment provided a wider Family Wellbeing centre will miss.

It has taken years to get vulnerable families to access the services offered by Children's Centres. To mess with the offer at this point would ruin all of this hard work by dozens of staff members. Targeted work is undeniably important, but without a universal approach, you will never succeed in accessing those that would also benefit from targeted work.

Unable to agree as doesn't say how this will impact on existing services

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They all target families at a time of crisis. The families without crises require assistance from children's centres. Depression and isolation are very common in parents and the activities which Children's Centres provide make an enormous difference.

I don't feel anything is being missed in current centres. People are still engaging and staff get to assess children and families. Safeguarding is not only viewed in these centres. They are assessed on accessing anything in the community, such as hospital and therefore that would not change.

Agree with most but should be able to repeat yourself as many times as you want.

All mums, dads and children are vulnerable in many different ways not just those meeting certain criteria.

Not enough focus on families without issues

I applaud the general principle, however disagree that the proposed model is adequate to fully deliver the aims outlined. For example I believe that Southport is very well served in these areas by organisations such as Parenting 2000 etc. Therefore a duplication of child and family focused services in this area does not necessarily represent an efficient use of scarce resources. As a parent with mobility difficulties I think southport is well known within the disabled community as a place which is not easily accessed or navigated. Free parking or even low cost parking availability for those outside the immediate area will cause significant difficulty. Parking challenges for those with reduced mobility have been documented in the past by groups such as SAF and a SAFE. I do think that if my local centre in formby is closed and the secondary centres i access in Ainsdale and Thornton which all have free official and on street parking. I would struggle and probably be unable to added the centres in the future. With a young child adequate parking facilities are essential and fundamental requirement for my attendance. I rely on these centres so having a main centre which would be largely inaccessible to travel to would be a devastating blow !

I agree if the ground staff who are inn contact with children and families are left to get on with their job - early intervention supports and protects all/ The above has been written by someone sitting in an office and does not know what is currently on offer the impact or how it already supports families and children. Ofsted report safeguarding feb 2016 states very clearly that these services go someway in supporting social care. Without these you will leave a unnecessary risk to those that use the services.

That's just theory. People won't get support they need when you cut the services again!

However I don't think this is achievable by cutting budgets and now closing down well used children centres, and underfunding nurserys which are well used by the local community as well as employing local people.

All of them.

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That means it's all moving to Liverpool, as usual, I already can't access 99% of the very limited services for my disabled son, as it's ALL Liverpool.

Do NOT close Linaker Children's Centre

I believe that the children's centres are invaluable to the local community. The staff get to know the children before they even start school and can then advise the teachers of any extra help that is necessary. My child is currently being in the process of being diagnosed with Autism which was picked up pre school at Farnborough children's centre. I don't agree that all the services should be lumped together, I was an at home mum after leaving my nice job to look after both of my children, it was the hardest part of my life and the only thing that saved me and kept me off anti depressants was the socialising in the childrens centre and the help I received from the childrens centre. They got to know me and my children and were able to help me and I was able to get together with other mums in the area. I also had a tricky time as my child has suspected Autism which was picked up in the childrens centre which was picked up by the staff that got to know us. I do not believe I would have accessed the above centres you mention. I believe the childrens centres are life savers particularly with new mums who do not have any support around. The childrens centres are life savers for new mums. They are inclusive for all new mums not just pushy mums, which I am not, and that has saved me and my family and helped me to identify that my first child has additional needs which would, for sure, not have been met without the support of the staff that know my family.

All of these services are only supporting families already in crisis. my family have never been in crisis but I have needed valuable support from the children's centre to support the children which has prevented my situation getting worse

I have 3 children . One of which has additional needs, and when I have been at my wits end Thornton children's centre has been a life line to me, giving me support and advice on issues such as sleep, behaviour management, sensory processing and benefit support. Having Sefton Carers based there has been great for my family and kept me sane!

I believe that the cuts to childcare funding will have a negative impact on children's growth and development. I have directly seen the positive impact that availing of the childcare service has on children and families in the local area.

That putting 0-19 together does not give in a family scenario, an older child the space from the younger child. We know from experience that parents like coming to Linaker, they say it is a welcoming atmosphere. Health Visitors mainly refer parents to call for their vitamins. It is at this point we introduce them to other services, through the services, we can see if their child is struggling. They need a place that expresses a sense of well being, a place where they can feel safe and of equal to those around them.

The proposed merge of Linaker Childrens Centre with Family Centre. I feel that this would have a really negative impact on the families we support, as many of our most vulnerable

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families have had support from Linaker Childrens Centre in a trusting, non judgemental and safe environment, which they feel comfortable to access. Many of our families have experienced traumatic times in their life, and wish to move forward with their lives, and would not feel comfortable in a different building. Many of the services provided for our community are all under one roof here, and parents can access adult education, which in turn provides aspirations for them and their children.

Services should remain as they are. Cutting Childrens centres and the services they currently provide will not improve outcomes for children in Sefton.

ALL CHILDREN throughout Sefton should have local access to clinics not just families from deprived areas. Your proposal would mean that there would be one clinic supporting families from Crossens to Hightown. Why should our children and parent's/carers suffer because of your mis-management - absolutely disgraceful

The most vulnerable will not use services such as the ones currently provided so will not use new and updated services either.

Point 5- how would you determine those in 'greatest need'- what evidence would be used? I would not want a working family thought of as in less need that a non working family due to income thresholds; a working family can require support just as much and in different ways than a non working family.

I don't see how you are respecting a families starting point if you take the vital support out of the local community. 'Whole family' the strangers who will deal with me if I need it won't know my own family where as the lovely ones in our community are part of the community and know our family so would know how to support the 'whole family' fr the off and without us having to ask. Also these guys know we need help before even we do and are able to help us realise and support and guide us.

I feel this is already done with the services we have and you are taking away our comfort and safety net in a time where we already feel vulnerable.

Centralised services

I agree with these principles but feel that many omissions exist. Allowing parents to meet, share thoughts and worries is an important role. This reduces the incidence of post natal depression and a feeling of isolation.

I do not believe that your principles would actually help ALL children. It appears to be all about secondary rather than primary prevention. ALL children deserve to have opportunities to reach their potential and ALL parents deserve the best support available for what is the hardest (and what can be the most rewarding) job on the planet - bringing up their children.

Whilst the over-arching aims are laudable, what is not mentioned is: 1. how much money are you aiming to save? What will be the staff losses and for which areas of specialisms? 2.

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What will happen with the building stock left unused and what facilities will go as a result, particularly assets that cannot be transported from site? 3. Results of the impact assessment based on re-configured services. What other local provision would have to pick up where a service has been lost? Is this feasible? 4. Which of the centres cater for high volumes and complex cases where higher resource is required?

I see no need to change the system currently in place. Services have already been reduced. Existing services need expanding. If you were creating Family Wellbeing Centres IN ADDITION to the children's centres, then I might approve the changes. As things stand, you are attempting to make a reduction in services sound beneficial. I assume that jobs will be lost as a result of these changes?

Because you are condensing services due to cost cutting and not because of your principals stated above. You only seem to have one definition of "people who need it most" and you base this on financial measures. It is a really narrow viewed approach and reaches the few and not the many. You have a responsibility to ensure all communities in Sefton thrive...but your plans do not support this. Therefore I cannot agree with your principles.

There needs to be acknowledgement that as well as focussing supporting to those families who need it most that a basic provision of support should be available to everyone (even if there is a paid contribution for people to access some of this). In the early weeks this is vital for supporting new parents and their babies.

Ok but believe that all parents and children should have access to services not just those who are unemployed or vulnerable.

I do agree with the principles but I feel that you are only focusing on families/ children that have needs or are not thriving and not focusing on each and every child whether thriving or not

should be more services available in southport not in bootle, bootle is too far for us to travel!

The types of families at Talbot Street centre are not the same as that at Linaker Children's Centre. I visit Linakers almost daily & need the services offered there. I do not need to be near the likes of parents who have dealt with drug mis-use etc at Talbot Street. The Staff at Linakers are amazing & have helped me find the support I needed for my child with complex needs. At Linakers it's all children mainly under the age of 10 I'd say. I'm not comfortable thinking my 3 year old will in the future be sharing a centre with upto 19 year olds and parents who may be a danger to her (parents on supervised visits for example!).

5 and 6. Support should be there for all families as circumstances change and if all people don't have access to services then families who on paper may not need the services may soon become a family that does and is unfortunately overlooked by the system.

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The proposals mean that certain centres will be closed, and our local one appears to be one of them.. the centres are not only a welcoming place to bring our children, for some people they are a real lifeline. I brought my children to our local centre for many different sessions, music, play, massage, wellbeing and the staff make the whole experience so comfortable. When my second and third child were born because of restrictions in our circumstances, I spent a lot of time at our local children's centre. It offered companionship and fun for my children and for myself. And I know from other local parents that our local centre has really helped them through some very tough times, and without their support things for them could have turned out very differently. Please do not take our centres away from us and do not close centres already in existence.. you do not know how much a lifeline, such as they provide, is worth to someone who needs it.

All schools should be family well-being bases. Use main base idea and share remaining children's centre funding with all schools. The activities on offer like baby massage, treasure basket sessions et.c could be offered by community groups in community centres.

Attachment. This is bxxxxxt designed to blame parenting when actually the child probably needs an autism assessment. Children are being failed in Sefton and it is only going to get worse until a proper service is given. Oh, by the way, one of the questions says 'is the disability related to...pathway' What the hell does that mean? A. There is no 'autism pathway' in Sefton and b. Most people won't even know what the hell that means. It is clear to anyone with a brain that these cuts are nothing to do with 'making things better' and everything to do with cutting budgets but making it sound nice so the 'stupid parents' won't realise. Utterly disgusted as per usual.

Focus on trained professionals providing evidence based service health visitor & social workers

I don't feel it would be beneficial merging the centres, we have got to know the staff and have a rapport and feel they are trustworthy.

I don't understand what services are being offered here. This proposal makes me feel anxious - I have received a massive amount of support from all of the children's centres I have been a part of, and this proposal does not (to me) respect any of the services I have received , nor offer alternatives.

Of course I agree with these principles, but the whole family approach is not possible when you cut down other services to achieve this. Family and children centres work very well together, I haven't seen any published evidence to prove the current services are failing, why change them? Plus, combining the services for young adults and young children may have many safeguarding implications and concerns.

All

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I disagree that these are aims. These services are already in place in Children's centre and Sefton councils proposals will reduce the services available so using this here is extremely misleading

I think the Cambridge children's centre functions well as it is and the above changes will massively affect myself, my colleagues, and all the families and parents which access our local children's centre. I don't think the changes will be beneficial to all the above.

I agree with these principles but my understanding is that this is what my centre currently offers me anyway.

Feel that all children should be supported and encouraged regardless of their background.

The primary issue I have with these principles is that they are currently not being met by the current staff. I have had first-hand exposure to staff failing these principles and as a result totally devastating a family unit with their inept approach to matters raised. In Particular : - " 2) Develop a "whole family" approach where root cause issues can be addressed and families limit the number of times they need to tell their story." This was failed by not only the ground staff based at Hudson children centre, but also their seniors, and to this day it continues not to be met. This may seem like a personal gripe, but I am assured by many other parents that this is a common thought towards this particular children's centre. In my honest opinion, this centre needs to be redressed and staff and their current workloads reviewed. If it was to be closed and moved to another site, I doubt very much it would be a great loss to the community.

The focus seems to be around the most vulnerable in society. Whilst this is important, more consideration needs to be given to 'normal' families. This should feature as a priority.

As a retired Children's Centre Manager and having previously worked in Sefton I feel that the stigma attached to Talbot Street will be a barrier to many families accessing services. The well established centre at Linaker should continue to be centre of the Southport services. To try and develop a new hub will be a backward step in community cohesion and take away all the goodwill and hard work which has long been established.

I don't know what it means. I don't know whether I would still receive support

This is worded terrible. Of course people will agree with these statements as it's hard not too. I am a well educated young person with a degree in childcare, before having my son I worked full time at a local nursery. I pay my taxes and have done since I was 16. I may not be classed as the most vulnerable' or those in need of support. But these children's centres are a lifeline whether you are classed as vulnerable, well educated or just a new mum trying to do the right thing for your baby, make friends and learn new skills. I work in the childcare field, I even have a degree in childcare but I have learnt more becoming a new mum, going to these groups, making friends and learning from others. Taking away children's centres from EVERYONE is going to cause your numbers of 'vulnerable' families to sky rocket to be

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more than ever before. Getting out for an hour or so to do a class keeps some people sane throughout the day. I feel these statements are placing a divide in society as all you seem interested in the vulnerable, by all means offer them MORE support but don't just pigeon hole all the help to them. Just because I have worked for 10 years, work in childcare, have a mortgage doesn't mean I will be able to afford to pay for classes instead of accessing these. This whole consultation is causing a divide and that's what's needs to stop we are all in the same boat, a parent, trying to do the best for our children so don't take this away, it's a lifeline for some that may not just show it

With good services and a well funded centre then interventions would become preventative rather than reactive. Children's centre services are most beneficial during the holidays too when other services ie. Free school meals etc are not available and parents of a low socioeconomic background are further financially stretched

The very proposal at the beginning stating the proposed model will promote good mental health and well-being. I could barely get myself out of the house with my daughter and walk to Hudson let alone manage to travel to one of your 'wellbeing centres' I have never accessed any other centre and I wouldn't feel comfortable doing so. Making it harder for parents to access services will not help anyone's mental health or wellbeing!

5) I don't disagree with those most in need receiving targeted support- this is important. However, the support of the children's centre, being able to attend activities within walking distance etc, has been of benefit to my mental health and the development of my child. I don't think that my difficulties would be classed under those most in need but without such services being available, I think more people could experience isolation etc, without it being seen by service/authorities.

I think the children's centres are vital for our future as well as our children's future

Everything stated above implies a negative connotation. Of course protecting the vulnerable in our society is a key issue, but what about 'normal' families? Whilst I wholeheartedly support the decision to improve interactions with families in crisis, I believe it's shortsighted to overlook the positive impact of the children's centres on ALL families. Focussing solely on families with issues means that a high percentage of families in Sefton would not have access to the support and guidance currently on offer from these centres and I feel this would be a huge error.

I worry about 'outcomes' in matters of health and wellbeing.

Intervene early. The council should keep out of peoples lives as much as possible

Because children's mental health is not a priority in Sefton children are constantly let down by the system You cannot put a proposal in place that you cannot fulfil .There is not enough support CAMHS is failing to meet children's needs .This proposal won't succeed unless funding is implemented immediately before it is too late. Children's mental health should be

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a priority not a proposal for the future . My daughter has waited 10 months and still got no help despite self harm and suicidal thoughts.

needs to add.. and help those with barriers to learning access additional services to ensure they have optimum chance to achieve their optimum potential...or something similar as schools are not always able to do this

Although I agree with the principles, the wording suggests that there would be reduced support for those not in "greatest need" - those with a stable family life and reasonable income. This doesn't negate the need for support services, particularly in the first few months after giving birth. Many people do not have a large circle of friends and can feel isolated - my experience of the children's centres is that they provide a chance to meet others in the same situation.

I don't believe the decision to reduce the number of services in deprived areas is in keeping with the principles above.

All of them

The fact that it is 20 minute walk for me to get to speingwell and now you want to propose it going to Netherton and that would take me 43 minutes from speingwell so over an hour. I wouldn't access it as it is too far. Why up to 19 as well. Once a child is 16 they can have sex so why do you propose to close a children's centre which my baby goes to and make it so ADULTS can use. 19 year olds are ADULTS! Absolutely ridiculous idea! Who dreamt rhus idea up,

Netherton Children's Centre already support the whole family offering my services the help me deal with my older children .

Reducing services for families and unemployment for the staff

Targeted families- this is discriminating against those families who do not necessarily need to visit the centre for any other reason but to start early interaction for their children which in turn will help their children thrive and support their communication in the future. There needs to be something where by EVERY family can attend a session e.g. stay and play to support as EVERY child matters regardless of background and personal circumstances.

2. A "whole family" approach risks sacrificing the excellent, more specific approach taken by places like the Linaker Centre, which, by being focused on pre-schoolers, provides a wholly appropriate, welcoming and safe environment for very small children. 5. A sole focus on those in the greatest need risks eliminating support for those struggling families who need less (but still some) help and support, without which they may become more vulnerable.

Why condense them all into one base? This will not improve access, it would do the absolute opposite, if you don't live in a nearby postcode then you would not have local access to any of

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the services you offer. This is obviously about cost cutting and cutting overheads. You should be ashamed

Closures

Merging family and children's centres. They both serve a different purpose.

All

I think families that need support should get it fully but don't see why things have to change. We shouldn't all have to go through one system and should be free to go where we feel comfortable

Don't agree with shutting the centre down, it is invaluable to our community

I needed help but would not say I fit in the bits above. I am just a victim of a bad relationship and losing my job but that made me feel very worthless. I just needed a bit of help

No.5 Targeted families fall within certain thresholds, but being unemployed, poor, living in a run down area, does not mean they are the only families who are in need of help. Rich or poor, when services are open to the general public, those who are in need can be directed to a place where so much goes on no one knows why someone comes in to visit. Where someone feels it hard to reach out, with attending activities, collecting vitamins, having the baby weighed what is around them gives them the confidence to seek help, if it is from a leaflet or a 1:1 chat with a member of staff.

Families need local children's centres to ensure that all children have fair and equal access to developmental opportunities. Closing local CCs and centralising services will cause otherwise engaged families to not attend and will compound disengagement of the hard-to-reach families with whom the services need and aim to target the most.

It sounds very reactive, and focussed on obvious need. Although I agree support is needed here; ALL families need support. It is so important to utilise early health and social care interventions for ALL families

Should be available for all children not just in need

Reducing the services on offer to parents and children will not help them in any way. Bootle and surrounding areas are very deprived and poverty has been linked to poor mental health. Families in these areas need more support than in other more affluent areas where money is no issue and they can afford to pay for expensive children's activities. If you reduce the services on offer less children will attend playgroups and access services therefore reducing their interaction with other children which helps children's development. Postnatal depression is on the increase and they need to access services in order to recover. I recently attended a think differently cope differently course I found this very helpful and i

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avoided having to attend the doctors when I felt low as the course made me feel more positive for the future.

It is not as simple as to say which principles I don't agree with but by saying that I agree with the principles implies that I agree with the proposals. I understand that savings have to be made but the inference that Seaforth can be relocated fills me with trepidation. The level of deprivation in the area is probably the worst in the borough but despite this there is a great sense of community and belonging. The Children's/Family Centre has become part of that community and enabled us to support hard to reach families with complex needs. There have been some fantastic working practices and positive outcomes for families. I cannot see any benefits to the community that this proposal can offer and the effect on the Community can only be negative.

1,2,4,6

I appreciate costs need to be met however your proposed principles should and are already met via the multitude of locations already available. After all the statement you are putting out to the world, is not saying current services are inadequate, poor, wrong, not meeting the needs of all the communities, as that would be false; you are being squeezed by central government to make yet more cuts to an already stretched service(s). Maybe a better approach would be have one system online or centre driven with a list of ALL available services/courses and let ALL residents see what is available across the communities. Then see a more truer 'NEED' as I do not think everyone has, for a multitude of reasons, knowledge of what is out there. I imagine this would then help to drive the 'Need' to keep centres open in the proposed closed areas which actually fall into the more deprived areas in Sefton. By consolidating your resources to one or rather three locations you inevitably put strain on those locations (building) as well as staff. the continuity for staff with the newly proposed volume of people will be lost. The parents/carers/grandparents will lose hope of seeing same person or them actually having time to spend quality time with them. You'll demoralise the staff, possibly losing excellently trained staff to other sectors. These fabulous trained staff normally there to help and aid in families in crisis or presenting possible issues won't be there to do this!! or worse the families won't bother with centres to give the revised three locations staff a chance to spot/see them, which again won't be their fault but may lead to demoralising them or causing sickness levels to rise, through stress alone I imagine. You are asking the impossible

Please remember, prevention is better than cure. You are already talking about cure. To make the right decision, you must have the knowledge of the location, community and it's needs. Please be very careful choosing the right location and right services. To reverse it back might be not only more costly but even impossible.

All contained above.

prevention is better than intervention

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apart from the time shouldn't be just for families in difficulty

2/ whole family approach - not convinced the needs of babies, young children, children with disabilities, and older children / teens can be catered for in one place. There could be potential safeguarding issues here.

Whole family approach

Comments linked to Locations

Linaker should be retained as main centre

I think that is much better to have more locality centres because people in need, disabilities and families with children prefers. centre very close their houses/ flats.

linaker does stuff already. can we use the library - atkinson

linaker base should stay! all facilities needed are there. Also, there's parking and if full, can park on the road - free!!! at Talbot street, wouldn't work!!

currently use Atkinson accessible location for able bodied/ disabled people. On public transport route.

I prefer to stay with my local centre - linaker as it is convenient, local and friendly. I do not want to access the family centre.

having a centre in Bootle wouldn't be accessible to me personally. I believe somewhere in Southport would be more convenient and I strongly believe linaker is the right place.

the support that is offered in these centres are vital for the welfare of children and families in these areas. They need a local centre in walking distance.

I live in Southport over 10 years and I have never heard about the Centre at Talbot Street

linaker childrens centre

I think you need to divide the areas more and have 6 centres

Canning road is a great location for mums on the outskirts of Southport. I live in banks and do not rate the children's centres around here. Canning road is a great place for mums to get their baby weighed and the stay and play class means we also get to meet other mums in the area.

Please leave the children's centres as they are. They are a lifeline to families to children with SEN.

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There are no plans that accommodate for Aintree village residents. Our community has already had several cuts including a library and no local childrens service. Local parents have had to start own children's playgroups due to these cutbacks. Residents of Aintree need more local support not less support that is further away. It would be to far to walk and would require public transport in some cases more than one bus/train to get to these places which would also incur costs. Why should people living in Aintree have less community resources and be out of pocket?

Mainly as Hudson covers in its radius aintree and melling too and I feel the amount of families seems that the Hudson children centre should be fully staffed and have not to cut hours .it is the nearest one to our area and due to poor travel issues unless you have a car the planned proposal is out if the question.secondly all the other centres bar Talbot street are located very close together and so it would make sense for them to link as you can get a bus walk or same train line stops by them each and Hudson stand on its own . No new mum will go out of her area with a new baby for theses services they should remain local and accessible for all new family's to be able to support them in the right way . After the lose of aintree children centre the need is great and I set up a local group at aintree we have 25+ each week and new family's move into the warda for every house sold .these mums need to be local and need a safe known environment to help their children grow with support from other mums and staff at the centres . It would be should a shame to lose yet more services in our area of maghull aintree and melling !! Please take the level of families in these 3 areas into consideration . I see a great need and more needs to be put on in theses 3 areas not taken away

This would end up with vital services centred at 3 hubs which would be distant from the community and families it wants to target. The range of services provided currently is very limited and very difficult to access - this would make it worse.

In the north somewhere near marshside / Churchtown Also include Atkinson

Cambridge should be a main base need is greater

Why are Aintree and Maghull totally ignored?

In the Aintree area a lot of our services have now been taken away and Hudson Children's Centre is the closest we have. To stop all the current services offered would have such a negative impact on the whole community.

Talbot street is a dreadful building with poor parking wouldn't appeal at all. Should be a base in maghull or Formby. Netherton too close to Waterloo to promote coverage Aintree area should have more services. Midwife drop in clinics have been cut and moved to croxteth We have no funded groups apart from a Aintree tots which is run by volunteers. I have not long had a car and I found it very hard with my children to go to groups and local amenities. Especially when knowing that our area has had the funding cut

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We don't always have access to the car so travelling from Formby to Talbot Street in Southport would be too stressful.

Keep Linaker children's center as a main drop in center, as it is a brilliant center with amazing staff, excellent facilities available.

I would only attend a venue in Formby as I do not have access to a car and being pregnant and having a toddler just getting out of the house is hard work without having to travel to access the services.

having fewer services and further apart does not support your intention. families do not have access to transport, they cannot or will not travel to get support, families with young children do not have the money to get a bus, when you are in a low mood with baby blue the idea of walking miles to get help would put any mother off. There are so many services that Linaker have provided that have helped me through both of my pregnancies and early years that just simply will not be available or accessible under these new proposals

Linaker Children's Centre as a main base.

Linaker as a main base.

The Atkinson centre could be developed as a 'front door to family wellbeing services. These services do not necessarily need to be located in the same building as there is a perceived (by families) stigma attached to 'having to access social care' having a front door e.g. a separate door into the Atkinson would allow families to be triaged - signposted to relevant services but would also allow families in crisis somewhere to access help immediately. Ideally Linaker Children's Centre should be developed as the main Family Wellbeing Centre but high risk families requiring contacts should be seen in another building because of the school location

If Cambridge closed I wouldn't travel to any other children centre

It will be difficult for people to access

Don't get rid of first steps it's an amazing place with fantastic staff.

I feel the proposals will dilute the offer. Family centres are currently used for crisis management when things have gone badly wrong and the focus will change in my opinion because there will be more emphasis on the critical cases and less on the families who are beginning to struggle.

I think this puts too much pressure on specific centres and see nothing wrong with the current model

Springwell is a well run centre which I have just started going to. LCC took my job and now you are proposing to take a centre where I feel at home + comfortable in. I can't drive and I

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don't have a clue as to where those centres are. It already takes me 20 minutes to get to Springwell. Find the money from somewhere else and leave it ALONE!!

Springwell is local and easy for people to get to. It offers excellent support to locals in bootle. it is well run and organised and should be made a main base.

WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN SEAFORTH AS LOCAL TO ME

The north centre location proposal is not safe nor suitable for women and young children. Taking services from established and well-used local centres and moving them to such a shabby badly positioned and unsafe place would be a disgrace and put people 'at risk'. Location for this needs urgent review and changes must be made to this proposal.

I am happy to bring my child to Linaker children centre, if we lose Linaker children centre I will lose my confidence and be very sad and they help me a lot.

1. Atkinson is the best and closest to town and perfect for parents. It's also nice and friendly.
2. On Talbot street there is no parking and rooms are not nice. 3. This place is the most suitable for everyone and if it will be moved I'm not gonna attend place on Talbot street.

keep all clinics.

please keep centres the way they are!!!

it was useful and close to my area. Go xxx child and get support you need.

keep Seaforth Childrens centre.

Too hard to get to people would not be able to attend and would miss out please keep seaforth + Litherland!!

I feel that this would affect our children, not many people would travel to other locations, need maximum locations especially in deprived areas.

I like Seaforth children center because it is close to where I live. Provides great service for children and parents I will be disappointed if it is going to change.

Linaker childrens centre

Since my XXXX was born (2015) we were successfully using Seaforth Children Centre. We will miss lots of services and activities for our future child. I would hate the fact that my little one can't have active developments. I wish this service to carry on and support families and children.

Keep services as they are. The Atkinson Parenting2000

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I think combining these centres will leave some parents / grandparents etc isolated as they may not be able to get to the other centres or afford public transport. Also these centres may get too packed and have to turn people away and thats not fair.

Somewhere that is accesable to all local parents

I don't feel that Talbot street is a safe, both structurely and with the clients attending. Leave services as they are!

Seaforth children centre is more local other centres maybe too far to go.

Seaforth needs to remain in Seaforth

i think the family centre in Southport should stay at Talbot street it in a great place out the way and ive been going there for 30 years. I have a good relationship with most staff there and if I need anything I always know I can go there.

Feel should have separate service for babies young children and young adults need a service. I am unable to access other centres due to distance Cambridge childrens centre has a positive impact on the bootle community. I have talked to parents who would be isolated without this service understand need for money saving but sometimes cutting essential services can have a detrimental effect on children and families emotional social + physical wellbeing. Would like to thank Cambridge centre for incredible support access baby massage swim exercise classes H.V.W + drop in midwife consultation.

I think that one centre cant provide a quality service to so many children and family's.

i use linakers centre and the Atkinson for all play groups and baby clinics therefore if they were closed I would not have any access to either in future.

I am a grandmother who has a grandson one day a week, Cambridge rd is ideal for location and time, the staff and facilities are great

I don't agree as any other centre is to far away. Cambridge should stay were it is as it is local for struggling family and the centre is a great help.

AS A GRANDPARENT I LOOK AFTER MY GRANDSON CAMBRIDGE RD IS IDEAL FOR WHERE WE LIVE EXCELLENT CARE & STAFF ARE VERY GOOD & PROFESSIONAL. DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THIS CENTRE.

linaker children centre is very important for my location. it doesn't need to be moved.

Cambridge Rd

Prefer to use Cambridge

Cambridge is so close & well used, think it would effect a lot of families to lose this place

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I specifically use canning road as its close by to my home and I take my 3 year old and 8 month old to groups here. The Atkinson I feel is a fantastic central location allowing me to also combine groups I attend with borrowing books.

Cambridge Rd is a great centre, ideal location and staff are very good, very friendly and lots for the kids to do

leave services as they are.

centres should be kept open as they are. perhaps if managers didn't take such a big pay-rise this would help to keep centres open.

SOUTH- WATERLOO MAIN HUB SHOULD BE DELIVERY POINT, CAMBRIDGE WOULD BE IDEA AS BOOTLE IS IN HIGHER NEED THAN WATERLOO OR MARIE CLARKE

families who have in the past been involved with social care will feel uncomfortable about accessing Talbot street. Families who have not attended through social care with associate it with social care, so linaker will be an ideal location.

Linaker

cambridge center

cambridge children center should be the main for south as I use this center every week

I don't feel Talbot street is a suitable building because of location and considering it was supposed to be demolished years ago.

why cut these services at all? these are key to our community.

I would rather it being Cambridge children's centre because all my children have attended there and it has been running for years I also done a maths and English course a few years ago and all of the things they have running I also enjoy doing the keep fit every Tuesday morning which I really enjoy.

It is the reduction of facilities that I have a problem with. Any move from my local children's centre would be a problem.

Don't want an alternative to Cambridge road without this me and my family would lose a vital part to our life. We value the staff the centre provide us with so much. I've come here nearly six years and the services provided have been second to none.

Cambridge is widely used in an area which has higher depravity-if this is only used as a complementary base without some of the activities that currently run, and without the ease of access to support that is currently there, this could be detrimental to some families and to the area.

Not local

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How can you take away childrens centres who offer vital care courses & services in the most deprived areas and put them in places too far for parents to access and cannot reach.

it No good the Area which the centres may be placed

Keep Cambridge where it is, as its local ad easier for people from the sarounding area to get to

I believe Cambridge Should be a main base as its needed much more as its in a more deprived Area.

I feel seaforth is a main centre for family support, emotional wellbeing and child development. I direct local families for food bank vouchers quite regularly and those families would not be able to afford to travel to waterloo or marie-clarke. The services offered at seaforth are invaluable to the most vulnerable members of society.

To Far out

I just think if there wasn't a base I seaforth the other options would be too far out. I can comfortably walk to seaforth and wouldn't waste my money to go elsewhere on bus.

Cambridge is an area of high deprivation not waterloo. Also there is no parking/poor parking. Area's of deprivation need to be considered as vulnerable families will not travel far to access support, these barriers need to be considered. Also would not want to attend family centre for 'parent toddler or early intervention groups'.

I would only use seaforth because I have 2 young children. I would have to travel on a bus so I would cost money and my daughter is in nursery so I wouldn't be able to go, so both the kids would miss out.

Too far for parents/carers to travel to who can't drive and can't afford public transport.

seaforth is easy to travel to as I wouldn't be able to travel far as seaforth is an amazing place for the community.

Springwell is in the heart of Bootle and its surrounding area. It covers such a wide area around the school and there is nothing else like it available here. Ridiculous!!!

as only one to travel to is seaforth

Cause parents and carers wont be able to access these services in Netherten as some don't drive.

seaforth

we need to stay at springwell!

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seaforth childrens centre in my opinion is a vital service needed for local people and there families in an area where most mums don't drive and there is high unemployment seaforth childrens centre is a must for the community.

Springwell childrens centre is very well ran + organised. I feel comfortable with the centre + think it should be a main base.

all proposed bases will be to far for me to travel as I have triplets and wouldn't be able to get to any.

Springwell Park is very beneficial to local families in the community and it holds lots of family events during the school holidays for the kids/ and academic events for adults during school term.

Walking distance for a lot of people that come and use the facilities meet up. I met several people from Springwell community school which have become friends, my son has made friends also, it also gets me out as I was lonely, so not get out and meet friends

NONE OF THE ABOVE ARE WITHIN EASY ACESS, SPRINWELL IS AN IDEAL LOCATION

should be somewhere to access in seaforth

BENEFITS ME FOR EXERCISES (CAMBRIDGE)

seaforth

No I feel this isn't enough, I no families who have 4 children under 4 and struggle to get the hubs above they need this kind of place closer and easy for them to get to I feel this would impact them as whole as a family.

I have four children under 4 currently do to social service we have to participate in multiple groups and spend most days at the camerige sentre I would not make the above as they will cost me money or take over an ht for me to walk and my children couldn't make the distice therefore failing my plan by social care and making my life harder and goal unreachable I feel

local centre for local people.

local facilities for local families. Keep the Cambridge centre its a good base for Bootle which is a huge area to cover! Keeps a community in touch with one another.

Springwell should be the main base. I would feel isolated if I could not attend springwell even if it is to just pop in a see a friendly face. I have suffered from severe depression and the springwell staff have been the ones who have got me through very bad times. I have attended Netherton cc once and it wasn't a pleasant experience and not one I would like to repeat. This proposal will be detrimental to local families and its sad that the council can

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even propose this and also try to make it out like nothing will change or even be better! Its sad that you think parents will not see through this.

I run a very successful fitness session with Cambridge centre, which has a positive effect on the community.

I believe that there should be more local bases. It can be isolating being a new mum & I found having local centres extremely helpful for my mental health and babies development.

I like springwell as my main centre as I can walk to it and when I am back in work my mum can also walk here with the baby, it is very clean and the staff are so helpful. I use springwell twice a week and I want to continue to use it in the future, if I didn't go here I wouldn't know how to entertain my 5 month old.

Thornton

due to not being able to drive, I find I would not be able to attend, I find the services at Cambridge childrens centre excellent and a wide range of things to do.

Cambridge centre

I live 10 minutes walk from children's centre. When my daughter was a baby I benefited a lot with the toddler groups, baby massage, food and budget and safety home equipmeny. as a single parent I have benefit from these groups a lot.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES ARE ESSENTIAL AND SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN ALL LOCAL COMMUNITIES. IT'S A FALSE A FALSE ECONOMY TOWT EARLY YEAR SERVICES.

springwell only

springwell

springwell is in the south why has it changed - netherton is too far away.

Waterloo- parking issues Netherton-

I would find it difficult travelling much further to netherton with 2 small child by public transport. I also would struggle with the costs.

Thornton should be a main base as it is between waterloo + Netherton & is accesable to the wider community

lave it as it is

current offer

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For my main base I would want this to be based at Springwell as this is within walking distance. To access Netherton, I would need to travel further and use public transport which would be stressful with a baby.

services will be reduced. the building is not appropriate remaining at Linaker. No parking facilities for those that drive.

I think it is important when children and parent can so safe in lesson. also drop off babies and don't worry about them till parent learn new skills.

Linaker CC I can drop in crèche my child and attend the courses. Good location, car parking is provided, all rooms are clean and got all necessary stuff, got all equipment.

The fact I don't live anywhere near these + I don't know where they are apart from Springwell. It is a lovely well run centre, KEEP IT OPEN!!

No where near where I live to take my grandchildren. Springwell is closest to me and I have no idea where these sites are. You should just leave a well run centre alone and let children enjoy the place centre.

Linaker children centres close to my house and the hours are good for me.

there are other locations / buildings in the local areas that are no longer in use ie. church buildings etc. that could be used as potential family wellbeing centres.

I am based in Sefton but Springwell is my nearest Sefton nursery. I don't know any of these sites and to be honest I don't know why you can't just leave a perfectly well run nursery alone. It is upsetting to think I have just got the confidence to go and you are proposing to take it away.

Netherton is not in walking distance to attend This would leave me isolated as I would not be able to use the centre of services in Netherton

To far to walk

I use this centre because my grandchildren are from the area and use the centre on a daily basis.

Springwell is a well run centre which I have just started going to. LCC took my job and now you are proposing to take a centre where I feel at home + comfortable in. I can't drive and I don't have a clue as to where those centres are. It already takes me 20 minutes to get to Springwell. Find the money from somewhere else and leave it ALONE!!

Keep at Linaker Childrens Centre

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I wouldn't want to have to go to a different place as I'm comfortable with this place, I suffer with anxiety and this is quite welcome and relaxes with me, I've got to know staff here and where I can share my worries with and worries for when my baby will be here.

Linaker NEEDS TO STAY END OF!

Childrens Linkaker Centre Because it is more easy accesses to do course, and for the girls I'm on English/ maths with more pleasant and surroundings

There are other locations around Waterloo to do stuff but I feel very comfortable going to Waterloo centre and talking to the staff and other people there. also other locations are expensive and I can't afford it. It would put stress on me and my family.

Concern around capacity of centres to deal with amount of users- Talbot St is always over crowded- as is Marie Clarke and Seaforth- would complementary bases be open all day and appropriately staffed? Maghull is very isolated for people/parents who don't drive.

YES BUT KEEP THE STUFF AT THORNTON. I USE OTHERS AND FIND THEM TO BE THE BEST.

I would like Freshfield to stay as a main base with lots of activities for people in Formby
Waterloo

Childrens centres should stay within easy + local access to retain use and support families.

would prefer main base for central be Litherland childrens centre

Linaker provides us with everything we need, and we come together and help each other out. we have good parking and staff.

only go to Litherland I am in Litherland Moss school. Childrens centre helped me make friends and learn lots and have lots of fun.

don't agree with Netherton really bad area for gangs people won't feel comfortable in going into this area.

I agree but only if Talbot St family centre is a continued function of what it already is as a main base.

no, keep childrens centres as they are!! Our children are happy & settled, Parents are happy. Take money off other things! Not our centres!!!

Seaforth family centre to remain open as a space.

I like Seaforth family centre. I've been going there on + off for 20 years. It's familiar and full of friendly staff.

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I feel that the proposed main bases are too small, particularly Waterloo. I feel that more information should be given about places changing before people agree to these - eg. Seaforth is a good centre - how would this change?

my children know staff and know the centres and these will change. Change might make it harder for people to get there.

having smaller bases spread out would be useful so that people can travel if they don't have a car. Seaforth - if its not broke, don't fix it and this place has been open for years.

I am used to going to seaforth children's centre and know all the staff. All the staff are nice and it would be hard for me to get used to the change.

would rather have in litherland easier to park and can walk there

more activities and services are at seaforth and these wouldn't fit into waterloo which is too small. It Marie Clarke and Cambridge were chosen there wouldn't be a centre local to me. Seaforth is situated ideally for links to nursery.

Keep Litherland childrens centre as a main base

No changes to be made

no changes Happy How it is.

The regions of North, South + Central seem to be very spread out. The vulnerable families who may not have access to a car, may become isolated if services are cut at their local 'complementary' base.

seaforth family centre.

I want keep seaforth childrens centre and family support. I like it the kids like it. Its easy to get to. It's easy to get to. It's brilliant in there. My kids need it for them to develop and socialize, we get a lot of support there. Walking waterloo and Marie Clarke are too far but I would go to Marie Clarke.

I think seaforth centre should stay open its a lovely nursery, where my child attended and wouldn't of reached her milestones without their support.

Waterloo being a main base because its going threw a childrens playground. I want a centre in the Waterloo area I like Waterloo and Seaforth.

seaforth need to stay its in a very deprived area and lots of familys depend on this centre its are childrens future in your hands and use are takeing the only recorces away from us.

seaforth is close to a lot of people and gives support to them with their children, people have limited/ no money to get out & this is the closest place for them to go.

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Need my centre open as it is now and the support the centre gives me and my family and friends

Litherland Children Center should Be Main Based

I don't drive & I wouldn't walk my children to Netherton with all the gangs that hang round in the square! Litherland Moss is a new building and there are no gangs that hang around that area. I feel that you will lose a lot of families if this centre is closed! Especially families that need it the most & won't take their children to Netherton area!

Because no certainty is given for 'South' - Seaforth may change. Don't be so arrogant as to provide a document that shows clearly that your 'proposals' are not absolute themselves. For us to have confidence in you - you need to show you have confidence in your abilities.

all children's centres should be local so everyone can access them. People living around Maghull may not be able to get to Netherton to access services. Having one main base will make children centres less friendly to make connections with staff.

I believe it would be better to keep the services the way they currently are. We use a lot of their services & the staff are so good.

because for people who aren't local won't be as willing to go. will be too much of an effort to go, which will isolate a lot of families.

Hudson is vital to the community. Hopefully the service will not be reduced.

More local bases so can walk

I WANT MY SERVICES TO REMAIN .

keep our local children centre and staff there.

Feel comfortable & safe in children centre. Important part of how far I have come on my journey is down to the relationship I have with staff.

would be too far for people to travel to

this is going to cut off a lot of new mums access to a local centre - mums that are unable to drive.

it's not local, therefore not easily accessible for parents in the community who can't drive & need to get out asap!

we need as many as possible for mums dads and babies to attend as some mums don't drive and centres can get overfilled very quickly.

Thorton Childrens centre is a great place to access support/services In addition to Waterloo in the Borough.

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the baby advice / group and support has been so valuable I would worry mis would be lost?

Firstly, so many essential opportunities are going to be lost by the conversion of these services. Furthermore, many of these are based on the grounds of schools (mainly Primary) and I feel that this may potentially create safeguarding risks to the pupils of the schools.

I think Waterloo and Thorntons play centre should stay

N/A

KEEP THE CENTRES OPEN!!!

Waterloo children's centre is ideal for people who live from further afield. Easy access by bus and train. Centre has good space inside and out. Ideal amenities around about.

I think having a LOCAL Children's centre is best parents don't want to travel far

Some are difficult to get to

Leave it as it is. It doesn't need changing. These changes would leave too many families isolated and unable to access much-needed services.

BY CLOSING THE CAMBRIDGE CENTRE AND MOVING IT TO WATERLOO YOU WILL BE RIPPING THE HEART OUT OF THIS COMMUNITY. THE CAMBRIDGE CENTRE IS AN AMAZING PLACE RUN BY WONDERFUL AND HELPFUL STAFF. PLUSHOW WOULD WE GET TO WATERLOO? SIMPLY NOT AN OPTION. RIDICULOUS IDEA AND PLEASE RETHINK

Cambridge Children's Centre (quarry Road)

Cambridge Children's Centre (quarry road)

If I had to travel all the way to Waterloo it would take me over an hour to walk with a double pram that will not fit on a bus. Therefore I would be isolated from receiving help or making new friends. Cambridge should be the Main Base as the whole centre is friendly + welcoming from the reception staff to family support workers to crèche workers. When I have attempted to contact Waterloo to join their activities with a friend I have been told there was a really long waiting list and because I live out of the area I probably wouldn't get on a course. Cambridge have never turned me away and have offered other courses for me to do while I wait if the course I want is full.

COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR MY NEEDS

Hudson is my main base and local to me. Staff are lovely and so friendly make you feel so welcome.

Personally I agree with the proposal, but the proposed sites. The locality of Hudson as my main point of access when my children were very young was very important. As a new

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parent it gave me an access point & services when overcoming the daunting new role as a parent.

MANY FAMILIES WHO ATTEND THIS CENTRE DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT, THEY WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO GET TO NETHERTON (THIS CENTRE BEING IN MAGULL) A SUBSTANSIAL NUMBER OF GRANDPARENTS ATTEND THIS CENTRE WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN AS PART OF THEIR ROLE AS CARERS FOR HEIR GRANDCHILDREN WHILST THEIR PARENTS GO TO WORK PAYING X. THIS CENTRE COVERS MAGHULL, AS WELL AS WIDESPREAD OUTLINING AREAS.

WHO DECIDED WHERE THE 'MAIN BASES' SHOULD BE? WHAT WERE THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECISION? DISABLED ACCESS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, NUMBERS OF FAMILIES AND SUITABILITY OF AREA! TRANSPORT LINKS ALSO.

I have attended Hudson Children's centre for sometime now and have to travel from Aintree because our children's centre was closed. I think that the service should remain as it is and be supporting the local community in our area. It shouldn't be over stretched in the way that is being proposed. Hudson should remain able to provide the wonderful service it does.

CURRENT MAIN BASE IN HUDSON. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET TO NETHERTON

Centres such as Hudson should remain as accessible as they are with the classes and support as it stands. Families with no easy means of transport would struggle to attend and this can lead to people falling off the radar and potentially catastrophic results.

I would prefer the central main base to be Hudson, or at the very least retain all the classes currently at Hudson. particularly stay + play, + baby support classes.

Hudson has a lot of baby's up to children that do come every week. Most of the mums walk and can not travel. For me Maghull is ideal with support they offer, position, friendly girls/staff. All the children love it here and it will lose business if moved. My young children have been here since birth and I want my future children to have the same opportunity here.

I live in Sefton, L10. I don't know where the proposed main base is. Hudson CC is a 5/10 minute drive for me (too far to walk across with island) but being so close to drive to was and is ideal for us and I can't we would be willing to driver far around Sefton and this would severely impact our wellbeing. I am now a stay at home mum too, so the X involved in this also is not ideal. I've found Hudson CC imperative to my mental health as a new mum, and the development of my little boy.

there are already not enough places in Maghull for young children - cut backs to playgroups eh/ support services - and yet we have an ever increasing population and the idea that we have to travel further afield is utterly unfair to those in the area who rely on these families.

Melling, Aintree?

Hudson as a main base. we really like attending classes and being greeted by friendly faces! please don't take this childrens centre away from us. It is integral to the community and our childrens development.

PEOPLE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL. FAMILIES DO NOT NEED ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS. HUDSON FAMILIES COME FROM A LARGE REACH AND DON'T NEED TO TRAVEL ANY FURTHER.

Feel much more at home at Hudson as staff very friendly and helpful ALSO very local to me.

In principle, however, how are the families going to travel to the new bases if they have been used to a venue closer to home? Is there an easy transport link from previous venues to new location? Is this something that could be considered?

there is no mention of the change in services, say the proposal goes ahead. Creates the illusion that there will be no major changes.

Netherton childrens centre & the grange

Need my local centre to be accessible and within walking distance.

Hudson is to far for me as I don't drive and if I take children with me be far to far also wouldn't be able to access anything by time got there be finished what went to do there.

we live in maghull and access to other centres can be difficult if you don't drive.

NETHERTON IS IDEAL PLACE.

the areas too wide for people who cant drive especialy for perents with children with SEN such as autism. Public transport isn't available to get to some sights.

areas too far apart especially parents with children with SEN. Who don't drive our children often cant cope on public transport. Public transport is not available for all centres proposed.

Our kids aren't able to cope on public transport too far away.

NETHERTON childReNs CENTRE

netherton's children centre

childrens centres need to be within walking distance and none od the above are.

I think the centres need to be accessible/walking distance

THE LOCATIONS DONT BOTHER ME BUT I KNOW OTHERS THAT WILL STRUGGLE WITH RESTRICTING LOCATIONS.

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We need services to remain local and within walking distance since a lot of parents who attend the childrens centres do not drive.

If there is no other choice but closure.

Freshfield should be a main base as too far for families to travel to other nearest bases.

Freshfield should be a main base for the local area.

Freshfield should be a main base. So many people use it and it is easy to access for all.

freshfield childrens centre

no I love the seaforth one. My kids love it.

its easier for me to get to centre where it is.

seaforth needs its own centre. Some carers/ parents may find it difficult to access centres more than a mile away. Therefore some people who need the service will stop using. I feel that this can only have a detrimental effect on the entire community, but most importantly on vulnerable people who need their help.

Seaforth Centre is communities lifeline. It can not be changed!

Seaforth as one of the main bases.

Talbot street or parenting 2000

I think they should stay as they are. This is a very valuable resource and the most vulnerable families will suffer if they cannot access a local centre.

I feel that Marie Clarke fc should be the base for the south area. A lot of families aren't professionals use the centre for various things. A lot of families do not drive so it will be hard for them to get to Waterloo or any further locations. It would be setting families up to fail and non engagement will set in which will impact on children and young people. And for people who drive, parking their cars will be extremely difficult for them @ waterloo centre.

my children regularly use seaforth childrens centre for multiple reasons. I have four boys, two of which are on ASD pathways, possibly my youngest also. Moving to a different centre, also with new people would cause a huge amount of anxiety and stress, not just to my children but myself included. It has taken a long time for my children, myself included, to have to confidence to feel settled in this centre.

seaforth should be considered for a family well being centre. Waterloo is such a small centre that it should not be considered, also it is attached to a primary school.

seaforth should stay, would have to pay out for bus or taxis if going to others we have nothing else in seaforth we could go to would not make it back for school pick up. The

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children from different schools wouldn't mix which would have a great effect on well being on both adults parents and children. We will probably be more divided from litherland, Netherton once new road divides us from other communities through rimrose families.

kings meadow ainsdale st johns farnboroug road linaker primary Methodist church Liverpool road Not everyone can get to Talbot street nor are the premisis large enough for everyones needs. There is meant to be 1 childrens centre per 1000 children already sefton this not public these requirements.

families will not access Talbot street site. It is vital linaker freshfield and Farnborough kings meadows are open for local families run by staff familiar to families in those areas.

should be access to all no matter were you live

WE USE TALBOT STREET + LINKAKER STREET REGULARLY TO COMBINE THE TWO WOULD MEAN LOSING SERVICES WHICH HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANYMORE LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE. INFACET EMPLOY MORE STAFF AT TALBOT STREET. THEY ARE IN NEEDED.

TALBOT STREET IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PEOPLE THAT USE OR HAVE USE FOR IT. SERVICES HAVE BEEN REDUCED DUE TO STAFF REDUCTION. THEREFORE SOME SERVICES ARE NO LONGER ON OFFER. LINKAKER IS A VITAL CENTRE FOR ITS OWN REASONS AND IS MUCH NEEDED AND USED. YOU CANNOT COMBINE THE TWO WITHOUT LOSING MORE VITAL SERVICES.

north location need to be in more vulnerable area of sefton ie highpark etc.

no access, if family shares a car, we are stuck! Linaker is such a good location. Cannot believe the cuts have reached childrens centres! such because we are doing OK doesn't mean we don't need groups and support - that's why we are coping at the moment - going to Linaker keeps me and my family same! Please do not take it away from us!

I w would be crucial to close Linaker's building or leave It open as a complimentary as it plays such a huge part in this community! I have got so many friends who were helped by Linkaker Staff- could not praise it enough!

WHY ARE YOU MOVING LINKAKER

Wasn't Talbot St condemed a few years ago? Who would attend a dangerous building?

the linaker centre is in walking distance to my home. It would be a lot harder for me to have to go further to get my son weighed, which may result in me not going as often as I should.

I DONT THINK ITS A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE LINKAKER TO TALBOT STREET. IT IS GREAT WERE IT IS. I HAVE SEEN TALBOT STREET BUILDING AND I WOULDNT TAKE MY CHILDREN AND MY NEW BABY IN THERE

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Quite happy with services how they are.

Talbot street - no parking limited spaces and access. Not practical. Old building, not appropriate

I think to emerge these locations and base them in Talbot Street would be failing the whole aspect of childrens services. It's less accesible, not in a nice area at all. I'd like to know why tis is the choice of proposed location.

3 hubs in whole sefton?! what kind of community we will have in 5 years if the nice things are cut out! it will be all about social acre but the damage is detrimental

I DON'T AGREE WITH THESE PROPOSALS BECUASE FOR ONE YOU HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE, SPRINGWELL IS AN AMZING CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND I FOR 1 WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE SERVICES IF BASED IN NETHERTON WITH HAVING 2 CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER. I THINK YOU ARE CUTTING THE WRONG AREAS, YOU ARE CUTTING DOWN ON AREAS THAT NEED IT THE MOST.

I enjoy attending my local children's centre (springwell park) as it is local to me and has great facilities as well as lovely staff.

DO NOT FEEL THE PROPOSALS OUTLINES WHAT SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH BASE. TO ENABLE ME TO MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE. I WOULD AGREE WITH THE ABOVE PROPOSAL IF IT MEANS MY LOCAL CHILDRENS CENTRE CONTINUES TO RECEIVES MORE SERVICES THAT IT CURRENTLY DOSE.

Our childrens centres are excellent as they are, Please do not cut services. If springwell wasn't to run I would have to walk 45 minutes to my next nearest centre with 3 young children under 6 who would suffer adversely.

I am however very concerned that the children's centre at Linkaker will close I would not wish to go to Talbot street.

As long as Linaker stays delivering the amazing services they do at present, and the amazing staff stay also.

I can not agree with the proposals as you do not say which services will be offered at the main bases or complimentary bases and which services will be cut! More information needed!

R.e. Linaker Childrens Centre. I do not understand why you wish to move the centre to Talbot st. Parking is very limited there. The centre works well at Linkaker- "if its not broke then don't fix it"

You'd lose a lot of services as its to out of the way

What is best for the school, community- giving parent local availability.

Stay where it currently is, where people know it is!

I found the support from Linaker invaluable at a time I needed it the most. I do not agree with the proposals.

LINAKER CHILDRENS CENTRE

Ive had plenty of support from linkaker street, always there for anyone Talbot st was condemned building but why is it ok now? no parking for parents with kids

As a user of Canning Road, High park and also a Childcare provider in this area. I know this is a vital area of Southport needing a centre that can be walked to by families in the area specifically. Those proposed bases are not easy to access and I believe would not provide the correct support and services.

There is a need for provision in the Churchtown X, High Park, X areas of sort that parents can walk to.

I have heard that he family centre is for families with a social worker- this is no different from my needs- however Linaker is essential to my wellbeing.

I don't agree with the proposals I am very worried about the loss of Linaker childrens centre. I would never want to go to Talbot Rd for support- that place has bad memories for me.

Yes if the main base is at Linaker. No if the main base is at Talbot street.

However I am worried about what will happen & Linaker Childrens Centre. This a valuable community resource & I think people will suffer if this closes.

To have three centres for Southport when at the moment there are 6 with the X. To also increase the age range of the centres seems too much. Talbot street is not a pleasant area for children with needs+ what happens if X X at Linaker?

Feel there should be more than 1 centre (main) in the 'central' area. This area services a lot of people.

As long as Springwell stays this area needs it!

Stay at Springwell

Springwell park is my local centre, also attached to nursery + school. If it was closed I effectively would have to give up work as I couldn't get my child picked up from Nursery.

I am unable to travel to Netherpton I can easily walk to Springwell park.

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seaforth childrens centre is in an area of extremely high deprivation which would result in an increase of mental health issues and isolation.

I currently walk to freshfield centre. I would have to rely on public transport to get to other main centres. This is far from *** in the winter months when travelling with a child.

Cant get to Netherton. Stay at Springwell

To stay at Springwell

Springwell needs to stay open as it's only round the corner from me and I won't travel anywhere else.

Only go to Springwell

TOO FAR FROM SPRINGWELL TO GET ANYWHERE ELSE. SPRINGWELL IS MY CENTRE AND I WILL ONLY GO THERE.

I feel seaforth would be beneficial as a base as it is in the heart of a deprived area.

PROVIDED LINAKER CENTRE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL BASE ^ IS NOT CLOSED DOWN. IMPORTANT TO KEEP CLOSE LOCAL LINKS TO COMMUNITY.

I would/can only access Netherton children's centre due to my emotional and mental health.

we need the local centre in caradoc road we have few areas for such support in seaforth.

travel too far

money difficulties would make it impossible to get to other centers

seaforth is needed. People with family needs/ mental health needs deserve a local and easy accessible centre.

this centre in seaforth is well needed.

I can't travel due to finance and would only attend NCC.

All children centres should be kept as childrens centres

Some of the areas are considerable distance for some mums/parents. Timetables would mean I would not be able to get to classes due to working hours/school times etc.

nethtin children senter.

there should be a main base in Formby and I am quite shocked that one hasn't been proposed.

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I think if you would to close this centre you would cause more problems as people wouldn't travel else where as money cost an in this area people don't have it.

Seaforth - its an area with an extreme need for a well being centre. This is provided as it stands. The area is an area of extreme poverty, many children who need interventions in place, need them locally to them. It is provided in seaforth NOW.

freshfield as a main base

seaforth childrens centre is centrally and ideally located to provide the support our local families need. It appears that families need more support and if that support is moved away from the area, families will become more isolated and support will not be local and the community feel will not be available to children/ families. It is essential that seaforth stays in the area to support children and families.

I do not know the area I know seaforth childrens centre and feel comfortable attending there. My family have been supported with mental health, education for my son who refused to attend, 2 yr offer, benefits and getting back into work, childs health needs and fleeing domestic violence.

Seaforths childrens centre local, central to childs school. Staff know the area and are friendly. If I didn't go seaforth I would not be were I am now. I have just started a job, im much more confident as a person and a parent.

don't understand. but it would be better staying here, the staff our helpful in everyway.

seaforth and springwell and litherland should be main base - as they are very deprived areas - many people don't drive - few other facilities in them areas.

seaforth and litherland need to be main bases alongside Netherton, springwell and Cambridge due to the vulnerable areas and families not driving so will not be able to get to centres further away.

needs to be in the same centre cant travel need services in one place!!

I suffer from a lot of back pain and find it difficult to walk distances. Also I have to stay very close the school as my youngest child has a lot of problems mentally with school and I need to be able to go and get her at moments notice.

Netherton children centre as it is easy accessible to me and my family

Netherton Children Centre.

I crnt get to other centres as travel is difficult, this is my main centre and I use it everyday.

I cannot travel to other centres. I walk everywhere with my 3 children.

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I RELY ON NETHERTON CHILDRENCE CENTRE FOR SUPPORT+ HELP. IT'S CLOSER TO WERE I LIVE AND MORE APPROPRIATE.

the more help for the community the better

LIMITING MAIN SERVICES TO ONLY 3 MAIN CENTRES, IS ALIENATING THOSE FAMILYS MOST IN NEED. THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE MOST NEEDED SERVICES, WHICH ARE OFFERED BY LOCAL CENTRE. CENTRES WHICH HAVE BUILT UP A FAMILY FEEL. THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DESIGNED THESE PROPOSED CHANGES HAVE OBVIOUSLY NEVER LACKED THE FUNDS TO ACCESS PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHICH IS HOW MANY FAMILIES CURRENTLY LIVE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS THE CUTS ARE PROPOSED TO HAPPEN.

freshfield centre must stay as it currently is. Formby/ freshfield has nothing as it is, other than childrens centre. if we loose it many vulnerable families will not have the means/ ability to travel and access main base sites.

not everyone will be able to access the main base and it will alienate new mums who need support and be able to meet other people.

would be linaker as proposed main base.

linaker is a fantastic base - why change? how can you possibly continue to offer the same amount of activities in one main base?

south sefton residents need seaforth childrens centre as we have nothing in walking distance to get to the same facilities. Low income families would find it difficult to access facilities in other areas as they are too far away and we would loose our relationship and contacts that we have built up over the years.

Hudson

its not the heart of the community as Hudson is now.

parent may not be able to access programmes or courses if not in local base if they are not car drivers.

Hudson is the main one I use now.

Hudson all the time

Hudson

to far to travel to for me

Don't know what this entails?

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I think the childrens centre is one of the best ones there is. I do believe a centre for older would be good as well.

to remain at the Hudson childrens centre.

accessibility is so important and its a far way for young families to go. Makes it more difficult to access services. Surely 1 centre would be over ****. Hudson is a very valuable resource for the community in general. Marrigecare session once a week for relationship counselling. Older members of the community through the u3a have a variety of courses there.

you have failed to provide dear information with regards to what specific services will be provided at main bases and complementary bases therefore I do not feel able to provide my objective viewpoint.

the scaling back of services at Hudson would be detrimental to the local community and accessing services at Netherton would be too far. The danger would be that those who currently benefit from services would cease to use sefton services entirely. This lack of support for parents/ carers would impact families and I strongly oppose the changes proposed.

no close enough

not close enough

as I don't drive I would find it difficult to get to litherland, Thornton and springwell. This is going to isolate and have massive impact on families like mine.

depends what would be based where as I don't drive and have two children of a young age.

needs to be enough venues local to people with limited travel time as it is difficult getting out and about with new baby/ young children.

limiting centres will really affect families

removing centres and creating barriers to accessing ways of support especially post birth is a recipe for increased post natal depression and isolation!

main base don't meet needs of area

childrens centres are vital to new mums and dads and are so helpful and supportive I would be devastated if Hudson went ! What about people who don't drive? they wont access the service! the people who need it wont access it if they cant get there.

too far to travel with costs incurred. Support would no longer be there.

I believe the current position is one which suits the local community in the most effective manner. Any movement and displacement of services causes the risk of lowered quality if provision , access to financing and access generally for the local area.

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preferably Farnborough and Kings Meadow

by turning it into a central location the ease of accessibility is very limited and it would get used less. Classes would be harder to get to and oversubscribed if there were any at all.

We would lose our popular centre at Farnborough and its resources for the community.

Limited parking around Talbot Street, therefore unlikely to use with my car. Public transport is also expensive with limited space on the buses for prams. My local train station does not have a lift and so I am not able to use my local train station (without assistance). Ideally I would like to retain access to Farnborough Road (at least) as this is within walking distance of my house.

Local people need a local centre. When I accessed the baby massage sessions I had postnatal depression and walking a few minutes to access this class and the support offered made such a difference I would not have travelled and had the correct support from people I knew and trusted. Not being in place then I am sure it would have been much harder for me to get better.

I would really like to keep Farnborough as a main base as I rely on it and walk to it.

Leave it as it is

Without knowing what services will be offered at the additional bases, the 'yes' has to be qualified as only an 'in principle' agreement.

I value the groups and support from Farnborough, as it's local to me.

A local family centre which is within walking distance of service users is surely more appropriate and well used. Having the various locations that already exist would be the best option to support the community.

Farnborough Road School so I can walk to the children's centre from home.

I don't believe that it's something being wrong with these bases, but that the existing centres are well used and utilised by lots of parents and children and if it becomes one big hub the services will not be as well utilised and lots of parents will be put off by the travelling and there won't be enough room/spaces for the groups.

I can only get to Netherpton children's centre. 3 children - no car

All current centres are used to capacity. To remove any would have a huge knock-on effect to families and communities.

I can not get to complimentary bases so therefore would need services to remain at proposed mainbase

The locations that already stand are great locations.

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freshfield family centre to continue providing excellent services with positive outcomes for families.

I am worried that the changes will affect the services I use. Would it be safe? I couldn't access the support I use almost every day on a 9-5 basis. Would the support workers still have time to see me.

leave it how it is!

I do not feel this will be accessible to all. I feel the number of families who are hard to reach will be missed.

Linaker should remain as it is and if needs be that should be the family and well being centre.

not local to me

Talbot street - there are not enough car parking spaces/ facilities therefore parents/ carers might not bother attending. I also feel that Waterloo is in an area where parking is almost impossible.

childrens centres are needed everywhere as some people don't drive. Seaforth children centre needs to be the main base it is very touch with the community and I don't know what I would of don't without this centre, my kids love it.

seaforth to stay open

we shouldn't have to pay for travel when seaforth is in walking distance to everyone living in seaforth and bootle.

I don't think this centre should close, because I shouldn't have to travel with my child!

stay in seaforth

waterloo preference due to location

if the service to families is to cover 0-19 yrs the main base centres should be offering all courses etc otherwise it will just be splitting everything up and defeating the object of bringing everything together.

not if groups stopped

except that I would favour waterloo over Marie Clarke to serve south sefton it being move central and accessible.

but only if universal offer remains

family and childrens centres should not be in the same buildings as schools

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I don't agree with my local childrens centre closing and wouldn't feel comfortable using any other service.

thornton children centre

without a car these services will be extremely difficult to access.

I have always used thornton childrens centre, since before my babies were born. It is such a lovely centre and always makes me feel very welcome. Also I can walk to this centre.

think it will eventually run down the other bases and Netherton is not an easy access for families near thornton who currently access the centre. Many walk to our services. We have over 40 people on average sometimes 50 attend. Most walk.

I think it would be better to keep waterloo and thornton centres linked (as a main and complimentary base). Access to both via public transport is viable if you don't have a car and the teams of both already have great cross - base working relationships.

I think we still need the nine additional bases, these centres should be accessible for families.

the childrens centres/ bases should have the same offer/ resources available as they may not all be easily accessible to all.

liked centres @ valewood/ thornton etc

I believe that Talbot street and linaker centres (both which I use) offer very different services and should both be a 'main base' for their services. Both centres, for example, offer a baby group. Myself, my partner and our baby access the group at Talbot street where our supervised contact situation is the norm and moreover we can bond with other parents also going through this difficult circumstance. I would not consider attending the baby group at linaker alongside families who are not involved with childrens services and where we will be judged and will not relate to their conversations. Innocent questions such as 'are you all ready for Christmas' can be hurtful and stress inducing to those who cannot live with their children. The staff and service users at the Talbot street centre evolve around this knowledge.

none of the above are local to me or my child.

Cambridge road need to stay. Being on edge of area.

regarding the south main base (I have more knowledge of this area) surely the main base should be in Cambridge which is a more deprived area. Do you really expect poor people to travel (by expensive public transport) out of the area?

we would have to travel further bus fares/ train fares adding additional cost to our family budget.

it would cost extra financial cost to the family.

distance is a big factor for myself as I have 2 young children. Also confidence and emotional wellbeing attending centre has built up my confidence. I moved here to be by the centre after attending a course and feel supported, however I do not feel confident to access another centre and having to make new relationships. Have good relationships with staff, children get on well and are very happy. Staff are available 5 days a week and offer support and reassurance.

Linaker street - Linaker CC

The present service works well with the bases already in place

The Childrens Centres as they are

Centres should stay the way they are

You can't ask me to agree when you have 'or' in there. I don't really understand how with all those complimentary bases geographically it's that diff to the current set up other than your combining family centre services with children's centre services in one place?

The locations as they are currently work well for sefton families - they are local and easily accessible and offer a full range of services. To make Waterloo a main base for services 0 - 19 would not work as it is at the front of a primary school - there could be safeguarding issues.

Keep Linaker Children's centre!!! Great access, well looked after, very inviting, best location out of all, superb staff, feel very welcome on every visit, clean, great resources, lots of thought goes in every session, very informative, could not praise enough!

Keep Linaker Children's Centre on existing site.

Southport. Linekar is such a great main base and The Atkinson is a great satellite due to central location and multi purpose faculty that introduced children to the arts and literature at a young age simply by attending CC groups. Plus the summer activities at The Atkinson were fabulous this yr

Talbot street is not a nice area locally and very undesirable

Big issues in Southport include the cost and access to parking. Ancebtre ould need to allow people to park for free. This would ensure the centres are used throughout all seasons. Both Linaker and Kings Meadow offer different classes that are tailored for all groups of society. These need to remain accessible for all.

If you were to remover centres then a lot of families are going to struggle to get to the main centres

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The Atkinson and Canning Road are easily accessible for parents that may not be able to reach other locations. Loosing the services at these locations will see a lot of families put in a vulnerable position and will find it more difficult to access services in other locations.

Reason I am so easily able to access the children's' centres is their slightly out of town locations which are close to public transport and yet remain parking friendly. I would be very very unlikely to access town centre location with the added parking cost and logistics as parking half way across town plus the baby would make the service inaccessible.

Talbot Street in a difficult place to identify unless you have been involved with social care already you would not know it exists - The front of the Atkinson would be a much friendlier and a prime location for the community to see. Waterloo is based within a school and have very limited parking - the school is not an ideal site for services to support vulnerable families eg, youth offending, What is happening to Seaforth?

Linaker street is much more accessible, the staff are fantastic and very helpful.

See above

Keeping all the centre's as they are

I think Linaker should be the main childrens centre for Southport

Keep the services as they are.

South area - the main base in Waterloo seems too far for families in Bootle where the services are probably most needed and it may be difficult to reachout to these families if not all services delivered in delivery points!

I am happy with the ones currently in use at the moment, the Atkinson and canning road.

I would like to see my main centre linaker too stay the same for me, my family and others in the area. It's been such a support to us all. It's a shame it comes down to money not the wellbeing of the families.

To fully agree I would need more information of what would be offered at main base and then complimentary bases to make an informed decision. The main base at Talbot street for example is already very busy and may incur travel difficulties for families. There is also extremely limited parking at this base therefore would present with difficulties for families parking which would incur a cost due to the base being in town centre.

Linaker Children's Centre is the heart of it's community, it is well established and has a reputation amongst parents and partners for providing outstanding support. The Children's Centre environment removes barriers to access and engagement. Families can attend sensitive/personal services confidently. The same cannot be said for Talbot Street family centre, the families who attend Talbot Street do so as part of a C.P/CIN plan, they do not

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attend through choice. Talbot Street has a stigma attached to it which is widely known across the north of the borough and families would not choose to take their children there. Services should be left at Linaker Children's Centre or moved to the Atkinson where Linaker already has a delivery base.

One of the most vulnerable areas in the country is Bootle. Life expectancy is far below national average, to name one of the awful health inequalities. I feel the Main Base for South Sefton should be Cambridge CC. I also feel as Springwell is in Bootle that they should be classed as South not Central. Most of my families live in Bootle and access Springwell CC.

Linaker should be the lead sight with the atkinson & canning road remaining as complimentary sights

I do not want my local centre to be lost

Why can't linaker stay the same everyone I know goes there. I'm not going to Talbot street it's horrible

Canning Road provides for the north end of southport. Expecting deprived families to travel from Crossens or high park is frankly ridiculous. I am lucky that I have a good job and a car to travel to children's centres, but to achieve your principles you need improve access and not restrict it. Also having a centre in talbot st and then an outreach 5 minutes walk away is useless!

Churchtown area (Southport)

It is important to think of vulnerable families in terms of how will people reach the centres, what are they used for, how many attend and how regularly. I think the biggest Centres in Southport such as Linaker and First Steps in Southport should remain as they are as they accessed widely by many families and professionals such as myself.

CANNING ROAD for churchtown area!!!

The North sites are all very close together and difficult to access. There is nothing for north of Southport town centre. I used to use your centre on Mornington Road (P2000) as it was possible to park nearby. When I have a small child (and I am due a baby soon), I have mobility issues and am unable to walk far - none of the proposed sites would be accessible to me. P2000 was a lifesaver to me with my last child - I would be lost without similar support next year. Is the Atkinson site to be lost? That has no parking, but at least is on many bus routes and has a cafe so the journey can be broken up for me.

Having 3 main bases absolutely has the potential to isolate many families who do not drive and may have limited funds to access public transport. This immediately puts the most vulnerable families in our area at a disadvantage. Talbot Street is not a particularly inviting building and it is not in the nicest of areas. Marie Clarke is also not a nice building.

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Children's services need to be local to the community., NOT centralised in unpleasant buildings miles from home.

Would prefer to keep the main base in Linaker

How can you agree to something that is not set out clearly? As long as 'may have a different offer' is not defined and that vague I am not happy with the proposal as I am not sure what I am agreeing to! I also fear that one big base will only delay the access to services. I would have accessed more offers from the children's centre in the past 12 months but almost everything where booking was necessary had a lengthy waiting list. How can that improve when there are less centres?

I would like Linaker to stay as it is it has been a god send to me

Sensory room in Thornton and staff in are extremely supportive

More local & parking available as cost in town

Cambridge children's centre

The facilities at canning road and the Atkinson should remain

I currently attend linaker children's centre and their outreach bases. Although the outreach is great I still feel reassured that if I need anything at all then I can turn up at linaker anytime of the day and know I can get support. I know of Talbot st family centre, know what it is used for and some of the challenging people that are there because they have to be. I would not subject my children to that environment. Not only is the building appressive, dark any unwelcoming but parking is an issue, the type of people hanging around the entrance smoking, swearing is very intimidating and frankly I do not feel safe there. I do have experience of that building from a few years back when my friend had no choice but to use it for her disabled child to access respite. Staff were lovely but the other parents were not the type of people she would have chosen to mix with. Why not leave linaker where it is but scale down some of what is offered. Why reinvent the wheel, you can't reinvent an atmosphere, amazing staff that really knows it's community and a purpose built building it doesn't make sense to me. Linaker already work outreach, have it as the first port of call maybe shorter hours open but people feel safe there. It's so convenient for school drop of and pick up and parking is available. I think it would be a travesty if this were not existing as a centre only as a place of delivery.

I do think that there are alot of mums who have attended groups at the likes of lunaker Cc i know i have yet have never set foot in talbot street in 4.5 years. From booking in with midwife, to baby weigh in, baby massage, baby muindful, play to learn, to name a few groups attended just at Linaker by me & my boys. I do think that Talbot street would feel very alien to most mums, having been to KM, Farnborough & Linaker I've never heard of

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anyone going to talbot street and I do think this would put people off going if this was main base, there's parking to paty for I guess and I personally have no idea where it is

You have to take into account that families currently have Childrens centres on their doorsteps and do not have to travel far to get to a local centre. These main bases would force families to have to travel to access services and I think this will reduce the amount of families accessing essential care and advise. It is so hard getting young babies ready and out of the door and this proposal would make like much more difficult for families, which I understand is not the outcome wanted for families. The help and support staff give is invaluable and lots of families will miss out and suffer if these centres are taken away or moved elsewhere.

Use Cambridge as main centre

Keep all childrens services for Southport at Linaker and the Atkinson. The facilities required for children and babies are very different to those needed for 16-19 year olds, for example.

I feel that Farnborough Road First Steps should remain a main base as it is the local community. It has been a rock for me for the past 3 years and I honestly do not know where I'd be without them. They go above and beyond and provide so much for families in the area. To lose funding and to have services taken away woulf I feel have a devastating effect on alot of local families and cause alot of upset and distress.

I think this is ridiculous. Having smaller sites means that you see the same people frequently. My children gave friends there that they see regularly the staff know us by name and we know them. We are comfortable there we can walk from our home. It is now linked to our school where my eldest has just started. She knows akor of children dye to the family centre at Farnborough road it is outstanding and should be left alone. Focusing on the children and the parents. I have had post natal depression and do not know what is have done without this service. I would not use a main.hub as it would be too busy

I have used linker children centre for 6 years with my three children going to different courses stay and play sessions music stories and rhyme time amongst other things. I am able to drop in for baby clinics. And fantastic arts and craft days using the local parks. Linker have offered me and my family fantastic support helping me with advice from excellent staff who have good knowledge of what families need .fun play sessions for my children to support them with their development and helps me to meet other parents so I don't feel isolated. I enjoy going to linker I am comfortable going my children are confident knowing the building there going to and have built a relationship with the staff . Which means I know the development will continue to thrive.

For the North HubLinaker should be main base as it is already well established or the Atkinson as this is central

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I feel that the current services should stay as they are as the wide range of venues enables more people to access the facilities.

I think the main base for the north area should be Linaker Children's Centre and not Talbot St, because Linaker Children's Centre is more nicer for families especially the children, also easy to access. It's better in every way.

Talbot Street is not a suitable base for a large family wellbeing centre, it is generally disliked and uninviting, there is poor access and limited parking. I would think somewhere like the Houghton Street and Mornington Road sites would be ideal in Southport. In Formby, I see no need to change the current location of the Children's Centre as it is already accessible and the facilities are excellent.

Whilst I agree in theory of the above principles my proposal is that the current local centres remain in place. Talbot Street would also be a very difficult location in terms of parking for service users, visitors and staff.

I would not use a "main base" service. This will be too busy and the personal service of a first steps children's centre will be lost.

Surprise Surprise, our money goes to Liverpool again!!!! Absolute disgrace of a council. My children have been visiting our local children's centres for years and now with these proposals you would take these away and have us all relocate for your convenience. The staff do an amazing job and quite frankly you're massively way off the mark by closing their centres. I for one, like so many won't be bothering if you have us relocate.

I like using the different centres on different days. It gives me something to do each day with the baby and time to meet new parents and professionals. I use different centres on different days and I find that the staff recognise me and my baby and know our names. If there were less centres, it would be too busy and I don't feel like we would get as much use or time to spend using the different classes and groups etc.

Some of these centres would be difficult to get to

Smaller groups as they are now are better as staff can focus more on the group, larger groups can cause loss of communication and not delivering the class development program, keep the most popular class that parents are recommending to you

Use of Bootle and Waterloo Town Halls as central locations.

Leave the small children's centres as a separate entity to children aged 5 plus.

Travel is an issue for me as I have anxiety and do not like to travel places I do not know, using the children's centre is easier for me and my children also prefer it.

Keep it at Springwell

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only happy coming to springwell as know all staff and they help with alot of problems

keep as they are why change what already works.

This is a ridiculous proposal. This is simply not enough. Once again moving facilities away from Southport. Disgusting. Linaker Childrens Centre is vital to our community I visit and use the services at least twice a week, whether it be at the centre itself or at The Atkinson. STOP MOVING FACILITIES AWAY FROM SOUTHPORT. WE PAY OUR TAXES TOO AS WELL AS BOOTLE.

Speaking as a mum of 2 with lots of friends in very similar situation, we only use services that are within walking distance or short driving distances with easy & ample free parking available. A town centre location would almost certainly not be used by myself or my friends, to the detriment of our children's social wellbeing & development & also to our own social & emotional wellbeing. I have over the last 4 years used the services provided at my local children's centre on a weekly basis, what they offer is fantastic. This could not possibly be offered in a central location & it is clear only money is the real issue. Breast start has already been taken from us, don't alienate more families with small children & babies on the basis of the LA not being able to budget!!!! Despicable.

The children are best served by the centres staying as is. There is a localised environment provided a wider Family Wellbeing centre will miss.

As I use Farnborough on a daily basis and certainly wouldn't travel to Talbot st as this would become far too busy and wouldn't fit with my son who is the pre-school at Farnborough,

The Family Centre on Talbot St is an unwelcoming building that would put off the majority of families from accessing the services provided. Families are comfortable accessing their existing Children's Centre. To combine services in a building that is associated with social care will be massively detrimental, and result in those families that need the help the most, missing out. This will cost the council more money in the long run. Keeping services attached to schools makes much more sense. The Talbot Street site is also not easily accessible - there is a total lack of parking, it is too far for much of the area to access and it is so far set back off the road that many have no idea it even exists.

I don't think services should be condensed I have never accessed Talbot street but attend a lot of services linaker street provide! They have a lot of groups on to make them a viable centre in my opinion including allowing other services to make use of their space, for example breastfeeding support Sefton ran training sessions recently there. Any mums I talk to only either use linaker Any other centres are too far to access regularly

Current locations are fine as they are to ensure that services are accessible to everyone. To reduce locations to a few will alienate people and could prevent them from using services which will be of benefit to their families.

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Hudson

I feel that the range of services offered at various locations currently is good and would be compromised by having one main base with nominal 'complementary bases' - unless the services at these complementary bases are made clear and consulted on beforehand.

I agree with a main centre but is Talbot street the most accessible and have good parking facilities?

Farnborough & local centres have been the support I've needed especially having twin boys. They have been a godsend

Please assess the largest areas of where children live- ie 880 children in churchtown school, plus another 5 other primary schools in this area yet you are wanting to use a base in the middle of town where people cannot easily access and have to pay to park to attend. This has obviously been drafted from people out of Southport!!!! Currently Canning Rd is not even enough and there's not enough for this area of the town as it is.

I would not go to the Talbot street centre. It has always been known as a place to go when people have issues. I find these people intimidating and would not like my children associated with them. It is also not safe down that alley way. People hang at the gates in groups. There is no parking and it's further away for me. I use Linaker when I drop at school. This option is very disappointing to me. I would feel lost without having somewhere I can go to on the spot if I need to do probably would not seek support which is a shame.

I don't know where these are. Kings Meadow and Farnborough Rd are essential for Ainsdale and Birkdale as they are easy to find, KM is walking distance which is easier than getting a baby and a toddler in and out of the car and risk the toddler running off while juggling her, the baby and the baby seat.

Cambridge childrens centre

Why change what works for families now?! It will make it harder for families to get to one centre in a town and it will be far to busy if you need a bit more advice and support.

What about the likes of The Atkinson? Where in Southport can people have access to a baby centre. There is always a lack of facilities for people in the town centre.

Linaker & Farnborough should be main bases

The new proposed location is really not suitable. I am aware of the location due to a volunteering placement, the building in a poor state, there is no parking, it is surrounded by undesirable properties with rubbish left out and there was a crack den in front of the property. Why would you want to walk your child down here? There are other empty buildings to rent and so many empty shops.

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Farnborough and Linaker should be main sites not talbot street

I have no idea where Talbot street is, although the Kingsmeadow and Farnborough road sites are extremely important to new mums and help with meeting fellow mums and providing support and advice that's really needed.

To leave things as they currently are - separate services offering different things

No car Difficult building friendships if out of area due to no car

The services currently offered at Linaker St. should stay, it is a very valuable resource for people who live locally and might not have transport options to other locations.

A more central place eg atkinson would be better.

The centre is a respected and well utilised resource that families within the area access on a regular basis and are comfortable with. Vulnerable people need to maintain continuity of people and places. All services when possible should be accessible and based within one centre.

Southport needs one central location in the town centre as this is easily accessed by anyone and everyone in the town. The new proposal would mean certain areas of southport would not have a centre and the nearest one would not be easy to access without the use of a car.

As above I dispute the proposed main North location is inappropriate, for a similar reason the central location is also inappropriate. Particularly for parents with a disability impacting their mobility. There are clearly good public transport links to those locations but for those with conditions which can at times mean this is not an option good parking facilities are an essential requirement for access. Waterloo centre is one I have used only once for this reason, the local area is so extremely busy, and at peak times grid lock. Not at all compatible with someone with a young child.

What's wrong with Lineaker Centre and its branches like in the Atkinson library etc????!!

Seaforth as the main hub. The area is in poverty and people use this more than Waterloo.

It would be useful to know the potential base for Seaforth area if it is not going to be the current children's centre. This would aid with planning transition & making an informed choice.

I think the way things are now are fine and this is just a money saving idea. However in the long run it will cost more. I use a children's centre, my child goes to nursery in one and I work in one so this is going to affect me in many ways.

Many of the children's centres in the south of the borough are within easy reach of schools. Moving them could potentially reduce the number of people using them meaning higher levels of deprivation and people not accessing help they feel comfortable being.

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I would be extremely upset and angry to lose Hudson as it is the only centre of its kind in our area. It is unacceptable to ask people from maghull and Lydiate to travel all the way to Seaforth etc. Public transport isn't great going to these places and can be very overwhelming for people with young children. There are very few playgroups in the area and taking away the Hudson centre would have a massively negative impact on many families in the area. It is disgusting that you would even consider closing this centre.

Why should Netherton be the main base?? I would not be comfortable going there. The local area is run down and it would mean travelling by bus which causes extra stress and unnecessary expense to me. Springwell is large enough to be the main base and loosing it would have such a negative impact on those in the area.

Leave the centres as they operate currently

I come in to Springwell park on a daily basis and i think my kids would of been taken away from me if i hadnt had the support from the staff who huave show me how to look after my kids. i wud not go anywhere else

South - you seem to have made the decision on Marie Clarke. Spring well would be a good complementary base, as it is much closer to Marie Clarke centre. North Im not sure of any of these bases main or complementary . so how can one give an opinion. Central seems to be rather large. A map of the Sefton area would have been appreciated. Your paper copy seems to be slightly different to the on line one.

The Family Centre is an building many families see as Social care. It isn't a warm inviting centre. You should re think the main base

Keep them as they are

I would rather the services that I receive to be under one roof at linaker as it is. I do not agree that services for teens should be in the same building as those for younger children. I have had personal experience of having to attend the family centre in the past and I would see this as going backwards having to attend there again. This is a stage in my life that was very difficult and I do not wish to bring back those memories by attending there again. I also do not want to mix with the people that are there for often negative reasons such as drug and alcohol dependency, supervised contact and people with convictions. I do not find the building welcoming or as suitable as the purpose built children's centre. I also find the car parking dangerous and do not like the fact that you have to access it via an alley way. People are often grouped at the gates and I find this intimidating and offensive. I attend the children's centre daily as it is convenient when dropping off my daughter at linaker nursery. I have attended since I was pregnant and like the continuity and familiarity and receive a warm welcome. I would have an issue with having to go to a new place to tell my story to new people. If the building changed and my original support staff were not there I would not access any support which would have a detrimental effect on my mental well-being. I find it difficult to understand how your document says that "our communities have told us" when it

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is the first time I have heard about it. I think it will be detrimental if services were moved to another location with unfamiliar staff.

I only agree with this providing that the vital services of the children's centre are still based in Kings Meadow and Farnborough. I don't want to have to go traipsing across Southport to Talbot Street for classes such as rhyme time, baby massage, toddler groups, top tots etc, it is just not realistic with small children! And very unfair on the majority of parents who utilise this support service, we would end up not coming at all.

There is no free parking anywhere near Talbot Street, and the bus is too expensive to use for an hour journey.

Linaker Children's Centre is a well known establishment and is loved by all its families no matter what Sefton Council say about this extraordinary centre the answer is we all say NO you CANNOT close Linaker Children's Centre or change it the support and the staff are out of this world so this cannot happen Linaker Children's Centre should remain untouched end of!!!

Centralising services whilst good on paper very rarely benefits those in need who would have to travel further to access the help and this is a major barrier in them actually attending and reaching out for the support. The reduction in children's centres between 2010 and 2014 was visible enough and there was less easily accessible support as a result. It's all good and well suggesting that people will get better quality with merged services but if they are less likely to pay the £2.30 each way bus fare to do so then they are less likely to access any support which is in stark contrast to the vision and values set out.

The principles can be achieved through using the current configuration of assets. The current children's centre at Farnborough Road in Southport means that support workers are aligned to the school, understand families and ensure a seamless integrated offer which delivers the principles sought. Moving the location will further isolate families, detach professionals and result in worse outcomes for children.

Linaker Children's Centre is already the perfect base not Talbot Street where I sometimes have felt unsafe walking home from town with my daughter. There's a lot of flats down there, particularly the town/Tesco end and always seems to be unsavoury people hanging about & foreigners drinking in the front gardens, smoking & loud music. I avoid Talbot Street if I can!

Keep the children's centres where they are. Talbot Street is NOT accessible and certainly not fit for purpose.

Moving Linaker children's centre

I don't know where these places are.

Atkinson is a great location as a centre and plenty of public transport. Don't like the idea of only three locations based on north, south and central. It is too broad and for families who

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don't have access to vehicles it would be difficult to travel meaning they would attend less frequently.

I don't not agree with the locations it is the whole process that I don't agree with

I live between Waterloo and Thornton and think that If Waterloo was a hub then the services for 0-19 that may be provided on site are not appropriate within a school surrounding, I have previously worked within Waterloo primary school as a 1:1 TA and have witnessed parents displaying aggression towards each other (actually fighting) and feel if some youth services were held here that it would be detrimental to waterloo PS nurturing and calm environment. There is also no parking for people who would like to use the centre.

I don't see why you want to change something that works so well and provides so many people along with my self a better life and much needed help . The services I have gained from the above centres has changed my life

Linaker is a key centre in the community for families with young children and should remain as a key centre to offer services and support. I have used Linaker frequently and will continue to do so, I always feel comfortable attending and feel supported as a first time mum by the staff.

The North. Families who have used Talbot Street, who attend Linaker, have said they never want to go back to that building, after hearing about the consultation. These families have hit rock bottom and are moving upwards in life. Linaker is more suitable for parents to bring children too. This is what the parents have said to me, I have never been to the Family Centre. It saddened me to think the services we are able to offer through the use of Linaker, which has been built up from nothing by the Manager, may not be there for other families to access in the future. You say we need to pick children's needs up at an early stage, that is what happens at Linaker. Parents are encouraged to use the services at Linaker, the groups, through their Health Visitors, Midwives, (baby and mum unit), Foster carers, schools and nurseries.

The Atkinson possibly, however I feel strongly that services should remain at the current base Linaker Childrens Centre

It is not clear what is meant by a complimentary base.

Netherton centre. I walk i can't access any other centre without transport

Keep services as they currently are. Some services could be charged for first a small fee e.g. £1 per group to make money from centres rather than all services being free.

As previously stated

I use Linaker Street as it is local to me and it is easy for me to walk to. I know everybody there and they are all so friendly and helpful.

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I think the main centre should be Linaker which has a car park and street parking and is clearly visible not somewhere hidden which people will miss. I think this centre has already been doing a lot of your proposed hard work and I think you should find out properly what they do and deal with and acknowledge it.

I can't agree to this without the details of what would be available at the main centre and the complimentary bases- I use Litherland children's centre just as much as Netherton and find the services that they offer excellent.

Talbot Street is a vile building. In a horrendous area. I would not feel safe taking my young family. It would also mean trying to find somewhere to park, paying for that parking and then attempting to get all three to the building or trying to get all three into town on the bus. Not very easy. To be fair I probably wouldn't bother and more likely to suffer in silence. Just like the library. Reduce accessibility and reduce people who use the vital resources.

Leave it how it is.

Talbot street is not a nice area and people would be put off by this

As my child has started school she is beyond the scope of most services provided but Linaker is well established as the central base and I am astonished that this centre is being considered as only a complementary base rather than continuing to form a well placed and appropriate central service. As a mum that suffered from post natal depression the centre at Canning Road was a lifeline in testing of the sessions offering advice, and guidance including the availability of health visitors; also for community events such as play groups and baby massage that were vital in enabling me to bond with my daughter. The High Park area doesn't seem well-served by the proposed locations and I strongly urge you to continue using Canning Road as a base in this heavily populated area that has a high percentage of young families.

Places with parking, Talbot street is a nightmare to park. Somewhere accessible for all but parking needs to be addressed

Keep local as they are now attached to schools

Key to me is the reduction of number of sites and hence local access to such support, which enable much of what is described in the objectives above. Speaking as a new Mum these local services are invaluable if Sefton wants to avoid a step-up in post natal depression etc. The cuts made to breastfeeding support have already left us in a real inferior position to those who come under other councils in Liverpool, meaning a gap in help and assistance, even at hospital post-birth (The excellent bambis breastfeeding support were there to help many mum's, but not me or others from Sefton). I truly fear this could have a big knock on effect. Many new mum's don't have a car, or are unable to drive for a period post birth, so what would their option be? Speaking selfishly I would want Freshfield centre retained as

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local to me, but I expect everyone in my current situation as a new Mum would desperately want to retain their local resource.

I don't agree with the reduction in services in locally placed centres. Having most services at Talbot St will make it much more difficult to travel there. Less families will be helped .

Central - Litherland children's centre

A main base which is not so connected to purely safeguarding. near town - Linaker / Atkinson.

The locations and services should be maintained as they are.

Families need readily available access to all the current children's centres. Suggesting a main base simply means the other centres will be made redundant in the not too distant future. Farnborough & Kings Meadow Children Centres are used daily by hundreds of parents. Some people simply cannot get to other locations. This risks isolating new or struggling Mums & families

This consultation must be more than questions on locations? Its imperative that there are centres across the geographical area that provide young families accessibility via public transport and on foot. How would the services change or improve? This should be clearer stated or explained. 1. Is there capacity and space for the 3 major hubs to operate and handle a caseload of the combined family and childrens service? Would that also be the case for the remaining centres on the new list? 2. What extra support would be provided for the very disadvantaged of families - what would be the other wrap around services available?

Would like to see something in southport if that's where the Talbot street one is? There is nothing in the churchtown I had to drive 25 minutes to use the Ainsdale centre. If I couldn't drive this would have isolated me. I wouldn't travel to Waterloo or Formby this is potentially a 45 minute drive.

Keep the locations in places where families already visit - e.g. In schools. It is much easier to seek support from a location that is local, easily accessible and, importantly, FAMILIAR. Families needing help will be reluctant to go to an environment apart from e.g. A school, nursery, library or community centre. Remember that you are targeting support for vulnerable families - i.e. those least likely to be able to seek help for themselves.

Lakeside church, southport Linekar street as a well being centre

They should remain as they are. As a single parent who walks out places, removing the centre at my child's school (Farnborough Rd) would make life incredibly difficult not better.

The locations and services that are currently in place need to be given more money and investment to thrive and ensure they can support and reach all people in all communities.

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there needs to be more provision in bootle and litherland

No. Children's centres need to be in every community. When my little girl was born Freshfield was a lifeline for me. I had PND and wasn't sleeping and was extremely anxious. The fact that I could walk to the centre and meet other parents was so important in my recovery. If the centre would have been further away in a central hub, I wouldn't have accessed it. The larger scale of the facilities and the distance would have deterred me.

I've agreed with this but on the basis that the services offered in the complementary bases are thought through to offer the most important services for everyone.

Talbot street is not a safe place for my child and I would not attend. It is used for social care and should not have to be used by all parents.

I dont think any of the currant locations shoyld be closed if they are all used as some people may not be able to access the new venues due to transport

It is hard to tell if I agree as I only use Freshfield Children's centre and there is very little detail on what changes are going to be made and which services are going to be offered. If you take away the services fro Freshfield then I disagree.

We are foster carers for P&C placements which means we typically have new born baby for anything up to 12 months along with mum and/ or dad. For them EASY access to services withineasy walking distance is critical. Part of our job is to lead them to independant living, so we are not supposed to give them lifts except in emergencies. If the walk is more than 10 or 15 mins most parents will not take baby out in the rain or if it is too cold, so access is critically dependant on distance. The parents who stay with us are typically at the very hard to reach part of the spectrum and it is important that they get used to accessing childrens services for the benefit of their baby.

I feel that the south main centre should be either Cambridge children's centre or Marie Clarke as they are more centralised locations for the south. Families in the Cambridge road area would struggle to access services in waterloo. Many parents do not drive and buses there and back can be expensive, not to mention trying to fit around childcare and school pick ups.

Talbot street is far to travel with two young children just to attend a children's centre. Having a local children's centre means that my family are mixing with families who they could potentially go to school with. Freshfield children's centre is such an important centre, not just to the children but to adults. Its great having somewhere to go especially in the early days when you feel alone. Having to travel further a field to centres would not be convenient.

Don't even know where the Talbot street base is, never used it

I think this would have a negative impact on local families, being a parent is hard enough these days without moving&/or removing services that are vital to each

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parent/carer/grandparent. This, I feel, is yet another cost saving scheme which will see Southport suffer&the rest of sefton thrive, which is just what happened with our libraries. I'd suggest that you can save money by removing the posts of the top executives at sefton council, who neither do an actual job or even knowing know, at ground level, what their department does&needs!

Waterloo cc is too small

Keep all centres where the are.

My little girl attends Cambridge Nursery and I do not want to move her. IT IS THAT SIMPLE. She is a very insecure clingy child and it has taken me 10 months to finally settle her at Cambridge and to get her used to being there - if you were to close / relocate this centre it would break my heart. Why does the government not think of the affect these ridiculous "changes" have on every day families and children. I am a working mum too and I would not be able to get my child to another centre in time and then head on to work - it would also cost me money in taxis which I can't afford as I currently walk to the centre. This is devastating news and I hope you do the right thing and keep Cambridge where it is!!

Keep Cambridge open

Cambridge needs to be a family wellbeing main centre as most of the families are able to access easily and are with in waking distance. Waterloo may as well be in town as its not set in the community for the people who are most vulnerable and need the local services to be accessable

My granddaughter took 6 weeks to settle into nursery. It was a very difficult time for all the family but with the skills of the staff at Cambridge nursery she is thriving. To close it would set her back again and have us start all over again.

Harder to access for those who don't drive if you have one set place for people. This win Litherland cannot always make it easily to seaforth & vice versa. Those who rely on public transport will find it hard to travel More thought needs to be put into place on accessibility

I believe this would put the complimentary centres at risk. I have already noticed that services at freshfield children's centre have been reduced between having my first child in 2013 and second child in 2016. These centres are vital to the community and well being of new parents and their children as well as those with special needs and who need additional support. The main centres yoh list are already very over subscribed and busy.

Nothing needs to change in Southport! Leave Linakers as it is. To save money, maybe let a couple of staff go or remove Linakers from The Atkinson but please please do not let Linaker Children's Centre be a thing of the past. I, we, need it. I felt lost before I started going there & will feel the same if it goes. I've not heard of any proposals for Talbot Street to provide a

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'stay & play support group for young children with special needs etc' or fun days where I got to meet other parents in similar situations. I, and many many other parents I know are distraught over this.

Some of these are very spaced out so main base and some of their services may be inaccessible for people with babies or multiple kids. I would not travel from Formby to Southport with a baby unnecessarily

I do not think that you can merge services for those who are under social care with those who access a general service. I believe that those under social care are more vulnerable and need a more specialised service like what family centres provide. I cannot see how combining the two services would work on a practical level and cannot judge this proposals without more detailed information.

Access is a major issue and closing down local centres in favour of main centres further afield, will mean that many will not have access to the support they desperately need. I think it's an awful, awful idea that puts money ahead of the well-being of those in need of the services.

I agree with the main base proposals but do not see the value in the complementary bases. All schools could benefit from sharing out the children's centre funding.

Leave things as they are.

I think you are trying to do too much all at once and spreading yourselves too thinly

The idea of main bases is flawed. As new mum's, travel to a centre further away and out of the community is impractical and daunting. Local, friendly centres should be maintained.

I think there should be a base within 2 mile of parents locations. If you reduce children's centers there will be a reduction in use, they need to be easily accessible and walked with a pram. People on maternity leave haven't got expendable income to spend on cars and public transport

Not accessible to everyone

The hubs and joint services are a good idea if done correctly. It's how staff work now but hopefully would be fully integrated with all services working together. However, I'm not sure how this will work using the current buildings linked with schools. Who would man those sites?

I don't feel combining the services would work whatsoever, there is limited parking at talbot street, unless it is paid and display, the building is unfit for use really, in comparison to other buildings available, this talbot street building is not the most desirable. Why use this one when the other sites are so well equipt? Why waste what has already been invested?

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I would like all my local children's centres to remain open to enable me to access the support I need locally. I think it would be a shame to close outreach services such as at the Atkinson as I have visited these and they encourage people to attend other services such as the library.

I have a child with mental health problems and has 2 weekly sessions, I work full time for the council hence I have said I use the centres daily, I have filled in the questionnaire as a parent who is currently accessing mental health services. There is currently no offer from Camhs within the community. If the well-being centres are successful I would like to use these centres for my daughter rather than taking her to the 3G. Or Alderhey it is not a good environment for her. She is also a carer and has no access to support around this, if the centres delivered up to the age of 19yrs I hope that these services would be delivered from these centres which she would be able to access more easily. She also has to access a support group which is out of her community which as parents we make sure she can get there but this is not ideal and difficult.

Please do not make changes or reduce services from Cambridge Centre Thank You

These services are already in place and widely accessed. At times vulnerable families can't always access the services they need as it is, because definitions are too narrow. These proposals take that even further and it will be devastating individuals and communities. I worked in Sefton children's centres for 11 years, I know the good work they do and how many families depend on them. As a married mum, in my 30's, not in receipt of benefits, without social care, health issues I still needed support and felt vulnerable and wasn't always able to access services I needed. Children's centres have developed fantastic reputations, relationships with families, and the staff have a huge range of expertise and skills in supporting the families and communities that they know so well. It is absurd to suggest that aims could be achieved better elsewhere. This is purely a cost cutting exercise and shouldn't be dressed up as anything else.

Streamlining the services may mean cuts to activities. This is not right as these places are essential for parental support.

It's not so much that I think there need to be alternative locations, more that condensing services seems to be the beginning of a slippery slope to losing them altogether. For young women suffering from PND, an obstacle like having to get a bus might deter them from attending a session which they really need, a Dad on shared parental leave also collecting an older child from school might not have time to travel further away from his most local centre limiting the access he has to services he requires. The Children's Centres are the epicentre of many of our communities. Centralising services means that many people will miss out. Relationships made between parents accessing services will also be negatively affected. If the women in your breastfeeding support group are spread out across several postcodes with vastly different incomes, you might struggle to feel welcome in that group - you might not all go for a cup of tea at a local cafe, cross paths in the supermarket or swap

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numbers for peer to peer support. That would be a really terrible loss to many parents in our communities. A local Children's Centre - busy with age appropriate activities, frequented by other parents from your immediate community is a life line to parents with babies and young children. Please don't take it away.

Cambridge children's centre is based in a deprived area we help and support many vulnerable families who simply would not be comfortable accessing different centres for support. It has taken time and much effort to get many of the families where they are today and these changes could result in many people being back at square one.

Provided the complimentary bases offer enough support to families who cannot easily access the Main Base. I not in the same position now my child is older but as a teenage parent my income was tiny and I frequently could only access places I could walk to with the buggy as I couldn't afford the bus fare.

Some people do not have transport to reach these centres and in southport this would isolate a large area- high park/church town/southport town centre. Some of the most deprived families live in north southport who would not have access to vital services.

Old toan

I am worried that already limited services will become even more limited at 'complementary' bases. What is the difference between a main base and a complementary one?

Not enough information supplied to have give an opinion.

Talbot street is no good for families needing to park close by with a child carark too small Marie clarke would be better base for a well being centre

I would not be comfortable attending anywhere other than Hudson. Will support still be based here or would that support be farmed out across the who of the new bases? until I was sure I could not answer this question positively.

With a new baby, the local children's centre was vital, having somewhere to walk too to meet up with other new parents saved my sanity and probably prevented post natal depression. The impact children's centres have on there local area can not be valued enough. I feel any change would have a detrimental effect on other services too, for example health visitor, as families unable to access children's centre would then be looking to other professionals for help/ support etc. I would imagine those services are already under great pressures.

Maghull is a large area with proposed housing making it even large, Hudson should be a focal point of the area

The prosals say its a complimentary base but does not list what this means and if the sessions will stay the same. I dont understand the reasons for changing what is working for me and my family.

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I propose not reducing services from Hudson Children's Centre.

Given that the proposed service is to support families with CYP 0-19, would it not be advisable to install some bases within our high schools? This would make the service more accessible for CYP age 11+.

Hudson Childrens centre was a lifeline for me when I had my first child, 2 1/2 years ago. It enabled access to social & emotional support for both me & my daughter at what can be a very lonely time. I was also able to access midwifery & HV support from this centre. The service is community based & allows you to meet with mums from the local area which allows you to build a 'mums' support network. If the service was provided in more run down areas, I very much doubt I would have used them in the same way. Travel would be more difficult & meeting people from your immediate community would be more difficult. I'm due to have my second baby in January & would feel quite disadvantaged at having to travel elsewhere to use Childrens centres services.

Hudson is a vital service for many women and children. The support they offer is outstanding

I agree that changes need to be made and the budget needs to be spent wisely but I worry that some people may not be able to access some of the clinics. Personally I found the canning road centre in southport brilliant. It's right around the corner from me and was great help to me after having my son as I couldn't walk far due to pregnancy related problems. I wouldn't have left the house much if that centre wasn't there.

Mostly agree but feel Maghull needs a larger centre, especially with the new houses being built meaning more than a thousand new residents.

See my above comments

Hudson

I do not want a diluted watered down service which will only cater for the most very very poorest or those who are social care. This community never receives any support except that from my centre.

More information is needed here. What are the roles of the link bases? What will they offer the community? Are current support services going to be moved to the main base? Do the main bases have parking? For the North could the Atkinson Centre be more of a base. Botanic Gardens has space for potential activities if you are extending age ranges. The children centres that are linked to schools are in a fundamental position to build on community networks and support families with children from various age ranges, this would be greatly missed if they were not utilised to support the needs of the communities. I run parent support groups across Sefton for parents/carers of children with emotional needs, these groups are in schools and children centres for families with children of all ages.

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I do not feel Waterloo would be a suitable venue I feel Marie Clark would be more suitable for a Family well-being centre this is in easy reach for families If Waterloo was identified as the venue this is not in easy reach for all families also parking is difficult If Waterloo was used and Seaforth these venues are close together An other option could be Seaforth F/C base being used as a Family well-being centre which is a large building with easy access covering a wide locality already this is easy walking distance and parking is easy with trains running near by Waterloo and Marie Clark could be additional bases I feel quite strongly that Waterloo would not be suitable for a main venue as a Family Health and Well-being centre

Regarding Talbot Street there are not enough car parking facilities therefore parents/carers might not bother attending. I also feel that Waterloo is in an area where car parking is almost impossible.

There is no main base in bootle or seaforth which is a relatively deprived area where many people do not have access to cars. It would be preferential for me to have access to a service that is within walking distance.

What role do social workers have in these plans. I always thought that trained social workers were undertaking these issues. If not, why not. I feel these centres are not fit for purpose and should all be closed and the money saved passed on to reduce council tax bills.

I don't agree with the cutting of these services and feel that usage of the centres will decrease as people on low income or reduced maternity pay cannot afford to travel to other locations further afield that were previously on their doorstep. Children's Centres and their free activities were originally developed to aid low income families and these are the people that cannot afford to travel.

Just keep the children's centres as they are. They work well, people access it on a daily basis, people enjoy it and most are in walking distance from people's homes. I would not be able to access Talbot street as there is no parking or buses nearby. But then again these proposals are pushing those classes as non vulnerable away

Leave them as they are, you have not explained the difference between a wellbeing centre and a complementary base. I'm presuming that the complementary base Will have less staff, services etc and will only be as an outreach service base. These services have to be locally accessible and visible, I would not have had help for low mood and attachment difficulties with my daughter without accessing the centres classes and groups. But I did not actively seek this help it was just there by chance through attending these groups and we are not and have not been a targeted family/ falling to thrive etc so likely wouldn't receive help under your above mission statement.

All centres should stay open as each community has it's own needs these places are important

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I think that's a waste of time and money. The centres are fine where they are

Churchtown end bases would be beneficial to a lot of new mums

North - Main Base would not be accessible by walking (as often I am without a vehicle) and would be concerned on what limited services would be on offer from a complementary base.

I use Kingsmeadow and Farnborough and would be unlikely to travel to Talbot street. I do not use the services supporting families in difficulty though. I use the playgroups and other activities put on.

Linaker Children's Centre is an ideal location which is easily accessible and is familiar to family which might not otherwise access services.

We need to keep seaforth children's centre it is vital for our community

You need the centres where they are now, it's unreasonable to expect parents to travel for vital support.

Keep all existing sites

Each town should have their own accessible facilities.

There needs to be more locations. Talbot St is not central for all Southport residents, particularly those without transportation. Also, with the current service of 5 baby weighing clinics on various days there can be a wait of up to 30 minutes to be seen. With the babies from 5 locations having to all use one location there will potentially be a much lengthier wait time, which is impractical when dealing with infants and toddlers.

There are no areas in the Meols Cop area that is easy to get to with the new proposal. Canning Street is currently set up for the activities. Linaker Centre covers a large variety of support and is accessible by buses.

It depends on how marginalised the complementary bases become.

Leave springwell as it is, it is within walking distance for many families in a deprived area, moving key services from springwell would impact myself and the local community tremendously. Netherton is too far to be easily accessible

The Atkinson, Canning Road are easier for me to get to, being that they are both on bus routes. Seeing as I do not drive, I HAVE to rely on buses!

I think Cambridge CC should be kept open as the main base.

Hard to get to without incurring expense

I feel Cambridge is at the heart of what is a very deprived area, and taking the main support services away from this area will only serve to isolate those in greatest need and create

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ghettos. As such I believe Cambridge should be the main location if there are to be any streamlining of services.

Travel costs and accessibility

Why change something that works well? Springwell and it's staff are fantastic why take them away from the community?

However i think springwell is amazing and would be a huge loss to the community if yiu couldnt access services there.

I wouldn't walk 45 minutes to another children's centre when springwell is just a 5 minute walk

Centres should be in easy access for all. Not everybody has transport and not all Centres would be easy to get to.

A venue more accessible for people without cars. For example town centre with good public transport links.

Sessions should continue at the Atkinsons for those who live centrally in Southport.

I feel that would be a shame not to utilise the fairly new purpose built centre at Litherland as a main centre.

Springwell needs to be considered as a main base. No other centre is local or convenient for myself and baby

I only know Speingwell, I don't know where the other ones are and I don't drive!

Talbot st is a run down town centre location, the child centres work as they are part of the community. They are accessible by walking and mean you can meet people who live locally.

I would not be able to afford to travel meaning I would be isolated which would damage both my own and my family's health and well being

Keep the current locations and think of alternative ways to save money I.e reducing all worker to 4 day week working to save the services for the families whilst still saving money that's needed.

Dubious as to what we mean by complimentary base - if services are restricted there I will find it difficult to travel to the main sites

Netherton is not easily accessible for Maghull.

Keep the Linaker Centre exactly as it is! Why would you scale back such a vital community hub, that has helped so many families? Each pound invested in Linaker pays for itself over and over in terms of the more serious problems forestalled by the friendly support and

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precious services on offer. Who knows how many children have been saved from bad outcomes by the intervention of such a special place?

Silly idea. So if you don't live in the nearby vicinity of a base then you don't have local access to any service? Its a postcode lottery. Also have you thought about Next Steps Community Nursery in the grounds of Waterloo Primary School? Have you thought about how this would restrict their service?

Safeguarding is a specialist service which requires careful planning and skills. Fsw are specifically trained to manage this. I do not believe generic EIP staff can do this.

I want the offerings at Linaker and Farnborough to remain the same. To go to a town centre hub would be very difficult due to costly parking charges in Southport town centre.

We need a center to stay open, that center is Cambridge nursery it plays a big part in my life and my family's life.

Leave them as they are

Keep the centres as they are. Talbot street is not fit for purpose as a building. The site itself has no parking. Also the area is frequented by drug users and the access is concealed leaving parents and young children vulnerable on the approach and having to avoid needles on the ground and dealings etc and many unsavoury types. Also currently used for children visitation and contact meetings with parents who have had children taken into care or can't have access due to being on sexual offenders register, possibly abusing own children or drug users. I don't think it's appropriate for this site to be used for daily family and children services and support etc when it gives possibly unsavoury types access to children and maybe vulnerable mothers.

I think central being in Netherton will be too far for me to travel as I am not mobile (have no car) and my daughter would then miss out on the 3 clubs I take her to

Linaker children's centre is the closest to many people in Southport and many of us have to walk and many of us have young children who aren't in school yet and a new born so walking with a toddler and pushing a baby in a pram will take ages to get from eg townlane all the way to town centre

Should have a main. Centre for maghull/lyidate

The building at Talbot St is rather old and quite small for a main base. Parking is also very poor. Somewhere else in central Southport would be better, although I am not sure where. Waterloo is also very small to be a main base

As Aintree village has already lost their community centre I do not agree with Hudson being downgraded to a complementary base. Hudson children's centre have numerous groups I have benefited from, making new friends and the staff are great.

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I find it really difficult as it is to go out as I suffer with panic attacks having this centre local is so import to me and other people

I'm assuming it's Talbot street in southport

If things were to change and I could no longer walk to my local children's center - first steps Farnborough then I wouldn't access support or services

None in seaforth

My family (me and my sister) have always come to Linaker. Its been there for such a long time and does everything you want anyway

I am concerned that this would see a dilution of the service offered across Sefton and that many areas, particularly those with the proposed 'complementary bases' would see an effective removal or reduction of services.

I don't believe you should be reducing the services provided to mums and young families at all. Hudson children's centre was a lifeline to me when my baby was born. I was suffering severe anxiety and what I now believe mild post natal depression. Without the full range of services provided by the children's centre I would have been completely lost and vulnerable. I do not usually have the means to travel further afield than Hudson with two small children to attend other regional family centres. I appreciate money has to be saved and services streamlined, including providing services to teenagers etc but not at the risk of the mental health and wellbeing of women who may not be financially vulnerable or particularly from groups considered to be vulnerable. However having a baby makes you vulnerable and removing support is detrimental to their health and mental wellbeing.

To lose Linaker would be devastating. The Manager has built Linaker up over ten years. Her strategies and forward thinking has developed Linaker to the stand it has today in the society of Southport. We have people who have use the Centre years ago who still refer others to call in to see what is available to them. We have relatives of the people that need help who come and seek help on how to deal with their family matter. People come in and say thank you. Every person who walks through the door matters. They may have different needs but they matter, they know they matter, they know where to seek advice, if they have a query they know they can be pointed to the right service to help them. The services themselves use us too, to share their availability, to advertise themselves through us, to be part of who we are in Southport. Some staff changes have happened but there is not a great turnover of staff, but staff do change, yet the visitors still have that confidentiality of attending a place that they feel comfortable. I have known so many who come and say it is a friendly, warm atmosphere, one of the best children's centres I have been too. Why take away something that has been built, knock it down, something that will continue to develop over the next ten years will be a waste of the last ten years. We cant tell other people's stories, of what Linaker has done for them, but we are humble enough to know that a smile may have helped someone one day, or a little chat may helped another to take a step towards

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seeking help, but we know behind us we have people who can help and where to guide them to get the help. We would not be who we are if the world knew what we did, and it is sad that now everyone knows behind Tesco's in Eastbank Street that's where the Family Centre is, as that was a safe haven for people to walk up the side of Tesco's and no one knew where people were going, I found that sad too.

Linaker children's centre

Proposals would suit me if there was a main base in Waterloo as this is close to where I live. I do not know where Marie Clarke is and I do not know the other areas well enough to know if they are appropriate.

I would agree if the same services will be on offer in the complementary bases. If they are not on offer in the complementary bases (e.g my local centre Freshfield) then I would not be able to access them and this would make life a lot more difficult with a 4 month old baby.

I, like many other parents, don't drive. Freshfield children's centre has been a lifeline and great support since I moved to formby 6yrs ago. I'm concerned that if this was taken away it would be a huge loss and detrimental to a lot of families. All children's centres should be kept as they are. I have lived in Jersey where they do not have these. I felt very isolated and alone.

Linaker has and continues to be such an important main centre for accessing services and should remain in its current state.

There should be a centre within walking distance of all parents and carers.

I think the current system of local children's centres works well. I think everyone should have at least one within walking distance I don't know where Cambridge or Marie Clarke centre are - I feel it more detail within this survey (perhaps a map, or actual addresses) may have been useful at this juncture. This also makes the next question hard to answer properly

Main base Linaker centre

If fewer centres it's difficult to attend. Therefore disadvantaging adults and children who can not travel/ get to the main centres.

Crosby library

As you know Maghull has the highest number of new houses being proposed in Sefton at least 1600, therefore I would say planning for infrastructure to cope with the population growth the obvious choice would be Maghull.

I don't think the proposed family wellbeing centre is big enough to cope with the sheer number of users to the service, either with parking or the actual facility itself. Please consider

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other alternative central locations that are more accessible and fit for purpose, I don't know what other properties are council owned to suggest a location.

My idea would be not to have Hudson as a complementary base but instead remain the fully functioning centre we currently have.

It is different when you have a little one and you want to go out for an hour or so if it is far I wouldn't bother because I will have to think of all things I have to carry with me . At the moment the centre is a walking distance and my daughter she enjoys it so much . It help to bonds with other children and I hope it stays that way and I won't have to travel extra.

I agree with talbot street as a main base but feel Linaker Children's Centre is too close and a waste of resources as Talbot street is just down the road.Freshfield,farnborough and Kingsmeadow are located across the area ensuring a wider catchement area

Unsure

They are useful because they are local and you are getting to meet families and children who your child could potentially be going to school with. By fusing these together I would be less likely to drive for a length of time to accesss these services.

Closure of the Linaker (Canning Road) centre will seriously affect the residents of the High Park district which is particularly disadvantaged compared to the rest of Southport. The social needs of the locality are great and the work done by Linaker Childrens Centre at Canning Road has been a significant benefit to the local population. Removal of the services from High Park will have a very negative impact on the young families who live there.

How do people living in high park - who are generally less well off access the services ?

I don't think you should take away people's local centre as for myself it would put me off going. If it is in walking distance then it is a lot easier for people to get to especially those in low income families, who can't afford to pay for travel. I think you should leave all centres as they are as moving centres will isolate vulnerable families and children.

As Bootle is such a deprived area I think there should be a main centre here. No idea why it should be in Waterloo would be too far for Bootle and Litherland residents to walk to. A lot of residents wouldn't be able to walk there and pay for the bus or train fare so it wouldn't be worth using the services.

Support services are needed across the borough for all families. what services would be available from the complimentary bases? when will they be open? will they be delivering a specific element of the core offer or all aspects in a diluted form? is this a pre-cursor to discreetly close down centres and services?

we need services in our community not a bus ride away

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I would like to know what savings would be made by relocating Seaforth Children/ Family Centre.

I am concerned about the potential loss of services at some of the locally based centres. Many parents benefit from being able to walk to the centres from their homes. Even for those who have use of a car and/or can access public transport there are additional costs in terms of time and finances.

What was wrong with Linaker school ??

Seaforth Children Centre and Family centre should be included due to the high deprivation and the disposal income of families. Families will struggle accessing services further a field with missed appointments. Families and friends are still being turned away from Waterloo due to them not living in the reach area.

I presume that the reasoning for these proposed changes is financial as I cannot see any benefit in reducing current services offered by the various children's centres. Thus I do not have any proposals for locations.

Locations are fine if it works but too many job/funding cuts in sefton

Main base in southport should be linaker children's centre. Talbot street is down a back alley and very small. When I have been there I do not feel comfortable at all and made to feel weird. However at linaker it's very welcoming and supportive and nice. It also feels safer at linaker.

I feel only appropriate to comment on the South area as that effects myself & my family therefore do not give the Main Base to Waterloo, an already acknowledged affluent area away from the more deprived areas of Cambridge & Seaforth. If you cannot make the Cambridge Road building work for the proposed above shake down then look at alternative locations in and around Cambridge Road L20. I understand it was in the old terminology a category 1 surestart ergo high lighted the desperate NEED for the facility. Now it is yes several years on from the categorisation however the wider situation has not improved vastly and still Bootle is considered deprived and poor. Waterloo is by far more affluent and able with its citizens to accommodate the proposed changes just away from them rather than for them. They still need and should receive a service but in a more complementary position. If the previous powers failed to make Cambridge Road Bootle a large enough facility then do not fail the good people of L20 and around by making them lose a vital service, a safe location, supportive friendly staff. The cost is just too high when the loss could be as equally devastating to the people whom attend the current service or whom are expected to use /move into area/have babies within their current catchment area.

I need the support in my area local to me

I have to walk everywhere and dont have the money to travel so need access locally

Local to me First steps

Keep farnborough road CC

Keep the base at Linaker, not Talbot Street.

CC at Kings Meadow and Farnborough Schools

Keep KM CC

I would not be prepared to travel to talbot street. i currently walk

formby should have all of the above made available. some people would not travel

i would travel the distance

I use KM CC I could not get anywhere else

Southport community centre Norwood rd as is much closer to where I live than the others

Need to know more about what services would operate from where to understand if I agree or not.

I believe all parents should have access which is local to them. Therefore no children's centre should be closed. There are many families disadvantaged due to low income and other parenting and caring responsibilities who find travel extremely difficult. To close local branches places vulnerable families at risk of disengagement.

I suffer with mental health care she's and struggle with change and do not want to go somewhere I haven't been before.

Linaker would be my personal choice.

This means that there will be nothing in the north of Southport, ie. Crossens, Churchtown, Marshside, High Park (area of high need). There should at least be a Complementary base.

Linaker is local to many people easy to park and get to the others are much harder

If you plan on closing some of the centres you need to ensure that the new main centre is situated centrally from those you no longer plan to use. I personally walk to the children's centre which is approximately a 10 minute journey through housing estates I feel comfortable walking though. A journey any longer than this especially in winter with a young child under 1 would require me to access public transport, which I could not afford. I therefore would be unable to access he centre.

Further comments or suggestions

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Ensure residents in north end of borough continue to have fair and proportionate local access.

I think that now is perfect localities.

stay in linaker - all needed is there!

keep the services as they are - they are much needed.

this service provides vital support. I am scared about the future for some families if this is closed or even reduced.

I do not understand in what way closing Centres can make accessing services much easier.

New Centre at Talbot Street is in difficult place to access as it is in the middle of the town. There is no parking place and it is far from school and nursery.

Please do not remove our local children's centres. As a Mum of a child with additional needs I rely on Thornton children centre. They go over & above for me & my family.

We know them & our son is very happy. Using that facility. You cannot squeeze a whole borough into one centre & meet everyone's needs.

I understand the need to be more cost effective with resources but I don't feel residents of Aintree feel part of the sefton area as no community resources from

Sefton Council are provided here. This is a growing family area which should have more family community places and sefton funding but we seem to be getting nothing and what we did have taken away. I would like to see Sefton Council spend some money within Aintree village to support the growing number of families that live in the area not expect them to travel further into sefton for support.

Please rethink your proposal , such places like maghull aintree and melling should have full access to a centre close considering the amount of families it looks after !!

No new mum will go feeling vulnerable to netherton or bootle with a baby and the links for this are shocking so you have to drive but where safe to park with theses areas and also fitting in with routine and school for older children too . We have already lost aintree children's centre let's not make the same mistake again as it's such a shame and such a need in these areas

My grandson and daughter would be lost without there centre. It's some where to go and talk about your problems

I think that the services are invaluable for new parents and should stay as they are.

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While I have been on maternity leave I have used Waterloo and Thornton children's centres' weekly to attend groups and weighing clinics. The staff are all lovely and very approachable. I think the welcoming atmosphere would be lost with the proposed changes.

Whilst I do not regularly use centres anymore I do not think closing centres is the solution, whilst I recognise the financial constraints the children's centres currently offer a life line to parents and taking these out of familiar locations will make them inaccessible for many. Not just through poor transport links but due to the mental health and anxiety related limitations that come with having a new baby. The key stake holders are being disadvantaged to open access to groups of young people who have many other options to access the same or similar services and are unlikely to use the service being described.

I feel that it would be such a shame to close any of the centres surrounding the L10 area as they are so well used. Surely this should be enough to show how much they are needed and loved by the local community. The services that they provide are fantastic and valuable to both the mother and children. To stop this would be such a shame. It is not just those with mental health issues that require help and support. If this proposal goes ahead, then I feel that there would be a lot more mental health issues in the future.

The provision of child & family wellbeing services has been critically under supported for some time, leading to insufficient personnel of insufficient quality delivering the service in a very 'tick box' manner (based on my own limited experience) If the root issues around staffing & quality of training/supervision are not addressed, then all the new centres in the world will not make a jot of difference.

Aintree area should have some funding back in. Aintree tots is a full group every week. The hope Centre has a full group every week and a waiting list to start.

Obviously there are enough people in the area to warrant funding and help Having a children's centre in my local area has been so beneficial, if I had to travel to use the services I probably wouldn't. Local services need to be easily accessible to the community they are serving.

Linaker Childrens center is an extremely important facility for local families. I personally have used linaker children's center since my first child was born, for maternity care, family and child development, personal support after my partners sudden death. I have also used the center for personal mental and employment support, also used linaker as a first port of call for information about Rasa support, benefit changes, legal advice.. I personally wouldn't know where else to go for ALL the aforementioned support. Linaker children's center covers all of my continued family support needs.

Formby is a large community and without the children's centre here I would not have had access to great support and made new friends who are local.

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families need people and services within their community not one large epi centre with no real attachment to the community it is supposed to care about. Local services on a local level

I feel that it is important that the services on offer remain local and accessible to everyone. I lived in the city centre when I had my first child and the lack of children's centres and things for babies to do meant that I simply didn't go out which contributed at least in part to a later diagnosis of postnatal depression and anxiety. Although there were children's centres accessible by car, I never felt part of the community in which they were based which made it difficult to build relationships with other parents.

Living in Waterloo now with my second child and knowing that there are services on offer in my local community makes a world of difference and it's much easier to ask for help and to build relationships with other mums. If services are reduced for families with small children I think it's important that most services remain available locally to enable people to access these and not be put off by long (public transport) journeys as the alternative is for many people to just stay in the house and this applies especially to the most vulnerable who may be dealing with mental health issues or financial struggles.

I am concerned that families who are hovering on the brink of needing social care interventions are at risk of being missed if children's centres or the family centre do not maintain an open door and responsive service in the future. many families have been using services for over 10 years- they signpost friends and family to the services. families see children's centres as an essential service. Whilst I understand the need for Sefton to save money I am concerned that the current proposals will leave many families vulnerable. Families need preventative services as well as the many interventions provided by children's centres. Children's centres have invested heavily in their own professional development as well as the CCGs and Public Health in order to develop a early intervention model around child mental health. This work could have a significant impact on the wellbeing of Seftons children if the current staff were allowed the time and opportunity to demonstrate its impact. Could CCGs not work in partnership with Sefton to invest in the Nurture and Thrive pathway?

Need more services not less

Although Talbot Street might be the new Centre for Health and Wellbeing, the building does not have good access or good car parking facilities. Linaker Street is a much better design and easier to access and the staff are very helpful and friendly.

I worry about the co location proposals because I feel it will have a detrimental affect on services for vulnerable families. In particular I feel that families who have children with disabilities will be disadvantaged due to access difficulties. There must be a focus on outreach services for this group of families and a clear pathway for support for every need. Mental health must also be given a high profile for parents, carers and children. Consultation

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is ok if opinions are taken into account and if these proposals go ahead then I feel it is essential that service users are given a voice in shaping future services with advocacy support for people who struggle to have a voice e.g. disabled people, people with substance misuse issues, children, children with disabilities

I think it will be disastrous to all communities if there is only going to be 3 children's centers to cover the South Sefton area. I believe in the future it will lead to a decline in the mental health and emotional well being for all young children, young people and parent / carers. People in deprived areas may not have the means or ways to access one of these proposed centers, to seek support as what is classed as local may not be local to these families. Thus missing relevant milestones in child's early years, this leads to the child having a lower level of education, once they reach adulthood they are more likely to be jobless. There will be less support to parents /carers from staff due to less staff to cover a bigger area, staff under pressure from increased work load. I don't see our communities thriving from this proposal, I see the most vulnerable becoming more at risk and our communities not reaching Sefton's long term objectives.

The closing of any children/family centres and settings will have a devastating effect on our communities through out Sefton. In terms of the services provided in the south Sefton area any proposed closures will highlight yet again the lack of early intervention support for family's in one the most deprived areas in the country. This consultation should be supported with further local intelligence and therefore should also include a dissemination of Sefton's community profile which identifies where the support and resources are needed allowing Sefton to achieve its vision for 2030.

Not impressed with the proposals. I

currently attend Seaforth childrens centre with my son. Really happy and settled here. Has helped my mental wellbeing Really would be upset to see this centre change.

Please feel free to contact me as a concerned person XXXXXXXXXXXX.com - the north proposal needs urgent rethinking in terms of main hub location. I would also like to see action points reflecting the ambition of the councils statement regarding the well-being of children.

do not change linaker children centre.

I don't agree with any of the proposal and not gonna attend the place on Talbot street as its not good for my baby.

think need to find funds from other areas rather than close clinics.

I feel the current services are vital to support families and oppose this proposals.

Keep Seaforth children centre open excellent centre and excellent staff

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Keep Seaforth C.C open it is local to me as walk everywhere.

Keep Seaforth cc open as it's very local for a lot of people. Staff are ever so friendly.

I trust that the services in Seaforth ch center helped me to develop my child. Helped me as a new mother and supported me as a person

Leave linaker childrens centre open, its a big benefit to the community.

I think its wrong and lots of people will feel isolated as the main centres will be too far away
save money to keep services remaining as they are by not giving 5% payrise to council managers!!

I'm concerned that Seaforth families will be shut out if services are moved

More time in thats activity, well done

the family centre in Southport is great and all the staff there have helped me sort mine and my children's lives out we would be sad and have no one to go to if we needed help.

keep Cambridge centre as it is to promote local families + children emotional social + physical wellbeing.

I disagree with the proposal and loss of service which is local to me.

the proposed building is in too small limited xxx xxxx spaces. and the xxxxxxx services are very good. I disagree for this change.

NO

keep cambridge

id be really disappointed to lose the current services I use. I've built a good relationship with the staff members and other mums.

when did the consultation take place, and who was consulted in the section that states 'our communities have told us that our teams need to be more joined up...'?!

reduce management pay rises. think of future for our children.

I feel this proposal is not viable as along with cuts, how are we supposed to support all of the families.

keep linaker as it is and services provided.

keep cambridge children center to main

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stop cutting services that are valuable to families and for the sake of some of their mental health wellbeing.

I think that the proposals are a complete let down to our community. As a parent of a young child I feel that the powers that be have no conception of how invaluable these services are and the difference they can make to a potentially isolated time.

I really think that this centre should stay open.

It is ridiculous. A lot of vulnerable families will be missed without the support of children's centres.

To lose Cambridge would be a shame to myself and the community as a whole.

email timetables

Limiting some centres and what they can offer could really impact some families negatively. Baby groups can be really important for the mental health of new mums, but feeling able to go to these can be hard- especially for a new mum with PND. Having to travel far will likely put people off and therefore they would not attend. Sessions which could have a positive impact on their mental health. As a service, breastfeeding support Sefton run and attend groups at many children's centres to support breastfeeding mums. Without these groups, the service cannot be as effective.

Keep Cambridge its the hub of the community & offers vital services for families

I DO NOT THINK CAMBRIDGE SHOULD BE MOVED

Areas of deprivation need to be considered with universal services being accessed for community cohesion.

Seaforth is a easy access centre lots of help with causes.

Taking away what Springwell offers will really be detrimental to seriously in need families. I cannot believe this is even be considered. I wouldn't have coped over the years without this place.

I just think this will be silly to move it so far out the area and it will be silly to move it to Netherton

stay at Seaforth

I would be lost without the help and support of the staff at Springwell.

With schools runs Seaforth children's centre is realistically the only centre I could use as my SEN child comes home early.

Springwell does a lot of family fun events which is beneficial to local families.

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seaforth C/S is amazing and is one of my main means of adult and social contact.

I would very much like to see centres remain open.

keep seaforth child center open it has lovely friendly staff and local

keep seaforth childrens centre open local for everyone. friendly staff.

maybe to keep the public updated on local things post what is happening to everyone and keep our seaforth childrens' centre available for baby clinics, crèche and parents.

camerage is a lovely and assessable place with no waiting to get onto courses very easy for new mums to feel included

I needed parent groups and support close to make it easy for me to take all the children

Proposals are a disgrace if it hasn't worked with Liverpool council why should sefton follow suit.

I would have a dramatic effect on the groups who battle with depression and obesity.

I feel it is detrimental to parents to have access to a local centre. Cuts in centres will impact experiences as a new mum + potentially mental health issues

I don't want anything to change, I like my childrens centre and I have made friends and built relationships.

keep springwell as it is!!!

its ridiculous - why change it - the service provided is wonderful - what will happen to us - we will have nowhere to go.

Don't make more cuts. Parents rely on the wide choice of classes + groups provided by all childrens centres for their own sanity not just for the childrens development. Stop taking this away! it was bad enough that Breast start went. Stop making it so difficult for us to get support that is local to us.

Current offer is excellent and covers overall, holistic needs of children & families

I feel that moving services to one base in my area rather than the current 4 centres would be disengaging and not fulfil the requirements of each local area.

facebook page childrens centre in linaker

I would like to save the linaker CC !

Keep Springwell open and don't ruin it for children + parents who use it. find the money from somewhere else. Council is good at wasting money

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leave this centre alone. It is at the heart of the community and family + friends enjoy taking their children there. Annoyed with the proposals

I would really like you to keep the play groups and messy play at Waterloo. It has helped me as much as my child. It has helped my children develop and helped me not be alone. I think the Waterloo Children's Centre is a great help to families in and around Waterloo. The center has been a great support to me and my children.

The children's centres (especially Waterloo) has provided a safe place and lifeline for myself and my children to come and learn how to be the best parent possible. This has been through the groups that are run throughout the week. We would not be able to afford to go to paid groups and it is concerning that these services will be cut and not available to families. I think they provide good preventative measures and by taking away what is currently provided may see more parents needing to access more social care help in the future. If preventative care is what you are aiming for then continue investigating into children's centres and the staff as they are.

LEAVE THIS CENTRE OPEN. FIND THE MONEY FROM ELSEWHERE AS A LOT OF CHILDREN + PARENTS ATTEND HERE. IT'S A LIVELY CHILDREN'S CENTRE WHERE THEY SUPPORT YOU AND MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE.

everyday.

Not impressed with the proposals. I think they are not needed and Springwell is the best one I have been to and I have used Fazackerley, Walton and County. Leave it ALONE!! Already having to pay £170 a month for nothing so leave my one pleasure.

STAY AT LINAKAR

my worry is that I may not be able to access the services I wanted for I have my baby.

WE MUST KEEP HOLD OF LINAKER CENTRE AS THIS IS A HELPFUL AND HAPPY CENTRE AND CHILDREN FACILITIES

Mum's, Dads's, Nan's, they all need the sessions. It helps building relationships with the children and will help emotionally.

Early help proposal will only work well if adequate provision of resources is available

attending Freshfield Centre I have met a lot of friends in my area. The staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable about the Formby area.

I think communities really need and appreciate children centres and support and hard work!

We should keep hold of Linkaker center.

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I only hope that the decisions that will be made can continue the amazing care and support that all the wonderful and dedicated staff at the family centre Talbot street have given to myself and little girl.

I have concerns that some of the staff do not do or are not trained in statutory work. That statutory/ safeguarding will slip. that the service provided by statutory spot checks visits AW/ ends. Parenting assessments/ care, reports, supervised contracts will not be the same quality as present.

I AM A GRANDPARENT MINDING I GRANDAUGHTER ON A FRIDAY, THE ONLY PLACE I CAN TAKE HER IS ST PAULS CHURCH, SONNING AVENUE, THIS IS THE ONLY ONE, AND IT IS FAB

no

no

I feel that new main bases should be multi-disciplinary with a variety of professionals in each. there could be more rooms in Seaforth.

the locality of seaforth family centre is required for local families to access.

I don't have any other comments

need more age appropriate resources for children ages 9+.

My children's centre is very important to me and my family and I need their support

I prefer the way the childrens center is NOW! . its like a family and I feel confident to trust all members of staff, I don't think I would feel comfortable elsewhere.

DONT GET RID OF LITERLAND CHILDRENS CENTRE!! WE NEED IT!!

Yes I do. A - family centre is for the family either to contact or **** around to family unit, without the centres what else would we have - nothing, families would suffer - contact could not be supported, relationships could not be bonded. B - your a council, so by default you have to act but what council government want, grow some balls - say no and invest in the future of people not failed business' or roads - people young and old - without the people you don't have a job.

to not join to one big group as people in the outer areas will miss out on groups and vital socialising opportunities.

all the services provided are already enshrined in the ethos and missions + goals of children centres at the moment. I feel this is a purely cost cutting exercise that will ultimately impact most on your identified target audience.

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I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE PROPOSALS?? ARE YOU TAKING CHILDREN'S SUPPORT & SERVICES AWAY FROM MAINSTREAM FAMILIES??

WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM NIKKI THE WORKER AT HUDSON I WOULD NOT BE RECEIVING SUPPORT NOW. WILL THESE AMAZING PEOPLE BE AVAILABLE UNDER THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

children centres to stay open

very concerned the local centres will not be in use.

Don't take Hudson away. It has been mine & my other friends life line.

N/A

The childrens centres & related services are essential to the well being of children + families in the local areas.

Please keep our children's centres open.

I think the centres should stay. These classes saved me as a new mum and I would have been lost without them. XXXX has been amazing and me and my son have made forever friends during these classes.

I think that the stay + playcentres, particularly Waterloo provide a vital service to a range of mums/firsttime mums. I personally suffered postnatal depression with my first baby + going to the stay + play really helped. Saved me even, it was a great chance to meet other mums + I didn't feel alone. Please keep them open!

This centre is vital for health, well being, social and mental issues. It's purpose is fully met by staff and guests.

KEEP THE CENTRES RUNNING THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

I am shocked as the support Ive been given after 8 years is amazing examples. Dropping in when need advice practical help Support and general day to day worries debt/food etc.

The proposals have been made without any local research being done. As such, it is proposed to isolate many families and preventing them from accessing the services they need. Also, this questionnaire is badly set out, leaving us no room for us to state our opinions.

PLEASE STOP THIS CRAZY IDEA

Cambridge is placed in poor social-economic area and is able to reach out to a lot of families. Where as Waterloo is in an affluent area and only supplies course places to local residents. why would you put the main base in a affluent area when you are trying to target those families who are in greatest need (which is usually classified as those families on

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really low incomes) I would be lost without the children's centre and would have had more severe forms of depression and isolation if it had not been for the support + services offered by Cambridge Childrens centre and all of the staff.

DO NOT TAKE AWAY MY SERVICE

NOT VIABLE

THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO? "IS HUDSON CHILDRENS CENTRE CLOSING?"

Yes, leave Hudson the way it is. For all of the reasons previously mentioned.

Keep local accessible services in place.

Hudson Children's Centre provides an invaluable service, and is an important part of the community. I have accessed the centre for the past 5 years and would have been lost without it.

not to move from hudson

I would find possible closure of Hudson CC, or reduced groups a huge loss to both myself & my 14 month old. I don't know of anyone who would support this closure/reduced service. The centre is also very busy and used by lots of local families & mums. A lot of whom walk to the centre. I also volunteer at the centre for breastfeeding support.

this is a very small box which should house the biggest and most important information which is parents views. The proposals will ultimately minimise the service offered and reduce early help opportunities to the local community. The consultation does not state this in a way which parents can understand. The consultation leans heavily to a positive acceptance to the proposal.

more baby clubs. we need more opportunities to mix with other mums. I don't feel that there is enough for babies, This would help new mums adapt to family life and get us out of the house!

THE NEW NUTURE AND THRIVE PATHWAY IS GREAT. IF THIS WAS AVAILABLE IT RELAXED KIDS WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS YOUNG WE COULD OF HELPED WITH SERVICE X.

NO

I am a professional who often attends meetings at the centre's, therefore this has been completed from that point of view and not as a 'service user'. I am fully aware of the amazing work that is carried out in the centres by very dedicated staff and I hope this will not change.

keep Netherton and the grange.

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I think the council are making a big mistake getting rid of so many centres.

As I don't drive it is hard to get about in Sefton borougher as I walk to lot of places and it if something is to far to get to id not go and miss out on things that benefit myself children and family and this also effect my mental well beging

Sefton is a difficult borough to access without without the use of the car. Places like maghull are very isolated from access routes.

I WORRY THAT SUPPORT WHICH IS NECASSARY FOR OUR WELL BEING WILL BE LIMITED IF RESOURCES ARE HAVING TO BE STRETCHED FOR A LARGER AREA.

if I was unable to access Nethererton childrens centre I would not be able to cope with my family life the centre is a lifeline for myself and my children due to time constrates with school ect any further away we would not be able to access any other centres.

it will have a huge knock on effect taking communities 'hub' and 'safe place' away it will have an effect on peoples mental health.

I would stop coming out it will affect my well being and support as a lonely parent with a child with Autism it has helped me with my depression

NETHERTON childrens CENTRE Should NOT Be mixed with others it should be left as it is

I have 5 children under 11 (one with disability). I access services at my local childrens centre because it is convenient and no travel costs etc. If services moved further away I would be isolated.

childrens centres need to be kept open. New mums need these groups for peer support and to get them out of the house. Without these parents health and mental wellbeing will suffer.

I think there needs to be help, support + children programmes available for everyone to access easily. Even families that may not be vulnerable need to know that they have somewhere to go to discuss any potential problems. This may prevent a family or individual getting to a point where they may be vulnerable. I have used my local centre with both little girls and the support has definitely made a different to me + my family.

THE PROPOSAL WILL IMPACT MANY FAMILIES IN THE AREA. I WORRY THAT AS BEING A FAMILY NOT IN THE 'VULNERABLE' GROUP THAT SERVICES WILL BE RESTRICTED OR EVEN CUT COMPLETELY FOR ME.

It would be more beneficial to mums to be and mums to keep services local as they are. To make these changes would be to take the nish that new mums mental health will suffer as a result.

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Without the group's baby stay + play, chatter boxes mellow, stay + play I would not of got the help & support I needed with my post natal depression and feel and feel this would have a major impact on my whole family see back page.

To ensure all centres are fully staffed to deliver services, enough staff to cover holidays + long term sickness to ensure there is no impact on service provision and ultimately the service user.

Freshfield is the main hub for the area and should remain a full centre.

Proposals discriminate against those who have limited funds for public transport/ no car.

I would like to keep using the centre we have.

there is a building in seaforth that could be used if it was brought up to standard. The old post office on school have seaforth.

myself and my children feel very settled with all the staff at seaforth childrens centre, any changes to this, childrens routines will cause upset, anxiety and stress to our entire family.

NO

I do not think that these proposals are the best for the people of sefton.

taking away the chance of the children to make a strong friendships and community within the area from different school getting to know each other also parents well being with no where else near by to go.

nowhere for children to socialise with eachother at the north end of southport. Churchtown, crossens, high park etc.

there is already not enough childrens centres in sefton. The requirements is 1 centre to 1000 children. This already does not cover needs. I have suffered years of domestic violence in relation I need swacca, a family support worker and carers to keep me going I suffer benefit problems so easier to walk local than walk miles away.

LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE. TO TRY AND CHANGE THINGS WOULD MEAN WE LOSE VITAL SERVICES.

WE ARE AT TALBOT STREET FORTNIGHTLY AND LINKAKER EVERY DAY. DO NOT TAKE THESE AWAY FROM US.

not a nice place has been picked for southport - family centre - it is where social care happens, when it is too late; can see safeguarding issues, would not feel safe going there!

Why does all the money is always sent to Bootle? What about Southport?

THIS IS JUST ABOUT CUTS

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Stop these changes!!!

When was the community asked regarding our views? Money will be wasted once again!
The Talbot street building is unsafe

I don't think its right to close the centres. I am supposed to get my son weighed on a regular basis. Closing linaker childrens centre would make it a lot harder for me.

LEAVE LINKAKER WERE IT IS THE OTHER BUILDING IS NOT SUITABLE. LINKAKER IS IDEAL

some parents miss their opportunity to have their opinion. Maybe send their questionnaires to their homes.

childrens centre has nailed their marketing.

many professionals partner agencies use these centres ! to meet with families and young people.

THINK IT'S A TERRIBLE PROPOSAL AND SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, SPRINGWELL HAS HELPED ME AND MY CHILDREN ALOT. STAFF DO AN AMZING JOB AND SHOCKED THESE PROPOSALS HAVE EVEN BEEN OUT IN PLACE. YOU'RE REALLY NOT THINKING OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

I enjoy springwell park childrens centre and am very grateful for having the opportunity from them to enrol onto a adult learning course which led to me becomming employed in my job which I have been in for 2 years and really enjoy.

DO NOT CUT OUR CHILDRENS CENTRE SERVICES

Linkaker is a lot easier for me to access.

People need to be informed on what services or if services will be lost on the new proposals.

If the proposals to merge Childrens centres are to save cash would it not be X to leave Linaker Childrens centre where it is!

I don't want it to go ahead

I feel that this proposal will leave some families vulnerable when they wouldn't usually be with the support of well run local centres.

Feel that services are being cut once again!

I feel that Sefton are going to ruin an amazing childrens centre and families and children are going to suffer.

Its X X X children's development at risk. To say it is X based + co- X of services is rubbish.

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Keep Springwell!

Springwell have done so much for me and my family they have pushed me to better myself to the point that I am now a member of bank staff and I also volunteer + run a lunch club in the centre.

the freshfield centre provides a wonderful environment for children and their development. Also a much needed meeting place for mothers. It would be a travesty to close the freshfield centre.

Keep childrens centres as they are.

I have made friends coming to the centre, it's nice to come and relax and all the staff are lovely :)

NETHERTON IS TOO FAR AWAY. YOU WILL LOSE LOADS OF FAMILIES THAT NEED HELP.

VITAL TO KEEP LINKAKER CENTRE OPEN AS PROVIDES EXCELLENT LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Netherton childrens centre has been a vital part of my after care plan. I would be lost without the care and support from my family support worker, Yvone. My children benefit so much from the nursery and after school clubs. I wouldn't of been able to get through the past 12 months without the support or help we have received as a whole family. The Netherton Childrens centre is vital for me and our family to progress on from my mental health, my family, my children, school and surroundings. When I was discharged from hospital the childrens centre visited my home with the crisis team. They have also helped massively with getting my children into the school closest to home and my youngest a 2 year offer.

due to have outreach for stay and play in caradoc mission church - supported by seaforth family centre also lunch club.

The childrens center has been a great help for over a year. I moved from blackpool to Netherton and was suffering with mental health problems due to the move. the center arranged for me to talk to a councillor and have the support I need. My mental health would have gone down hill rapidly if I didnt have the support. they helped with the support of bringing my daughter up. the staff are all very supportive and understanding of peoples individual needs. The new proposal would not be a good idea. it would exclude me and my family from the services the childrens center that have been vital for my mental health and the health of my family.

more needed for the children in terms of recreational.

why would you close a centre that families use everyday in area where there nothing for people.

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I moved down from Blackpool 17, I was pregnant had no antenatal appointments- I was staying with my partners brother, the childrens centre came out and help me and my partner with housing, midwife, support with things we needed I.E baby clothes, toys, food banks, with general housing items, if it wasn't for the children center we wouldn't be where we are today. I take my son to stay and play and he loves it he has the biggest smile on his face when we are there. The staff are so welcoming and understanding and kindhearted.

Due to working I only attend 1-2 classes a week but these have been valuable for advice, support + to avoid isolation. I believe a lot of people would be prevented from attending centres if they had to travel to them.

we need professional staff for all services Netherpton childrens centre is ideal.

XXX Group after school.

We need professional staff for all services we need some staff our children have adjusted to these faces taking them would upset the children.

Formby is a large area with a lot of young families, I feel there should be a main base here, as a grand parent with 3 young children to look after I would find it impossible to travel into southport and bootle.

keep seaforth it is needed to protect, the mental health of the public.

the theory seems logical. However, with this reduction of centres means a reduction of services. Without you showing a timetable of services, how can I say if proposal is fair.

services are needed in local areas to offer/ provide much needed support for our families.

keep seaforth childrens centre. I do not have transport to travel further. I am looking to get a job and attending the centre has helped build my confidence and link in with job centre plus.

please don't close this centre down !!!

don't deprive the poorer areas of these vital services. In my professional opinion they make a real difference to peoples lives and outcomes.

maintain all bases in deprived areas with full range of services available as they make such a positive change to families I work with.

Can't travel all over the area feel it is the beginning of the end- all my friends that use this centre we are all in the same position money is tight. So scared I am going like without any support if this centre isn't here with the services that I use- I like to be able to drop in not want it to be appointment only !!!

I have suffered with depression for a number of years and I have found it difficult to even go out of my house at times but having the centre to go to has really helped me. I find it very

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comforting to know that I can just walk into the centre and be able to talk to somebody about my worries. Over the years I have accessed nearly every course that has been on offer. I have accessed everything from midwife services, baby health, to mental health issues.

not enough information people making decisions when they are not aware of the needs of the local people Not enough consultation time for parents to get together and discuss their needs.

Coming to Netherton children centre has helped me overcome my anxiety. I have accessed volunteer course which led me to volunteer at the children centre. I access Sefton carers which help me a lot. Netherton children centre has been my life saver, because if I haven't been to any sessions or it wasn't there, I would be sat at home, depressed and not able to cope with problems that my son has, I would not be the mother I am now to my children. I would not be able to go anywhere else to access anything through my anxiety. Netherton children centre is the only place that feels like home and is always welcoming.

I have used centre since moved from Liverpool to Sefton. The Netherton children centre have been my rock with me and my family staff are on my taff meeting's, support in family home, my daughter is in the 2 year offer, she doesn't like change, Im at the course's I use it 4 days aweek, I'm having 2 parents trouble in the area the Netherton children centre have been there throughout plus if this wasn't open I would be dead by now.

1) Keep the same staff. People don't like changes. 2) My daughter will be using the Netherton childrens centre Part of her 2 year nursery placement. 3) I want to still be able to come to the Netherton childrens centre to help with my needs or problems cos if they cant help me they will always find out who can, with help + support!

money is very tight. So public transport is not possible for my daughter will not use a pram but she is getting to big for it anyway. She also will not walk long distances. I have used the centre for 8 years. It is part of mine and my childrens lives. This centre has helped and moulded me into the mother and person I am. Everyone in this centre is friendly and trustworthy. I have social problems and can not speak to anyone I don't no it took me years to feel comfortable around everyone here and would feel like I am starting off from scratch I can not do that I like this centre and staff to much to change. If you were to ask my children how they would feel you would get a headache, its cruel to take away the 1 place we all feel comfortable we have been to all groups and all courses and hoping there be more.

Netherton childrens centre has been part of my everyday life for many years. my 2 year old is starting nursery here in January he has been coming here since he was born, hes happy settled + friendly with all staff here. I have 2 young children 2 + 7 months who love coming + enjoying many stay + play sessions, chatter matters, Respite, I attended many courses here, Think differently cope differently, positive thoughts, maths, mellow bumps and lots more. I have used the safety gates + locks in the home which is fabulous for free. I really like coming here and would be really upset if there was any changes affecting our centre. I come here

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friendly with everyone help me + my children, I feel really happy and positive when leaving centre. everyone is friendly + always happy to help in any way they can. I walk to + from the centre if I had to travel it would stop me leaving the house worrying about expences as I don't have money for travel.

Coming to Netherton Children's Centre is a relief to myself and my children. On a Thursday's I come to sefton careers which is a resbite and support network of Mother's and father's. Ive also frequently been on planned trips which has give my children and outlet and a X of I don't feel alone and isolated dealing with challenges I face at home. I can come to Netherton's children's centre and feel the support is always 100%. I struggle with change as well as my children. so if I need to speak to someone it will be the staff and support network in Netherton.

Evening groups for working people Saturday/Sunday sessions full time working parents can it be for over 19yrs care leavers too.

I think they should be joined together the ages 0-25 as care leavers need support up to 25. have the wellbeing centres up to the age 25

THE PROPOSAL IS YET ANOTHER BLOW TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY. IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE BROUGHT IN A WHOLE GENERATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WILL NOT THRIVE.

I feel that this will result in a reduction in activities. My child has benifitted so much from all the services that linaker childrens centre has provided - what a shame that this is going to change. I agree with all the principles you have stated about the proposed changes, but these principles are already being met in my eyes. lets be honest - its all about cutting funds and saving money, this is a shame.

No

I feel that seaforth has very few facilities. All the proposed areas have leisure centres, libraries etc. in walking distance, we need seaforth.

please don't forget the importance of making local friends.

local provision for local people with familiar people who you can build up a trust and positive relationship.

our childrens centre is a vital community centre with great helpful staff.

please do not shut us down.

keep Hudson open

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I think its a great shame to target childrens centres for cuts. It will affect the whole community.

Hudson is not only a childrens centre but acts as a community centre bringing families together with its great range of activities and open door policy you are always made to feel welcome.

further information regarding specifics of what proposed service changes would look like needs to be provided if you are asking for consultation feedback.

I strongly oppose any changes which would result in a reduction of services at Hudsons children centre.

it would be a real shame if the childrens centre closes as it was the biggest support for me, I made friends for life.

the service is vital for some families and shutting/ moving will cut people off.

I totally disagree with the proposal.

Hudson childrens centre and its services helped me see the light after a few very dark times after birth.

keep Hudson (fundraisers ect if needed)

I think there is a strong case to maintain the current services at Farnborough.

keep Farnborough rd as a main hub

it will be a shame if the centres close as it is a place to meet other children and mums.

I think it would be a travesty to get rid of the local centres.

it may be a good idea to see posters on bus stops or trains or on buses for local offers.

I am concerned about 'class' size. Too few venues could mean fewer sessions and large classes. This would mean those who run the classes don't get to know you/ baby. Large classes could mean fewer people would turn up g/fwd as they cant book a place, more intimidating, less personal etc. A central venue in southport as opposed to my more local venues would put me off attending a class as it would be difficult to get there. I would then feel more isolated at home alone. Any centre retained would need ramp access for prams.

the staff and facilities here are vital if you take them away then this will here a detrimental effect on the local community. I will not be travelling to places I do not know to soeak to staff about personal challenges as I wont know them either. Please listen to the community.

I feel I would struggle and would have really struggled night after birth if it wasn't for Farnborough road childrens centre. Also breastfeeding support.

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I find the childrens centre amazing. My daughter is struggling to settle into nursery, XXX was the 1st person I went to for advice. I have used the centre since the girls were newborn, I couldn't speak higher of its services and its staff. We always take part in the school holiday activities now that the girls are older. Please don't change it.

don't want to see any closed its good for kids development

improve sefton website info re these services. I found it distinctly unhelpful and difficult to navigate!

over the last 5 years, I have very much valued the support and services provided at the childrens centre. I had the opportunity to run a group support families living with serious allergies. They play such an important role in young families development.

Farnborough road childrens centre is vital to our young and expanding family. The services they provide are excellent and we wouldn't be able to access another location because I don't drive. I walk to Farnborough.

another way to try and cut costs without thinking of the wider needs of the community.

I need to be able to easily access services in Netherton - under one roof. 1. have accessed: mental health support counselling/ safe place to talk. 2. child development and parenting courses 3. early help plan led by family development worker - easy to talk to, meetings at local centre and ongoing support, advice, phone calls. 4. really need to access local services for my family - staff who know me.

all good suggestions so far. I would also like to see more focus on domestic violence affecting adults.

I use the childrens centre daily, I come to the stay and plays, I use the crèche and the childrens a lot, even to access other agencies such as Jo Jingles and first aid, my son benefits from coming to the childrens centre because he is two years old, we are a family who are not entitled to the two year offer, so without the services put on by the childrens centre he wouldn't be able to spend time with other children or adults or become school ready. As a family who aren't entitles to benefits or fall under the category of 'targeted family' the childrens centre has helped us to access services and welcomed us in and signposted us to services and things going on, if the childrens centre was to merge, what would happen with the families who don't suffer mental health issues or need support, we need somewhere to go as well! We are and will be forgotten as many families will have and still have access to certain services, where are the likes of me, ill fall under the radar and then could become a targeted family, surely early intervention is key and if it wasn't for me being able to access the childrens centre , I could fall into mental health issues, depression so then I would be a targeted family and be able to access services?

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the staff and resources from Netherton childrens centre have been amazing. They never fail to help me through anything I need, they have been there more than my own family. They have helped me so much through my post natal depression from diagnosis to finally coming through the other side of it. They have helped me with my childrens dad and my money being stopped they offered food bank vouchers, always with a kind word and support. My son who is now 4 suffers from autism, he struggles with learning and problems with potty training. He attended the 2 year offer in their nursery and he thrived they paid so much attention to the problems he was having and did everything they could to help, including providing me with information and ways we could help him at home. He is now in full time school and fully potty trained, his speech is amazing, He is more social with other children and I owe it all to the support of the childrens centre. They have helped me with forms, my housing benefit and grants that have helped me provide a better life and home for my children. I honestly don't know how I would of got through the last few years without their help and support and I know many families that feel the same. They also took me and my children on a trip to chester zoo and I have never seen my kids smile so much, an amazing trip that I unfortunately wouldn't be able to afford myself.

these centres need to be accessible to all families and they should be easy to access eg/ public transport is ck but a lot of families do not have the money to use public transport.

its a terrible idea

everything works fab already leave it as it is.

please see back page.

don't change how thing are already,. No proposal.

proposals are a cost-cutting strategy, which will further limit + reduce existing services. This will foster loneliness, lack of access to support + peer communication for children + parents ; particularly those most in need !!!

im worried about tossing this service.

KEEP LINAKER OPEN!!

Yes! leave linaker open. I access this as I use the nursery. I do not like change and would not use an unfamiliar building and unfamiliar staff. I have used the family centre in the past, this is not a time I wish to remember. I have moved on with my life and don't ever wish to re-visit it. I have painful memories of the place. I wouldn't go there.

my kids love the childrens centre in seaforth they have made so many friends. Also the staff are amazing and have been so supporting when things are getting hard.

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this needs to be received so budgets are adjusted and cut budgets elsewhere in the sefton council to ensure all existing staff and centres stay open as per Liverpool council have chosen to keep their centres open and cut budgets in other areas.

please leave the centre open

childrens centre pay integral part in childs development - all classes have been accessed or used with both my children.

services need to be offered in evening weekends especially when dealing with such a large age range - many people need to return to work after 9-12 months.

I feel having just three main bases covering such a wide age range and service will lead to lengthy waiting times for many important services.

I think it would be a shame if the groups stopped. Good support.

why not make a voluntary charge for baby massage and yoga so still accessible. Baby stay and play very important to stop new mums feeling isolated and lonely which could lead to PND.

wellbeing 'tasters' maybe monthly/ 2 monthly like *****, creative arts.

the more opportunities a child has for stay and play the better for their development.

the people who use these services may cause safeguarding problems if placed in a school.

keep childrens centre open.

keep our children centres the way they are as people need them and they help out so many families with children.

keep the thornton centre !

I would have been completely lost without the support of CC's and the contacts I have built.

please don't close thornton children centre my son is 2 and does not attend a private nursery so this is the only pre-school type he does.

the centre at thornton serves a vast and diverse community. 'stay to play' has run for 4 yrs all free to the parents and centre. It brings in over 20 families per session and has been very successful. I have also seen the excellent service provided to the community by the centre for other services.

I cannot stress enough how valuable support of waterloo and thornton centres is to parents like me. To lose any of the staff or services would place new parents and families at a huge disadvantage going forward.

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please help baby massage, book working and breastfeeding support going.

the local childrens centre have been a vital part of my life as a new mum with twins. The groups on offer would be the only reason I would leave the house on some days.

please see page 13. Also, I think serious consideration needs to be given to the separate services offered by linaker childrens centre and Talbot street family centre. The first offers groups and support for any family to access. The second is primarily a base for families involved with childrens services.

please see back page.

listen to every opinion

want to save money? sell bootle strand (or stop scaring off potential customers with traffic wardens). Hanging baskets are lovely if you have time to look.

want Cambridge to remain the same services work and benefit me and the kids in every way possible.

I think that the stay + playcentres, particularly waterloo provide a vital service to a range of mums/firsttime mums. I personally suffered postnatal depression with my first baby + going to the stay + play really helped. Saved me even, it was a great chance to meet other mums + I didn't feel alone. Please keep them open!

Save the present services we have already lost local libraries and groups that usually run at the centre's again a change in resources means Ainsdale and Southport area loses out!

Children centre shouldn't be shut down

I'm not clear on what the evidence base is for children's centres and how wide ranging their impact has been? . I'm not sure how well you've tested through this what actual 'services' you're proposing is based in these centres & how willing all the population would be to attend. I don't have any personal experience of family centres although I know through my job they are absolutely fundamental to supporting social care with keeping children safe & faciliate contact. With regards to children's centres, personally when I was pregnant and my children were under 5 I did not like being made to attend these centres for appointments with midwives and health visitors. I'd rather attend the gp surgery. I'd rather 2 year health checks took place at home or at nursery or I was at least given a choice of venue. Have you considered the requirement for complimentary basis? I personally feel Sefton needs to get away from its appointment and referral system and get into communities, back into homes esp in the homes of pre school children and be much more outreach focused.

The Early Help that the children's centre provide in Netherton is crucial to the support and prevention of major safeguarding issues for vulnerable families. Without this support many of these families will undoubtedly end up needing serious help from social care, health services

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and police intervention. The serious nature of the issues within the families need the support of the children's centre.

The description of Family Wellbeing Centres and what they will offer Sefton families is vague so it is difficult to comment. It seems to be implying that the focus of the offer will be for families who are in the social care or early help pathways. These are not the only families who need support. Early years support is vital to help parents with issues such as healthy eating / obesity; early development; school and nursery readiness; behavioural problems; speech and language (communication) problems; mental health and wellbeing issues, domestic violence / safeguarding issues etc. Having somewhere to attend that is non-judgemental and where there are trained / informed staff is a truly preventative offer. Early signs that a parent or child may need help are identified because the Centre staff know families and support them. This would be lost in 'Family Wellbeing' centres that offered only services to troubled families. A 0 - 19 year olds service will be a watered down offer that will work for the few - not the many. Without Children's Centres more families will fail to thrive and reach their full potential. This will result in more families ending up in the Social Care / Early Help system. I feel that merging Family Centres and Children's Centres will not provide a preventative service for ALL Sefton families. They are 2 very different services. I would urge council members to work with the managers and staff to make the financial cuts that would meet Sefton Council's budget requirements while offering the best service for all local families

Once again - it would be irretrievable damage to a community to lose Linaker Children's centre, they do a lot of prevention work, e.g mental health, helps with loneliness and isolation, there is no breastfeeding support anywhere else, international group very beneficial, mother and baby bonding groups, clinics are so easy to access and flows really nice because staff puts a lot of effort to organise it all, very informative. Please keep it going for community! Thank you

If you are reducing the locations of services, it would be better to offer more classes and services in the remaining ones, as a lot of classes and courses are fully booked already-if there is going to be more people using fewer services then people are going to miss out unfortunately! Having the option to go to groups has really helped me become a mum and have a reason to get out each day and meet new people.

The children's centre at Linaker St has been invaluable to me with the development and support after having my children I shall be very upset should this support be in any way reduced as these proposals indicate.

The council buildings are not the nicest of places to attend and those based on school sites will not want some of the services at the front of their school building. I am concerned how the local community will access preventative services if the most vulnerable services will be probably the only on offer at the Children's centre. Public will assume that as the centres

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aren't closing they think there will be no changes, when there will be, but they will not realise this until all universal support has gone!

These services are vital to our community, my local centre has provided me with lots of support through my pregnancy and my newborns development. I have used the service for many years and it would be a shame to change or cost cut. More money should be made available for early years development and ensuring families have support, a community network and facilities to thrive at such a vulnerable time!

Linaker children's centre is a brilliant place, I have been attending there for the last 4 years. After having my second child I felt very down and alone but the staff there from the receptionists to the session leaders always made me feel welcome and part of the group, they always listened and helped me regain my confidence. I am pregnant with baby number 3 and if Linaker children's centre were to go I worry I would not be able to attend other centres as they are not as close and it can be a struggle waking everywhere with kids.

Stop cutting youth services!!! Enough is enough

Cambridge rd is a lifeline to parents in this area and needs to be kept as it is.

It must be clear what services are provided in delivery centres as it will be difficult for some families in more deprived areas to travel!!

Linaker Children's Centre is the heart of its community, it is well established and has a reputation amongst parents and partners for providing outstanding support. The Children's Centre environment removes barriers to access and engagement. Families can attend sensitive/personal services confidently. The same cannot be said for Talbot Street family centre, the families who attend Talbot Street do so as part of a C.P/CIN plan, they do not attend through choice. Talbot Street has a stigma attached to it which is widely known across the north of the borough and families would not choose to take their children there. Services should be left at Linaker Children's Centre or moved to the Atkinson where Linaker already has a delivery base.

Its a crime to take Linaker and the 2 support sites

I hope the cuts won't affect the service that is needed!

It is really important that local families to Cambridge are able to attend a base with familiar faces and within walking distance. It would be hugely detrimental to the local community to have the family support workers and centre manager removed from Cambridge children's centre as there are so many vulnerable families who have built excellent relationships with them.

What will happen to the staff at Linaker they have been a god send to and my family.

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I would be lost without our local centre, the team has helped me and my family in a time of crisis, and still continue to support me now. I know if there is anything I need I can go there for help and advice Please don't close the centre!

Please stop disguising a poorly thought out cost saving exercise as developing a new model of services!

I wouldn't like to see any of the services taken away from the Freshfield centre as it has so many resources we use there

This would be such a shame on our current childrens services, yet another example of the government downgrading all facilities, what hope is there for our children?

Since P2000 closed, I was unable to access any groups with my child as Linaker told me I was outside their catchment area. I have been hoping (as I am pregnant again), that something would open in the north of Southport that I would be allowed to access, but it appears these changes would make things even more difficult for me and the people living in my area.

We know that early intervention equals prevention; therefore why take away vital services for children and move them to a centralised base which may be difficult to access? Also, it would appear that Sefton want to focus on the most vulnerable children in the borough, which is understandable. However, I feel this is incredibly short sighted as the universal children and families are almost forgotten about, potentially leading to problems arising for them. I, for one could not have coped without the support from my LOCAL children's centre in the early days after my baby was born. He is now one year old and we still access the children's centre weekly and we value the support dearly, that is offered.

Don't close the services or reduce these vital life lines for families

Sefton should be ploughing MORE money into early identification of need, NOT cutting interventions and services. This is not addressing the needs of the local population of children and families.

The groups run by the centres (farnborough rd and kings meadow) have been amazing, helping me so much with both my baby and toddler. They are great for new parents as well as for the children's development. I am not sure i would have coped as well as i did without their support each week.

I always thought having children's centres working alongside schools was a brilliant idea to create a link between schools and community and to introduce families to their potential future schools early and therefore have a continuity in working with families who need support. Outsourcing facilities to big isolated centres does not say 'linked-up support' to me. I have worked with children and now had experience as a parent and it is ridiculous how little different services are communicating and linked up and how long it takes to get to the right

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person/provision. However, I am not confident that creating big health centres will tackle the problem and proposals seem vague at best. Unfortunately I only see it as 'how can we scratch services and save money whilst seen as improving things and acting in the communities best interest'! I am really not convinced the families in need or the general public are being served better that way.

The changes need to be mindful in relation to travel, most people will walk, how close is it for them

Staff in children centres have been invaluable during pregnancy and as a new mother. They have offered me support and help. The children centred have been integral to keeping me happy and helped with post natal mental health and bonding with my child. It is a service I hope to use the facilities in the future

Cambridge children's centre is an excellent base The community needs this centre it has so many families accessing it everyday and alot of them would have to go very far if we were to shut, this centre is such a huge support network for the local families. I have worked there for nearly 7 years as a childcare practitioner and my daughter attends childcare in the 2-3 room. I would have to not only find a new job but new childcare provision for my daughter who is 2 years old. I'm a single parent and the attitude and support I get from Cambridge is second to none. I wouldn't put my daughter anywhere else. Thanks

I understand you need to save money but in my opinion these proposals of changing our children's centre will have a very direct impact on our children. Your proposals on what you will be delivering sounds great but if people can't or won't access them in the proposed wellbeing centres then they will get even less of a service than they do now. My youngest does not cope well with change, new staff buildings etc so this will have a direct impact on his mental wellbeing.

I do think there is a huge risk being taken reducing these services, from a professional stance having studied health and social care and from the perspective of a mother of 2. These groups or weigh in clinic really are such a huge support to mothers and children (fathers too). I made a very close group of friends from attending one particular group at Kings Meadow and another at Linaker, these friendships have continued until my little boy has started school. Mothers can't all afford to pay to attend groups and meet other mums I do honestly think for society the services offered at children's centres are a small price to pay for society to ensure there is no isolation.

I understand that budget is a major reason for these changes and money doesn't grow on trees! However I worry that amalgamating centres will reduce the amount of service users as there would be more travel involved and from personal experience, I know the staff in my local Children's centre and they know me and my family. Some families struggle with opening up and sharing information and children's centre staff have worked so hard to build these relationships with families and offer relevant support and advice to cater to each

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family. Would this be replicated in a bigger centre with less time to spend with families and make it less personable, comfortable? I think it it's not broken don't try to fix it and children's centres are an invaluable service for families to access for advice, fun activities and being part of a community hub:

The services I have accessed since having my little boy have been invaluable. I have had postnatal anxiety and depression and the baby groups and courses I've done (especially the mum and baby wellbeing course) have I believe saved me from feeling considerably worse. It has also prevented me from becoming isolated. I moved to Southport recently and didn't really know anyone locally. I have met great friends through the children's centre who I meet regularly now and who are a great support. I really don't think I'd have been able to cope anywhere near as well without access to the services I have used, and my little boy would have suffered as a result of me not coping. I can't say strongly enough how important these services have been for me.

My local children's centre was invaluable to me when I had my first child and has continued to support my family for the past 6 years. Over the years I have seen services cut, classes removed and budgets slashed but throughout all of this the staff and volunteers have continued to be dedicated and passionate about the support and service they deliver. It would be a travesty to not have this amazing service so locally.

Sefton council need to think long and hard about cutting any form of children services. In an already underfunded and struggling service they need to inject more funding and make a great service even better. Families heavily rely on these services and to remove a lifeline is just not the right way to go.

The fantastic service provided by the Linaker children's centre (at Linaker and at the Atkinson) has been invaluable in helping us through our first 6 months with a new baby. I would hate to see this service compromised for other new parents in the future, and anticipate using the service for many years to come as my baby grows. Could those who can afford it perhaps pay a small fee to attend some of the classes / courses if this meant that they could continue at their current locations?

I think you should leave all centres as they are to focus on the children and may be have the adult provisions for money etc in the town centre where the population require them most. Linaker and Farnborough are used by myself and my friends a lot of my friends use the Atkinson also (this has not been used by me as older child too big) we need a small safe place to go within walking distance from our homes to be able to make friends who our children can then attend school with which is what my eldest has had the luxury of doing. The mums are a support network for each other and the staff are amazing too

Please keep the centres where they are as not all families can drive and if local it means they have somewhere to drop in if needing support. I use Linaker as it provides a wide range of fun activities for my family thinking about their health development in a fun and exciting

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way. Families need these bases for support and feel comfortable with places and people they know. The staff do an amazing job and have reached all over the community there is not a hospital clinic park library in which you see a linker sign hosting an event or offering support or advice to families. They have really thought about there community and what they as professionals can offer with support. .

The Talbot Centre is down a back street and not easy to find , also has history of being a Social Worker Centre

DO NOT CLOSE FRESHFIELD CHILDREN'S CENTRE,IT PROVIDES SO MUCH SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES IN THE AREA.

please can we continue having the services offered by childrens centre remain in the childrens centre.

Formby residents would not travel to Southport for most services, it is essential that they can access support for their families within Formby. For example, at Freshfield Children's Centre, the new baby programme ensures that new mums are supported fully during the weeks after their baby is born. They have access to the well baby clinic, baby massage and a Family Development Worker for advice and support at a time when it is difficult to even leave the house. They meet new friends with babies of the same age and are able to socialise and share experiences with families living in the same area. Centre staff get to know the families as they visit regularly and are able to pro-actively address any issues in the early stages.

Loosing first steps children centres will stop parents and children accessing the services available to them. Smaller, more personal services are what families of small children need. Bigger, busier services are a real put off, even more so for families where the parents or children have additional needs.

I think sefton should keep their services the same as we really enjoy using the children's centres and have found them to be very useful and helpful as a first time mum

The Cambridge children's centre Bootle has been very helpful to me as a previous foster carer and a childminder and also a grandparent. The Staff are all helpful friendly and offer excellent advice. They take a personal interest in myself and the children I have cared for and it is within easy reach to where I live. It would be a great shame to lose this vital service in our local community.

Farnborough children's centre has been so valuable to my family for the past eight years, I feel it should stay as it is and no changes should be made to this amazing service

Sefton council need to stop cutting vital places for parents and children and need to focus on what's really important as these children will be the future community of southport

The childrens centres offer an excellent service - it is a terrible idea what is being proposed!

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think its ridiculous some parents an carers and the children dont do well with change an will make life harder for a lot of people.

Do not change what it is, its taken me and allot of other people moving with anxiety to change this about. It would be terrible to change what already is a great thing

keep the centres as they are. They are valuable services that we need.

Leave it as it is!

My son and daughter have both attended the fabulous 2 year old nursery in the children's centre at Farnborough and I have attended lots of there fabulous classes from birth to now, the staff are fabulous, very friendly and nothing is too much trouble, This is a ludicrous idea as surely money would have to be spent on updating talbot st? Plus you would loose a lot of footfall as parents use the centre as it's attached to the school and fits in with times of school

I think the proposals are utterly ludicrous and will be to the detriment of all families across Sefton. It will undo the huge amount of good work that has taken place since the inception of Children's Centres.

The range of services provided should be taken into account I currently attend 3 things a week through linaker with at least 2 other sessions I could attend but can't due to other commitments that's something on daily! They do things I've not seen other centres do such as groups for new mums to meet up and activities during the summer for older children

If anything the services should be increased not decreased. To do so will be selfish and at a detriment to the local communities who rely on them.

We are just making way with breastfeeding support and Hudson is key to patents in Maghull for being supportive and friendly

I don't feel the proposals are very clear and am concerned about how they will affect the services I plan on accessing after my baby is born and which I know other parents have found very beneficial

Anyone in secton should be able to attend any centre they wish. At 14 days old i took my daughter to little treasures and kings meadow after a recommendation from a friend. I made lots of friends and attended some wellbeing / tummy time classes and after about 8 weeks of attending the sessions regualy I was told I shouldnt be going to kinsmeadow or farnborough road. 'My' centre was Linaker as I live in Crossens. I didnt go again and in the hardest time I felt alone and annoyed that I hadnt been told the was a catchment area. It isnt clear there is a catchment area for these centres. I was told not to go to the sessions again at kings meadow. Fabulous news for a new mum of a 8 week old baby. My midwife and health visitor never told me about the centres or what services i could access. I didnt do an antinatal class such as mellow bump, i only attended little treasures with a friend as I just didnt know they existed.

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Whilst pregnant I suffered with anxiety and depression and I truly believe visiting Freshfield children's centre has stopped me from suffering post natal depression. I was invited to a welcome meeting at which I met other mums and found information on classes to attend. This was the first place I breastfed in public and gave me the confidence to continue. I would hate to see this facility lost as it's played such a big and amazing part in mine and my daughters lives and I know it has helped many others too.

The entire consultation seems to have been written to skew answers so you get the responses that you want. You are attempting to cut a huge chunk of budget whilst claiming that it will make no difference. I have just moved out of Netherton: the Children's Centre do a fantastic job with a reduced budget but children will suffer. If you cut services to under 5s you will have to pay more for services to over 5s and teenagers when small problems become magnified due to lack of early support. As a mum I have found Netherton Children's Centre invaluable and I can see how Freshfield is an important part of the community even though it is a more affluent area. Depression and isolation are high and full time Children's centres help to alleviate this for parents.

Suggestions as above- more facilities in the churchtown area.

Please reconsider your plans. These changes will be at the detriment to our community. Find ways to save elsewhere

I think services are good in Springwell but wish they had little chefs class as I attended that in Stonycroft. Also wish had more for 2 year olds as more for younger and older

Please don't do away with child development programs like Little Treasures at Kings Meadow - they offer vital support for new parents and help prevent post natal depression as well as advice and help with baby development etc

For myself and my baby, Talbot St family centre has been and is amazing and so helpful, we would have been lost without the support of such a wonderful dedicated team. Kings Meadow and Farnborough Rd have also been a main support from the beginning for first steps. Please, please continue to make sure we get to keep these very much needed services. Many thanks.

I would have been lost without the Freshfield Children's Centre in the first 12 months of my son's life. The support was brilliant.

Children's centre websites better kept up to date . One website for all

I think the children's centres are an excellent place where, in my experience, new mums feel welcomed and it is an opportunity to meet other new mums who are in a similar circumstance. As a mum who works 4 days per week and is educated to degree level I personally do not do the support of adult education classes, however, the child development classes provided in the children's centres have been invaluable to the confidence in the new

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'mum role'. Whilst improving services are important I would hope that the fundamentals of children's groups are maintained for parents.

Leave linaker as it is.

1. Breast start needs to come back. We need more support To encourage people to stick with it. 2. Whole whole booklet with whats on would be good. 3 we need more toddler groups and activities around birkdale and ainsdale. 4. More support with encouaging lliteracy. 5. Hold more parent friendly classes eg potty training which we can bring the child along.

Talbot Street, to my knowledge, is currently in use for those people who suffer with drug and alcohol addiction. I would not be happy to attend such a place with my child or by myself.

Stop making life difficult for new parents. You claim to be helping the well being of families but you are actually causing more stress and anxiety by closing existing centres down. I may live in the West Lancs area but I access Sefton centres as they are easiest for me to get to....this will not be the case In the future and I think I will be looking at accessing services in West Lancs instead as a result of these proposed changes.

Other local authorities have done exactly this and seen a rise in social care which then in turn explodes.

Cutting on children services is only going to cause this country getting worse and even more behind other countries!

Don't do it!

As a parent having the services on offer in one place such as Linaker is vital. The staff are amazing and so helpful. Everything is under one roof which enables service users to feel comfortable and confident to attend a variety of sessions.

I feel careful consideration is needed if families currently using Seaforth Children Centre/Family Centre are going to be expected to access other centres. For some parents this is their first point for advice, support and generationally families have used it.

I would like to point out that a study by Oxford University 2016 showed that families who use children's centres do much better than those who don't. I work in a deprived area of Sefton, some parents do not have the luxury of driving! How is this going to affect them and their families please?

I truly believe that a merger of this level is going to cause more isolation, depravity and a lower level of health amongst children.

Reducing the access to children's centres is a shortsighted money saving idea from a government who seems to disregard the health and wellbeing of anybody who is not rich. It is appalling that they find it acceptable to put people's mental health in jeopardy by taking

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these centres away. Hudson was and is a godsend to me, especially when my children were little. I often couldn't afford the children's hobbies like Tumble tots , time for Ted etc. Hudson offered free walk in sessions that my children loved and that helped my mental health as they took me out of the house and helped me access support and make friends. Please do not close this centre down.

I dont agree with the proposal at all. The impact on the community will be detrimental and will have such a negative effect. How does this proposal promote every child matters or is it that only some children matter. The staff at Springwell have always made me feel welcome and i certainly would not be prepared to travel to any other centre.

i do not agree wif the proposal

How much money will the council save ? As you need to find more money for the budget, Does this mean people will loose their jobs? If you close some bases down what will you do with them?

I think you need to be transparent and say where all the 'Locality' bases will be

I propose saving are made elsewhere even if it means reducing the offer slightly.

As above. The first steps children's centre is a vital service for new and existing mums and families. I moved into the area from Manchester not knowing many people and not having much experience with babies. The children's centre offer at kings meadow was so supportive offering classes which are a life line to new mums, I only have to walk to kings meadow for a friendly supportive service and their staff and groups are second to none. Even my husband uses dads club to help him bond with the kids and make new friends. The groups such as readiness for school, top tots, little treasures, toddler group and rhyme time have helped build confidence in my children and aided their communication skills. Moving or losing this service would be like tearing the heart out of our community. Please continue to fund this service!

Leave it alone. The last changes made it so I couldn't access half the services, and I'm definitely not the only person. There are already next to no services in Southport.

Having services locally and within easy access areas i.e. easy parking is essential with children with disabilities. I would feel uncomfortable visiting places of worship regardless of the denomination and think services should remain as they are.

Get the centre's more active on Facebook sharing info on classes etc.

Linaker Children's Centre is a well known establishment and is loved by all its families no matter what Sefton Council say about this extraordinary centre the answer is we all say NO you CANNOT close Linaker Children's Centre or change it the support and the staff are out of this world so this cannot happen Linaker Children's Centre should remain untouched end of!!!

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This is a cost cutting exercise which drives people away from services and fails vulnerable residents who are not always aware of the support they can access or and who may not have the confidence to access larger centres that can be quite intimidating also often these residents are less likely to travel further to seek out help. I am opposed to the proposal as there is no valid data to support them that you have been able to present in support

This is not a meaningful consultation as it does not set the context of what is level of resources which will be invested in these services over the coming years compared to current resource levels.

Change is good, sometimes. However, in regards to the North of Sefton, changing to Talbot Street would not be good. Many families who attend Linakers are of course from the local area but there are many more who live further away & even they are shocked at this proposal! I speak on behalf of at least 50 families who have spoken about it this week. Please leave Linakers the way it is, we need it!!!!

Litherland children's centre (including the sessions held at st Paul's church hall) is beneficial for me with having two young sons (2 and 4 months) it helps them interact with other children as me and my husband both work and are not entitled to any government funding towards child care etc. I think me and my boys would be sad if it merged or moved somewhere else

As above

I think that if children's centres will be part of the family centres then the families that need the support will get priority over the families(like myself) who need the support to prevent bigger situations occurring. The support I have with the children's centre is especially important to me because I feel that I know they have all of the support on hand for me and I am worried that the bigger age group 0-19 will overtake the younger generations needs before they arise. As I have an early years background I am fully aware of how important early development and attachment is I often needed support in the early days.

The thornton children's center has prevented me and my family for being escalated to social I feel it can be a very very lonely life living with children with disabilities but know I can just nip to the Thornton for some help just takes the unneeded stress from our life which helps me provide and healthy and safer life for my family

I type the local groups leaflet and the What's on. Active Sefton provide their own booklet. I gather my information from local people and the staff. We have so many people who visit the centre, professionals as well as parents, take this information with them. We use facebook, twitter and website too. We email over 3000 people with the What's On, Then we email schools, nurseries, professionals. We are a source of information, and if we do not have the information we then go and seek it to help the parents.

Hopefully, these changes will target the families and children that they were originally meant to. Since having my own children, the centres provided fantastic opportunities to socialise

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and get to know others, plus engage with wonderful practitioners that man these facilities. I am back in full time work now, as are my mum friends and I truly hope you manage to target those with a weaker work/parenting ethic.

There is nothing in netherton to take away a vital service that I think stopped me from getting post natal depression will affect the local community. We need this centre

I attended the children's centre in Netherton several times a week whilst I was on maternity leave. This was in relation to the drop in clinic - which was a brilliant free service of reassurance, or the baby groups ie baby massage or stay and play providing opportunities for interaction with other babies and parents

Sefton have supported Children's centres longer than some local authorities and should be applauded for that, Children and Families in sefton need these services to remain as they are. Although Sefton Council needs to cut costs and closing childrens centres would do this, in the long term cutting Childrens centre services will have a detrimental effect on communities and outcomes for children.

I access Seaforth Children's Centre at least 3 times a week with my children it's a life line for me. Getting out of the house and being apart of the community helps a tremendous amount and benefits my family so much. it has been a great support system for myself. If this was to close or move to far away I could not afford to access other centre as with most others using this centre.

The suggested proposal will ruin what already exists, it provides no additional support as to what there already is and would disrupt what children know and understand to be safe and happy surroundings.

I think you need to look at the increasing number of issues faced by centres in terms of safe guarding and parental support, number of children attending, increased diversity of language and look at where is already fulfilling needs and check that proposals are correct for Sefton at this time of expansion and work and this isn't just a way of saving money irrespective of what is needed. You need to keep the staff who can do the work.

Think the whole thing is daft. Keep local family help local and accessible. Think you need to put yourselves in the shoes of the people and families who actually need, rely and use the services not ideals and textbook examples because real life needs real people. Even though it is 2017 we still need community and trust

We need more services in maghull. Like many other areas. The more cuts made the larger problems become in the area. Hudson already have limited service with many people not using it as much as there isn't much on. Activities need to be promoted more. I think merging centres in more deprived areas is going to have a negative impact in the community. Many people can't drive and relief on these centres as a life line. Children will suffer and parents will suffer.

Leave Linaker untouched

I feel so let down by these proposals and I know a lot of other people do too. Linaker children's centre is embedded into my community and is an integral part of it too. I disagree with the proposals of closing it down and having another base in an unpleasant area. I wouldn't visit Talbot street and would feel lost and isolated with who else to go to.

As above, parking facilities are needed, parking in Talbot street is likely to be abused by people wishing to shop in town!

I'm very concerned that your proposal does not go up to 25 for those young people with SEND. That there is little thought for the impact these cuts will have on families who are already under immense pressure to support their child with additional needs. Siblings do not seem to be counted for in these services. And universal services will not adequately support families that need specialist support because of their child's complex needs. If all budgets are cut as dramatically as it suggests in the budget (yes I have read it) long term effects will mean more money will need to be spent because families are in crisis as they haven't been properly supported. With proper early interventions.

It is vital to ensure that all children's needs are met including those with disabilities providing specialist support. Generic workers may not be able to offer the targeted support that the council currently offers. It is vital that main centres are suitable for purpose and allow full access taking in to account the holistic needs of all children and families.

I just ask that these proposed changes be fully considered for implications to those relying on the services day to day, ultimately as their key method of support.

Any money saved by these changes will only mean families accessing services at a later date. Stop cutting services.

As a retired Health Visitor Team Leader who worked for 22 years in Southport, 8 of those years based at Linaker Childrens Centre, managing a team of nearly 30 Health Visiting staff and having a very busy caseload for all 22 years, I wish to comment that I believe your proposal appears to focus solely on families where there are already safeguarding concerns. I am not against joined-up services for families in the least. However, I wish to point out that ALL families deserve the best and I would hold Linaker CC and it's satellite bases up as an absolute Centre of Excellence. What about their role in PREVENTION?? How many families would be in difficulties if they did not have their CC and it's staff to turn to, knowing that they can always speak to someone and support is there for them no matter what their situation. It is unfortunate but sadly all too true that Talbot St holds a stigma for many, many people in Southport. Linaker CC does NOT. It is an absolutely wonderful place for ALL families to attend and the staff are the most dedicated, professional, able and empathic people that I have ever worked with. Southport is so lucky to have such a great facility and it would be an extremely sad situation if generic services are cut or lost altogether. Although I now live in Cumbria, I am more than willing to give further support to Linaker's case if need be.

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Please keep the children centres. I have accessed them for all three children. And they saved my life. I suffered PND with my second and if it wasn't for the support of these places. I don't know where I would be today. All the courses and groups I attended kept me going. As did the friendly staff. This time round I went to groups and met so many friends. And I believe this is why my mental health hasn't suffered this time. I never felt isolated.

I recently moved back to Southport having lived in Northumberland. My reason for moving home was largely due to the lack of services and support for new parents in the area. I suffered post natal depression which was not picked up by the health visitors or midwives because they were so under staffed. In addition, the lack of children's centre facilities meant that none of the staff there picked up my illness. If the services are lost, reduced, or moved so far away from people that they can not easily attend, I fear this will happen to others, or myself again with my next pregnancy. These services are vital and are what ultimately pulled me out of my depression.

Its important that any transitions at handled well and that families with young children are involved and listened to.

The advertised information and frequency of classes was quite poor. I only heard about things from a friend.

I feel Talbot street as the main centre is very out of my way. I'd have to pay for parking, whereas having farnborough close by means I can walk and prevents me having to use my car.

PLEASE RECONSIDER! I do understand that you are constantly needing to make cuts, but you reduce services to vulnerable families at your peril.

Accessible centres for parents are essential to reduce social inequalities and prevent well being decline in young families. Reducing the number of services will hinder the achievement of children's centres ethos as aforementioned and result in increased demand on health care for both children and parents who may struggle to cope when support is not available.

My child is only 6 and to think of her in a centre where children and young adults are all mixed together in an environment she is not used to, is very distressing. The centre attached to her school is a safe and welcoming environment, like an extension of our family. Removing it will cause more emotional, financial and educational problems than the ones you are trying to solve.

Please stop your cost cutting exercise. These existing centres exist at the moment because there is a demand for them as they are. They need more investment and money rather than focusing on centralising everything with the primary aim of simply saving money. Invest in your existing community services and see them thrive!

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As as parent, I will not be accessing the facilities if it moves to a larger hub.

Talbot street is not a safe place and I would not use it.

Netherton children's centre has been amazing with me and my little boy. He's 14 months old now and we have been going to the centre since he was 8 weeks old at least 2 times a week. We walk there and the groups are fab and have great times. The staff are all amazing and have helped in the development of my son and also in the mental and emotional state of myself, I am not from around here so didn't know anyone but have met a lot of people through the centre

It is extremely hard to comment on a proposal when it is VERY unclear what your proposal is. Apart from naming main centres and complementary centres I have found no information about what is going to be offered at each place. It is therefore very hard to give a clear opinion on this matter. I have answered this survey to state that I wish the services offered by Freshfield Children's centre to remain the same as it has been a great places to meet other mums as well as receive support on issues to do with my children's development.

I think there needs to be better communication about the services offered through the centre's. Why people would engage with them, what kind of support can be offered and how the centre's can support families.

Your people and their location are key to the services you supply; changing either comes with significant risk.

Children's centres are vital services to each individual community. Many people will be put off accessing services if they have to travel to get there. Many children's centres are currently located near to schools were families can drop off their children at schools and then attend a session at a nearby centre with their younger children. What may seem a non essential service such as a stay and play group could be a life line to a new parent/lonely mother needing advice and support and lead on to accessing other more important services such as mental health services.

I would much rather prefer to attend the children's centres that are already up and running and continue to socialise and interact with the current group of people that I do now compared to re-locating to a new centre.

DO NOT MOVE THE CENTRE! LEAVE IT WHERE IT IS. SIMPLE.

Please rethink this proposal. It's a huge mistake for so many families and children who need this centre.

Springwell park children's centre provides childcare for hundreds of families in this area, I would struggle to work full time as a teacher if it wasn't for the fantastic after school club they run.

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We're all wondering just who exactly are 'the community' that want this to happen?! Nobody I know was 'surveyed' about this! So who??

I need more information on these proposals to understand how they would work, at the moment I do not understand how you could change the current model into what is proposed. Also I clicked on this survey to say I was a member of staff at a Family Centre with no children and the survey has asked me a lot of irrelevant questions about my use of the centres and my children (which I do not have). There needs to be a more specific survey for staff to have their say on.

No provision in north Southport Talbot Street is difficult to access - its not on a main bus route and has restricted parking.

Keep the centres as they are. they work and serve families well. if this changes the support families are offered change and this does not help anyone. families need local services. if they are not local and can't access them, families in need slip through the net and the problems you are trying help escalate!! Don't fix something that is not broken!

Please keep all our children's centres and their services open. Do not close the local centres. Do not make changes based on financial gain, please see that these centres mean so much to those that access them. Freshfield children's centre for example has been nothing short of amazing, for myself and to other people I know who use their services.

If you are going to consult, the decision should not have already been made. Therefore I suggest this consultation is not legal.

As above, too ambitious, possibly not enough venues to do all that? Principles are fine but it doesn't translate to anything meaningful to me yet. what services exactly are you referring to? What services will be cut.? How do I find ou/access them? Are there charges? Is there anything new? How will it help people living in poverty, accessing food banks, poor housing, mental health, meet needs of parents, childcare for working parents, people struggling with the disaster that is universal credit?

These centres work best to support everyone when they are run locally. Main bases will only work for the very vulnerable families with multiple issues. But everyone else needs support too, and a tiny 'complementary base' is not adequate support for those who may be off the radar and just need some social and peer support in a less formalised setting.

Although I agree with the proposals as I work in a similar position as a XXXX Manager in XXXXX so deliver a similar service that you are proposing. However I would like to stress the importance of keeping similar activities for toddlers available as my daughter attends Top Tots, Childminder Meetings and Rhyme Time which she thoroughly enjoys. I understand that the proposals will potentially be setting up an early help team for families possibly creating new posts which then puts constraints on finances and budgets for other activities in which

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she and many other children including childminders will miss out on in the future if not taken into account.

Kings Meadow is a great locality. Have you ever considered Shoreside school there is so much space there

I completely object to this proposal. The level of care already provided by both family centres and children centres is at critical level, why is this on the chopping block when cuts are being made from the budget. These services are far too important to be streamlined or amended! They should be left alone and given the ability to provide the care they are currently doing!

This proposal is not good.... most if the people who use the childrens centers have little or no money... how are local people supposed to acces this premises??? What will haplen to all the wonderful classes and support that the current facilities offer? What about the staff? We know them, trust them and really appreciate their help and support when things get tough.

I think there would have to be a major refurbishment of Talbot street for it to become the main hub and I also think that there is maybe a stigma attached to it being a 'social services ' building and some people won't attend. I think that family support workers and the family development workers all do a fantastic job but there is a distinction between early help and helping families that are already in crisis and I am not sure how the new proposals will work in respect of this.

Please see previous comments.

These proposals as they are must not happen. Existing bases should be kept

I think it's a way of slowly withdrawing support and services to families. I think it will end in the closure of the so called complimentary bases. I think it excludes the poorest, most vulnerable and most needy families. I think it's going to see rates of PND rise, breastfeeding drop and the money saved on the front line have to be redistributed later through the NHS in interventions with mental health and wellbeing.

The information, including this survey, needs to be presented in a more accessible way. This is too wordy, I doubt many of the people using the services you are talking about would be bothered to answer these questions.

Accessibility and affordability for families is crucial. Tory austerity is forcing Sefton council to make some very tough decisions but that is also the case for ordinary families. Those who are most vulnerable often have the fewest options so to reduce the support available to them would be devastating.

As the nearest centre would only be a complementary centre I assume it would not provide many of the services it currently does therefore I probably wouldn't access the service. This would impact my child who is currently under diagnosis for a disability/disorder. No consideration of families and children has gone into this proposal at all only the council trying

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to save money. The services provided at the Atkinson and Canning road Chapel are good outreach services for those who cannot attend Linaker children's centre. The services provided by Linaker are excellent, I think it should be kept as a main centre and not "complementary"

We used to use library services in Birkdale, but now that it has moved to Southport it is difficult to access these (to take books out and return them is a chore rather than a pleasure). Will the children centres follow the same fate?

Concerned that we will lose vital services that vulnerable people rely on.

I think that this proposal is good as long as you ensure that the services are on offer that are needed particularly child and adult mental health which lacks services for families in acute stress. This proposal would not work if you cut staff as there are already waiting lists for services so how can you offer timely support to families if not enough staff

I worry that support will go. I am already very careful about what support I access and where from and from whom. I would not have ever spoken about my mental health to anyone not even my GP because I didn't want judgement but XXXX supported me to access support and even to go to my GP if things get bad.

Think that the children's centres are a key support in the local community. Feel that the council should support and encourage the use of them-and them being kept open for all local users. I use, or have used children's centres for the last few years - and think they are so important for families.

I am sure my previous comments speak for itself when talking about a particular children centre. But I know from working within Education for many years a whole family, and collective, answerable approach is needed by staff to ensure that the family and more importantly children's needs are met. Children centres are not meeting this requirement and the funds that they are talking away from the wider educational needs would be better suited to be redirected into schools.

Children are the future of all communities, cutting services provided to children will have a large impact on the future of the area

Is this just to save money? If this is the reason then in order to save money something will be lost and I think this will be quality of service especially if it means the staff losing their jobs.

The proposal is not clear for parents or staff to comment on. It's asking whether we agree to three hubs and 'potential' bases which may or may not happen. It does not explain what this may potentially mean. Therefore parents are agreeing to the principles which are sound (and exist already) and agreeing to a proposal not realising that this may mean closure of the very thing they care about. Therefore parents and employees cannot give an accurate

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opinion as there is no actual impact information given. What will it mean to have three hubs? Some bases? No Bases?

See my previous comments

I think I will lose my children's centre

Don't change.

This proposal has a some positives, although the information shared is limited so it is difficult to gain a full picture of what this service is going to look like. I work for Young Minds (UK leading child mental health charity) and have been working closely with schools and childrens centres to support families who have children with mental health difficulties. This area, especially children with neurological disorders such as ADHD and Autism and their families need support. There seems to be a massive gap in services for these families in Sefton. I would like to know what support they will be receiving under this new structure. The parent/carer peer support groups are growing and I hope they can still be supported under this new model. I feel very strongly about early intervention and building bonds of attachment in families, this does not just mean the early stages of a babies life but as a continuous growth up to adolescent years, so your proposal for up to the age of 19 is positive, however evidence base does show that the adolescent brain is up to the age of 25 yrs. Parents do not continually need to be told how to parent, so maybe review the parent classes. More therapeutic strategies, sensory classes, relaxation for parents and children. If you are building a new service really think about who you are reaching out to and how creative you can be in this. Use the Arts such as the Atkinson Centre to build on existing services. Please feel free to contact me on XXXXXXXXXX I am happy to support.

Seaforth would be totally lost without our Children's Centre. It is a hub of information for the local area. We have no Library, Health Centre or Leisure facilities. This would be a severe blow to all the vulnerable families in the area who look to the centre for help and assistance.

As I have already stated. These roles should be filled by qualified social workers. We the council tax payers were never consulted when these centres were set up. The cost was just added onto our council tax bills. More resources should be spent helping the disabled and rough sleepers instead.

I will be very saddened to see the closure or reduction in services of many children's centres. As a 1st time mum who is new to Sefton I had no idea what I would do once baby was born, where I could find any children's groups or other mum's to talk to or discuss problems with. I only discovered that children's centres existed by default when my midwife was going on holiday and asked me could I attend a drop in clinic at the children's centre. It was only through this visit that I discovered what was available to me and my forth coming baby. Since my baby has been born, he is 7 and 1/2 months old now, we have regularly attended Netherpton Children's Centre play groups and many other activities including baby massage, chatter matters, Jo Jingles, Jakes sensory world, baby 1st aid and we have had a home

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safety assessment. I don't think that Children's Centres are publicised enough and like I said, I never knew they existed until my midwife asked me to attend a drop in at about 34 weeks pregnant. I think that midwives and health visitors should promote the children's centres. Without the children's centre I would have gone mad at home. Attending groups has kept me sane, gave me adults to talk to, people to seek advice from and I have made many friends whom I now see socially. Social activity would never have been possible without the new mummy friends I have made as, as an older mum I do not have friends with baby's or friends that want to do baby activities or talk baby talk. Without the children's centre life would have become very lonely. The fact that activities are free or cost a nominal fee is a bonus as many mum's, including myself, would not be able to afford to pay for so many activities as we are on reduced maternity pay or even no pay towards the end of maternity leave, depending on how much maternity leave is taken. I can understand how many mum's suffer from post natal depression when they are stuck at home all day and may not have family support. I strongly believe that getting out to the children's centre and doing activities and meeting other people could reduce this effect. I also feel that my baby has benefitted massively from these activities. He is very sociable and doesn't mind being with other children and other adults and is blossoming into a very contented child. I am concerned that when I return to work and he is with his child minder that he will forget the social skills that he is developing. The children's centre has been a life line to me and I really hope for all parents that services are not reduced too drastically. I will return to work soon but I would like to fight to keep the children's centres for the great benefit of other parents. I do strongly believe though that they should be publicised a lot more. I did not even know during pregnancy where or how to access ante natal classes. I now know that the children's centre would have helped me with that and that there are classes locally. I ended up at classes at The Women's Hospital, about 12 miles from home. If only my midwife would have mentioned those 2 words to me - children's centre, I would have felt a lot more supported than I did.

Don't take these centres away. It's a lifeline for some. The most vulnerable Families access and are entitled to ALOT. They get two year old offer in nurseries, free courses, help with money etc. Which, yes I agree with but Please think of those, who have worked full time for 10 years, payed their taxes, use the centres and have to go back to work full time to provide for their family. Let some 'non vulnerable' families access these courses and enjoy them whilst they can.

Stop trying to save money/ claw back funds and put money into children's services. The services should be increasing not decreasing. Shaping humans from an early age is how you change their future and ensure they can become a useful productive member of society.

By closing Linaker children's centre you will be taking away an accessible service for many. I believe that this will result in a reduced support system for families potentially causing catastrophic consequences for not only the safety of many children but for the social, emotional and academic wellbeing and development of many children and their families.

Leave our centres alone keep them open

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As a non driver I find locations a huge issue.

The Freshfields Children Centre was a value tool in settling into a new area as a new family. (We moved to Formby last year when our first child was 6 weeks old). It helped us meet local people (many first time parents too) who shared their knowledge of the local area which was a great help. The centre made us welcome and provided support knowing that such a place was within our community. The workshops and drop in sessions were extremely useful and we have also enjoyed the stay and play groups.

Both of my children have benefitted greatly from services and activities and playgroups provided at First Steps. I feel if these centres are downgraded there will be a lot of children in that local area who miss out.

As a Childminder, the services are important for socialising children and getting them used to larger groups and for Childminder's to get support advice and guidance. Childminder's children seem to miss out on the new proposal. Their parents are working. The children benefit from the increased interact which helps them become school ready. The physical activities baby ballet are important in their social and physical well being and allow an activity which their parents would not otherwise afford.

The questions here relate to last twelve months - my daughter is now 2.5. In her first 12 - 18 months we attended many activities at the children's centre. We were lucky enough that she could attend the creche at Waterloo before this service was withdrawn - at the time I was in poor mental health and this was a great respite. I worry that these proposals are cutting services even more and for people like myself, who fall into a 'middle ground' of not needing intervention/support from Children's Services but who are also struggling daily are going to find it increasingly difficult to attend things that help. Please don't presume that everyone who needs help will be known to services or be able to ask for it - often just being able to turn up at a relaxed group and be around other people is really valuable.

As a parent of a child with additional needs I feel that Linaker Childrens Centre is an ideal venue for supporting children. It is a bright and welcoming centre which is centred around meeting the needs of young children. Ease of access is an important consideration when accessing services and I do not feel that there are any limits to accessing Linaker childrens centre, including the facility to park. Other venues I do not feel offer this ease of access and the parking facilities would stop me from wishing to access those venues.

The current provision from the children's centre means that parents can easily access services. Vulnerable families often find it difficult to access services and therefore any barriers to access need to be reduced.

these centres are vital for the welbing of the local communities and although my children are grown up as a grandparent who helps with childcare I realise for parents of young children these centres are a godsend and should continue to provide the excellent service for years to come they are not a luxury they are a necessity

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I have found my local children's centre a constant reassurance. As a new mum, it's been invaluable for my own mental and emotional wellbeing to access Informal support. I used the centres throughout my pregnancy and immediately after my sons birth. He's almost 10 months old and we've been to something (stay and play, baby yoga, baby massage, baby sensory, first aid, home safety etc) every single week. We have enjoyed everything we have attended and I would hate to think other parents/carers wouldn't have access to the same facilities in the future.

Have a Facebook page for it. It would be a better way of getting different views.

Please spend a day in a centre, come and see the vulnerable families that are supported there. Please reconsider....

If this is purely a cost saving measure then I would suggest the council look at other areas of their spending such as the utter waste of hundreds of thousands of pounds pointlessly and unnecessarily changing the speed limit signs. If this however is a genuine attempt at making the services offered better, then I would support it

As a grandparent and carer for my two grandchildren twice a week I have found the activities supplied by The First Steps Centre have been invaluable for both myself and my grandchildren. The fact that neither of them attended full time daycare has meant that their social interaction with other children and adults has been limited and I feel that their time spent at Kings Meadow and Farnborough Road has been an amazing benefit to them (and me!!). We have had some very happy and memorable activities offered in the school holidays, all of which have enabled them to make friends, learn to share and to behave themselves!! My grandson recently started full time education at Larkfield School and has been awarded Star Pupil of the Week twice and a "Mathmagician" and I am sure First Steps and their dedicated members of staff can take some of the credit for this!

Seems like a cost cutting procedure to reduce services .

services such as these need to be community based and not attached to other services as this assumes all targeted children use typical services eg education delivered through school as we know there is a growing cohort of children with additional needs who do not access such services. Therefore if services are only offered through typical places of attendance those at most risk or exclusion are not able to access help. I therefore feel community based services are most appropriate

Services for babies and toddlers should not be amalgamated with services for youths up to 19 years old. Each have different needs and safety requirements.

Use Linaker Centre as the main family Wellbeing centre as it is newer and better set up with good security and parking available. This will avoid spending large amounts of money on upgrading Talbot Centre to make it suitable for the proposed use and saves me, the tax payer, money.

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Services should not be reduced.

Although I understand that centralisation of services can be cost-effective, the importance of maintaining services where they are accessible to all (not just those considered at greatest need) should not be neglected.

Leave it as it is! I couldn't have coped without the services provided very locally when my child was a newborn, I have no transport and Springwell was near to me, it encouraged me to join in and socialise, very important when you're a new mum! I certainly wouldn't have travelled to Netherton, and so would have lost out on all the great services I accessed.

I NEED these services!!! You should be increasing the classes, not reducing them! I suffer with depression and anxiety, if I didn't have these services available, I wouldn't leave the house and my daughter wouldn't be getting the stimulation that she needs to thrive! There are already a shortage in spaces available! I can't get on to most of the classes as is!

Cambridge CC is a real life line - the staff are so professional, sensitive and caring. Out of the many children's centres I have tried this centre is the outstanding one. I would like to see the main centre at Cambridge.

Please keep Cambridge Road and increase services

I really hope that Cambridge children's centre does not lose their ability to have free courses and other fantastic things as the parents in Bootle need these the most please do not take that away from us x

We have lost too many of our community assets in the most deprived ward in Sefton, Cambridge children's centre is a focal point in our community and is valued already throughout generations, it reaches out to the most vulnerable unreachable people with many successful outcomes, everything that can possibly be done to support families, target isolation, breaking down barriers for minority groups this should be developed upon not taken away !!!!

When you have 3 children one with ADHD and one with ASD it will be hard to get to a children's centre that is a 45 minute walk, we use the centre a lot and they don't take to change to well so I would go anywhere else

Access is critical for mums who do not have a car.

Please do not close Springwell park. Myself and child attend all their classes and we have both learnt a lot through the amazing centre staff. Everyone is so supportive and without them I'm not sure myself or the other mums who attend would do as great in their motherhood journey. There are a lot of vulnerable families in the area and families without transport who rely on the services of Springwell

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DON'T CLOSE SPEINGWELL PARK!!! SIMPLE AS!! LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL TOOK MY JOB AWAY FROM ME AND NOW SEFTON COUNCIL ARE TAKING AWAY MY BABY'S PLAYGROUP. AND YET YOU WILL STILL WANT ME TO PAY THE COUNCIL TAX. WHAT FOR????

please save our children's centres, me and my two children will have been completely lost without them xx

My children are older now but I feel the whole point of the children's centres was to help my children get ready for their school journey. I feel for the children you are taking these opportunity away from

I'd be lost without the Thorton children's centre and there staff and supports.

Whilst I agree and understand the proposals I worry that the services currently offered by the children's centres would change. I have no issues emotionally or mentally, I have no safeguarding issues and need no intervention or support, however I have relied on the children's centres with both of my 2 children for classes such as baby massage and yoga, sensory and stay and play. I have met other mum's there who I am still friends with now almost 4 years later. The chance to go to these classes can really help a new mum and I know I always looked forward to it and I still do now with my 2nd child. I would hope these types of class would still be available if the new proposals are put in to place.

Please remember to be inclusive to all families. Those who can work and have full/part time jobs ate already disadvantaged when it comes to having children in regards to childcare and costs. Personally my household earns above the average for Liverpool/Sefton families and under new proposals I would not be able to access the centre if I was to become pregnant again. Netherton Children's Centre has helped and supported me and my 7 month old baby by holding classes stay and play, baby massage, chattermatters etc. As a first time mum and new to the area the centre has helped me support my child's development and make friends too. I would of been lost without this centre and I feel every family should be able to access these groups in future. Parent run classes could be a great initiative in centres to promote social interaction from 0 years. I feel if we could get parents CRB checked and then support and encourage them to run the group's. I would be more than happy to run one via the centre on my day off when I return back to work. Donations of toys from families could help support but in terms of cost savings it means a colleague can be free to support elsewhere rather than do the stay and plays. Please please consider all families as we know children learn and develop in a socially stimulating environment as soon as they are born.

I urge you to protect the Linaker Centre. I am a better parent because of the support, information, advice, connections and activities I have got from Linaker. And hundreds of parents are in the same boat. The centre is a vital, cherished hub, helping families through the many challenges of early parenthood. There is so much propensity for mistakes if people do not get help. Think a few years down the line. Do you want to hear on the news of a tragic

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case because the mum wasn't able to access support because the council had closed the local children's centre? If just one incident of this kind is prevented because of a place like Linaker, think of all the money saved - let alone the human cost. Please listen to your consciences and reject these ill-advised, hugely deleterious proposals.

Silly idea from silly people, justifying their current salaries by thinking of nonsensical ways of cost cutting. How about we cut out the middle managers that talk this nonsense, and instead invest more in the front line members of staff that actually make a difference to the local community and its members? Sefton also need to think of the postcode lottery it will create, therefore restricting local access for thousands of people. Also a thought needs to be spared of other services currently running in the potential new centres, ie next steps community nursery.

I have a 2 1/2 year old and I found a really limited number of classes, both free and paid, available to us whilst I was on maternity leave in comparison to what is available within the Liverpool authority area.

Health visitor should provide health relatedness service links & knowledge of public health agenda

Safeguarding skills need to be nurtured.

Don't take away our children centres.

I think maghull is viewed as a rich and wealthy area but it is no different to anywhere else and as such the loss of the children's centre would put some children at risk of missing out and parents would loose the support some of them have come to rely on.

Don't close linaker children's centre as I have used this centre for the last 10 years and they have been really helpful and kind and understanding and with my new born they have been there for me making weighing my baby calm and comfortable

Hudson needs to provide a more varied timetable suitable for Children upto 5, there seems to be little available for over 2's and although worthwhile a lot aimed at twins and less abled children. It's hard now my little one is waiting to go to reception as there is next to. Itching on compared to other children's centres

Learn to sign with your baby class. Keep linekar parent and child services going, even for a small weekly fee for parents. Dont close it, its vital to help support new mums to prevent loneliness and low mood leading to depression.

We attend First steps daily and I would be devastated to see it go. I've met lots of people who use the Center and we all live locally and walk to the classes. The loss of this Center would be detrimental to the babies who are all thriving from the support the Center offers

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What doesn't Linaker do that you want it to do - seems daft to rearrange something when you could just see if they can do it

In an ideal world leave the children centres alone. Otherwise at least consider the areas you are going to be depriving of services which will essentially affect mothers. These mothers may not be stereotypically vulnerable but I assure you they are and they need good local support for everything ranging from breastfeeding, contact with other mums, baby groups, and support with mental health. If Hudson no longer provides these services in Maghull I would Not be able to access services provided by the other centres as the distance would be too great for me to travel.

I hope Springwell Childrens Centre is kept open, the staff are amazing and always make you and your child feel very welcome. Its an amazing centre with lots of support, and advice etc. If this lovely childrens centre was to go i among a lot of other parents and children would find it very hard to get to another one, and would be so disapointed to see it go.

A health visitor who was based at my work and has now been moved out, said to me over a year ago that this had happened where she originally came from. She was still based at the Centre at the time, she said that they were reversing the decision and restarted Children's centres with Health Visitors. The connection between the Health Visitor, the nursery, the family development workers, the activities for parents to attend, all interlinked with the children at early ages. Any problems picked up in the nursery or with the Health visitor families were able to be accessed through the professionals offering them the help of each other. To put everything under one roof, health visitors don't see older children, specialist midwives help in the pregnancies and early childhood, the professionals who use the centre are geared to younger children. You would not expect the Headteacher of Senior School to apply for a Primary Headteacher position, then why would the specialists for "children" centres have to expand to "teenagers". The thing is teenagers access our services for young parents to be, and counselling with specialist services, and sometimes contact. For me not to be able to say to someone outside of work, as I did recently, we have a solicitor you can visit, and there is a family development who can ring you, that person attended a solicitors appointment and FDW spoke to them. I would feel a failure. With amount of visitors we have, with the families bringing their children in and out of the nursery, no one knows why someone walks through the door, no one ever knows unless they tell them when they walk out the door why they have been there. It is a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere that if lost will take time to recreate. Its taken ten years to build a good reputation. We know ourselves how long it takes to build someone's confidence back up, that's what will happen to families in the area, you will have taken something away and replaced it with something that needs to build up a reputation, it has taken over ten years with us, what will happen with those children and families who dont have easy and visible access to Linaker any more, I wonder if they will seek help. Poor or rich, children can suffer if the parent is suffering with parenthood. It will be a sad day for many in Southport if Linaker

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reduces its services and has only one door for families to visit. We had a one stop place in High Park, it never worked, it was short lived, so we have done it.

I have used linaker chrome centre for years in the past and I personally think it would be a great loss to loose this place. As well as child care I think the facilities there and the help they give less fortunate families is brilliant and would be a great loss. I attended the centre also for my parent classes and child first aid courses. I have always felt at home at the centre and really welcome by all the staff. Please do not change a thing, they do a fantastic job.

I am concerned that the proposals may impact on the services currently available at Freshfields Children Centre. I have used the Freshfields Children's centre since my child was born and have found it to be a great source of support. It would be a shame to lose any of the services it has to offer. I would be unlikely to attend a centre further away. It would be disappointing for other young families to lose out on this support.

My daughter is now 7. We used Childrens Centres extensively before she started school - mainly Waterloo but also Seaforth (we are in the middle). We received free safety equipment, eg stair gates, from Seaforth Children's Centre which was great. I loved the Children's Centres and got lots of support from them. Baby massage and yoga were particularly good. I am not aware of Family Centres or the work they do so it makes sense to join them up with Children's Centres for ease of access and continuity for families.

Please make your proposals clearer so that people can understand what is being proposed and what it will mean specifically for each centre and the services they offer. The welcoming atmosphere and friendly staff at my local centre have enabled me to feel supported in the first months with my baby. It is fantastic having so many services under one roof and knowing that there is always someone there if you need them.

I have accessed the Litherland family center since my son was born in 2015, I have attended the Monday and Friday sessions at St Paul's church on a regular basis since I was made redundant in June of this year. This service is a life line for myself and all families that use it. It has had a positive impact on my mental health and I would miss the service if it was terminated. I have enjoyed meeting new people and not feeling as isolated as i did before i used the service. I truly believe that it brings people together, it like having talking therapy and that is invaluable! My son really enjoys the group and i do believe that it has helped his confidence to grow. Through attending the activities, my sons language skills, emotions and creativity, social and intellectual skills have flourished as he practices new ideas and skills. I can see him take risks, show imagination and solve problems on his own and with others.

more help and support for children and families with a child with Autism

I am very happy with the services accessed at Waterloo , Thornton and seaforth children's centres. They have been invaluable in making me feel less isolated as a new mother.

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I am an early years teacher in the local area and signpost parents to Linaker street for support. I know what is on offer and work closely with them. I would prefer Linaker street to continue provide the diverse and amazing services they do. I feel this will continue to insure the best outcomes for our families.

The Children's Centres have been great for us and our children. The staff have been great and always welcoming even though we probably do not fit the bracket of those intended for the service

I think that it is a good idea to put all the services together for families with children 0-19 years.

I think more centres are needed not fewer. We should be encouraging families to walk and cycle as much as possible and having more centres available will facilitate this.

I am sorry but I don't think much of this questioner. You only ask about services used in the last 12 months, when I have used them over many years as my three boys have grown. You have already decided that Hudson would be a complementary base and I have two problems with this. Firstly you ask if I would use the complementary base at Hudson but do not adequately explain what a complementary base will be? Second is that you have left out the consultation process deciding which will be Family Wellbeing Center or Complimentary base. You have not taken into account your own building proposals for probably the largest development area in Sefton I feel it is very much a case of giving Maghull more houses and more people then taking away more of our services. If the school loses the connection with newborn children and their families the pupil intake could fall having disastrous consequences for the school itself. Hudson School and Children's Center work hand in hand, to you its figures and facts on a piece of paper but to me, it's a family and you don't break up peoples families.

By carrying out this proposal I do think you are going to isolate the vulnerable and low income families when they need it most especially after just having a baby by limiting the places they can access for services and support. They may not have cars or money for public transport.

From the information supplied above I feel that I am in no position to comment on the proposal as it does not state what it would mean to become a 'complementary base' however it 'suggests' the main centre would be at Netherton where my ex-partner resides who has been domestically violent to me and resulted in my mental health issues. Despite this, to suggest that there will be a 'main base' somewhere other than Hudson which the current main base suggests at least a reduction in centre activity and service, therefore it is not something I feel that I (or any other parent) can comment on in relation to the proposal without knowing what this means. I think you have asked an unanswerable question.

It will be great , if everything stays the same. I understand the cuts happening and the improvement you want to introduce but it will make things harder for many families Thanks

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I firmly believe that Talbot street is a great central base. Linaker is too close to talbot street and seems pointless. Yes people would complain but Talbot street is a ten minute walk away from Linaker. I also feel that this would save money and enable more funds to be distributed fairly

The Hudson centre in maghull is a well used and needed resource in a community with many young families. If this centre was to close many of the young families within this community would find themselves very cut off and isolated. I understand should we want to continue to use these resources we would have to get to netherton which for many defeats the purpose of having a local community group. This site has proved invaluable for me following the adoption of my two sons and I for one would be devastated if this was closed down.

Hudson/holy rosary children's centre were great when I had my first child. They supported me through a very difficult time and it would be such a shame to lose or limit this service even further. I used to attend everyday with my first child. Within the last 5 years the programme has already significantly reduced so further cuts or asking people to travel further would have a negative impact on the local community and the quality of the provision provided.

Lots of children and family at canning road - not mentioned on this question site

Leave it the way it is or you risk isolating vulnerable people, families and children. Having to travel far and pay to get to childrens centres would certainly put me off using these services.

There definitely needs to be a children's centre in Bootle. Parents need to be able to access them easily with no added cost for transport. I understand the need to save money but cutting children's services isn't fair.

Children's centres and the services they provide are very much needed within communities, what families need are services which are available for all with a targeted focus on the most vulnerable members of our communities. At the centre where I work we support children and families on early help and social care plans and families who would typically be identified as vulnerable to help them get their lives back on track. While the targeted and early help numbers are a relatively small percentage of the total number of families within Sefton, children's centres also support hundreds of families each week who are on the cusp of vulnerability. At the centre where I work we are experiencing a significant increase in the number of referrals for families who do not immediately identify as vulnerable including parents who present fairly well yet have poor mental health, low mood, depression and anxiety which impacts significantly on the mental health and well-being of the child. Many of our local parents are struggling day to day with their mental health which is exacerbated if they are also in abusive/poor relationships as this impacts negatively on their ability to adequately care for their children and provide the affection, attention and discipline children need to feel secure, added to this are financial pressures families are experiencing, whether

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this is due to raising families on benefits, the impact of universal credit or years of just getting by as employed in low income jobs. These issues contribute to the day to day struggles of being a parent and prevents many parents from doing a "good enough" job of parenting. Poor mental health impacts on parents ability to set routines and boundaries therefore many young people are lacking in respect for themselves and others and display rude, aggressive and unkind behaviours towards their peers. At the children's centre we work with the whole family to address the root causes of issues and support families for however long it takes to get them back on track. This support is needed in all of our communities not simply in 3 main hub areas, families need support daily and not between reduced opening times in a base that provides limited services and limited support and many families simply cannot travel across their 'locality' to access support from bases outside of acceptable pram pushing distance. Sefton should be spending more money on impoverished communities not less otherwise these issues will never be resolved and will continue to escalate year on year until communities implode and hundreds of 'just coping' families need intense support from a system that will be completely broken and unable to meet demand.

my wellbeing and my childrens wellbeing, education and family support are met locally.

Being a single parent to a child who is diagnosed ADHD with anxiety is a challenge. Since diagnosis 4 years ago there has been no help or support available for us. repeated referrals to agencies all say the same thing "out of area" or "no funding" available. This proposal if fully implemented may help families like us who have been left suffering and battling on with no help and no one to turn too..But this will only help if there are services in southport which we can access.

The proposals and changes are inevitable. I have obviously been thinking about the changes and the effects on the community and workforce. I don't know how many staff are involved in the changes but the proposals will see the Children's Centre staff become part of EIP. Does this mean that the EIP wage bill has been inflated with their salaries and more savings from EIP have to be made. I don't know how many staff are in the mix for the savings or whether there will be job losses beyond natural wastage but would it make a difference if people agreed to work a 30 hour week. I don't know how much this would save but it may be worth looking at.

Access needed in southport as large area covered which is currently not close to where I live

I feel, that their should still be stay and play sessions within these new centres as they are vital to preventing isolation, building up relationships, engaging with staff and learning to trust professionals. Most stay and plays has a mixed cohort of families who benefit from life experiences.

I believe linaker children's centre should stay open with full access and services there. Whenever I go to the Children's centre they have always supported me. I had my first baby at 17 and nobody judged me just made me feel normal. They have supported me with that,

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then through mental health, domestic violence, financial issues, then pregnancy. I have always been given full support, offers of other services they feel may help. I wouldn't have accessed the food bank without the staff of the centres support. Without Linaker children's centre I would truly have been lost the past 5 years. The manager even helped me with debt and understand certain reasons for things happening. My family support worker xxxx has constantly helped me, listened and made my life so much better. That children's centre is one in a million and I truly don't think I would be where I am now if it wasn't for the centre. Talbot street should be open however I believe Linaker should be the main base as it's easier to access, safer to access and friendlier staff who always make you feel welcome. I wouldn't access as many services if it was at Talbot street or out of Southport.

If I have not expressed enough the positives about Cambridge Road centre and its staff that is truly my fault. It should not be a popularity contest after all the level of service at any of Sefton's centres would and I hope be exemplary as should the variety of services be varied and full across the communities. However in reality & in Health, in childcare especially it does come to a certain point down to the people. The team at Cambridge Road are not just workers doing a job they are family and in that ethos build a bigger family constantly when dealing with the community that are blessed with accessing their current services. After all my own experience lead to ensure I (a new mum and new to area) was not ignored or allowed to slip through the cracks, of a not perfect system when I newly moved to Sefton from another County. I acknowledge it never will be perfect. What it is currently is a possibly poorly balanced, managed service across ALL communities in relation to the desired budget. HOWEVER stretching the staff and services in your proposal is flawed, not least in my earlier comments but on a humane level. I worry for the families not using the centre whom may slip through the cracks because the previously trained staff (whom Camb Rd are 2nd to none) are just not there to help guide or spot RED FLAG situations. Or for the existing families that may use the confusion to slip away, for a multitude of reasons, shame, denial, etc. As well as the perfectly healthy families that just need some simple advice, a place to meet, greet & learn. Shared knowledge is how families new & old grow, it is how new studies and practices are built upon &/or expanded upon. Cambridge Road is vital for the L20 area whom are made up primarily of low income families, low educated (stat wise) and all round deprived area. DO NOT take the one shining beacon of a SAFE ZONE away from here.

I have had so much support from the children's center they have been my lifeline in lots of ways. And supported the relationship with my children. Without family support I would have had no food or electric as my benefits had been on hold for 16 weeks

I have emotional needs so need to be safe with friends and my environment

my life has been very difficult financially and because of DV so need the relationship of the local worker Clare

My family have had lots of support from the worker at Farnborough - Clare I wouldn't have a home without the CC support and kept my family together and away from social care

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Keep our CC local to me and the families

I work at Linaker CC as administration assistant. At the front desk I see and hear a lot. Not all of it is nice. But the thing that moves me every time is to see a really vulnerable person coming the next time a little bit more confident, making an eye contact, saying hello. You then signpost this person for further support and bit by bit you start seeing a change. Little steps in a short period and if you take a longer frame of time - a massive ones. Without a front desk many stories could have been very different. One day I was on the other side of the desk myself, and although I never classed myself as vulnerable, life can be unpredictable. I was the lucky one, because someone spotted me at the front desk and I got help. Who knows if and where would I be today without wonderful staff of Linaker CC. I am very proud to be one of Linaker now, my personal experience and professional training enables me to gain vulnerable families trust and most important - to see a vast improvement, and that is the most meaningful purpose any community could wish for. As a front line worker; it is not my job I am worried about; it is the community we are going to live in fewer years down the line. Vision 2030 is a vision, we can not loose what is needed now. I realise that we are not going to escape managed decline, but it is horribly wrong to loose all the staff that has been trained and works so well together as a team. We are here for the families and we hope you are too. Listen to them, because we do.

keep my CC

Keep KM CC

this is just about saving money.this would be devastating to many families

freshfield children centre should be kept available

They do a brill job

When my husband went into crisis, XXXX was the only person (and this includes adult social care) who was able to pick my family up and support us. She single handed got him onto a crisis support pathway, she then worked to ensure our debt were frozen whilst he could not work. She got me emotional support throughout the worst possible time in our lives, she sourced and applied for a nursery place for my eldest child, she gave me foodbank voucher and then drove me to help pick them up. My moving my service of the reach of Hudson children's centre you will literally move my service out of MY REACH. Reconsider this. Reconsider the budget, I understand that there are savings to make, I was at the meeting with XXXXX. I understand that cuts will have to be made, but don't cut access, don't cut people who help people. Please reconsider my service, its been our life saver.

Don't close down such vital childrens centres

As highlighted above.

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I work part time. So the one near me is perfect for me as I don't work on a Friday and I can get support if I need it

What will happen to Parenting 2000?

The children in local school who don't attend linaker primary school can still use children's centre it would be used a lot more the children who need extra care can gain the help and support they need faster as there waiting to see a consultant the appointments can take a long time to come through and the staff in the children's centre support these families helping to reduce families anxiety I also have 2 teenage daughters who I would love to no if they have a family one day they too can gain support close to home with them not having a local children's Å and E there s not much other support available I hope linaker children's centre is saved for our children that live in the area

I don't agree with your plans to close any of these centres. I for one have found Seaforth Children's Centre a god send since having my child. As a first time parent I was unsure about what I was doing and had lots of questions. Furthermore, I didn't have the disposable funds to get out and about after my son was born. Having Seaforth Children's Centre close by I was able to walk there and address any concerns I had without feeling I was an inadequate parent. In addition, I have attended numerous seasons the centre has organised including first aid, which I wouldn't of been able to do if the centre wasn't there. I appreciate you have budgets to adhere to but the health and well being of both adults and children within each community should be the priority and merging centres together would make the main centres more busy and business like and I for one would not feel comfortable in this environment.

I am strongly against the closure of Springwell Park children centre as it's very important in our local community. I do believe it's the best around as does everyone involved. The staff and volunteers are amazing and the parents and children have great trust in the centre.

Springwell Park has been a place of support after having my first baby. Ive attended many informative classes including baby massage, weaning, children first age, messy play and many many more. Not only have the classes been informative but have benefited my mental wellbeing. Having a place to go and speak to other mums about concerns and monies that every new mum has. Springwell has been a place for me to escape my home to visit that broke up my day and sometimes my week. Something I look forward to. Springwell has benefited me, my baby and family. The staff are welcoming friendly and supportive. I think if the centre was to change it would have a major impact on the local community and a massive loss to families. Very sad.

I just strongly advise that these new plans maybe good but not beneficial to all. My children go to Springwell Park and I take them everyday and access the centre daily for breakfast club and after school as well as other stuff. I am strongly against the closure of Springwell

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Park. It is the heart of the community and definitely the best around. Staff and volunteers are amazing.

I think these proposals are more focussed on mental health and wellbeing so we should have separate centres for these things.

Springwell is a busy base for many Bootle residents and should be kept as a main base. A lot of people in this area don't have transport.

My children centre was a lifeline to me when I had my daughter and now is a year on. I rely on the centre on almost a daily basis and it's a vital part of our community.

**NOTES AND Q&A FROM PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION SESSIONS AVAILABLE AS A
SEPARATE DOCUMENT**

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Finally we would like to acknowledge and thank all the people of Sefton who contributed to this report.

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Notes from public engagement and consultation sessions held between 25th September and 17th November 2017.

Cambridge Children's Centre
Freshfield Children's Centre
Hudson Children's Centre
Kingsmeadow and Farnborough Children's Centres
Linaker Children's Centre
Litherland Children's Centre
Netherton Children's Centre
Seaforth Children's Centre
Springwell Children's Centre
Thornton Children's Centre
Waterloo Children's Centre

Sefton Carers Centre

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 7th November 2017
Venue: Cambridge Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; 15 Parents, 2 Grandparents, 2 Staff and 2 Governors.

Elena, a Parent/ Governor opened the meeting by stating that she had been using the service for 6 years. The proposal is for 3 main wellbeing centres, with complimentary bases, with Cambridge being a complimentary base. A presentation was played by the parents.

It was noted that this was an engagement and consultation event and nothing has been agreed and is to gain views and feedback, the decision will be taken by Elected Members. there are three key areas, joined up 0-19 services – some CC have 0-5, some 0-11 and there is outreach. The idea is to have Family and Wellbeing Centres (FWBC) with more outreach which is already happening at Cambridge with potential sites at bases such as Marie Clarke, Waterloo. the services could include health, social care, voluntary and community services and some of the family centre offer, this will develop further as we discuss options.

A consolidated base will have no change for the nursery and the crèche, networking and relationships will continue. We have looked at why people attend centres, in the main it is post and antenatal support, breastfeeding support, baby massage, parental courses , early education and most will still be provided where the greatest need is.

The engagement ends on 17th November. There is a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny on 5th December where what has been proposed will be scrutinised and on 7th December there will be a meeting of Cabinet. The report will include views from parents on the options and where we have gone back to discuss any alternative proposals, with recommendations to Elected Members. Any proposals will need to work within the funding framework, which are £64m of savings over the next three years. The decision has not been made, that is definitely not the case but we are collecting your views.

There followed an opportunity for those present to raise issues and concerns.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

| Question/ comment |
|---|
| You say you are not cutting but you are, people are unable to get to Waterloo, it is cuts. There are 700 children in care in Wirral, this doesn't help, we are higher than the national average. |
| Response |
| I can't comment on Wirral, I won't disagree with you, there is £64m to be looked at and for Family and Children's Centres this is in the region of £900K to find. This process is to look at what we have existing and to redesign. We will look at job descriptions and develop them. This centre is open 8-6 and the proposals will be shorter hours, however, the Headteacher at Southport did state that at that centre they will keep it open at the usual hours of 9-5 with a presence between those hours. We can't afford to do that everywhere, it is likely there will be reduced hours mainly by looking at footfall and we will flex what is available. |

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| Question/ comment |
| In 6 months after you have taken services away you will want to go back but you will have lost trained staff. |
| How will we be affected in six months |
| Pay schools properly |
| You will be making cuts that don't work |
| When you are making cuts, when the wheels fall off, where will things come from |
| Response |
| These are the proposals, we have some better offers in the community, and I can't disagree. With regard to Day Centres changes we haven't found more people, and we don't think we will if we move to wellbeing centres. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| If you get rid of frontline staff, perhaps part time hours, you won't be able to delivery your services |
| Response |
| If you can't get to Marie Clarke or Waterloo there will be outreach. It sucks in money keeping the building open. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Why when it is needed, it is not wasted space, you book into everything. Why can't you take from a less deprived area? |
| Why not cut Waterloo, it is a less deprived area. This was a phase 1 centre, they are a more affluent area, we don't all have cars. A double buggy won't fit on bus, getting the train is further than using the bus. To get there at 10 a.m. I will need to leave at 8.30 a.m., it is too busy as it is rush hour and you won't be able to get a pram on the train, what about the weather there are too many things to think about and I won't end up going to Waterloo, if you can get on a list anyway. You may need to wait to get a service. It is 3 miles away and is not deprived, it doesn't make sense. This is a major base, that is not a phase one base. |
| Response |
| Waterloo is on a main bus route and there is parking nearby. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| You have to pay for parking |
| Response |
| There is space in Waterloo to accommodate a Family and Wellbeing Centre. If there is space here you could offer to have one here and I would need to speak to the Headteacher. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| What is the cost £3 per journey? |
| Trains are on strike, what happens then |
| This place is a safe place, it is not an affluent area |
| Some mums won't travel you will lose them |
| What about a mothers mental health, what about parents wellbeing |
| This is a short walk, I have four boys which includes twins - it is a safe place |
| I moved from Birkenhead to here, I don't know many people |
| I want to tell you about my experience. There are bumps and babes, cute clubs I stuck out like a sore thumb. Staff looked at me and noticed there was something |

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wrong. I attended courses on parenting for my first born and his is mentally and physically disabled, he has autism and disabilities. There was a targeted crèche, he can't hold his own bottle, there were significant delays. I became pregnant again and wanted to go back to work but my daughter was sick too. My husband works away, I feel so strongly about this centre, you think you know yourself but Diane noticed I had postnatal depression. I had respite, I needed help, they missed their own break to help me. If I can get dressed and go to the club by 9 a.m. I can do it. I cannot think about getting a bus, I need to look at keeping my children safe. If I can get here everything is a little lighter, there are families with additional needs. I don't know where I would be without this. If you take away this service what about the **next** mum, it takes a lot to get it out of you, what if you haven't got a centre.

Would you consider more than 3 main centres?

Response

If the finances stack up

Question/ comment

We need this

You are looking at cuts in the wrong place

Don't close this phase one centre, find somewhere else and close them first. We are a deprived area, we could end up worse and we would never get on

I guarantee that every person in this room has benefitted from the centre. You've mentioned footfall but this is about a person getting the right support that they need and is a valid reason

Response

I recognise that, that someone could end up in the social care system or with health. The problem is how we direct the funding, one person could go elsewhere

Question/ comment

This isn't always feasible

Do you have the statistics on the use of the centre

Response

Yes

Question/ comment

You can't establish how many babies will be born

Response

This is why we would flex if that happens. Over the last 2/3 years in Netherton there has been a baby jump, we would provide all services, there may be less babies so we would flex but people may have to go elsewhere.

Question/ comment

What about Every Child Matters, is this only if you have money

Response

The government support this but there is a shortage of funding going into children's services

Question/ comment

I come with my granddaughter to stay and play, this is the only place locally, it gets us out

Stay and play is important for my family (parent with EAL)

As a grandparent I don't drive I can't get there (Waterloo), I am getting upset. I want others to get what I have had, other people

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| Children with additional needs attend stay and play, the nursery has additional needs funding |
| There are a lot of services such as speech and language, there are needed here. It is hard work if you have a child with additional needs, you get tired. They help during school holidays we get support. We connect |
| Response |
| Sefton Parent Carer Forum are saying what you describe |
| Question/ comment |
| If cost is the main thing, what about people who can't get there, who have mental health issues. I have anxiety attacks, I won't have been able to get there |
| Response |
| I realise that the confidence to come to places is because of the work of family and children's centres |
| Question/ comment |
| If you have a child with additional needs you sometimes need to be with parents who understand and you don't need to explain, it gets a little bit easier. They have been happy from nursery |
| What has changed why are we no longer a phase one |
| Response (Headteacher) |
| This is when Sure Start was rolled out |
| Question/ comment |
| Why is this no longer |
| Surely this was the first pin stuck in (on a map to agree phase one) |
| Response |
| Lots of areas are doing this. Birmingham and Medway are two but they are proposing closing centres. We don't want to close any and we are trying to keep core services and look at the volume and rather than take all services we are looking at something in between. This is why it is important and why we are consulting, we just haven't got the funding. |
| Question/ comment |
| What type of services |
| Response |
| We would negotiate with Headteachers and we are working with Sefton Parent Carer Forum to co-produce services |
| Question/ comment |
| What if it is a few hours every other day |
| Response |
| If you have some ideas about your local area within the financial envelope, North, Mid and South, there is likely to be more funding in the South because of its population and deprivation size and dividing this up with conversations with Headteachers. |
| Question/ comment |
| Will there be something every day |
| People who come here get support from foodbanks, I am not saying this doesn't happen in Waterloo |

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| Response |
| With hindsight we had a 10/20% cut and said go away, lost some jobs but ended up with a two tier system. They started out in deprived areas and sucked in other areas, the whole reasons was deprived areas (initially) |
| Question/ comment |
| This is the whole reason we were set up |
| Response |
| Yes there are 10 Children's Centres, included the most deprived areas. We will carry on some services. |
| Question/ comment |
| Statistically we are most in need |
| What about the most used or most needed |
| What about benefits of term time offer |
| Response |
| It will be based on need and not on footfall; we will look at poverty, deprivation, employment and determine how they can be funded. We have looked at need and footfall but we can move some services to outreach. |
| Question/ comment |
| My experience is second to none. I moved from Norfolk, I back tracked. If you do it just on footfall the level of services in the last three years have been cut back. If not for Paula and Diane helping me as a new mum, it was not just the core, including the fluffy things. You cannot judge the statistics on the last few years; they haven't had the funding to run the courses. How are you working out volume - the budget does not reflect this across the 10 centres. |
| Response |
| We are looking at this, Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth may need higher funding. |
| Question/ comment |
| Why didn't you have a question and answer session prior to the proposal, you have no answers prepared, it doesn't sit on the fence |
| Response |
| You have my assurance we are looking on questions on the model and then the proposals, this is what we are trying to do. We will look at alternatives. We have a team to support me, we have looked with Headteachers, if you want a Family Wellbeing Centre here do you have the space? |
| Question/ comment (Headteacher) |
| I am open to discussions |
| Question/ comment |
| Why is this happening now? |
| Response |
| This is a catch 22, it is not personal and you can put something on the table – it is what we are proposing. When we proposed Day Centre changes we proposing closing a number of centres including Brookvale. After discussing with the public they wanted Brookvale to remain open and the alternatives were put in front of elected members and they stayed open. If you have an option that has been thought through with some specifications and |

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| finance we can look at it. |
| Question/ comment |
| Sefton Council and others – looking at breastfeeding support, how will this be delivered. Volunteers help with this but we can't go to someone's house, we are not going to be able to assist |
| Response |
| We will have to see what it will look like, we will have some outreach in places such as in Southport Linaker Children's Centre does some outreach work in the library at the Atkinson. We would have to see what can be done, what is the cost effectiveness of providing it in one base |
| Question/ comment |
| The benefits of a children's centre is that you have pre-established groups, what about those who are not aware of services we will miss people. |
| Staff go out to families, if staff lose their jobs, who will go out. We have a rapport with the staff |
| Response |
| With the funding we have hopefully most services will continue. We did the analysis in Summer for both family centres and children's centres and some families are supported by both |
| Question/ comment |
| You have mentioned 0-5, 0-11 and proposals that the main centres will offer 0-19, these are different age groups, and will require different levels of care/ services this will be more pressure on the building |
| How will this fit in |
| Response |
| If this is a FWBC we would look at the design. Teenagers have told us they don't want the same place (as babies) and we would look at how it is structured when you first walk in. Netherton has one reception with separate areas for the family centre services and the children's centre services. They would have the same staff skills, look at transitions and when I started as a social worker children and adults were not separate anyway. We would look at a wider job brief. |
| Question/ comment |
| Halt the cuts. You won't have any savings when you look at the cost of retraining and refurbishment. |
| Response |
| Not necessarily, it is worth investment in the capital infrastructure this could be a good investment for the next 15/20 years, we wouldn't just look at the short term benefits. |
| Question/answer |
| There will be safeguarding issues for all the ages |
| Response |
| I will assure you we don't believe there will be safeguarding issues. It is not an issue at Netherton. |
| Question/ answer |
| How will you tackle this |

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| Response |
| We will look at the procedures and processes that need to be in place. |
| Question/ comment |
| Any positives |
| Response |
| On the whole I think you are not happy with the proposals. 1200+ questionnaires and the vast majority of people agree on 0-19, FWBC and outreach so the vision is agreed. The issues have how to get a child with a double buggy, transport issues and the relationships and networking has been raised. The vision is understood, the detail by the vast majority is not liked. |
| Question/ comment |
| The way the questionnaire is worded it is hard to say no, it is worded with bias. The boxes are too small |
| Response |
| We have checked this for equality issues. If you have additional comments you can add a letter or additional pages or if you fill in on line the boxes will grow so you can add more words. |
| Question/ response |
| We have days out that staff organise, these won't happen |
| Response |
| The consultation ends on 17 th November, Overview and Scrutiny meets on 5 th December in Southport and on 7 th December Cabinet meets at Bootle Town Hall at 10 a.m. |
| Question/ comment |
| Is there an appeal process? |
| Response |
| There is a call in where an Elected Member can call in the decision. This is why we have an Overview and Scrutiny so members from different political parties can discuss the process. If the proposal is agreed we can sit down with Headteachers and parents in 2018. |
| Question/ comment |
| How will we get information? |
| Response |
| As soon as information is released Headteachers will be informed You can attend the Cabinet meeting, it is a public meeting |
| Question/ response |
| Is the £64m just from this? |
| Response |
| No, Children's Services have a budget of approx. £20m. The £64m is across the council. |
| Question/ comment |
| How much is this saving? |
| Response |

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| Between £900K to £1m |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Is it worth it? |
| It will cost more in repercussions |
| Take the money from somewhere else |
| Response |
| Most of services have been looked at 5 years ago. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| What happens next time, will it be cut again |
| Response |
| I can't guarantee anything |

DJ thanked everyone for their input. A copy of the presentation was provided.

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 1st November 2017
Venue: Freshfield Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; Dawn Gooderson - Manager of Freshfield Children's Centre
Hayley Ward - Head of Freshfield School, 1 member of Children's Centre staff, 1
member of Freshfield School staff, 1 representative from Formby Christian Fellowship
(local church and an outreach venue for FCC), 1 representative from Young Minds
Parent Support Group (hold meetings at FCC), 1 representative from Sefton Parent
Carers Forum, 1 representative from our Grandparents group, 1 representative from Pine
Pixies local pre-school, 1 representative from our Together Time group (for children with
SEND and their parents), 2 representatives from our Childminding group, 4 first time

Dawn introduced DJ to the group and explained the reason for the meeting.
DJ introduced the offer and talked through the proposals. He indicated there are
significant budget cuts of £64million across council services and this proposal will be in
the region of £1million. This is the second time we have looked at Children's Centres,
last time the budget was salami sliced with each centre losing 10/20 % of its funding.
Early intervention and prevention services are looking at a more joined up way of
working. Public Health already deliver across the 0-19 age range, Health Visitors,
District Nurses, Children's Mental Health Services, some are co-located. This is a joined
up approach to look at extending these services to 0-19, some centres cover 0-5 and
others 0-11. We have already merged some family and children's centres elsewhere and
the proposal in Southport and Formby is that we will have Talbot Street as the Family
and Wellbeing Centre and Freshfield will be a consolidated base there will still be some
services here but it might not be the same range. We will look at local needs and main
services such as post and antenatal services, breastfeeding and baby massage where
the volume is in a Children's Centre, this will also include parenting or practical skills.
Currently this centre is open 9 – 4 but there may be a reduced offer of 10-2, 12-4, 9-1. If
some services are not delivered here they could be in Farnborough, Kings or Talbot
Street. The Family and Wellbeing Centres will have a full range such as parental
services, supervised contact as ordered by the court, although there is some supervised
contact that takes place here. The Family and Wellbeing Centres will have a reception
with a separate entrance to the children's centre services. Teenagers have told me that
don't want to come to a children's centre but want something designated for their use.
People have also told me they don't want children and young people mixing with babies.

It is proposed there will be three main bases, Talbot Street in the North, Netherpton Family
and Children's Centre in the Central area (they are already together in the same building)
and either Waterloo or Marie Clarke in the South. There will be consolidated or
complementary bases in other children's centres

There is a webpage with more information including the questionnaire which are up to
over 1000 so far. In terms of timescales, we will analyse the responses for Cabinet (the
council's decision making board) on 7th December. A couple of centres have put forward
alternative proposals and I have gone back to discuss them, and it is useful if we have
different options to recommend.

Dawn (Centre Manager) stated that Freshfield is in the process of looking at other
proposals.

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Once the decision has been made it will be publicised.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson

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| Question/ comment |
| The 0-19 service, what will this look like? |
| Response |
| There are two phases, 1 st is the Family and Wellbeing Centres. These will continue most services from Family Centres, support to teenagers, emotional health and wellbeing, support at home, supervised contact, parental courses. |
| Question/ comment |
| There are 4 or 5 different parenting courses, strengthening families, feedback should be used to see if they are effective. There is lack of support for Autism, ADHD, PD, there is a gap. Financially these courses could be a waste of money and you can save money if you think more strategically about courses. |
| There have been a number of conversations about targeted support, most courses are generic and not specific (enough) |
| Response |
| I won't disagree, Headteachers responsible for Children's Centres have looked at the statistic, parenting classes, and in some cases footfall is very low. Some Children's Centre Managers are looking at Triple P, nurture may have significant impact on 2/3 parents and we may need to target a bigger group. |
| Question/ comment |
| We still need generic courses, mental health of adolescents 0-25 there is a lack of provision in the area. Early intervention is key to stopping issues, need to be in the right place and at the right time, this is not currently working. Everyone in the room needs services, Public Health money being used and we need to think about the approach and get it right. Nurture, attachment is important. Sensory stuff, kids can't be contained. Occupational Therapists can do a class (on containment) rather than having to put on a seven week course. |
| Response |
| I chair a group – we need to communicate about more of what is on offer, there is a need for people to know how to access them. Children's Centre Managers are going out to engage with people |
| Question/ comment |
| I am a paediatric nurse and would like to be involved in the group (details were provided) |
| Response |
| There is a board and also an operational group. |
| Question/ comment |
| If there are satellites at Freshfield and Linaker how will you meet local need, will this involve staffing |
| Response |
| It will have to, this is the only way to really make savings, there will be some efficiencies on assets e.g. by Linaker using the library for 3 days per week, there will be a better use of buildings. |

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| Question/ comment |
| What is the major thing that is most beneficial? |
| Response |
| Family and Children's Centres, we have undertaken research into early intervention and prevention, health, postnatal and antenatal support, breastfeeding, overlaying this is confidence building for first time mums, more people are talking about this. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about grandparents they need support too, they are helpful and friendly here, I have 2 grandchildren and you can be rushing to pick up another child from school |
| This is a huge community, If you take things away there will be huge holes. I don't care where we are as long as it is in Formby, a room somewhere. Emotion doesn't pay bills but it is important. |
| Response |
| I realise it is important. There were grandparents in Waterloo who raised similar issues. I have had a conversation with Headteachers and Governors to look at the sort of things that are important. |
| Question/ comment |
| This is pre-school support from Children's Centres and the staff, working with them and they come to our homes is important and needs to stay in the community. |
| Being linked to a school is important too. As a childminder I need staff support, I don't know others, this is a place where I can meet other childminders and nannies. Our parents may have come here from birth it is a place with a relaxed environment which gives confidence. It wouldn't be the same in the library. |
| Consistency and containment is all about emotional wellbeing, it starts from now. It is not just about baby, mums and grandparents meeting, people get isolated and that is where things can go wrong. Different areas may have a different approach. You need to think of stretching out from Children's Centres and the services that can be offered in high school. |
| Response |
| I have visited groups with mums and tots which started in a village hall with 4 or 5 and the number is now up to 30, there are other alternatives, other outlets in the community |
| Question/ comment (Chair of Governors) |
| I have a child with additional needs, not physically able but is a runner, some venues are not suitable. There is the issue of sensory needs, I don't drive and can't get about, you are discriminating against special educational needs children. |
| What are you doing about money with regards to SEN? |
| Response |
| I recognise what you are saying but we simply do not have the money to cover everything |
| Question/ comment |
| It doesn't always cost money, you need to consider what is in place and what is good, what doesn't work. |
| Response |
| We have been in touch with Sefton Parent Carers Forum and had some conversations with regard to this, we do know diagnosis are getting better, we need |

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| to understand associated conditions but I am not saying it is fixed |
| Question/ comment |
| I would like to see more trust |
| Response |
| We need to understand this, I am happy to meet with the Parents and Carers to discuss. |
| Question/ comment |
| You would be welcome to come to the group and discuss |
| Communication is not always good, we have over 700 people on our list |
| I access services, my child has additional needs, it is a small group but very important. Speech and language services come in, there have been cuts to speech and language and they have sessions here |
| Response |
| Speech and language comes under Alder Hey and they would still be tapping into the Children's Centre or school. I have met with Speech and Language Therapists and a major criticism from Ofsted was about this service. This is important. |
| Question/ comment |
| Work on a resilience model for parenting groups e.g. Netherton staying as early help with a behaviour group in another centre – all issues being addressed in one centre is important – by moving between centres it can be lost, particularly if you have to travel |
| Response |
| This is fair comment and one of the weaknesses, volume. Could look at designated days, will not necessarily capture people arriving with an issue. There will still be some services provided at Children's Centres. Services for disabled people, and for example emotional health and wellbeing can still be provided if the volume is there and they are wanted but we will not be able to do everything. |
| Question/ comment |
| You said you can access speech and language from school, but my child is not getting at school. |
| Response |
| This will still be provided at Farnborough |
| Question/ comment |
| There will be difficulties for those without transport |
| What about pre-school, they are too busy provided speech and language at school |
| Response |
| We will have a conversation with Alder Key, we will try to provide some services together. |
| Question/ comment |
| CCG's pathway is standardised, Sefton is a poor relation for some services e.g. speech and language |
| Response |
| I don't know enough to comment (on this) but I know the North and South are different. I will pick this up at a meeting I am attending with Southport and Formby CCG later today. |

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| Question/ comment |
| There is a danger that other sites may be oversubscribed (for services) |
| Response |
| Yes, we have looked at footfall at all centres and we think the next 3/ 5 years there will be sufficient without the system being overloaded. If for instance Netherton is overwhelmed and not working we will have to flex, review and more may have to open. We don't want quality to suffer. |
| Question/ comment |
| We think Netherton CC won't be able to provide some of the baby services |
| Talbot Street, what about the parking?. If you have a 14 year old with Autism, finding a parking space, parking meter, etc. there are significant difficulties for a family including finances and this is before you get through the door |
| Response |
| Talbot St – we need to do something with the building, including car parking when you look at staff, professionals and mums and dads. We will look at increasing car parking, we won't open as a Family and Wellbeing Centre if we couldn't do the works internally. It will either be that or somewhere else and sell this off. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about a Health and Wellbeing Centre, there is one in Ainsdale and the lights are usually one but there is no one there. It is used for blood tests etc. |
| Response |
| I don't know too much about it. GP's said it is not used but will raise this with them this afternoon. I would encourage people to fill in questionnaire and not things of this nature. |
| Question/ comment |
| The questionnaire doesn't say a lot about what will happen. |
| Response |
| This is a fair comment. There will be some flexibility and a discussion will take place with Mrs L and school. We wouldn't want to say until the end of the consultation e.g. there is volume for baby services |
| Question/ comment |
| The group here has all ages/ lots of parents are working, living closely but if there is early closing can't access services. Question and answer newsletter to get information out would be useful. There is access by dads and as well as mums. |
| Response |
| First for extended night time and weekend at Freshfield, it will be no. Family and Wellbeing Centres it will be yes, open more evenings and weekends. Council owned building at Talbot Street. Here the school would have to look at costs, when it looks at what it will do. |
| Question/ comment |
| Young lives, there is a lot of stretching (of services). People don't know what is happening (about this issue/ consultation). |
| There is a real issue with communication, there is an event next week, it has gone out to all the school but not everyone will be there. |
| Marketing is key, parents didn't come it was word of mouth, it mustn't be dependent |

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| on numbers, the message is support and training and looking at people in crisis. |
| Response |
| The theme about communication is it should be imaginative and innovative |

DJ thanked everyone for attending and putting forward their views and comments.

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 8th November 2017
Venue: Hudson Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ) Director of Social Care and Health; Nicky Craddock Headteacher, Daniel Garside Chair of Governors, Children's Centre Manager
Gill Cowley notetaker; 17 Parents, 2 Staff

DJ introduced himself and noted that he is Director of Social Care and Health which covers the duties of Director of Children's Social Care, Director of Adult Services, Director of Education and is the Lead for Health.

Daniel Garside Chair of Governors and Nicky Craddock Headteacher also introduced themselves.

DJ noted that this is part of the engagement and consultation where the Council has some proposals which are open to discussion and clearly stated that no decision has been made. He will go back to Elected Members with the outcome of the consultation and engagement and stressed there are no done deals. There may also be some changes to modelling following the consultation period.

There are £64m of cuts over the next 3 years, this is the second time we have looked at Children's Centres, in 2011 there were reductions of between 10 – 20%. We are now looking at a plan for Family Centres and Children's Centres, we have no option but there has been some fantastic work to date.

We are looking at a joined up offer, some Children's Centres look at 0-5, 0-11, and some services are extended into the community. We are looking at merging some services from the Family Centre offer and the Children's Centre offer. Family Centres offer

- a) a base for Family Support Workers who work with mums and dads who are with Children's Social Care
- b) Supervised contact, they take place here, they are not always for those at risk, but don't always take place in the family home, often take place in school and at Children's Centres but primarily are in Family Centres
- c) Parenting skills, courses and support around domestic abuse and substance misuse.

They are there to prevent people going into crisis.

We are proposing that this centre will not close but will become a consolidated base. Current hours are 8 -7.30 Tuesday and Saturdays and 8-5 other days. We would be looking at a reduction in hours. The services going into the centre are based are need e.g. last week it was round babies, there were antenatal, postnatal, breastfeeding support they are the sort of services you would expect to continue. Courses could be provided in Family and Wellbeing Centres. The difficulty is Maghull is away from the town centre, the nearest Family and Wellbeing Centre would be Netherton.

The process is due to end on 17th November which includes ideas for options, ideas from Headteachers. I have been out to others and visited Headteachers and parents and their ideas will be presented and they may also be options we recommend. We will include Headteacher views. In terms of questionnaires we have 1200+ so far. The decisions are that Overview and Scrutiny will take place at Southport Town Hall at 6.30 p.m. on 5th

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December. A final decision will be taken by Cabinet on 7th December at 10 a.m. at Bootle Town Hall. Anyone can attend, you can't speak but you can hear the debate. DJ will do the presentation including any petitions, videos etc. and an overview of what people have said. Elected Members will decide.

There followed an opportunity for those present to raise issues and concerns.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

| Question/ comment |
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| I am Cllr Patrick McKinley and this is Cllr J Taylor local ward councillors. We didn't know about this. Maghull town is in its own right an independent town and has Maghull Town Council. We have drafted a Neighbourhood Plan, formulated for the next 15/20 years which is a statutory document and enshrines the growth of the town. We have factored in growth of 375 families with a population growth of 2000 new residents, 30% with registered social landlords assisting. Although this is identified as affluent/ well off it may be in comparison to some but potentially we could have more need and it is important to recognise that. We are the second largest for the cohort of children's centres reach in the region of 1500 whereas some in Southport have 200. We already have a holistic approach and there is no need to ship out services. |
| Response |
| We have contacted our councillors, said in the report to Full Council that we would save funding from the Centres and presented a report to Overview and Scrutiny. There is communication on the website and we have also been to the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel first. We have reflected the future population needs in our proposals. Some neighbouring councils and others such as Birmingham and in Suffolk are proposing closure with similar Family and Wellbeing Centres and shutting centres. We are very mindful of some things you are saying about relocation. |
| Question/ comment |
| This is a family school and children's centre. I work for the DWP so I am aware of the most vulnerable. Most services are suggested for the Family and Wellbeing Centre in Netherton, transport there is none. I would have to get 2 buses/ train before you factor in the cost. If you move services they will be unobtainable, will be unaffordable, and probably cannot be identified. I read the documents last night, this matters. If move will it be accessible to everyone, if you move out services it is not fair, can't go. You are more likely to meet friends, taking out of the locality area makes it unaffordable, Maghull population is increasing, reducing hours, losing staff skills you will have to reopen and these will be major factors. |
| This centre covers Melling, Aintree the bus service is shocking, some struggle to get here, the radius that is covered, this is the nearest for the surrounding area. It covers more, it is hard on all of the area if you reduce. |
| You have said this has been taken into account, how many new in Netherton |
| Response |
| Very few |
| Question/ comment |
| We are looking at 2000 more, we are not getting anything, GPs, walk in, we do have a foodbank here, people are struggling |
| Response |
| I know it is not affluent. We have spoken to GPs as part of the consultation and met |

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| <p>a significant number of GPs who have said, instead of a FWBC they suggest Health and Wellbeing Centres but we didn't get into discussions around Maghull specifically, they are looking at new health centres.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>Yes, there has been no money for Maghull Health Centre; we get very angry about the deal in Maghull. I know that is a different area. There is no access to Netherton (from here), it is important for families. We are unhappy with the infrastructure. This is an outstanding centre in terms of scores, if you only do priority work further down the line you will have dysfunctional families.</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>I will get clarity from GP's</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>What about walk in in Netherton. There are no plans for GPs here and we are always losing dentists.</p> |
| <p>We are councillors for the Council and have no control of the CCG</p> |
| <p>From my point of view, having lived here for 50 years, we don't get anything.</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>I will check with the GP, ideally the GPs are looking for new buildings or an existing building. Some centres also have children's social care, adults social care etc. 3/ 4 years down the line is when they expect to be set up. They will see mums and dads with children. We will follow up with the Headteacher</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>My name is G, I was the first person through the door 14/02/08 and have a 10 and 11 year old. I suffered from postnatal depression and was close to suicide due to domestic abuse and I had no family support when I moved here. This couldn't come quick enough, I could spend time with my kids, I couldn't get to Netherton, if I was half an hour late to get there (travel) and got there I don't think things will still be available.</p> <p>The staff here are phenomenal, I still call down. I am pregnant with my third child. People who suffer in silence need places like this; they helped me get counselling without that I wouldn't have got through. I now have my own business, I was told I wouldn't be able to achieve, but here they told me I would. I went to college for three years, and my business has been open for some years. I would worry about the people who suffer in silence, where would they go if you take this away or reduce hours</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>Thank you for sharing</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>I understand about the money, I just don't get why Netherton. I am not meeting people from the area (if I go there). I am new to the area and already I am building up a social network, I am not going to be able to do that there</p> |
| <p>One parent provided a letter from JG. This outlined the support offered when both JG and her mother were diagnosed with breast cancer within two weeks of each and the support she had both personally and also for her daughter who was 18 months old at the time. The letter is available as part of the consultation notes</p> |
| <p>I am a mother of two children and I have family in Maghull. I found it hard going and difficult (to cope), I wouldn't go to Netherton, I can't deal with hospitals and it was a</p> |

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| weight off my shoulders when I could see the midwife here. Staff helped me get out and here. What happens to me if I have further problems, don't fix it if it not broken, and issues continue to grow. I don't understand. It would cost money to turn into Health and Wellbeing Centres |
| I support what this person is saying. If it wasn't for these people, my son has special needs, I am building friendships, I had no confidence. For my first child I stayed home in pyjamas, the second time around I went out, it is so important. £64m across three years? |
| Response |
| It is £900k-1M for Children's Centres, and the money is gone once it is taken off |
| Question/ comment |
| How much so far (have you taken off CC) |
| Response |
| In 2011 it was £600K |
| Question/ comment |
| Changes since 2011, to save that money what were you thinking in the past |
| Response |
| Central Government by 2020 will have taken over £200m out of the budget. It was a government decision to cut Local Authority expenditure as part of austerity measures to reduce the public sector. In Sefton officers have been good at protecting the most vulnerable; we have a high number of older people so the social care council budget has been looked at. The workable budget is shrinking all the time. |
| Question/ comment |
| This centre, there are issues hidden beneath the service, there are lots of families not with social services, it is more open here. People do early intervention which is unquantifiable. These people enabled early intervention, if centre moves |
| Response |
| In terms of outcomes, we would need to look at that, if there is a funding formula this will look at poverty, deprivation, worklessness, children with special educational needs |
| Question/ comment |
| I realise you are between a rock and a hard place, but within the public sector you also have workers, working poor, the consequences and associated problems need looking at. We are expecting 300 extra families. |
| Response |
| Due to the savings in 2011 some centres closed or became outreach centres. Hudson CC, remained and Waterloo and Thornton work together, there was a reduction in other areas. There used to be Director of Adults, Education, and Children's Social Care with Assistant Directors. You have me now with two Heads of Services, we made up some of the savings. There is a particular pressure we need to look at, for instance in Liverpool they have less older population in comparison. |
| Response Headteacher |
| We have an opportunity to provide details to Cabinet to consider growth in the plan |
| Response |
| This is very similar to other community issues. I recognise some characteristics from other meetings, and they are more likely to look at options that you put forward, these are: |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal 2. Work with principles, more joining up, some merging and outreach, ditch FWBC and Family Centres and Children's Centres remain but look at 0-19 services, this starting to emerge as an option. This might have legs, might not be able to provide 8-6 but it may be closer, we would have to look at numbers. Some Family and Wellbeing Centres are not accessible. 3. In 2 or 3 years look at Health and Social Care option work with GPs on a bigger model. |
| Question/ comment |
| 0-19. we are doing this now, we are working now with adults with mental health issues, they can tell when I am not well. Getting to Waterloo will be a problem |
| Response |
| Not 0-19 fully, we would need to think about co-location, Family Support Workers and Children's Centre staff would be hybrid. we can gradually look at Family Centres. There are four family centres, Netherton and Seaforth, Marie Clarke in Bootle and Talbot Street in Southport, this building needs work doing on it. We need to think are they sustainable, if not could we invest elsewhere. |
| Question/ comment |
| There is an imbalance in geography |
| Response |
| In the most deprived areas is where children's social care experience most families that need support |
| Question/ comment |
| Just shut down one or two family centres and keep this. |
| Response from Chair of Governors |
| Sefton Council is making the decisions, lobby them to address local help |
| Response (From local councillor) |
| We are councillors but we are not on Cabinet. There are different councillors for different wards and one of the local councillors is Marion Atkinson who is a member of Cabinet. |
| Question/ comment |
| What if the MP comes? |
| Response from local councillor |
| This is a council decision – having to do work of the Government. Council has lost 50% of their budget; we will go back to Cabinet and make representation. This is not just about Maghull, Southport Councillors say the Council is Bootle Centric we are not saying that but we need to ensure that the demographic changes including increases in young people are taken into account. We will go back and make representation to the Leader but some of this is about the way the Borough is formed (shape of), West rather than East, some issues about what other people are going through and money doesn't make a difference. This is why we have come here, we will go back. We can't beat up Dwayne Johnson for these issues. |

DJ thanked everyone for their views, and said people were extremely brave to share what they have but it brings them home, very powerful stuff.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 8th November 2017
Venue: Kingsmeadow Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; 19 Parents, 2 Staff

DJ introduced himself and explained the areas covered by him as Director of Education, Director of Children's Social Care, Director of Adult Social Care and the lead for Health.

There is a website with background information including the proposals. Due to austerity measures the council has to find £64m. The proposals were put in front of the Council in February/ March 2017 and included the future of family and children's centres. This session is part of the consultation and engagement on the proposals.

The documents identify key principles and we are seeking views from the community, there are no done deals and nothing has been agreed. The proposals are for discussion and any options are taken back to the elected members. Consultation started in September and runs until 17th November. There are two main meetings following that, 5th December a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny at 6.30 p.m. at Southport Town Hall. This will look at the process and feedback. The final decision is taken at Cabinet on 7th December at Bootle Town Hall at 10 a.m. These are the ultimate decision makers.

There are three key principles,

1. a 0-19 offer, and some Children's Centres and Family Centres already offer different services to different age groups, 0-5, 0-11 and 0-19.
2. 3 Family and Wellbeing Centres (FWBC), with consolidated bases in the other Children's Centres, we are not proposing closing any centre
3. More outreach, Linaker already does outreach in the library in Southport and there is also outreach happening from this centre.

Where do we make savings, the main thing is by having FWBC for most services and there will still be services provided here but there may be less hours. Over the last 3 or 4 months the Headteacher and the Children's Centre Manager have been looking at the numbers of people, why they access the centre, etc. So here there may be antenatal, postnatal, breastfeeding support, baby massage. Parental services may be offered at FWBC but these could be flexed, so if for instance one centre there are not a lot of babies, we would look at networking, parental support for mums and dads.

To sum up we are not proposing to close, we could provide fewer hours than currently provided here but this will be flexed following discussion with the Headteacher and staff. We have already met with the Headteacher and the Headteacher and Governors and they have come back with proposals for a 0-19 offer. I am very interested in alternative proposals. The consultation ends on 17th November, but the decision is not made by me (DJ).

There followed an opportunity for those present to raise issues and concerns.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

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| Question/ comment |
| Are you looking at removing universal services or targeting families, with classes for all |
| Response |
| Primarily the purpose was to set up in areas of deprivation and we still want to do that but we also want to continue some universal services e.g. edge of care, mental health, CAMHS support |
| Question/ comment |
| Scared for those struggling. CAMHS are you aware of how hard the process is to get seen. Coming here has been helpful for postnatal depression, it will cost more to other services, cost more money than coming here |
| I am outside the target group, talk for me without the services here I would be a mess. Who would pick me up? Thank you to all staff (who have supported me) |
| I moved, I didn't know anyone. |
| The library service, I would need to leave 50 minutes before I do to get a seat |
| For core services I would need to travel more, to travel to Southport. I feel so strongly about this that I have come out of work to be here) |
| We travel here; I would rather give money as a donation rather than pay for parking in Southport. I am not vulnerable but I come here. |
| Ditto |
| Response |
| We are not closing Farnborough or any others, in the South we are looking at relocating one centre. In other areas such as Birmingham and Medway, they are looking at less centres and move to Family and Wellbeing Centres. We don't want to shut and still maintain a core offer. |
| Question/ comment |
| Will staff float? |
| Response |
| We will look at this and other alternative proposals but it could be that Farnborough and Kingsmeadow share staff with Freshfield. |
| Question/ comment |
| I went on a course; I would rather pay than to run staff between them. |
| We would have to discuss with the Headteacher what space is not used, what could be done with the space, and whether we could run some services, look at some scenarios, the Headteacher may want to use some space (oversubscribing at school). We would want to look at safeguarding/ safety and you may already have voluntary groups here. |
| Attending a weekly Birkdale rhyme time - was the cost of using Southport, the travel and parking. You would risk losing people. |
| You could keep babies here; they are only babies a short amount of time. You would have to fit in things with the school run. |
| If you are talking about satellites what do you mean and what will be here. Not everyone use all the services e.g. breastfeeding, if some things were pushed to Southport there would be issues of parking, if you pay for this by mobile phone, use public transport it would be expensive, what about a double buggy. As a mum I meet local mums here, you have to look at the value of local areas (having their own centre) |
| That has given me my support networking (pointing at other mums) |

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| As an adopter I couldn't get out I need to be local |
| Response |
| Farnborough, Freshfield we would still provide courses e.g. baby massage, you could rotate courses from Freshfield to others, you move around the community rather than FWBC, I would be interested in how that would work. It doesn't get away though from the travel and bus issues. |
| Question/ comment |
| Some courses are popular, you wouldn't get on |
| Response |
| We would look at the volume, may need to put them on in two places |
| We do that already (Children's Centre Manager) |
| Question/ comment |
| Freshfield is so far away |
| The train station is far away from the centre. |
| Response |
| I realise not everyone drives |
| Question/ comment |
| Hillside station is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs, you need assistance |
| As a teacher I can tell you the first three years are most important, you need to look at the financial implications for primary schools. Going through the process of linguistic and social skills, these are expensive to pick up. Even the head of Ofsted has mentioned that they are not learning things like Humpty Dumpty, they are not learning as babies before they attend school |
| Are you able to share other models? |
| What about post adoption support? |
| Response |
| We have received approx. 1200 questionnaires but I would encourage you to send in more. There proposals for 3 FWBC but there is a serious look at whether or not Health and Wellbeing Centres, with GPs, health staff, voluntary and community sector, children's social care, adults social care and where a significant number of services could be provided. We would still have Children's Centres. We have aging GPs coming up to retirement age, some are single handers so some GPs are looking at coming together and broadening out health interventions, I was at the CCGs last week, there are two one in the North and the South. Instead of Family and Wellbeing Centres we could keep Children's Centres and give a budget to spread services across centres. This would be a budget formula for say Freshfield, Farnborough and Kingsmeadow, it would be a reduction, and the other option would be to look at deprivation, worklessness, additional needs and children with disabilities, by providing a premium for a funding formula with these elements, this would allow for flexing what happens in centres in the area. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about social care, contact for Looked After Children? |
| Response |
| It could be with part of the formula. It would still be mainly Talbot Street but if you offer supervised contact you can add that. Supervised contact is where there is a court order to protect a child and where the parent has supervised contact, this could take place in schools, and could be for |

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| <p>mum/ dad/ grandparent where the court has said contact should take place in a setting outside of home.</p> <p>Family Centres are the base for Family Support Workers, some of the courses are the same, parental courses, support for those suffering domestic abuse, and these are the main areas covered by Family Centres.</p> <p>Talbot Street would continue, whether the third option in the model but if the 3 Headteachers offer supervised contact with Family Development Workers we can re visit what we do and Talbot Street could be released.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <p>What position would Children's Centres be in in the third model, could they fundraise?</p> |
| Response |
| <p>Yes, fundraising could take place. Local businesses could provide sponsorship, Seaforth are looking at this option and have approached Peel Holdings to keep it open to the community.</p> <p>(From Children's Centre Manager) there are examples of this such as L30 millions, but they are in an area of deprivation and we don't have the same levels. Sefton CVS can work with Children's Centres on this.</p> <p>Some big companies may wish to do it; it is an opportunity for funding streams.</p> <p>At 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 5th December there is a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny and everyone is welcome. Consultation ends on 17th November and I would encourage you to fill in the questionnaires and sending in additional comments. The more information we have the better outcomes we will have and we will be able to put them forward. There is probably a shift towards the option of budgets.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <p>Would 0-19 be in the third option?</p> |
| Response |
| <p>Yes, it would need to be. Public Health and Children's Social Care are 0-19 and all would need to move to 0-19, I wouldn't say that you would all become Family and Wellbeing Centres and there would be some flex on some of the services you would provide.</p> <p>In the FWBC model there will be one reception with the Family and Children's Centres being in one building. I wouldn't expect Headteachers to provide one reception. Teenagers have said they don't want to come to Children's Centres. We would need to flex.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <p>Parenting 2000 had some good facilities.</p> |
| Response |
| <p>Some services will be embedded into Children's Centres with some outreach</p> |

DJ thanked everyone for their input.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 6th November 2017
Venue: Linaker Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health; Mike McSorley Head of Schools, Gill Cowley, notetaker; Parents 17 and staff 2 plus the Children's Centre Manager and the Headteacher of Linaker Primary

Officers introduced themselves.

DJ introduced the offer and talked through the proposals. He indicated there are significant budget cuts of £64million across council services over the next three years. Proposals when made to Elected Members in February/ March 2017 which outlined the saving proposals around Family and Children's Centres. This session is part of the engagement with the public about the proposals and there are three elements.

1. Extend the services to 0-19 years of age. This is in line with services from Public Health and Children's Social Care.
2. More outreach. Linaker is a good example of this as they extend a lot of services out in the community such as those provided in the library.
3. Family development services and Children Centre services to teenagers.

We are not closing Children's Centres, and there is no proposal to do so. Core services will continue to be provided from Linaker.

This was launched at the end of September at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At the close of the consultation there will be a further Overview and Scrutiny on 5th December to look at the consultation followed by a Cabinet Meeting on 7th December where a report will be presented based on feedback received by the close of the consultation on 17th November. At this point we have received over 1000 completed questionnaires but the more we receive the better to feed into the report. There have been lots of ideas and some alternatives have been suggested, I have gone back to speak to people to discuss these further. There are further sessions being held this week with the community and all are welcome to attend.

The proposal is that we have North, covering Southport and Formby; Central covering Maghull and Crosby, and the South covering Bootle. Frontline services will be managed across three localities and where there is volume it will be provided. Family services include early education; antenatal, postnatal services likely to be at centres with co-located staff. Family Centre services will be at Family and Wellbeing Centres. The proposals is that the Family Centre at Talbot Street will be the FWBC and we will retain Linaker Children's Centre – this won't close but will offer core services from what will be known as a consolidated base. The Headteacher and Centre Manager have provided data over the summer, such as attendances and what has been provided e.g. baby massage, childcare, parental classes. The outcome of the consultation will depend on what we get back. If Talbot Street is agreed we will talk about what the core offer will be here by looking at volume.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

| Question/ comment |
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| I worry if the place goes about the cost of travel |
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| This wouldn't be 9-5? |
| Response |
| The will be flexible for a four or five hour period say 9 – 1, we would talk about this with the Headteacher and Manager |
| Question/ comment |
| Have you ever had to use the centre at Talbot Street? As a parent in crisis if you leave your child there, you cut services this is unacceptable – I had postnatal depression a member of staff here noticed (and helped) |
| Response |
| If the main volume is here it could be offered here. 9-5 service at Talbot Street with potential evening and weekend depends on partner agencies. If in the local community those services could be provided elsewhere |
| Question/ comment |
| Talbot St, is mainly statutory services |
| Response |
| Talbot St is already a Family Centre – some social care services such as supervision contacts, parents in crisis, parental classes |
| Question/ comment |
| These are valuable services (here) and I am mixing in the same circles so networking |
| Response |
| In Netherton the Children and Family Centre have one reception and they then split off, 0-5 wouldn't mix, parental and particular support where there are some rooms for Family Centre work, children who don't needs those services don't go into the Family Centre, this would be the same model in Talbot St. |
| Question/ comment |
| Children's Centre is a none judgemental services place. If combine with Family Centres and Family Workers would it be a safe place. My son is 7 years but they still know his name. People won't use the centre for early crisis, it would be intimidating and people would steer clear of social services. |
| Response |
| Family Centres have two tiers, not all people attend Family Centres, and this is about early intervention and prevention. This is a lot of work that takes place to stop children coming into social care. There would be a core service |
| Question/ comment |
| Like what? |
| Response |
| This would be determined by the local community e.g. if mainly antenatal that could continue |
| Question/ comment |
| Are you aware of how much you need to take off before you looked at this option? |
| Response |
| In 2011 we took 10/20% of children's centres |

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| Question/ comment |
| There was Parenting 2000, services were moved to here. Was duplicated but we enjoy it, if you now open to that to teenagers |
| Talbot St is little, how will you do everything you want to do |
| Response |
| In Talbot St we need to do something with the building, redevelop or it gets passed over, it is a good comment about the car parking earlier, we need more car parking |
| Question/ comment |
| It is dangerous (Talbot St) if you are using a pushchair and cars are entering and leaving the car park |
| Response |
| As it stands it needs development, we propose bringing services into one location with voluntary and community sector, health, children's social care, 14-19 services. Can I ask why you and your daughter come here? You don't have to answer if you don't want to. |
| Question/ comment |
| Why put money into Talbot St, why not into Linaker and Farnborough, we already know they are needed and there are no building issues. There are free baby massage and parenting services but you could charge for some services. I have been to all parenting services, I have kids and my eldest is in school, we speak to the teachers. If it goes to a centralised area it will be difficult, it was tough to get a shower in the morning, take them in the car, crying baby on the way, people may judge me, it is more critical that we don't lose that that we have someone who will listen. There will be no informal breastfeeding care. If it is in Farnborough Road will I get a class in Talbot St, there will be a waiting list. |
| Response |
| Talbot St, access is within Town Centre, access is reasonable on a bus route. |
| Question/ comment |
| How will I get on a bus with two kids? |
| Response |
| There is a potential for it to be developed into a Family and Wellbeing Centre with space for professionals. This is an excellent school that is oversubscribed, with other services. If here there will be post and antenatal services if core is provided at this centre, and parenting classes are low they could be at Talbot St. I can't answer about the buses. |
| Question/ comment |
| I do Maths and English here, might they close, if elsewhere I might not get childcare |
| Response |
| Childcare is different. We would be looking at services and the school |
| Question/ comment |
| There is a crèche here, I won't be able to do at college (single mum) |
| Response |
| A crèche is different |
| (From H/T) A crèche is provided for people doing courses, for people who want to do better |
| The crèche will probably continue |

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| Question/ comment |
| Will Maths and English continue? |
| Response from H/T |
| These are delivered by another agency and should continue |
| Question/ comment |
| If there are less hours will they fit in? |
| Response |
| Maths and English will continue |
| Question/ comment |
| I would be able to finish them |
| Response |
| You will be able to finish them here. The crèche is for different purposes, we would look at core services such as mentioned before antenatal or postnatal services and this is reason why this was set up |
| (From Mike) The Education Team would look at what is needed |
| (From H/T) We will have a huge say on what services will be on the site. Adult education is important and we are passionate to hold onto them, be reassured as a H/T Linaker will continue to able you to access those services, we are proud of our parents. We are not yet into the detail of the core hours yet, there will be someone there at least for school hours, nothing is yet set in stone but the core principle of Adult Education, someone walking through the door for information and advice, perinatal services |
| Question/ comment |
| What about our Family Development Workers? |
| Response |
| Family development work is really important to stop storing up of problems |
| Question/ comment |
| Do you have numbers? what goes on in each locality. Children with disabilities or additional needs, there are a number of those at Linaker, as well as at Thornton of an evening which offers a bespoke service – respite. This is necessary support for families, do you understand what it will look like, impact wise if services are looked at separately. |
| Response |
| We are meeting with parent/ carers about disabilities and access and what sort of services they use |
| Question/ comment |
| Outreach is good, but moving to the Town Centre or Canning Road is the other side of town |
| Response |
| This is an interesting question, the Children's Centre is already in the library and there is massive potential there (2.5 days per week). We would like to continue with looking at the budget, look at some services and the Family Centre and Children's Centre bringing some jobs together so they have a wide range of skills |
| (From Mike) this is about the principles |
| About 0-19 services and more outreach. We need feedback about where and what |

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| is important. |
| Question/ comment (From a person from Poland) |
| What about foreign services and numbers. People who have English as an additional language (EAL). Linaker is a friendly place; there is a community here at this CC. We come to collect our children at school at 3 p.m. what will happen if a parent is in difficulties (and the CC is not open) parents will have difficulties |
| Response |
| I have been here 4 or 5 times and Linda have made it known to me, I have also met the Governors and we know there is a whole range of different nationalities, we need you to fill in the questionnaire (which has been translated into different languages) and tell us. We need to understand the reach (area covered by the CC) and as many people as possible to influence and provide services |
| Question/ comment (from person from Poland) |
| Will they be here? This has helped me improve my language. Linaker school is a friendly school; people are not worried we are here. We will be worried if we have to go to Talbot St, it takes years to build up trust, build our lives, trust as a customer. If we go to the GP we are in and out, it is better here, if more services are taken it will be sad seeing the centre less, even if it is a smaller group |
| Response |
| Are others aware of the questionnaire and events? |
| Question/ comment(from person from Poland) |
| They don't know a change is going to happen. It has been highlighted but I don't think they understand |
| Response |
| There are questionnaires on the front reception. Gill Cowley will speak with you at the end |
| (From Mike) this is an important part of the consultation |
| Question/ comment |
| You could lose children, they could become invisible |
| It could be quite intimidating what this is about, I have come from Churchtown |
| Response |
| We are seeking better engagement |
| Question/ comment |
| Is the school wanting space back at Farnborough? I don't want to cut the ties with the schools (Linaker and Farnborough) |
| Response |
| Good question, we are not doing this around the rooms. This plan is about the future and it is a co-incidence that Linaker is oversubscribed; potentially they may want to use rooms. I have met with the Governors at Farnborough and it did not come up as an issue. |
| Question/ comment |
| I don't know where Talbot St is. I have a car, buses don't come into it, but going somewhere strange (Birkdale) Ainsdale if that is the only way to travel is half an hour to an hour for a bus there and then the same back again |
| Response |

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| I agree that is not ideal |
| Question/ comment |
| Through the last four years the classes have halved. Lots have stopped, weaning is not there, baby massage is limited and we now have to pay. Classes you could take your baby and toddler and staff would hold the baby so I can play with the toddler, this is not just for those in crisis, I am a single person from 8-4 p.m. on maternity leave so I am isolated and there are number of people like me. |
| This is a social network |
| I turn up at Farnborough and know someone, there are 2 year old ready classes, they are not easy with a baby, doing a baby class with a toddler – getting them into a car but it will be hard to do things without knowing anyone. This is vital core thing, free play in a safe environment; I am worried if you just do core things. I can go somewhere and sit with a coffee, but there is nothing more anxious than a crying baby (in a coffee shop) and we have all been there. You could be worried your children will be taken off you if it is attached to social services, if you are not seen as a happy family. I am a paediatric nurse and seen people who have had an accident with a child, what if they have supervised access and they walk in and see baby massage. |
| Response |
| We need to create the right environment by not seeing a building as a statutory service offer. We are engaging with GPs, with one to two in a practice, to see if they can provide services together in a Family and Wellbeing Centre, we are looking for a range of services and breaking down barriers. A lot of social service offer come here, social workers, Family Support Workers |
| Question/ comment |
| What about child with additional needs – I will lose out. My son is Autistic and has ASD, my son tried to kill himself at 7 years of age, it took 18 weeks to get an appointment. If you go to Children’s Social Care they are so stretched. It was hard for me to come here today I have had support from SWACA, the Children’s Centre, my son is now 9 years of age and the support has been above and beyond. CAMHS – failing. 18 weeks wait for a service. How will you help |
| Response |
| You are brave to come and talk today |
| Question/ comment |
| I am stubborn |
| I have a support group that I set up myself |
| Response |
| We need to talk outside of this session |
| Question/ comment |
| My kids are adopted. I get support. The Family Centre has memories for them, they don’t want to go there |
| Response |
| I am not saying you must go to a Family Centre, we will provide outreach you will not have to go. |
| Question/ comment |
| There has been a waiting list for some groups since September; I have only just got on. Speak to other mums, what will it be like at a Family and Wellbeing Centre |

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| Talbot St is small, access has nothing to do with it, and it can't expand. It has to stay here. |
| Why make problems for yourself, all the equipment is here |
| Response |
| We haven't got the money |
| Question/ comment |
| Talbot St will cost money |
| Response |
| Health could bring in money, there could be money from the voluntary and community sector, there are maintenance costs anywhere |
| Question/ comment |
| Sell Talbot St, use the money. Canning St was updated. It is not fit for purpose, time or money |
| Response |
| It could not be used (Canning St) |
| Question/ comment |
| The area is not safe; there are drug users, drug dens, what if your child picked up a needle from the floor. It is safe here |
| Response |
| We will discuss with H/T Linda that if they were offered a financial envelope they may consider putting together a business case |
| Question/ comment |
| You have £64m to save but there is a wealth of experience, staff go over and above. If you have staff redundancies you will lose experience. They like the families they like the kids, where will the experience go – outside |
| Response |
| Potentially that is true but we hope to minimise that. It will be different but exciting for staff, we don't want to lose the experience and we will redesign and make it attractive for staff across the bases. But I understand it may happen. |
| Question/ comment |
| Have you done a skills audit? Looked at what they can provide |
| Response |
| We have done a little bit of work to understand what staff, Family Development Workers can offer. We will look at job descriptions at the appropriate time |
| Question/ comment |
| I have heard that the Manager of Talbot St is leaving, there will be no one there |
| Response |
| We have redesigned locality centres and reduced numbers but I couldn't comment on Talbot St. |
| Question/ comment |
| But if staff go from there |
| Response |
| There will be a manager covering central area. |
| Question/ comment |

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| You will have to pay GPs to turn up |
| Response |
| We won't. GPs will be attracted to the building where mums and dads, children – including those with disabilities – are. A practice within the building happens in other parts of the country. |
| Question/ comment |
| Why don't you base services in GP surgeries? |
| Response |
| GPs are getting older, in buildings that are old |
| Question/comment |
| I am not going to travel further. It will be intimidating to go somewhere where there is a GP, or Children's Social Care. |
| Response |
| We can construct the environment appropriately. There are already health professionals here, Family Development Workers, Social Workers in this building |
| Question/ comment |
| If/does the model looks at children with disabilities or additional needs e.g. ASD spectrum, ADHD, people who need speech therapists they need to work differently, although they will be a presence in the wellbeing hubs, the CC already have wellbeing hubs. The idea is brilliant but is Talbot Street for social care? |
| Response |
| Yes, it is just social care |
| Question/ comment |
| You could look at more youth offer, SWACA |
| Response |
| Some of these are already on offer |
| Question/ comment |
| Children's Centres already bring in more voluntary and community services as well as health |
| There are four rooms at Talbot Street; here there run out of rooms. If you have all the services at Talbot St they will be stretched it is bursting at the seams, what rooms will you have? |
| Response |
| We will redevelop the building if the Family and Wellbeing Hubs couldn't be provided |
| Question/ comment |
| There is a GP practice at Trinity Road with empty rooms, why put money into the building (Talbot St), what about the life rooms you could use that building and other space. I have no idea what is there but there is not enough information around. You could get help there too |
| This is a massive list, you could look at what core services are already using e.g. Linaker looks after this and Farnborough looks after that. You could do all the stuff you want, not just core services, and sell Talbot St. |
| The Life Rooms are fresh, they offer services and have already spent money on the building |
| Response |

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| It is MerseyCare NHS Trust, I don't think we could provide there. It is a fair point that if family services are elsewhere but this is why we are engaging |
| Question/ comment |
| You could have 14-19 in one place, Children's Social Care in another place, what about Freshfield |
| Response |
| That is part of the problem, we haven't got the money |
| In Birmingham and Medway they are closing Children's Centres, we want to carry on providing services in centres but ... |
| Question/ comment |
| What I propose is that you rotate services across Children's Centres |
| Response |
| That is a good point, we would love to do a hybrid arrangement, antenatal, postnatal but it is a difficult balance |
| Question/ comment |
| One place? |
| Response |
| Central place |
| Question/ comment |
| Talbot St is not central |
| If you have one in each area, what about children with additional needs, there is a lack of help, also hours if they are not from 9 a.m. Child will suffer, I can't help him I need help |
| Response |
| This is coming up consistently – providing services but rotating them |
| Question/ comment |
| I couldn't travel, I have anxiety and a child with additional needs |
| Response |
| We would look at Farnborough, Kingsmeadow and Linaker; we would look at outreach and could look at rotation. |
| Response (from CCM) |
| We have three different reach areas e.g. Bishop David Shepard ceased, we can't please everyone. We realise there are personal circumstances, it is a terrible position. We cannot keep everything we want, we need to look at what are the most important things, I know this is hard for parents to understand. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about the design? What is the impact on the £64m? |
| Response |
| Under £1m, in region of £900K of savings. In 2011 we looked at mainly back office. I am Director of Education, Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Social Care, there is just me. I have two Head of Services, Mike and 1 other. There is hardly anything left. |
| Question/ comment |
| Can you guarantee that you won't look at this in the next 5 years; you need to |

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| consider the impact this will have on people. |
| Response |
| I can't, this is the budget to 2020, and we don't know what the Government will do. |
| Question/ comment |
| Children's Centres are not statutory, is this seen as not important |
| There are cuts everywhere. This is trying to get the child and mum and dad supported, if you don't you will have to open up services again (in future) and may go back to the same model |
| Response |
| I can't guarantee anything. Last time we salami sliced, we have taken a different approach now, this model will retain Children's Centres but there will be a reduced offer |
| Question/ comment |
| You say £900K; Talbot Street will cost most than that to do the work on the building so the figure will go up again. |
| Response |
| I am picking up that you don't think this is fit for purpose |
| Question/ comment |
| How much will this cost in the future? Services in the future, how much impact on people (will this have) |
| Response |
| This has come up at every event, the pressure on mums and the community and I won't disagree with this. |
| Question/ comment |
| About breastfeeding support, the timings if you can't get there that will be gone and the group support |
| Response |
| We do run one group at the Atkinson |
| Question/ comment |
| 0-19 offer poses issue. If you take on child to teenager element, I take that on board that money needs to be saved, teenagers will not be inclined to come into a children's centre. 17-19 years old for support for sexual health, support for independence will they want that. What about an angry dad, someone with domestic abuse – this is just a disaster waiting to happen. |
| Response |
| If some people will be coming into contact, I won't be satisfied; we would want to make sure everyone is safe. We have consulted with the MAD group, which is a group of young people, and they say there is no chance that young people would want to come into a children's centre. There will be a separate entrance, this works at Netherpton, this is a model that is working – you can visit if you wish. |
| Question/ comment |
| How long will this take to happen? |
| Response |
| If members decide this option, 12/18 months but services will continue meanwhile. |

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| Question/ comment |
| If the model is Netherton, Seaforth centres, I have worked in both there is less judgement (here) for early help and the services will be a mix of social services and early help. There is a balance, a risk that families are seen as both and people won't want the stigma |
| How much will it cost to refurbish Talbot St to do what you propose? |
| Will it cost more? (than the saving) |
| Response |
| I haven't cost it yet, if I had you would have said it was a done deal |
| Question/ comment |
| I feel it is a done deal, there are lots of different options |
| Response |
| I have not told elected members about GPs, they might say Health in Family and Wellbeing Hubs rather than children's social care. I haven't costed up Talbot St because no decision has been made, this is why we are going out to communities |
| Question/ comment |
| If you say X, Y, Z at the forefront of the plan – Talbot St, you must have an estimate of the building. I don't want to be in your position, I do feel for you and I realise you want ideas; we only know what we are involved in, what we professionally know but no personally. We need to save and know how much a children's centre costs but we don't know how much it will cost for your plan. If you know it is going to save £900K |
| Response |
| I know repairs and costs of £100K as it is, there will be redevelopment costs which could cost an additional £100K and we would have to look at the sustainability of this, if I invest it will last for 20 years so there is an investment to consider. |
| Question/ comment |
| If you are planning the budget to 2020, swap your services around, plan properly as this is a tiny amount. |
| Response |
| This is part of the decision making, factor in all model |
| Question/ comment |
| Schools are underfunded, centres are underfunded, and you need to make Children's Centres more accessible. |
| Response |
| That is the purpose of today, to gather your thoughts and feelings, as people who use the services what do you want. |
| Question/ comment |
| What is in your mind, whatever you do, you are not going to make people happy |
| Response |
| If this was a consultation exercise that is what we would do. When we consulted on day centres we gave precise details, this is what we want to do, including costs. This is slightly different; we have the 0-19 offer, staff with different skills and looking at outreach. The details will be the next stage, this is why we are consulting and engaging on what it might be. |

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| Question/ comment |
| At the Atkinson, you have storytelling, what about Formby and Ainsdale? |
| I drive, I wouldn't want to go into Town – I would rather go elsewhere without worrying about parking I am more inclined to go elsewhere, I get why you have said Town but it will be better elsewhere |
| Response |
| The genesis of children's centres was Sure Start, how far you can push a pram (1 mile), how far you can go if you don't drive. One thing we recognise is that we want to provide to deprived communities, some people are outside this and fall into universal services. |
| Question/ comment |
| You are missing out families who thought they were ok, they coming into the CC and realise they are missing out. You can miss out. |
| I understand about deprived communities. You are missing everyone is vulnerable in the first 12 months, you lose your identity as you are baby's mum, you are consistently aware their life depends on you. With my second child I had postnatal depression, and it was only afterwards I realised that I probably had it with my first. Everyone says it is the best time of your life but it isn't always, you are vulnerable and it is not just about money. |
| I am a pharmacist and have a good job, I suffer from anxiety and attend breastfeeding at the Atkinson, baby massage but I am a single mum day to day |
| I can do my job standing on my head but this is different, this is a new job |
| Response |
| I can see a theme here |
| Question/ comment |
| Someone who sees you on a weekly basis can see you are struggling, even if you don't know it yourself |
| The £64m doesn't add up |
| Response |
| The £64m is for a whole range. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about parks? There is a whole range of things you could do to increase income, rather than reducing services |
| Other things will go, services will decline you need to stop taking from children |
| Response (H/T) |
| In an ideal world we would. It is powerful what happens here, it has taken 12 years to build up relationships and staff; this is not about the building although I hear the strong opposition to Talbot St, and we need an alternative location that is accessible. |
| Question/ comment |
| I have travelled from Churchtown, we need services at Crossens, and we are not saying it can't happen but we need the right amount of staff and to get the right people. There are incidental things, coming to coffee mornings, gateway to things; yes it is about the most vulnerable and understanding that incidental conversations are not building up issues. We acknowledge that things need to change, Talbot St could be offices, and this is not a sticking point. We need a gateway to services. what about perinatal pathway, in the right location to access services in a safe place |

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| Children's Centres should get together to promote each other so people aren't scared, I get emails from Linaker and although I have moved I still come although I am not sure I should still come. Perhaps if other centres were promoted e.g. Farnborough I would go there |
| Response |
| The Headteacher is right we need a communications strategy so we are not duplicating effort |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| You can start with new born access elsewhere, when you get to 2020 you already go elsewhere |
| Response |
| I am meeting with the Headteacher to look at the engagement proposals |
| |

DJ thanked everyone for attending and putting forward their views and comments.

Agenda Item 4

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 18th October 2017
Venue: Litherland Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; 10 Parents and 7 Staff.

DJ opened the meeting by stating that the Children's Centre (CC) is not closing but that it is proposed there will be a different offer. There are significant budget cuts of £64million across council services and this proposal was agreed to be looked at by Elected Members.

What CC and Family Centres (FC) currently provide is proposed to widen to include an offer for 0-19 years of age, primarily now the offer is for 0-5 years of age. This will bring it in line with other services such as health services - Health Visitors and School Nurses mirror this new proposal in terms of the age range already. In some areas CC and FC are already together and have one reception such as at Netherton. In some areas there is more outreach in the community and less in the building, the council are also looking at the funding formula used. There are 10 CC and some have a subsidy for the childcare offer.

The proposal is to have 3 Family Wellbeing Centres where most services will be delivered from. The council is proposing Netherton and Waterloo as potential Family and Wellbeing Centres, complimented by CCs as some services will continue to be delivered from a CC. There is a difference across the range; the council will look at what the main needs of the community. All centres will be looked at in terms of staff and jobs may merge and this is where savings will be made.

There followed an opportunity for those present, including parents, to raise issues and concerns.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

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| Question/ comment |
| How will you make sure that at Netherton there will be enough spaces at classes for everyone? |
| Response |
| We have been looking at the data, how many people come in. We have also looked at the population, this will look at other areas and if there is enough space at Family Wellbeing Centres to offer services, we believe they will not be oversubscribed. |
| Question/ comment |
| The classes have reduced over the last 6 months, we used to do loads more but there is not as much available. |
| This is a deprived area and we don't want to go to Netherton they have issues such as gangs |
| Response |
| We will look at what core services need to be provided here. Sarah, the Headteacher has been looking at this too. We need to understand what are the most important services to the community |
| Question/ comment |

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| What will there be for mums that don't work? I got qualifications here, there are a group of mums that also did. |
| Disabled parents won't have anywhere to go; this is one of the few things I can get to easily. |
| Some mums can't drive |
| Response |
| We will look with parents and the Headteacher at what can be managed. We have looked at the 0-2 offer and nursery offer (locally) and what alternatives there are. There are sufficient places in the private, voluntary and independent offer to cover the places. Some services and some groups, coffee mornings etc. won't stop they will continue. In reality though we can't provide all services. We realise that it is important to you individually and some of the services will be at Family and Wellbeing Centres, however, some of the courses are quite small and we cannot provide all of this type of thing. |
| Question/ comment |
| In terms of courses, there may be others that we would like to do to help us get back into work. |
| You are taking services away, we could not get to other places such as Cambridge CC. |
| Response |
| This is the sort of thing we need to talk about e.g. antenatal services what day would be suitable. If we offer 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there can be some flexibility around individual services but if there are low numbers we would rather provide at the Family and Wellbeing Centre |
| Question/ comment |
| People won't travel |
| Response |
| We will have to look at travel and transport, it is included as a question in the consultation |
| Question/ comment |
| Young Minds is starting, that is from a voluntary group |
| Response |
| We need to understand what the core offer is around this centre and also on a wider basis. Alder Hey as a provider and Public Health look at 0-5, 0-11 or 11 + depending on the service and there are two things to consider <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We cannot afford everything2. We widen to 0-19 looking at everyone (survey question) |
| Question/ comment |
| People suffering from depression is a mental health issue and getting parents into work is difficult if they have this. |
| Some people need to build trust, my child would not leave my side (but they do now), I couldn't put them into another centre |
| Response |
| This is why we need to look at the core offer. In terms of childcare/ nursery there is other provision, other providers. We need to look at the CC provision, health related services and what health colleagues can offer, such as Health Visitor and antenatal, breastfeeding services. |

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| Parenting service and group services can be offered at Family and Wellbeing Centres, we can do far more targeted interventions. |
| Question/ comment |
| This is not just nursery; we can drop off the children and do other things so they are ready for school. I have a 16 year old and they were not ready but my other child was. They still do play group and not nursery and we have an opportunity to make friends. You should not dismiss the wider community benefits. |
| Response |
| We have spoken to Essex who have done this, as an example and they looked at their CC provision and alternatives and they don't all get it there (at a CC) |
| Question/ comment |
| People cannot afford it |
| People won't walk, there are gangs hanging around in Netherton |
| Families won't be able to afford playgroups (elsewhere), if you take things away and we have to pay. We need everything to be accessible |
| Response |
| There are things such as the government increasing childcare to 30 hours |
| Question/ comment |
| I work and I was out of my depth with a new baby, I believe I only avoided postnatal depression (by the support here) and there will be demand at different stages. |
| Maghull is not as deprived as here, they may be able to travel |
| Response |
| There are some deprived areas there too. Where this is volume it will still be provided at Family and Wellbeing Centres, there are lots of ongoing discussions with Headteachers and Managers and these will include looking at continuing core services here. |
| Question/ comment |
| Not as much is provided here as previously. |
| I went to Netherton to have my baby weighed, I had to wait over an hour and the baby mat was ripped. I won't go again. |
| Response |
| I will pick that up (about the conditions at Netherton) |
| Question/ comment |
| What are you proposing to do with the building? |
| Response |
| We have no detail as yet as that is part of the consultation process. The school may want the accommodation, health colleagues may want it. A GP in another area is looking to take on a partner and needs more room so it could be used by GPs, perhaps be a health campus. All of this is up for discussion |
| Question/ comment |
| What services will be here? If there are sick people I don't want to be with them (and pick up things) |
| Response |
| There could be front reception directing people |

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| Question/ comment |
| This is not a massive building if you had a GP here |
| Response |
| I was using this as an example. Health has some capital so could alter buildings but I don't want a rumour at Litherland that this is what will happen I was simply giving an example of what may happen elsewhere as different areas will have different offers. |
| Question/ comment |
| What will happen to this centre? I don't believe you have got this far without plans |
| Response |
| This is an open consultation – we haven't got a detailed plan |
| Question/ comment |
| There is nothing more important than the users, we need more details and you need to take on board our comments for your decision |
| Response |
| This is not my decision, it is elected members we will provide them with the information gathered. There are some details we have on the website, we will speak to staff and look at the questionnaires so far we have had 800+ as well as events like this. |
| Question/ comment |
| There is not a lot of information |
| Response |
| We can't provide information as we haven't made a decision. We need to know what you think about a move to 0-19 provision, whether your area is deprived, whether there is transport you can use to get elsewhere, what about safeguarding. Litherland and what it will provide is part of the consultation process. We will start looking at the information from 17 th November (after the consultation closes) and all responses will be part of the report to Cabinet on 7 th December with options. |
| Question/ comment |
| You must know what the decision will be |
| Response |
| The only thing proposed is Family and Wellbeing Centres and providing services elsewhere with perhaps shorter opening times. We have also received 2 or 3 other proposals. I met this morning with a group to look at a proposal they provided last week to talk through the details, they are interesting proposals and I am very open minded about them. |
| Question/ comment |
| What is considered as we are a deprived area? |
| Response |
| We look at the National Index of Deprivation, this looks at the economy, people in work, looking for jobs, housing, Council Tax band, and we also look at the community. This is why we won't be shutting the centre. |
| Question/ comment |
| Will the offer be more than health, I have 3 babies and I don't drive |
| Response |

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| I can't answer that yet – we need to look at the information first |
| Question/ comment |
| I don't believe we will be listened to. |
| Not everyone is having or just had a baby |
| Not all services are to do with health, some are about bringing up a child |
| Response |
| This is why we deliver here. CC offer different things, Ainsdale has a different offer than here, it is important that we understand the community. If we don't need services we need to look at that. There will be some services at Family Health and Wellbeing Centres and some here. |
| Question/ comment |
| All services are not to do with a baby. Once you have had a baby you need support. |
| Don't understand this as you may save 1p now but it will cost you £1 in the future |
| There was support here for my partner. |
| Staff know me, they came to the house to check I was ok when I did not turn up for something |
| Response |
| I wouldn't disagree with this. We will be carrying on an offer here, it could be health, community groups, all sorts of services to maintain an offer |
| Question/ comment |
| The needs of a 19 years old are so different than a younger child |
| Response |
| There could be different services at different times of day in different rooms |
| Question/ comment |
| When will things change? |
| Response |
| The consultation ends on 17 th November, a report will be presented to Cabinet on 7 th December. There will then be work with Headteachers and staff to see what Litherland will look like for core services. We will then need to look at staffing, the number of staff if any need to relocate to the Family and Wellbeing Centres so at least 6/9 months for any major changes. The next academic years unless there is a need to fast track proposals. |
| Question/answer |
| We want to do more to keep the numbers up and keep this open for more people |
| Response |
| We are in the middle of consultation and started looking at evidence in the middle of September |
| Question/ answer |
| We want more classes to start |
| Response |
| You need to have discussions with staff. Have you talked about services? |
| Question/ comment |
| Will it be Netherton for both (types of services 0-5 or 0-19)? |
| Response |

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| CC will likely have some 0-19 services |
| Question/ comment |
| It will make more sense to have 0-5 services here, (Litherland) and put 0-19 services at Netherton |
| Response |
| We will need to look at configuration, and I understand your nervousness about that (having a 0-19 service at Litherland) |
| Question/ response |
| Makes sense to have younger services in one place and older services elsewhere |
| Response |
| That is an option |
| Question/ comment |
| The older age group already get services at college who are opening up to that age group. |
| If they won't go there why will they come here? |
| I don't think I would want older teenagers hanging around; Netherton is not attached to a (primary) school. |
| Here we can see our kids playing out of a window |
| Response |
| It does work at Netherton. We can segregate. Our focus will be early help and intervention and one of the biggest concerns is mental health of children. Some of the issues are affected by austerity, some around parenting and some is society generally. We need to work with younger people to stop them getting into social services. |
| Question/ comment |
| The mental health of a 5 year old and a 19 year old is very different. Staff will deal with them in different ways |
| Response |
| The offer will not only based on health alone although there is a wider cohort of children being looked at by Alder Hey, School Nurses and Health Visitors. |
| Question/ response |
| My Health Visitor doesn't keep appointments anyway |
| Response |
| That could be due to the provider Liverpool Community Health being broken up and MerseyCare, was mental health, looking at community services. The recruitment of Health Visitors is really low and we need to bring up numbers and the Council is no responsible |
| Question/ response (from a member of staff) |
| What decisions can they (parents) influence so they can understand about what isn't something they can |
| Response |
| They can influence the proposal for a 0-19 service not to be together. They can influence whether to have 3 Family Wellbeing Centres |
| Question/ comment |

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| Does this mean that we don't have to go elsewhere, and not in an area we don't use |
| Response |
| Transport was raised earlier as an issue and Elected Members will listen. An example of this was the consultation on day centres. There were proposals to close them but people pushed back and said we don't want to close them all. Members listened and decided to not to close them all. The power of the argument is important and not just the numbers. |
| Question/ comment |
| This is a money exercise. Some people will be out of jobs, no one has answered about staff, jobs, and parents don't know. |
| Response |
| There has been a needs analysis. There is sufficient childcare capacity in the community and there does not need to be one here. We are not trying to close the 2 year old offer. The services that will be provided here will be based on the most important needs, where there is volume and good numbers they may be provided here, smaller numbers may be provided at Family and Wellbeing Centres. The offer is likely to reduce so if currently it is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. it may be 10 a.m. - 2p.m. For staffing we will need to look at what is here and what we have elsewhere, the CC job description and the FC job description may merge or they may carry on doing the same sort of job. For management there are currently 10 managers with 2 or 3 deputy managers, we will probably reduce these. Staff we will look across the range. This is exactly the same as what we have done across the council, we have reduced management considerably. |
| Question/ comment |
| Will they reduce hours |
| Response |
| That is what it looks like at the moment |
| Question/ comment |
| Can you do 0-19 here |
| Response |
| May want to do other things here (in area), 0-19 in community, community centres, GPs. |
| Question/ comment |
| You do 0-19 in education what will be the offer here? |
| Response |
| Could be education support training |
| Question/ comment |
| That can be done in school |
| Response |
| Not everyone goes to school, some disengage |
| Question/ comment |
| What about older people like us mums? |
| Response |
| It is proposed that there will be services in Family and Wellbeing Centres |

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| Question/ comment |
| I won't go, I need to be here to collect my children from school |
| Other people don't speak English and they get support here |
| We promote the centre to other people (locally) |
| I came for support for myself and there are other adults who do too |
| Can you explain the difference between CC and FC |
| Response |
| Things will be services at CC with three main things at FC. 1. FC offer family support for Children's Social Care. They will have Family Support Workers physically based there but 90% of their time will be outreach. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Everything you said is offered here |
| Response |
| Yes Family Support Workers do that, there is some duplication. 2. They offer parenting support such as Addaction, Domestic Violence services, drug and alcohol |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Venus do that |
| Response |
| We are not suggesting cuts to those services. 3. Supervised contact at the request of courts for looked after children. This is where a court has said the contact must be supervised. These are the predominate differences |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Can't you get outside services to put money in? Who pays for mental health? |
| Response |
| Health Visitors are paid for by the council. Room hire could be looked at but if health are physically located here they would be contributing to building costs anyway. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| What about the walk-in? |
| Response |
| The walk-in is for different services |
| |
| Question/ comments |
| The surgery offers weigh ins. |
| |
| Response |
| Some areas have GPs who are single handed and they are no longer viable. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Can't they (GPs) merge? |
| Have you seen the timetable, do you think the offer here is enough? |
| Response |
| You have the sort of thing everyone offers. We need to be more efficient |
| |
| Question/ comment |

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| By taking if off kids it will cost more in the long run, this could already be affecting our health |
| Can playgroups be subsidised, we need to keep things of value to us. Can local businesses support things |
| Response (by Sarah) |
| We have not asked. We have in the past talked about a contribution by parents but it was felt then that it might put people off. |
| Question/ comment |
| If we don't offer at all, the only option may be to fund it |
| Response |
| The school has some subsidy that they are considering but things may have to be self-financed. |
| Question/ comment |
| The play groups are structured, for instance looking at the benefits of eating fruit, brushing teeth. There is another side to playgroup. |
| I used to come when it was a portacabin |
| I was scared about food and what to give my baby, this helped. |
| During school holidays there are sessions each day, a hot meal is provided, will that stop? |
| They helped us out during school holidays |
| What is the schools view? |
| Response (by Sarah) |
| We are as worried as you. The pressure of mums can be used, staff need support and you will need support. We share your concerns and we don't know either what will happen to the offer, we still believe we will have the 0 - 2 offer as we want to provide that. |
| Question/ comment |
| We are normal women. We can't see people of authority having our confidence and trust. |
| Response (by Sarah) |
| This is a strong community and we have a strong pastoral team. We will maintain as much as we can – it may have to be in a different way. |
| Question/ comment |
| You can fight for the building |
| Response |
| It all comes back to money; it costs a lot to run. We have to balance the budget and we have been in a period of less money we cannot use what we haven't got. You are at the heart of that. |
| Question/ comment |
| (from a Dad) I really enjoy coming here, my children enjoy coming here. I will be sad if others can't get that. |
| There is a Dads group, everyone comes together not just us women/ mums there are some dads. |
| Response |
| Mums and dads can help; they can volunteer to work in reception. This has given them skills and confidence in working and help with job applications elsewhere. |

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| Question/ comment |
| My mum took over (coming here) when I went back to work. Women can be discriminated against in terms of services |
| Response |
| Gill has recorded your comments. We do not have staffing structures as yet; if we had you would say we had made a decision. If there are other ideas discuss them with the Headteachers and staff and then share them with us. |
| Question/ comment |
| If classes are oversubscribed, if we have to go elsewhere, how will you make sure we can do the things we want to do? |
| Response |
| We have done the data, there should be space |
| Question/ comment |
| Who will have priority in Netherton, Netherton residents? |
| Response |
| There will be changes and we need to understand them all, these can include things such as a surge in new babies, people moving into the area, Eastern European people who need language service – we will look at all that. |
| Question/ comment |
| What if I put my name down for something, I could be too late to add it? |
| Response |
| We will look at practicalities |
| Question/ comment |
| What about Seaforth and Netherton? |
| Response |
| We are looking at Waterloo as well as a potential Family Wellbeing Centre |
| Question/ comment |
| I recently went to West Derby CC, there were too many to do the class. I had to come away as I felt it was unsafe and you cannot relax if there are too many in the class. You need to consider accessibility. |
| Response |
| If Netherton couldn't cope it would need to be looked at. |
| Question/ comment |
| Do you know how many attend stay and play here? |
| Response |
| I think from memory it was 12ish |
| Question/ comment |
| What about at Netherton? |
| Response |
| I cannot remember but the rooms are similar sizes. There would need to be a rota to look at numbers as we don't want oversubscribing to be an issue. Perhaps at most there would be about two dozen at both. |

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| Question/ comment |
| About 25 children with 25 adults in one room is too much |
| Response |
| In terms of detail this would need to be looked at. This can be commented upon in the consultation but certainly we would keep it within Ofsted guidelines. |
| Question/ comment |
| You are saying you don't have a building with this capacity |
| Response |
| We might want to do a rota, for example 20 people here, 20 people in Netherton |
| Question/ comment |
| Us four on the front row have 12 children between us so we would take up half the capacity on our own |
| Response |
| This is one of many issues – they are identical to other issues raised by other CC. |

DJ thanked everyone for their feedback and noted that not everything was cut and dried so their responses are important.

One of the parents handed over a petition together with photographs on behalf of other parents.

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Family and Wellbeing Centres/ Family and Children's Centres Consultation. 20th October 2017

Venue: Netherton Family & Children's Centre

Present

Dwayne Johnson (DJ) (Director of Social Care and Health),
Sharon Lees (note taker), Cllr Spencer, 11 Parents/carers, 5 Staff, 2 Heads of Primary
Schools

Introduction

The meeting started with a presentation from parents and children of Netherton Centre.
DJ described it as "very powerful" and asked for a copy to be shown to Elected
Members.

DJ opened the meeting by giving some background. He briefly mentioned the budget
situation; £64m cuts over 3 years. To look at making savings, Elected Members in March
agreed for detailed work to be carried out with £1m savings from centres. He said that in
2011, centres had their funding cut by 10-20%. This service was inconsistent with some
centres offering services that were not targeting the most deprived areas as intended.

He assured that this was a genuine consultation process; there were no detailed plans
on the centres and there was no "done deals". They wanted discussion with
parents/carers about what was needed. There has already been some good feedback
and alternative ideas from the different Centres. From these ideas, DJ has already been
back to the relevant centres to discuss and he is very happy to do so at any centre.

The consultation is a 0-19 model and Netherton is an example of this; Family & Children
Centre, whole family service. DJ said that Netherton was not closing but more services
may be offered on outreach.

DJ outlined the current proposal. Target the most deprived areas, offer 0-19 services with
the centres becoming Family & Well-being centres across 3 areas. There will be 1 main
centre in each area which will offer all services plus advice and may include health and
fire services, and voluntary services. This is to capture as many families as possible.
Saving will be made by situating everything on 1 site. There will also be consolidated
bases within the communities which will support the specific needs of that community but
on a reduced program and opening times. Current services will not cease but will be
provided where the volume of need is; if a service has a high number of attendees in a
community, the service may be delivered from a base. If only a small number from each
community then the service will be delivered from the Centre. There is also a need to
provide more outreach services at sites such as GP surgeries, health centre & in the
voluntary sector.

These proposals were based on information provided by all Centre managers on service
offer & number of people using the centre and services.

There followed an opportunity for parents to raise issues, concerns and comments.

| Question/ comment – Travel |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sefton is making savings but is costing us. (transport costs) |

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- Waterloo is difficult to get to on the bus especially with a pram.
- One parent uses a wheelchair
- We cannot walk – it takes over 45 minutes and some have disabled children.

Parents have put together a visual of costings for public transport (see photo)

Buses cost £4.30 per adult and £2 per child.

Private hire taxis cost between £6-£7.

Some families have 4 children so would need to hire a Hackney cab which is more expensive.

Response

We recognise this and will consider during consultation

Question/ comment

DJ asked parents what were the key services to them.

There are different numbers for courses on offer – some high, some low

Response

- Sefton Carers
- Ante & Post-natal services
- Positive Thoughts
- Staying Play
- Sensory sessions
- Little Explorers
- Parenting Course
- Respite
- First Aid
- Confidence Building
- Volunteering Courses
- Getting ready for school
 - 2 hours per week
 - Schools Transition Programme
- Shine Therapy
 - Sensory service provided by consultant from Alder Hey
 - There is a waiting list for this
- Counselling
 - This is bought in
 - Crèche is provided
 - There is also a waiting list for this

These are some of the services already provided and used in the centre but some are delivered in the community.

Response

DJ asked if the Centre provided outreach in places like primary and secondary

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| schools, community centres. |
| Response |
| The Children's Centre does not but the Family Centre does. Through one of the outreach services, they have helped one little boy who saw his mother being assaulted. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contact sessions continue in a Family & Well-being Centre? |
| Response |
| Yes. Some schools that are a proposed site for a Family & Well-being Centre are concerned about people coming in but Netherton is a good model for this. |
| Question/ comment |
| In response to a 0-19 service being delivered from a Family & Well-being Centre, a parent shared how the Centre had helped her teenage son when he was getting into trouble. He used the services provided there and turned himself around. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we still able to walk in off the street? • Will the reception continue? |
| Response |
| Yes – the service is not changing. |
| Question/ comment – Targeted Families |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of us are not “targeted families” as we own our home and are working. But we still need the services as we could not afford to pay for them. • I am on maternity leave and would be very isolated if I could not use the Centre in my own community. • We do not look at what type of house we live in; we are “targeted” because of our circumstances and children’s needs. • On the questionnaire, we don’t tick any boxes that show we are “targeted families” but we use and need the centre • If you are not a “targeted family”, can you still come here? • If we are not allowed to use these services, you will be making us vulnerable and will not be saving any money. • “Targeted” people do not always want the help. You are penalising people who want to come. |

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| Response |
| <p>If the volume is high in the area and the service available at the centre. If it is not, you will be signposted to the centre where it is provided.</p> <p>The Council has a finite budget and money is running out fast. Services are not just from the Council. They are also provided by health & the voluntary sector.</p> <p>And there any many good examples of communities coming together. In Wigan, communities have taken over the running of the libraries. Some communities are running their local parks.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would families go to school for support if the Centre was not here? |
| Response |
| <p>Schools do not have the full offer and schools send parents to the Centre.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <p>You are saying the Family & Well-being Centre would help our families' needs but these needs can change at any time.</p> |
| Response |
| <p>The service will need to be flexible. For example, if there was a baby boom across the borough, we'd have to go back to the plan.</p> <p>The services provided are based on volume and these services will continue. If we are currently providing a service for 100 people, we will still provide it for 100 people but the venue for delivery might change.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <p>You say the service is being moved not stopped. There is no point is saying this as if you move it, we cannot afford to get there.</p> <p>We were told The Grange (Children's Centre) was not closing and nothing was getting taken away but now it's only open for 2 hours.</p> |
| Response |
| <p>Some Children's Centres are relying on subsidies from the primary or nursery school and there comes a time when the Council can no longer continue to do this.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will parents have a say in the services offered? |
| Response |
| <p>Yes.</p> <p>Footfall will determine where these services are offered.</p> <p>The Family Centre offer is not changing.</p> |

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| Question/ comment |
| 19 year olds do not want to come into a Children’s Centre. |
| Response |
| <p>I agree with that. I have met with young people who have said they would not come into a Centre. But we can do more outreach.</p> <p>We have spoken to Headteachers around what we can do to help with children’s mental health. Centre staff have a lot of experience in this area and could go into primary and secondary schools to do the work with the children.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about the staff? We are used to coming in and seeing them. |
| Response |
| <p>That is difficult to say at the moment. That will depend on the decision of the Elected Members.</p> <p>That is why the consultation is important. Feedback will make a difference and will help decide what to put forward to members. And if you have any alternative proposals that you want to put forward, with costings, I am happy to come back to discuss.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| Can’t the money be saved anywhere else? Why fix what is not broke? |
| Response |
| <p>Looking across the Council, many things are being looked at to save money.</p> <p>For example, there used to be 3 directors- Education, Adult Social Care & Children’s Services. Now there is just me. And there will be further restructures across all departments and areas of the Council.</p> <p>I did not come into this position to make cuts. I came into it as I wanted to do all the things you describe and more.</p> <p><i>Comment from Head of St Oswald’s in agreement that cuts are not just in Children’s Centres – schools are having to make cuts with the cost of services rising.</i></p> |
| Question/ comment |
| (From Cllr Spencer) Can you pass on other Centre’s suggestions? |
| Response |
| <p>I can tell you what the proposals are do far.</p> <p>Some are saying they want to be a Family and Well-being Centres and would welcome everyone.</p> <p>Some are putting forward proposals to be a consolidated base.</p> <p>Some are putting forward how they can continue to provide the current services but</p> |

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at a lesser cost with a revised budget.

Some are proposing they can extend to provide other services.

Family and Wellbeing Centres/ Family and Children's Centres Consultation. 20th October 2017

Venue: Seaforth Family & Children's Centre

Present

Dwayne Johnson (DJ) (Director of Social Care and Health), Sharon Lees (note taker), 11 Parents/carers, 1 young person representing pupils from Star of the Sea Primary School, 4 Staff, Chair and Vice Chair of Governors.

Introduction

DJ opened the meeting by giving some background. He assured that this was a genuine consultation process; there were no detailed plans on the centres and there was no "done deals". They wanted discussion with parents/carers about what was needed. DJ assured nothing was decided; the consultation was open from 25/9 until 17/11 and there has already been some good feedback and alternative ideas from the different Centres. From these ideas, DJ has already been back to the relevant centres to discuss and he is very happy to come back out to Seaforth.

DJ briefly mentioned the budget situation; £64m cuts over 3 years. To look at making savings, Elected Members agreed for detailed work to be carried out with £1m savings from centres. DJ gave some history of centres and how they have been funded over the years answering a question from a staff member about the childcare subsidy. DJ said that in 2011, centres had their funding cut by 10-20%.

DJ outlined the current proposal. Target the most deprived areas, offer 0-19 services with the centres becoming Family & Well-being centres across 3 areas. There will be 1 main centre in each area which will offer all services plus advice and may include health and fire services, and voluntary services. This is to capture as many families as possible. Saving will be made by situating everything on 1 site. There will also be consolidated bases within the communities which will support the specific needs of that community but on a reduced program and opening times. Current services will not cease but will be provided where the volume of need is; if a service has a high number of attendees in a community, the service may be delivered from a base. If only a small number from each community then the service will be delivered from the Centre. There is also a need to provide more outreach services at sites such as secondary and primary schools & in the voluntary sector.

The proposed sites for the Centre that will cover Seaforth are Waterloo Primary School or Marie Clarke Family Centre in Bootle. DJ said that Members prefer Waterloo Primary as it has good transport links & extra parking. There are concerns about the current capacity of both these sites and it is acknowledged that an extension would be needed for either to provide the rooms needed.

DJ outlined the proposals for Seaforth Family & Children's Centre; to close altogether and relocate services, become a consolidated base with reduced offer or become a F&WB Centre. The only way to do this would be to look at the whole site and current services. The nursery could not continue to be funded and more space would be needed to provide the services.

These proposals were based on information provided by all Centre managers on service offer & number of people using the centre and services. Seaforth has one of the smallest "footfalls" of the Centres

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There followed an opportunity for parents to raise issues, concerns and comments.

Question/ comment – Travel

- Most people walk to the Centre and we could not afford to pay for public transport?
- This is a deprived area, it costs £4.30. Families can just come here.
- Some families can't or won't use public transport – one Mum has a triple buggy which she could not get on the bus.

Response

We will look at this

Question/ comment

- The Civic Hall car park is fee paying. We would not be able to afford to pay for parking

Response

There is an option to look at free parking for those attending the Centre.

Question/ comment

We do not want to go to Waterloo as we will be looked down on and not made to feel comfortable

- Waterloo Centre is attached to a school. What happens when the school shuts?

Response

We will look at this

Question/ comment

- If Seaforth shuts, where would the services be offered from locally?

Response

There are a number of options including Seaforth CP centre.

Question/ comment – Outreach

- We already provide outreach to families; centres need to be within walking distance.
- This area is really deprived and the Centre is the last service left. We go into people's houses who have mental health/drugs/alcohol problems and it can take months to get them to come into the centre.

During the session, a number of parents shared personal stories of how the Centre has helped them.

- There are lots of examples of people's journeys who have been supported right through.

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| Question/ comment – Sand Dunes Nursery |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Option clarification) The nursery would have to close if we became a Family & Well-being Centre? • Are you saying that if we didn't have Sand Dunes we could be a Family and Well-being Centre? • Before we had the nursery, the centre was running well. It changed with the 2 year old offer. Most schools have nurseries and parents send their children these nurseries. What is the budget? • Clifton House (local private nursery) is closing and we have been getting calls for places. |
| Response |
| <p>There is a budget deficit across the current service; the nursery's is the biggest. Money would need to be redirected and would there be sufficient money to do this. Are parents happy to use the money to subsidise a private nursery?</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (from staff) This is already happening in the Centre. Why was the decision made to combine the nursery and centre in the first place? The Centre always ran under budget before that. |
| Response |
| <p>We are looking at this</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This centre supports everyone. People still come in even if their children are not here. We give advice and support. • I've built up trust here and it's where I feel most comfortable. I've known some of the staff since I was little, X was my teacher in school. • I don't trust many people with my children but I do the staff at the Centre. I came here for my ante natal. • Has the site of the Centre been identified by Peel Holdings for housing? |
| Response |
| <p>DJ assured that this was not the case.</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When looking at the figures, did you look at the impact of services? |
| Response |
| <p>Yes</p> |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (from staff) We listen to parents; the starting point for parents in Seaforth is |

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different. It takes can take a long time to get to the source of the issues. They come in for 1 thing but there are many issues.

- Marie Clarke only has 6 rooms. Would this get extended?

Response

The Council's preference is Waterloo. There is not much room for extension at Marie Clarke.

Question/ comment - Waterloo

- We have also heard that Waterloo is against becoming a Family & Well-being Centre. Will we be wanted there? We will be looked down on.
- Will the parents at Waterloo want strangers going in and out?
- We have heard that Waterloo don't want to be a Family and Well-being Centre. WE DO!!
- As Waterloo is based at primary school, they are worried about teenagers coming in; also contact visits, Adaction, probation, etc. Would people who attend for these reasons be made to feel welcome?

Response

We would look to make some changes to the building; similar to Netherton centre.

Question/ comment

- Won't this cost money?

Response

Whatever we do will cost to enhance any building.

Question/ comment

- This Centre was made as the area is deprived. We live in an area with one of the worst ward profiles. Closing the centre will only make it worse.
- We have heard of "pockets of deprivation". All of Seaforth is deprived.

Response

During the consultation, parents and community are coming back with proposals; how a Family & Well-being Centre could be provided and still save money. DJ has gone back to discuss the proposals. If Seaforth community has any ideas that are financially viable, put it in a plan and DJ will happily sit down to discuss.

Question/ comment

- Could you (Sefton) provide annual costs for the proposal?

Response

Yes

Question/ comment – Peel Holdings

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peel Holdings have not contributed to this community although they add to the pollution, traffic, etc.• Would Sefton object to the community asking for contribution?• Can Sefton help us put a case to Peel Holdings? |
| Response |
| No objection. Sefton could help/guide with a request to Peel but it is best coming from point of the community – there is more strength in it. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When you did the information exercise that said Seaforth had the less “footfall”, are parents from other areas willing to come here?• People have said that they come here as they have been turned away from other centres.• People have made solid friendships here. They feel comfortable and get early help. |
| Response |
| We are not taking services away – services are being redistributed. We need to target the most deprived. Services will still be available in other areas. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It does not feel like that!!!• And there is the cost of travel. |
| Response |
| We will look at that. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How was the “footfall” measured in Marie Clarke as it is only a family centre? |
| Response |
| Marie Clarke is an option but there could be other options. For example, Sefton now own The Strand. We would like to look at other options that can be suggested. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Strand cost £33m, the budget cut is £64m. If we can invest in The Strand, why not our children. |
| Response |
| The Strand is an investment in the Authority and we get income back. Local Authorities get their funding from a Government grant, business rates and council tax; this falls short of what we need to provide services. So Councils are looking at ways to make money. Buying The Strand is in response to this and we can make |

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sure that they right type of businesses are being encouraged to the area.

Question/ comment

- Do the Docks pay business rates? Sefton are getting a good “whack” from this but we are getting the back lash. We want more money in our area. We have to put up with traffic/pollution/noise and there is no green space. We only have Bowersdale Park which is not very nice. If the Centre closes, we have nothing.
- We are a Family and Children centre and as a centre we work together. If you do the number crunching, we are doing more than is expected. You need to spend a day in the life of the centre to see what we do for families and children.
- If we become a Family & Well-being Centre, can an exercise be done on the nursery funding?

Response

Funding would have to be looked at to inform the decision and the centre would always have to subsidise the nursery, due to the lack of government funding. The nursery is a long way short of people attending and it would need to attract a lot more business.

Question/ comment

(from staff) The Children’s Centre was always under budget.

Response

DJ asked those present to look at options for the rest of the consultation period; to consider the proposal and fill in the consultation document, what services would need to continue if the centre is relocated and what could be offered if Seaforth became a consolidated base. There is still plenty of time for consultation. DJ also said the Council are happy to look at any proposals from the community for their Centre to become a Family & Well-being Centre and to meet up again to discuss. Any proposals would need to stack up financially to go forward to elected members.

DJ assured that every single questionnaire/response would be look at and a report will be put to Cabinet on 8th December for Elected Members to make a decision.

Question/ comment

An issue was raised with the questionnaire; it is not clear when it mentions “Cambridge Road”. There is a Cambridge Road in Seaforth which is where the Community Learning Centre is based. The parents in Seaforth were unaware that “Cambridge Road” meant the Children’s Centre in Bootle.

Some parents said that as part of preparing for this meeting, they contacted other Centres to try to work together. They said that they had no help and were made to feel “not welcome”.

Question/ comment

- Is the consultation only evidence for the Elected Members’ decision?

Response

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| The facts and figures will also go to Elected Members. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Centre and Nursery went through a restructure last year and there is a 3 year plan. If the Nursery had to shut in a year's time, would it stop the chance of the Centre becoming a Family & Well-being Centre? |
| Response |
| DJ said that there are statutory processes involved in closing a nursery which takes 6 months plus and may have to take into account the academic year. If it is okay with everyone, he would need to take this away and get accurate information before he could answer this. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can we have a list of the services targeted? |
| Response |
| Yes – we can send it. |
| Question/ comment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre staff have had a lot of money invested in them through training programs around mental health, etc. This is invaluable to the community. Seaforth is more like a “Life Centre”.• Have any schools given feedback on the impact of children attending Children's Centres pre-school? |
| Response |
| Yes – lots of positive feedback. |
| Question/ comment |
| Keira presented DJ with a petition with 250 signatures from Star of the Sea Primary School. |

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 10th November 2017
Venue: Seaforth Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ) Director of Social Care and Health; Cllr John Joseph Kelly, Gill Cowley notetaker; Headteacher of Nursery, Children's Centre Manager (CCM), 12 Parents, 2 Staff

DJ thanked everyone for inviting him back. He noted that they had met Cllr John Joseph Kelly at Bootle Town Hall and he said he would come back to discuss the proposals. The questionnaire responses are in the region of 1300 and there have been 12 public consultation events, it has been fantastic to see so many people and to pick up the themes coming through.

The main themes are transport, accessibility, views about Children's Centres themselves, and it was good to hear parents talking about themselves and their support.

Claire has shared some proposals with Dwayne Johnson and shared the community aspect, there are no figures as there is no formula yet. What we do and can still do is to look at the £900k-1M overall but it is difficult to say what the figure will be for Seaforth.

There followed an opportunity for those present to raise issues and concerns.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

| Question/ comment |
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| This is the only place in Seaforth, don't take it away from us |
| We don't feel we will be welcome in Waterloo |
| We don't feel included, not welcome |
| It is a postcode thing |
| Nothing in this area, this is the only thing left. There used to be the Caradoc but that has now gone |
| The only thing left is the park, wherever any child comes from they have to cross the road to get there. If this goes you have nowhere to take them, you can't take them in the rain and snow, there is absolutely nothing left. |
| There are activities here |
| When they are off in school holidays they have got somewhere to go |
| We already work collaboratively with the Family Centre and Children's Centre, some Family Centre services take place here |
| There is a quicker move into universal services |
| Other Centres not making you feel welcome. Years ago I worked in Sefton, Vauxhall, I have visited all children's centres and every centre I have been to, excluding one or two have not been welcoming. I also need adult company. |
| I won't move to others |
| When I first had a baby I came here, I would be lost without their support |
| I have hands on experience of centres, you cannot always go to wherever services are available. |
| Courses on offer, you can re-educate including for childminding. |
| As a working parent I wouldn't have time to take them to Waterloo and then go to work |
| Would rather miss an appointment and pay for gas and electricity than pay to travel |

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| to somewhere you are not welcome |
| Response from JJK |
| Why are you not welcome? |
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| Question/ comment |
| You are isolated |
| Although I am a parent in the Waterloo reach, I chose to be here, child goes to school and it is hard to walk into a new group |
| Although I was sent to Waterloo (by midwife) I refused to go |
| Pre-school, my child is not attending school if you are earning and on a low income, you might miss the two year old offer |
| I wasn't entitled, it helped me by bringing him here |
| I came here from pre-school |
| The pre-school staff support targets families, looks at their needs, at the baseline of the child's development that as a parent you would not know is happening. |
| Response from Centre Manager |
| Pre-school you may be eligible for needs and needs that should be met, there can be a longer transition to build confidence to be nursery ready. A number of other children's centres offer support to grandparents, they may be getting on (in age) and are struggling. Mums can be struggling, they just need time. |
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| Question/ comment |
| Talk together on courses, working on speech and language, filling gaps |
| Response Headteacher |
| We work across the site and have language champions |
| The language champions, are private and include nursery. There is an assessment and a lot of work going on. We have outreach at May Logan, St. Elizabeths Primary, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Leonards, Brunny. We identify the needs and look at building relationships. There is one thing about people attending but you gain their trust by going out to them. |
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| Question/ comment |
| Toilet training for young children entering reception class at school is a big thing. Can't measure that development in being ready to learn |
| Response |
| We want to work closely with health, the voluntary and community sector, Public Health to extend the 0-19 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a 0-19 offer 2. Outreach, to sustain and do more, more away from base approach 3. Early intervention <p>As we have gone around and talked there has been some recognition that some early years work in Family Centres and Children's Centres is being duplicated.</p> <p>Some questions for you</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we did look at consolidating the base could you assure us you would offer 0-19 services <p>Yes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Outreach <p>Yes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Most early years and help |

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| Define early years |
| Response from CCM |
| Most 0-2 year offer, community sessions or specialist settings work with families e.g. families struggling with behaviour, parent services, stay and play, positive parenting, positive help, theraplay, sensory play, one-to-one play, sing and rhyme, come in a group. 2 year old and pre school activities |
| Question/ comment |
| Consultation on Children's Centres. Family Centres focus on looked after children, Children in Need, Early Years, want one consolidated base. You are already doing early years, and Family Centre do looked after children but use the Children's Centres for services, Family Development Workers can do play with mother and child |
| Response |
| We know from statistics that there is some duplication between Family Centres and Children's Centres, the outcomes are what we want. The interface and duplication, we need to consider. We want Family Centres to work with looked after children, Children in Need services including referrals, there has been a restructure and we expect the numbers to plateau and start to go down Children's Centres will focus on early years. The only duplication I can see in this building is early help cases. Seaforth is currently 20% or around that figure and some early years. |
| Question/ comment |
| An example of this is working to support a Dad with early help. Working with him on attachment and play, a Family Support Worker can help Dad with practical parenting skills, basic things, baby massage, baby yoga, sensory play, opportunities to get them on the right path, ready for universal services |
| They know what is expected of them |
| Duplication – once family support is in place we can escalate if it is appropriate, it makes it easier if they are already familiar with the centre, it helps with transitions. |
| Response |
| 0-19 will be part of outreach, children with mental health issues will be a priority. If we were to look at the proposal, at this being a consolidated base, all the things we said in the engagement and consultation document. The original document was looking at closing Seaforth and relocating, with only have Family Wellbeing Centres are Waterloo, Netherton and Talbot Street in Southport. Underneath this we would have 9 consolidated bases, 9-5 or some are 8-6/7. Within the financial money we may look to shorten the day, and more services delivered by outreach. It won't stay as it is. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about the building, if it is a consolidated base and shortened hours, is there scope for the community, extended activities. |
| Response |
| Yes |
| Question/ comment |
| Parents are willing to do this |
| Why a consolidated base, this is a first phase sure start@ |

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| Response |
| Haven't got a base |
| Question/ comment |
| We are more deprived than Waterloo |
| Response |
| If we look at FWBC Waterloo would be a consolidated base too |
| Question/ comment |
| If health and wellbeing centre with higher deprivation would this be a centre |
| Response |
| I have had the proposal and there is a similar proposal, not being parochial but saying the same thing |
| Question/ comment |
| If we are in a deprived area, children are disadvantaged |
| Response |
| We need to look at footfall, including elsewhere |
| Question/ comment |
| Some are afraid to go elsewhere, I am not |
| Response |
| Good you are minded like that. It is difficult, if here or somewhere else we are going round in circles |
| Question/ comment |
| It is not just about this building it is about this area |
| Response from CCM |
| From CCM. This wasn't going to be a base for Family and Wellbeing Centres, if we are a consolidated base with community activities, good. And it is proposed that Marie Clark will still be a Family Centre with Family Support Workers being more agile. |
| Response |
| You would still have Family Support Workers, initially yes. Their remit would likely change but you would stay here. If staff move it would become dysfunctional. There are a number of proposals about Family and Wellbeing Centres and which one to choose. The best offer would be a consolidated base with Family Support Workers here |
| Question/ comment |
| The ability to have a community aspect here, with additional community and voluntary services who could be trained, there will be more value for money in building. Could still be a base. |
| Response |
| Southport are already using a big volunteer base, support to mums and dads and volunteers. |
| Response from JJK |
| We don't want to close the building. Birmingham and Medway are looking at that as an option, we are not proposing closure, the more proposals the better. I live in Litherland, I was a social worker and Assistant Director of Social Care. The amount of cuts we have had are in the region of 50%, austerity has now been |

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| <p>discredited. We need to look at what to do when austerity ends and the ability to build services back up by avoiding closure now. By 2020 I think things will improve. As an Elected Member I didn't want to lose the centre. If we can get through this period, I believe eventually the Government will abandon austerity so we need to keep things going.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>If this is a consolidated base, what will we lose</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>From data we already know some things e.g. in one area there has been a massive baby boom, so services such as antenatal, postnatal, baby massage, breastfeeding support will need to be in that area. It has been good to look at the engagement and consultation as some services in another consolidated base could be provided here but we would need to look at the budget, look at parents needs and understand what we can flex. It could be that we rotate some services, here for 6/ 9 months and then move them on.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>Would staff move?</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>Staff do already, the uptake and what staff have to do whether universal or not</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment from CCM</p> |
| <p>We have the perinatal pathway, increasing number on courses, we meet every two weeks to look at where referrals are coming from, costing so as to get people to other centres to meet outcomes, e.g. if courses are full, signposting to other courses. Centres have between them an agreement to pay travel.</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>Some things may be at other centres, could look at volunteers, reception could be manned by volunteers. If you have other public events you would look at your budget and opening hours. One Headteacher said she would keep it open 9-5 and how she provides this is up to her. Some areas are prepared to offer more.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>What about other sources of funding</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>A clear transparent funding formula for all of the centres would be useful. In 2011 it was a 10/20% cut and Children's Centres had different services, some had a lot of money in comparison. We would look at poverty, deprivation, children with disabilities and determine how much money each would get.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>Original Children's Centres were main hubs, 2nd or 3rd phase should have been complimentary base and shouldn't have been a full blown centre. Out of the box, family needs and more for interpreters.</p> |
| <p>What about older kids, 7 years olds etc</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>That is what we are moving towards</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>We used to have a kids club next door</p> |

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| Yes we could move service here, a new beginning |
| After schools club is here on a Thursday |
| Response |
| Yes you would provide 0-19 services we recognise children's mental health services, early help pressure |
| Question/ comment |
| We need to get them off the street |
| Response from JJK |
| I have been with Sefton's Youth Parliament, they say there is nothing for us |
| Question/ comment |
| There may be a different view, kids on the street go to Potters Barn |
| When we had a kids club running some don't want to be in a building |
| Response from CCM |
| I did suggest you could use the building to set up youth a club |
| Question/ comment |
| The Children's Centre put on a course to run a youth club |
| Kids would go to different activities |
| Would there be youth workers in a Family Wellbeing Centre? |
| Response |
| Beyond what we have consulted on, yes you can use the building for different purposes. You have two separate entrances. To sum up the proposals, if you have any questions and you have my assurance that we are comfortable with a consolidated bases, but you would prefer a Family and Wellbeing Centre here. |
| Question/ comment |
| What is it to be a hub, to be in first place |
| Response |
| The footfall is smaller (here) |
| Question/ comment |
| Seaforth is a smaller place |
| Some centres have 5 registers, it could be down to that. |
| Response |
| I know how deprived it is, when you have an amount of money to save £64m, we have to have proposals. We will put alternative proposals to Cabinet, and we will put this forward as your preferred option |
| Question/ comment |
| Would funding stop in 12 months |
| Response from JJK |
| This wouldn't happen, we don't want the centre to close and this won't. I am impressed by your enthusiasm. If this is accepted we will work together to look at how it can be done. |
| Question/ comment |
| No investment in Seaforth since Margaret Thatcher |
| Response |

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| Cllr John Joseph Kelly has worked through that |
| From JJK. Margaret Thatcher's cuts are now where near the current cuts. |
| Question/ comment |
| I live here and I have three children, lots of things have closed including the shops |
| Response from JJK |
| That is the reality we have to deal with. We are not coming here to do that (to take away) |
| Question/ comment from JJK |
| Whilst looking at this, what about some money for storage, it is a bit limited here in the building |
| Response |
| You are pushing it, there is no capital. I thought you were going to approach Peel Holdings. |
| Question/ comment |
| They didn't get back to us, I left three different messages but I have had no response |
| Response |
| For capital, there is so many capital requests to develop all Children's Centres |
| Question/ comment |
| I am only looking for a storage shed, extra equipment |
| Response |
| I will consider capital requests over the £900K savings |
| From JJK. You have time to get plans drawn up. Some Elected Members have small pots of money, speak to your Ward Councillors. |
| If you have serious proposals put them forward |
| Question/ comment |
| If you have 9 consolidated sites and this is a consolidated site |
| Response |
| We would rework the model formula |

JJK thanked everyone, he is impressed by the parents enthusiasm.

DJ provide the date of the Cabinet Meeting, 7th December at 10 a.m. at Bootle Town Hall. The report will be public on 29th November and you will be able to see the recommendations.

JJK said there would be no closure and it was down to the parents, and thanked Keira for presenting him with the petition.

Parents said they wanted to be heard and was surprised he accepted the invitation. He responded by saying that they do listen and want to work with communities.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 13th November 2017
Venue: Springwell Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; 28 Parents

Parent volunteers opened the meeting by playing two video clips and reading out a brief note which stated:

I've been briefed by a spokesperson from the Dept of Education. They have informed me that if you do decide to close our children's centres that all parents and families are really going to suffer here in Sefton. As a community we need to know how you are going to support us and guarantee that there will be no negative effects on our community and families. Me as well as other parents here today have all suffered some type of crisis in our lives and this centre has always been there for us with open arms. You are banging on about closing the gap and improving children's life chances, but then go and contradict yourself by threatening to close our centre.

Dwayne Johnson introduced himself and thanked people for the video clip. He said this would form part of the information that will be provided to Elected Members. There have been other videos so he will show elements of the videos but the full videos will be available as background papers.

Dwayne went on to say, the background to the engagement and consultation is to provide an opportunity for discussion. There are no done deals as Elected Members have not made any decisions yet. We have £64m to save and we need to look at how to make those savings, they are not all in children's services. So far he has attended 12/ 13 public consultation events and there are lots of themes coming through. The idea is to get feedback from mums, dads, grandparents and others to put forward options to Elected Members. Consultation closes on 17th November and so far there are in the region of 1300 questionnaires returned. All the event notes will be typed up and together with the video clips will be presented to Elected Members. On Tuesday 5th December there will be an Overview and Scrutiny meeting at Southport Town Hall to look at the process and the options. The final decision will be made by Cabinet which has 10 members including the Leader. This will take place on 7th December at 10 a.m. in Bootle Town Hall.

This event is an opportunity to say what you want about the proposals. These have been informed by data from Headteachers and Centres about why people go to centres and what they use them for. We have also looked at others regionally and nationally at how they provide services. A lot of the Family and Wellbeing Centres will have main services and we will look at the volume in the community locally for children's centres. We already have Netherton which is a Family Centre and a Children's Centre, you go into one reception with separate areas for family and children's centre services.

There followed an opportunity for people to ask questions or make comments

| Question/ comment |
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| It is a 43 minute walk to the nearest centre in Netherton from here. How do you |
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| expect parents and their families in crisis to get there? How do you expect parents and their families without transport to get there? How do expect our children with additional needs and other disabilities to get there and most of all settle there, with new people and environments? |
| That is a small building (Netherton) how will we access services |
| Response |
| Based on the information we have and on the footfall we think there is enough capacity for now and the near future. There will still be services here e.g. antenatal, postnatal, breastfeeding support so a significant proportion will still be provided here as a consolidated base. The 3 Health and Wellbeing Centres would have 0-19 and we wouldn't have 0-19 in the centre but there would be outreach from Children's Centres. |
| Question/ comment |
| We already go into the primary school |
| Response |
| There would be some outreach into secondary schools, CAMHS and other services would also operate services for 0-19 year olds. |
| Question/ comment |
| Would you have more CAMHS workers, they struggle to provide now |
| Response |
| These are the conversations will need to have, in reality though we have a finite budget. We already know support is needed for i) antenatal, postnatal support for mums who may be depressed or have postnatal depression ii) mental health in older children iii) stressful situations. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about mums being let down by closing this place? |
| Response |
| We are not closing the centre |
| Question/ comment |
| Will staff still be here |
| Response |
| As I said in reality we have financial envelope, we won't be able to provide the same thing 8-6 we haven't got the money, we will be looking at shortened hours. |
| Question/ comment |
| Because of these services, my son wouldn't be speaking. If you take away from my disabled son, as well as others, this is out of order. I have come since he was 10 months old, they saw signs of my sons illness. You need to think about support (tha is offered) |
| What has happened to Every Child Matters/ safeguarding? |
| Drugs and alcohol, we wouldn't be here |
| Some teenagers are a problem |
| Some teenagers are in a gang and you can't guarantee safety by going into another area |
| It is not just teenagers, with rival gangs parents are not safe either, you can't go down some streets |
| Response |

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| We have spoken to teenagers, they don't want to go to Children's Centres. Another group may want to use the building for older age groups. |
| Question/ comment |
| There will be a lot of feet through the door at Netherton for contact, is the use based on that |
| Response |
| At Family Centres we have supervised contact, this isn't because of an issue with the child, this is a court order that dad, mum or grandparent will meet with the child outside of the family home. Family Support Workers are based there and Family Centres also offer parents courses. |
| Question/ comment |
| You can do the same course here |
| Response |
| That is a good point, when you go round lots of mums and dads get early help at Family Centres and by Family Development Workers, we have talked to centres and Family and Wellbeing Centres will be focussed on early help, key services such as post and antenatal support are other options because of the duplication across both centres. |
| Question/ comment |
| What about the nursery? |
| Response |
| That is entirely separate. We are primarily talking about Family Centres and some Children's Centres, get a subsidy. We are looking at that separately, this consultation is mainly about Family Centres and Children's Centres, the nursery is a school operation. |
| Question/ comment |
| What is the timescale to look at that, do I need to look at a new nursery now or get my name on a waiting list? |
| Response from Parent Volunteer |
| This is not about the nursery, we need to try to keep the focus on the centre. |
| Response from DJ |
| Thank you, we are not shutting the Children's Centre. The nursery and child care provision has a subsidy, we are looking at that separately, if there is a decision to change anything for your child it will be next summer at the earliest. A different funding stream goes into the nursery and child care provision. These are mainly after school child care services |
| Question/ comment |
| If there are not as many staff here and there are more at Netherton, how do you propose to run these sessions and courses without staff, you will not be able to provide the courses and getting there with a journey on top (will prove difficult) |
| Bus routes are a problem |
| I am a single mum unable to work, I can't afford childcare so I had to leave work to care for my son, the nursery and day to day support at Children's Centres, they are my family |
| What about children with disabilities and additional needs, they won't settle, they can't adjust to new buildings/environments |

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| My issue is that I am five minutes away and Netherton is 43 minutes away. What about the relationships between parents and staff and then into the school, this continues the relationship |
| This is not just round the corner, if they go to school and then you go to Netherton you have to get back from there. What about communication around session times. Families provide support for each other, the majority of parents don't have one child, 0-11 years of age. There is support for families here, you can't just think of a 43 minute journey. |
| Response |
| I understand about connecting |
| Question/ comment |
| I have three children, one is under investigation for special needs |
| My son is only talking at 2 years of age, he attacks me, I have had black eyes, broken nose. It took long enough to settle him here through the work of staff and the school, he will still have difficulties which will continue to affect him throughout school. My son needs rituals and routine. It is not just me, there are a lot of people with a child with a disability or special needs. It is not just about the kids you need to think about the parents |
| Netherton Children's Centre is not connected to a school, this is. I took on another child, they guided me through. They are not connected to a school. if the Centre takes on all services, will be drug and alcohol users under one building. Here it is tailored to the needs of children. We are connected to the school. You created Netherton Children's Centre. You should retain this and be telling us what budget you have. |
| Some of the parents went here (to school) |
| Response |
| The budget we are trying to save is £900K-£1m |
| Question/ comment |
| Cut your middle managers, your own managers, we don't need them. You have 6 or 7 layers of managers. There are kids here with very different needs, I am very passionate about here. Invest £100K, send them here we will provide the services. make this a super centre, we are in school that is a community centre (Netherton), it is wrong. This Children's Centre is connected to a school, you will take away development of children, you will leave us with no pot to pee in. Say parents not mum and dads, parents. |
| Will the health visitor still recommend you come to the children's centre. I have four children and when I had the two youngest they sent me here. One child was very difficult, they helped me stop getting upset, my son was a horror |
| The service means everything to me, I have panic attacks. The team gets you through it, they help distract my son, I had a miscarriage, they got me through |
| Not just about the community, we have a family and cannot walk 43 minutes. I love the staff here |
| I can't travel with my son, he would walk out in front of traffic, I would be broke without Access Sefton, and if I need a boot up the backside they tell me. I can sti down and talk to them. |
| They take time to talk to you, they have helped with my son from 2 years of age. He went from nursery to school. They helped me get back to work, with courses and volunteering. |
| I have four children, I had three girls and then a boy, they helped me and guided me |

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| to understand boys needs space. Child number four was different and I thought I was useless, I would have gone mad. They helped me understand. |
| I have been to Walton Children's Centre, this is the best run. |
| The money, £900K-1M why has my council tax not gone down, why are you taking it from childcare, why not elsewhere. Why is no one picking up litter, I pay council tax. |
| Response |
| This is the second round of cuts, the Government has cut the money. |
| Question/ comment |
| I haven't had the opportunity to come to classes, my child goes to the nursery 5 days a week, I am not in and out. Why are you consulting on this, what about trying to get more money |
| Response |
| I am Director of Education, Director of Adults, Director of Children's Social plus Health, under me a couple of managers and people have reduced. We have already shared the pain |
| Question/ comment |
| What about the education of children, they will struggle without support |
| There are maximum capacities of rooms, they will be full. With Arriva bus strikes, your stress levels will go through the roof, they person on reception won't know you. |
| Liverpool Children's Services looked at what money there is and where - at the bottom is cuts |
| Response |
| I am hearing that parents are not overly keen on Family and Wellbeing Centres and they would prefer involvement here, if there is a Family and Wellbeing Centre the community wants here. |
| Question/ comment |
| That was a community centre, you are financing to keep it stable |
| Response |
| We are not |
| Question/ comment |
| You are taking away from kids, that is disgusting, you want to take away from kids – not adults |
| Bringing drugs and alcohol services here, you would have more parents of children in the school in the room if they realised that. I work but I am on maternity leave, if you had more publicity on what was on offer (the numbers would be higher) |
| I came to get the baby weighed, they phoned me as I had no confidence, I met other parents |
| The after school club, would it continue |
| Response |
| Potentially yes if the School or parents are prepared to fund it |
| Question/ comment |
| If people knew how many parents would be affected, they would be here too |
| Response |
| This is engagement and consultation, there has been no decision on the proposals. I am hearing from you that there are different options to put forward but we still have financial pressures and we still have to make the savings. |

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| Question/ comment |
| I pay £165 pm to get my bins emptied once a fortnight |
| How did you come up with Netherton as a hub? |
| Response |
| They are already a Children's and Family Centre and could be an option. If this is a Family and Wellbeing Centre, it would have to have the Family Centre here. There are a lot of things to think about, sharing of costs. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| The school will suffer if you take away the after school club, I would take the kids out of school to look for somewhere else that provides wrap around. |
| What about the nursery? A private nursery? My daughter is in school, I would want my baby here at the nursery, I have to go to work, shall I sign on |
| Response |
| Schools need to make decisions, some may decide to run nursery, some have brought in private nursery provision, some may not provide |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| There is a safeguarding issues around drugs and alcohol |
| Response |
| I am hearing that you don't want 0-19 here |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| We have 0-5 nursery and 0-11 in the school |
| 0-16 locally |
| This is down to you, you say it is down to the school |
| Response |
| Schools need to decide |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| After school clubs support working parents we need some provision |
| As a parent I would not keep child here at this school, I would look elsewhere for childcare it should stay as it is for everyone |
| What will be here? |
| Response |
| We would need to have conversations with school once Elected Members have decided |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| They will base that on your recommendations, these proposals |
| Response |
| As we have been going along the process we have and will be updating them and we have the Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Not changing the process, can't be amended. It was built in as Children's Centres, we become a branch of, they are not connected to nothing. This about Sefton Council services, more services into Sefton Council so they run services, you say there is no money but a certain amount to Sefton, where should you be prioritising |
| Response |

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| Elected Members make the decision, I will guarantee we will put all options forward and consider these in the report.. When we did Adult Day Centres we did public consultation events. The option was for so many centres to close, however, a number remained open following representations. |
| Question/ comment |
| They will be working round your proposals |
| Response |
| These are Sefton proposals |
| Question/answer |
| All to your facilities |
| Response |
| This school is a maintained provision, I am also Director of Education and Springwell is within my remit. Netherton Children's Centre and Family Centres are within my remit. |
| Question/ answer |
| Are we allowed to go to Bootle Town Hall? |
| Response |
| Yes, Overview and Scrutiny is at Southport Town Hall and Cabinet is at Bootle Town Hall at 10 a.m. on 7 th December. |
| Question/ comment |
| The nursery is really important to me and I may be affected. Is there a question mark over it |
| Response |
| I don't want to confuse the issue. This is mainly about Family Centres and Children's Centres, once a decision has been made we will meet with the Headteacher and see what budget we have. They are not specifically part of the consultation. That is in part a subsidy from the council for child care and we are talking to the HT about options. |
| Question/ comment |
| Will it be discussed |
| We don't know .. |
| Will there be 30+ hours for the childcare offer |
| Will the offer be at a different place/ elsewhere (nursery and childcare). It is not fair to take it off (here) |
| This is an amazing nursery |
| Response |
| I have answered before |
| Question/ response |
| I will pay |
| You say it is not closing but you can't say what services will be here – you can say what will be in Netherton CC, you have already decided |
| Response |
| I can assure you no discussions have occurred, we will look at what to do when we know the final outcome and the cost of each option within the final financial envelope. What sort of services and hours will be looked at. The report will be |

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| published on 29 th November. |
| Question/ comment |
| How will it be communicated |
| Response |
| I am not sure but perhaps a letter out to parents |
| Question/ comment |
| You talked about the school, not just this one but other schools nearby get support St. Robert Bell, St. Monica's. Children are collected and brought here. The overall effect on this community, and families, cannot be underestimated. I have a 7, 4 and 2 year old, they will be affected by all of this. This is an amazing centre, (the others) they never come close to this nursery or this school. |
| This is brilliant |
| You just can't lift this up and take us to Netherton |
| I have no confidence to go elsewhere, confidence in your guarantee. Liverpool SEN ??? gave guarantees but did not stick to them |
| Response |
| You have my guarantee, no deals have been done while I am the Director. |
| Question/ response |
| Community elsewhere, members of staff are like our family, like the lady said you can't pick this up and send everything to Netherton families will get lost in the system, what about their needs and support without staff |
| Do you realise how important this is to the community |
| Response |
| I have heard very similar stories, I do |
| Question/ response |
| The school side, they come through this centre, presentations, prize giving, pair of eyes, school assembly, this will have a massive effect on the school. The background is not as I have seen before, comes from here and starts here (the centre) |
| I can't afford to take my children out, they put on things |
| I come from Orrell Park, I don't know where Netherton Children's Centre is, it takes me 20 minutes to get here |
| Teachers say they can tell if children have attended here, they know how to behave, things like stay and play gets them ready for school |
| Twitter pages |
| They learnt diversity from here, they join in talk about school and what they have learnt |
| Response |
| The website has the consultation details and all the reports. 5 th December is the Overview and Scrutiny at 6.30 p.m. at Southport Town Hall and 7 th December is Cabinet at 10 a.m. at Bootle Town Hall. |
| All issues, options, strengths will be included such as transport. |

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 15th November 2017
Venue: Thornton Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health; Cllr John Joseph Kelly Ward Councillor and also Cabinet Member Children and Safeguarding; Gill Cowley, notetaker; 10 parents, 2 staff

Dwayne Johnson noted that he wanted to see the centre. This is part of the engagement and consultation and he is seeking genuine feedback on the proposals. The main reasons is because of the cuts, there is £64m that needs to be saved over the next three years. The proposals are up for discussion, looking at a wider offer of 0-19 years of age. We are not suggesting that this Children's Centre closes and we are not suggesting teenagers come to the children's centre but they look at a wider offer in terms of outreach, this could be community centres, church halls, secondary schools, and would look at children's mental health issues. We are proposing 3 health and wellbeing centres, these would be Waterloo, Talbot Street in Southport and Netherton. This area is a bit in between Waterloo and Netherton. The sort of services will be dependent on local needs.

Some Children's Centres reach areas have recently had baby booms so the sort of services are likely to be antenatal, postnatal, breastfeeding support and a number of voluntary services will be undertaken at children's centres.

What will remain or move to Family Wellbeing Centres (FWBC) will depend on footfall, the majority of the saving is by having FWBC. We are interested in your views on the proposals and also on alternatives. We need to understand the impact; other centres have talked about transport, links to the community and friendship networks.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

| Question/ comment |
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| In Thornton CC there are different services, we have different things here for a number of years. There are no park areas; the only thing is a pub with a play area. I am 44 years of age and lived here all that time. There is no community centre; one local church was knocked down. I have an eight year old with autism; I attend the Little Owls group. I can't just put him on a bus it won't work. |
| I had a baby of 18 months when I started here. I started 4 years ago, I can't get to Waterloo, I used to get out for my job but I won't be able to get out in time to go. I wouldn't be classed as a deprived parent. |
| Have you kept a record of those turned away? There are few places, the Salvation Army is on the only one, there may be space at Kingsway but it is full. Costs can be £1.50-3, not everyone can afford that. |
| A parent shared details of her involvement with social care and her support from the centre |
| This is my lifeline, I know staff have got my back – if I need help they can direct me in correct way. If I couldn't get there, they bring people to me. |
| Phone calls, if I couldn't afford them and it was urgent they help |
| As a new mum you can't imagine how difficult the first child is postnatal. |
| I moved here in January, this support has been vital. I don't mind public transport but it is so convenient here, I get good support. It is good to see other adults, it is a |

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| safe environment and I have never once been turned away. |
| It is too far to get to |
| You can't get into a class if you are 10 minutes late |
| I don't drive, I won't get on a bus |
| If a wheelchair user gets on a bus you have to get off (with your buggy) |
| It is cheaper to get a taxi. My son has hyper mobility, he attends Little Owls, no one judges how he is behaving, difficult needs in different ways, without me having to explain that he doesn't have naughty child syndrome. No one minds here, it is none judgemental. I couldn't take him on a bus |
| Access to SEN, I can see how much has been cut back over the last few years. Little Owls for SEN children is more limited (to access). He attends Rowan Park and has completed needs, as he gets faster and bigger we will struggle there is little out there. Here his sibling can enjoy things too, very few places can take both. Not many places where you can access, it is limited for a complex needs child. I can drive but it can be difficult, other places can be the other side of Liverpool. |
| I can't have my child near a main road; it is difficult with a toddler. |
| I enjoy here, I have depression and anxiety, I come here and need the break, I meet others including the staff |
| Response |
| Is it the same class (each week) |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| No I attend several different classes here |
| |
| Response from Children's Centre Manager (CCM) |
| We have Chesterfield who with an initiative from Sports England bring their 6 th Form students who are training to deliver role play and exercises, mimic story and rhyme |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| I work full time but do a condensed working week, I go to that class on a Friday, the boys who deliver it are coming on |
| Teenagers holding babies, it is brilliant. They come in quite scared at first. |
| Monday I come to both baby and toddler. It gets me out of the house. |
| My little one who is now 8 years of age came from a baby. Staff know him here, if I went elsewhere like Waterloo, I would have to explain (about him). Years ago we fought to keep this open but they still took services away, we have no community centre no park. |
| There are more houses being built |
| What about services for children with a disability in future, you have to question what is important, pre-school is important. |
| Response from JJK |
| We want your views, that is why we are here. We don't want to close any; we are trying to see what we can do. I was an Assistant Director in 2000 and went to the NHS. We had £545m but have £195m left, a more than 50% cut, the money has gone. We need to look at how best we keep all the children's centres open with different functions they need. Family and Wellbeing Centres is one option, with the money taken away, it is a postcode lottery, we are hoping to keep children's centres open, they may have a slightly different offer but the Government decisions have affected the poorest communities. Dwayne Johnson and I are the only statutory officers in the council. I don't want to see cuts, the early offer changes lives as they get one. |

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| Question/ comment |
| If you had staff, what are the main issues, would stay and play continue, how much outreach, what would happen elsewhere |
| Response |
| The main issues are staff and running buildings, there may be some compromise, we will need to look at buildings and there may be something elsewhere. We would look at groups but we could not pay to hire elsewhere, they will cost more. We need to look at older teenagers as a priority in terms of mental health |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| The Headteacher does not get involved, we used to link with St. Wm of York, the new Headteacher does not get involved. |
| You closed Thornton Primary, now more children have to go to S. Wm of York as it is the only school in the area. Forefield is too far to walk to. When I was a kid there was a wooden slide but it was burnt down, shops were knocked down. My older children are 22, 23 and 24 years of age; they had to be driven to things elsewhere by their dad as there was nothing locally. This will be a double whammy for Children with disabilities, leave the centre and services as they are. |
| Yes |
| Yes, I like the staff here, you can open up and I don't have to repeat my story, new staff won't understand, won't know us |
| They are we can help and if you need support. I left Oldham at 18 years of age and went South. My husband's family is from here so we moved here. I can't go back to work it is too expensive (childcare) but I can go to courses here, be and adult again. I go do baby sensory, baby massage, baby yoga, it helps your own wellbeing and not having to travel is good. I am on my own most days as my husband is away 2 to 3 weeks at a time. |
| I am about to be a grandmother next year. If you are a new person in the area you can direct them (here) support them, there is something to fall back on. This will be a lifeline gone |
| It is difficult the GP surgery can be booked up (you can come here) |
| Can come here for health services. The walk in in Litherland is too far. You can get weigh in here, if alone you can meet other mums, breastfeeding support is here and you have other mums to talk to about it, there are different things on different days to keep you going. |
| As a new mum, knowing you have to get out of the house, you need to be near |
| Other parents are here to help those people who could be helped without the cost. Some things daily can be enjoyable but you need to get out of the house |
| Additional needs parents come back to somewhere you can come where you don't have to rehash to new staff. Lots of parents will tell you about things like DLA, some parents cannot open official letters as they have been let down so many times. We can help (each other) but it is trying if your child doesn't sleep it is so draining as it is constant. |
| You worry about services for all families but with a child with additional needs, I worry about how centralised things will be. |
| I didn't want to drive with a new baby, irrational but I needed time to adjust |
| Not being here long, even knowing what is available |
| Response |
| Thank you for sharing. |
| The next stage is to ensure you have filled in questionnaires; we are up to over 1300 |

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now. There have been 14 public engagement events and a number of proposals with options. Some are to have a FWBC in their area, and others are should be have them at all.

This ends Friday and there have been meetings with Headteachers and Children's Centre Managers. We will publicise options and recommendations.

5.12.17 is Scrutiny at 6.30 p.m. at Southport where they will make sure the process has been followed correctly and look at any issues that may have arisen this will include a range of Elected Members who are not Cabinet Members. The final decision will be at Cabinet at 10 a.m. on 7.12.17 at Bootle Town Hall. The report will be published on 29.11.17 and will include final recommendations. Depending on Cabinet and any decisions taken it will probably be next Spring or Summer before there are any changes.

We will ensure that the dates are on the website.

Question/ comment

Why is everything on the website and you ask people to do it online, I can't do it as I don't get two minutes with my son. Not everyone has access to the internet

Response

You can find out information from the centre here, you should be able to access the internet in council outlets, or you can fill in paper questionnaires. We will make sure the information is here in centres.

From JJK. That is an important point, not everyone uses the internet

Question/ comment

Yes if you want to include grandparents some of them don't have a computer

Grandparents can bring children to centres to it is important they can contribute

Response

A number of grandparents came to Waterloo and made that point

DJ and JJK thanked everyone for attending and putting forward their views and comments.

Parents thanked them for coming and for listening.

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 27th October 2017
Venue: Waterloo Children's Centre**

Present: Dwayne Johnson (DJ), Director of Social Care and Health;
Gill Cowley, notetaker; 17 Parents and 6 Staff (including Ruth Rimmer and Marie Moss).

DJ opened the meeting by indicating there are significant budget cuts of £64million across council services which means that over the last six years this will be more than £150million in cuts. Proposals had been tabled for £64m and this proposal will be in the region of £1million. In the past there has been an inconsistent approach. Some of the services are to the most deprived communities and we have got the resources to do the same as we have done.

A set of written questions were provided and are appended to this document.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson unless indicated otherwise

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| Question/ comment |
| How do you define deprived? |
| Response |
| We use the index of deprivation which takes into account a number of things such as housing, income, worklessness, number of children in the household, a range of factors. This is the reason why centres are where they are. We need to target those people, and there are others who use the services who could probably afford to pay. |
| Question/ comment |
| For some it wouldn't be beneficial to go back to work. We get everything at CC but if we had to pay for childcare it would cost me £1600 per month, if I had to pay it would be a problem. Some have mums (grandmother) who can cover. |
| Response |
| I will come back to that. The plan is a wider offer for 0-19 years with wider services covering a range of different needs at Family and Wellbeing Centres. |
| Question/ comment |
| Why 0-19 years? |
| Response |
| 1 st , most Public Health services are working well, 2 nd in Children Centres and Family Centres there is some duplication with some of the same families, if we reduced the cost staff could cover a wider range. |
| Question/ comment |
| I won't take my children to where there are 19 year olds, troubled teenagers. My children are 5, 6 & 8 years of age I wouldn't be able to get them there. |
| Response |
| We would look at the design. Netherton CC and FC has one reception but access to the family centre and to the children's centre is separate. Some services such as antenatal, postnatal, breastfeeding will likely continue in CC, some services may move. Mental Health services can be kept entirely separate. |

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| Question/ comment |
| They will still be at the same building, if there are mental health services, troubled teenagers would you bring your child |
| Response |
| This has worked elsewhere |
| Question/ comment |
| I have used Netherton, there is a lack of respect, teenagers outside smoking and swearing, things need to be age appropriate. People were congregating, using foul language it was disgraceful. The course was 8 weeks and I lasted 4 weeks. I didn't want to walk in |
| What about the distance to Seaforth and Bootle. I can't get to Netherton, I understand there is a cost but there is also the distance, I just can't get there. If I am having problems getting out of the house and had intended going there with time and difficulties I won't be able to. |
| No one consulted us |
| Is this a done deal, have staff been given notice |
| Response |
| This is not a done deal. We are consulting on the 0-19 year offer and Family and Wellbeing Centres, with 3 main Family and Wellbeing Centres and 7/8 consolidated bases. If everyone was against this being here (at Waterloo) where would it be Seaforth, Litherland? This is how we will save money. Any changes would be consulted on including a lesser offer than now and we need to be flexible over this. If there is only one or two or a baby boom we would still provide antenatal, postnatal offer for mums but it may be at a Family and Wellbeing Centre or could still be at a consolidated base, it will depend on numbers. At Family and Wellbeing Centres we would offer a greater range of services which could include health, community and voluntary services, children's social care. |
| Question/ comment |
| Have you considered that some people can make a contribution e.g. £35 for a course could be expensive for some but for others some contribution could be made? There is also mums wellbeing, baby's wellbeing (to consider); this is an investment in our future, stopping people ending up in the social care system. Some of us have become friends, we met here |
| I have been off work and appreciate coming here. Looking at the model, could things be means tested, £2.50 charge could still be cheaper |
| Response |
| Yes we can look at this, some parents in another centre are looking at getting sponsors into their centre, e.g. Peel Holdings is being contacted. I am happy to look at any proposals. We will be looking at more outreach, some children's centre services in secondary schools or primary schools, getting services into the community. We are also looking at the funding formula; this was set 10/ 12 years ago and is not sustainable. We need to look at childcare services; there is sufficiency in private, individual and voluntary for childcare for 0-2 years and also for 0-5 years. |
| Question/ comment |
| I am not clear what you are consulting on – I can deduce some of it. Family and Wellbeing Centres, 0-19 years, outreach and the funding formula. |
| Response |

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| We will look at that (what we have in the documents) |
| Question/ comment (Chair of Governors) |
| The questionnaire does not cover what you are voting for |
| Response |
| We are consulting, this isn't a vote it is comments (on the proposals). Any ideas you may have can be included on the questionnaire. I have spoken to other mums and dads and they have alternative proposals – I have gone back to them to discuss them further. If you have proposals come to me with them, I am happy to meet. |
| You may think why are we looking at Waterloo, we have looked at where it is located and transport such as bus routes. |
| Question/ comment |
| You can't get on a bus with a double buggy |
| Yes, priority on a bus is for wheelchair, you can't get on with a baby buggy and a toddler. We may be on a bus route, however, if there are 10 people wanting to attend a different children's centre with buggies we will not all get on the bus |
| The manager knows the community, there is a multiple birth group, you can also have more than one child under 2 (years of age) |
| Response |
| If it doesn't be delivered at a Family and Wellbeing Centre it will be looked at for the consolidated site, but we will base it on the needs of the community. |
| Question/ comment |
| We will still be faced with a family and wellbeing centre decision |
| Response |
| We can look at this e.g. if there was a cut to the budget we need to understand if we do that what impact this will have, we would look at staff reduction, some on-costs, other operators. |
| Question/ comment |
| Asking middle class families to pay, we already pay council tax |
| Response |
| Don't disagree, however we are still facing cuts of £64m |
| Question/ comment |
| You are looking at a saving. Getting here with my seven week old, it wasn't safe for me to come into the building, I came super early to come and get support – you are not including those in crisis. |
| In the end people can end up in social care system. This is an ongoing battle. What is your long term plan, you have purchased the Strand for £40m are you looking at investment? |
| Response |
| We have a dynamic strategy for Bootle Town Centre. There were a lot (of shops) exiting such as Marks and Spencer etc., big retailers, we could let Bootle Town Centre decline but there is significant revenue that we can use in the community |
| Question/ comment |
| Is Crosby Library being developed? |

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| Response |
| Good points, there is an opportunity to talk to the CCGs about their plans. There are single handed GPs and there is a possibility of bringing a number of them together. Some GPs are interested in being based in Family and Wellbeing Centres; recently we have also looked at whether children's centre services could be delivered from a GP surgery. We need to consider the future of Waterloo Town Centre. |
| Question/ comment |
| Liverpool CCG is putting services into children's centres to keep them open, they have established staff and makes sense to keep them open. Liverpool Housing Trust (LHT) is putting money in. We recognise housing can be an issue, they have drop ins, for childcare, disability. |
| Response |
| Another good point, housing |
| Question/ comment |
| What about people, we don't understand why you are cutting staff. I have worked in both a family centre and a children's centre. If you cut staff you are unable to meet your objectives, you need staff to manage |
| Response |
| There is a report with background papers, at this stage it is a model and we are consulting on the approach |
| Question/ comment |
| I can't get the papers (online) |
| Response |
| We will send you a copy (name and address supplied to Gill Cowley) |
| Question/ comment |
| These are good staff, we are concerned about them leaving |
| Response |
| I can't disagree, it is a challenge |
| Question/ comment |
| What about sponsorship, if this was a commercial business you could bring in other companies who may want to pay, people do have cash. What about trying other options. Can you consider them |
| I work in a private school, they would pay to market themselves |
| People will pay to come and talk to people, the centre can host |
| Response |
| I am very open minded about sponsorships but it has got to be sustainable, £100k one year, £50K another year would not work |
| Question/ comment |
| People will always be having babies, there will be a new market every year |
| Response |
| You are right that will always happen and we do look at population projections. |
| Question/ comment |
| There will be peaks and troughs but they will market harder when they need to. |
| Response |

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| Age is an issue as we have recently had to close a secondary school because of numbers dropping. |
| Question/ comment |
| The staff here know everyone my children were premature and I had a stroke. This centre helps me more than my family. Having premature twins is very isolating, I know them, they know my background, if it was elsewhere they would have to look up your history you would be a name or number. These have my trust; my children are in school now I have come to fight for others coming through (the system). I couldn't get my pram in a coffee shop, I couldn't go to baby massage as one parent for one child – I can't feed both children together. My main regret is that I didn't come earlier, they are hands on and you won't get that personal care (elsewhere) |
| Response |
| Your story is really important, you connections, confidence we need to feed this back (into the consultation). In terms of Family and Wellbeing Centres and consolidated bases we still need to see what we have where |
| Question/ comment |
| I was struggling with postnatal depression, if I didn't have them for counselling, positivity. |
| Response |
| You can't measure prevention |
| Question/ comment |
| Going to a church group, there is not enough stimulation. I plan my week around the activity (here), I don't ring the Health Visitor, and they know me here. If I didn't go to a church group they would not ring me (if I didn't go), they follow up here, and personal care helps me. |
| This was the only children's centre open between Christmas and New Year; we cooked meals at Thornton as not one family had considered what to do between Christmas and New Year for support. |
| Social workers are rubbish, they get Family Support Workers to do the work |
| Response |
| Children's Social Care and Children's Centres are different offers |
| Question/ comment |
| I have been coming here 8 years; I was failed by everyone else. I needed support for domestic abuse; I would have still been in that situation. They text me, phoned me, came on home visits, had groups for the children, they know our names our birthdays. Others would not know us, we would need an appointment. I don't feel confident, trust is important. |
| Here at the Children's Centre we get support and it passes and hour, but it is much more than that, we have healthy eating, parenting, children's wellbeing, it is more than somewhere to kill an hour. |
| I come to one session each Monday without fail, it does help me |
| Response |
| This is powerful information and I do recognise this. |
| In terms of Waterloo regeneration we want to maintain and enhance what is already here. We want decent health services and are working with health and others to look at opportunities. We have good links with the voluntary sector, police and lots |

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of opportunities to look at buildings and assets and there is lots of potential to grow the centre. We would be looking at Family and Wellbeing Centres to be open beyond 9-5, weekends and evenings.

Question/ comment

I feel young families come up against brick walls, my daughter went on the Triple P Parenting Course, intervention can be too late. You need to consider the make-up of the area, some mums have to go back to work and can't take time off work (if classes are at different times)

Response

I can't give any guarantees, but this is something we should look at, whether Family and Wellbeing Centres times will be accessible, we need to look at key volumes and the hours, what is reflected in the feedback (from the consultation). If at the end of the consultation we don't decide a centre as a Family and Wellbeing Centre we will come back to discuss, it will still be a consolidated base and we will still provide some services but there will be fewer hours.

Question/answer

Will this be a Family Wellbeing Centre or less

Response

We are looking at reductions as another area is looking at proposals

Question/ answer

I am a school governor and we have put forward some alternatives. Will hubs do any other if Waterloo is saved? We have had some people kick off at supervised contact after school, the dad kicked off, there are safeguarding issues.

Response

We will consider the offer, we are seeking flexibility. This area could have multiple services if that is needed and can be provided in the consolidated base, some might not be available.

Question/ comment

Annie said "my families", that tells you

What is the timeframe for the library so people can see?

Response

This is consultation on the model, detail around the offer will be into next year e.g. GPs, Sefton CVS, Children and Family Centres may take up to 2 years, we will have to discuss all of this with elected members.

I think we have covered Q5. Q6 on your list, we won't be providing any services without having the necessary DBS, safeguarding and Health and Safety being addressed.

Question/ comment

Outreach on your own for staff is different to that in a building, you may not know who is going to turn up, it depends on what you will be doing in the community, it may be different if delivering to teenagers

Response

This is part of the consultation we have 0-5, 0-11 and we are looking at Family and Wellbeing Centres and a 0-19 offer.

Question/ response

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| In a hub there will be so many things going on how you will safeguard our children? |
| Response |
| This is one of the things we need to consider before we provide anything; it is top of our priority list. |
| Question/ comment |
| There will be so much in one building |
| What about the person controlling this, there will only be 3 across Sefton |
| Response |
| We haven't made a decision yet about staff |
| Question/ comment |
| You are giving the impression to parents you are going ahead. All managers are thinking the number of people managing will reduce. |
| Response |
| We will take this away and look at it. I am not telling her (Annie) off I am worried people are saying the wrong thing. |
| Question/ response |
| Will the formula apply to staff? |
| Response |
| No doubt we will have to look at staffing reductions but we don't know the numbers yet |
| Question/ response (from a member of staff) |
| I worked at Barnardo's, I have witnessed contact, I have had my car attacked, and I have been spat at in the road by people. There are different mental health issues with a 2 year to a 16, 17 or 18 year old. I have witnessed all of this in my job. |
| Response |
| This is a fair point; the model has one reception for some services. I have been told by some teenagers that they don't want to go into children's centres; they don't want to mix and want some services separate. |
| Question/ comment |
| It will still be the same building with a 19 year old kicking off |
| I used to work with young offenders, they can say I am not going into a centre for services but it doesn't mean they can refuse. |
| They shouldn't be in the same building |
| You can see it from both sides |
| We are not about "not in my backyard", we have put a lot of effort into this as a school over the last 14 years, and we have addressed issues with particular families. We are looking at something different. |
| There are some concerns that parents wouldn't bring their child to this school, the reputation of social care goes on |
| Q9. I have read in one of the local papers that the council is investing £345,000 in Crosby library for a major redevelopment, can you tell us what the redevelopment is and is this the reason why you are so keen to have Waterloo as a hub. Surely if the council are investing money in a larger building with parking it is a better option. It also has car parking! |
| Response |
| Q9, I mentioned this earlier, I don't know the detail of money this was agreed by |

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| elected members. so I can't answer that bit. We are looking at regenerating the area. |
| Q10. I have talked about other areas putting forward proposals as an alternative to bases, I am happy to take any suggestions and proposals. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| Disabled children need a slightly different offer to other families 0-5; these are currently being met by the children's centre by offering short breaks. If the children's centre stopped delivering these where will they fit in? |
| Response |
| We have discussed this, I have met with some parents of children with disabilities to help me understand what they need and want, and I also need to understand the needs of BME and the traveller population. There is a bit more that we need to bring into the consultation. I need to hear from parents with children with disabilities. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| At Thornton CC, the majority of training is held there, this is the only one in Sefton. We also deliver from Sefton Carers two days a week. The two centres managed together Waterloo and Thornton are in different areas, Waterloo will be in the South and Thornton in the mid, they will be split, there used to be 3 centres. Would we have to specialise. |
| Response |
| We are not set on localities, if it works for the community why would we break it. These issues are really important to understand. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| These (Waterloo and Thornton) both deliver full time to two distinct communities |
| Response |
| Is Thornton CC under the Governing Body of Waterloo Primary? (Yes) You need to make sure this comes through |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| There is nothing else in Thornton, you should know who manages what |
| Response |
| I suppose you could say I am part of cuts. There used to be a Director of Education with lots of Assistant Directors, I cover the whole area of education, social care (adults and children's) with a couple of Heads of Services. I cannot remember all the details, I have visited all the other family centres and children's centres and there are different ways they are managed. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| No one asked us anything |
| Response |
| We did a large consultation called Imagine Sefton 2030, this included primary and secondary schools. We had lots of responses, what should be in our plan and what should be our priorities. This consultation plan is to look at a model. |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| How long have you visited a CC? A full day. |
| Response |
| Sometimes from an hour to a couple of hours, some I have visited 5 or 6 times and I |

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| have sat with mums. |
| Question/ comment |
| You haven't spent a whole day |
| Response |
| I have spent longer than an hour, I have attended various events, I have listened to proposals put forward that have been heavily influenced by Headteachers |
| Question/ comment |
| I had my first child at age 18; I had 3 under the age of 3 at 21 years of age. I trust these people; don't see what is going on, this is more than about money. I have anxieties about travelling. Where would I have this service? |
| Response |
| I haven't spent a whole day here but I have listened to what people have told me. DJ then gave some information about his background. There are some tough decisions that will need to be made by elected members. I am leading on consultation, listening to comments and proposals. I have no say in terms of plans from other people such as the police. I come out and listen and this will be fed back to elected members to make the decision. |
| Question/ comment |
| This will throw young mums into chaos |
| Has anyone suggested that children's centres and children's services are not affected by cuts? How can you meet your obligations about safeguarding of children? Staff and community support networks, this all adds to the stress. Opening hours will affect staff, you will spread them too thinly and you will need to look at a risk assessment |
| Response |
| That will take place at the end of the consultation; we will prepare an equality impact assessment. |
| Question/ comment |
| What chances that you will be putting families at risk |
| Response |
| If we are putting families at risk elected members are unlikely to support it. |
| Question/ comment |
| This would be a risk for the 86 families coming through the gate |
| Response |
| Yes, I understand that and I wouldn't support any model with too much risk, I wouldn't want that risk |
| Question/ comments |
| One reason to invest in CC is the mutual benefit to both the school and the community |
| There have been four 4 year olds playing happily here during this, this is because they are comfortable here |
| From a grandparents point of view, there are more of us looking after children, I can't go to the park (and run around). Many of the groups are three quarters full with grandparents; we have forgotten things from when we had our children. This is a safe environment |

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| <p>My husband won't go to a church group; he thinks they are "clicky". He will come here, he feels comfortable here. The children don't just run around, they do things, there is outdoor space and they interact in different ways</p> |
| <p>As a member of staff at Waterloo and Thornton for the past 13 years, I have seen so many changes we deliver to vulnerable and deprived, but other people don't know why people are there</p> |
| <p>Domestic violence and alcohol issues for white middle class women are going through the roof, they are better at hiding it. I got a leaflet about postnatal depressions from my Health Visitor, I didn't see her again. If you interact they (here) can see the problems</p> |
| <p>I worked with children I thought I would be ok (when I became a mum) I wasn't.</p> |
| <p>I worked in Bootle and Southport, they had different issues, there were some basic issues that were similar but Southport was difficult to engage and people in Bootle would talk to you. The approach is very different</p> |
| <p>They have money behind closed doors</p> |
| <p>Although there is an index of deprivation in some areas, some streets it is more than 50%</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>I agree with all of that, I have been a social worker all my life but we don't have the money</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>Social workers don't come out, it is Family Support Workers who come out</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>That is their role, Family Support Workers, to come out</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>What the parent is trying to say, they come here once or twice a week, they have social workers and family support workers but we are the ones encouraging them</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>This is a great example of what we are trying to do, actually for people to work together, we are working around staff. We are working with the same children but separate services, this is a waste of money. Point the person not contacting enough.</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>Social workers can't do the job. Children's centres don't duplicate they are stepping in and filling the gap. Gaps you will recognise, everyone is stretched how will you fill the gaps</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>I agree everyone is stretched, we are going to go somewhere to meet the need</p> |
| <p>Question/ comment</p> |
| <p>As a family this service prevents us going down a different route. We don't want to go there. This is preventative which you say is your aim, this takes the weight off shoulders of mums, it looks at development of the child both emotionally and socially.</p> |
| <p>We don't dispute the decisions are tough, but also to target to need. There are intangible benefits, this is not just about families in crisis but about prevention, personal and grassroots work, it is important to tell us</p> |
| <p>Response</p> |
| <p>These are powerful stories; we have heard them to from other centres.</p> |

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| Question/ comment |
| It is not quantifiable the good the children centres can do, from pre-school there is such a knock on effect, they address things. |
| Response |
| I am happy to meet again, if groups of parents with options something tangible, doesn't have to be costed |
| |
| Question/ comment |
| It is not our job to do that for you. There are some in the room with more money than others; they can contribute for community based activities. If we say sponsorship it is not up to us to find the sponsors. |
| Response |
| All the things you have said have been recorded and will be included with the information to elected members. |

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Written questions/ points for discussion for meeting with Dwayne Johnson 27.10.17

1. Why are you going to merge Children's Centres & Family Centres? These are 2 distinct services. Are there only going to be services for families in social care or who have referrals?
2. If you are only going offer services to families in the social care system you will exclude the majority of Sefton families. The Children's Centre is currently open 9 am - 5 pm, even during the holidays. It is a safe, non-judgemental environment. We can drop in for support. THIS IS PREVENTION and stops families requiring greater interventions. It means that families are not stressed they are confident that someone will help them that day.

Issues that have been addressed recently are:

Domestic Violence, safeguarding, healthy eating (obesity), mental health problems, postnatal depression, speech and language problems, behavioural & developmental problems.

Where will we go for help with these issues?

3. Why is it going to be 0-19 year olds? This is watering down services available to families with pre-school children and will limit what's available to equip children and families to be ready for school. Schools & Nurseries recognise the valuable preparation that is done by Children's Centres.
4. Under the new Family Wellbeing system what services/ sessions are going to be available for local families - are any normal sessions going to be delivered e.g. Stay & Play; Messy Play; Multiple Births Group; Baby Massage; Baby Yoga etc. If not - early education, school readiness and health & wellbeing are going to suffer.
5. If sessions are going to be available - who is going to be delivering them - ensuring Early Years standards are met and leading to Nursery/ School readiness?
6. If sessions are being delivered "in the community" who will ensure safeguarding/ health and safety standards and cost to families (we have to pay for many of the play groups and some families can't afford this)
7. Why merge Family Centres and Children's Centres - is it not possible to keep them separate and if it's a financial issue just cut a percentage of funding across the board.

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8. How can you have a hub of services for 0-19 year olds based at the front of a primary school?
9. I have read in one of the local papers that the council is investing £345,000 in Crosby library for a major redevelopment, can you tell us what the redevelopment is and is this the reason why you are so keen to have Waterloo as a hub. Surely if the council are investing money in a larger building with parking it is a better option. It also has car parking!
10. Why can't you take a 25% cut from all children's centre budgets to meet the savings so that the centres can target work within their own community?
11. The children's centres have targeted sessions in response to community needs, such as multiple birth groups in Waterloo - will this session stay as it is targeted work?

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**Family and Wellbeing Centres/
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.
Meeting held 16th November 2017
Venue: Sefton Carers' Centre**

Present: Jacquie Finlay (JF), Gill Cowley (GC), 6 Carers, 6 Staff

JF welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming long.

GC gave some background to the consultation and events, and how the feedback capturing the views of the community.

JF said that this was an opportunity for those present to give their views and to hear more about the proposal. JF assured that the proposals were not a "done deal" and that the consultations were not paying "lip service". This is a genuine period of consultation and over the course since September, that a number of other proposals have been put forward from the community, centres and schools with some being assimilated to help shape the proposal.

JF then outlined the proposals and that the council is a period of making savings. £64m needs to be saved in the next 3 years with £1m savings attached to the children and family centre, which will be difficult without making changes. Also as part of wider council approach, Cabinet has agreed to Locality working; 3 main bases – North, Central and South. This is to address the needs of the communities better, not in silos, and Family & Well-being Centres (FWBC) are a part of this. – addressing the needs of the whole family without telling their story over again.

JF explained that FWBC would look at extending the current (0-5 years) to 0-19 years – this is to capture the need of the whole family and keep them at the heart. A lot of families already access both their Children and Family centres and to amalgamate their functions would remove duplication – this has already been done successfully in other local authorities. It would also extend the outreach service, moving from a building based model to delivering some services within the community.

A funding formula has also been developed for the family and children centre model to ensure that funding is allocated where it is most needed; focus on deprivation and other areas such as language and additional needs/SEND.

There are 3 main centres proposed:-

- Talbot Street
- Waterloo or Marie Clarke
- Netherton

The other centres are not closing becoming a complimentary base, offering a reduced service.

There followed an opportunity for those present to raise issues and concerns.

| Question/ comment |
|---|
| We are part of a big group but there are only 3 of us here. This shows that people like to stay in their local area. Plus transport can be an issue – we drive but others |

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|---|
| have to get the bus |
| Plus people have buggies and there has been the bus strikes. |
| Maghull – none of the proposed alternatives are on a main bus route and a lot of people don't drive. |
| Response/comment |
| GC - Transport has come up in every meeting and came out very strongly in Hudson (Maghull). The shape of Sefton is like a lamb chop and is difficult geographically to get around. This will be feed into the report. |
| Question/ comment |
| Parents of children with additional needs are already under a lot of pressure. We were able to go to weekly meetings (run by Sefton Carers at Netherton Centre) – these have now gone to fortnightly. At the group, we get support from people who understand. |
| What Sefton Carers provide is vital. You say these changes are on a trial basis at the moment. Is this ongoing? Are we going to lose more? |
| Response/comment |
| As part of the proposals, we have looked at what is on offer at each centre and services need to be flexible. The centres review their offer annually, more frequent if needed, and will adjust as needed. For example, recently one area experienced a baby boom and services have been changed to support this. |
| Question/ comment |
| Elected members – are they representative of the people who use the centres? |
| Response/comment |
| GC explained how Councillors and Cabinet works . It was explained that all the information gathered from consultation will be presented to elected members to help them make the decisions. JF reiterated this and that all feedback will be presented to members before the meeting. |
| Question/ comment |
| Public Health are now part of the local authority – has a health assessment been carried out? |
| Response/comment |
| An Equality Impact assessment has been carried out by an external consultant and will be presented as part of the report to Cabinet. |
| Question/ comment |
| Can the public see the report? |
| Response/comment |
| Yes |

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|--|
| Question/ comment |
| 0-19 offer – how will this look? |
| Response/comment |
| We are not sure at the moment. There are lots of agencies looking at providing a 0-19 offer – it is a principle at the moment. It is the genuine ambition, if it goes forward, to co-produce the offer with the community and other agencies. |
| Question/ comment |
| I work at Netherton Centre and we already do assessments with up to 19 so the parents have asked why this is part of the proposal. |
| Response/comment |
| Not all centres provide services for teenagers and we want to standardise this . The current service level agreement with most centres is 0-5years – it was extended in some to 11 years. We need consistency across the centres. |
| Question/ comment |
| If service is extended to 19 years – how will it be provided with cuts? |
| Response/comment |
| The Locality model will dovetail with the centres. They will link up with Youth Services and the other services to capture the 0-19 years offer. The centres cannot do it alone, they have not got the expertise in some centres. This is all if Cabinet make the decision to go with the 0-19 year offer. |
| Question/ comment |
| What is the timeframe for all this? |
| Response/comment |
| The consultation period finishes tomorrow and the report will be compiled from the feedback. This will be published on 29/11/17. It will then go to the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 05/12/17 who will look at it before it goes to the full Cabinet meeting on 07/12/17. The public are welcome to attend this meeting which is held in Bootle Town Hall on 10am. There will then be a 2 week “call-in” period and we will need to report back to the Consultation and Engagement panel. Depending what is decided, we will need to look at the offer and consult with staff. Any changes will take place in Spring/Summer 2018 at the earliest. An alternative proposal that is being considered is with Health. Dwayne Johnson has been speaking to Health as they want Health and Well-being Centres. They are keen for single GP’s to come in and conversations are “what will this look like”. These discussions might delay any changes. |
| Question/ comment |
| You say there is a baby boom in some areas. There are more children with additional needs in South Sefton. We go fortnightly to the group and we support |

each other. Other parents of children with additional needs “get us”.

Not even family or friends understand.

We are not judged at the centre.

Everyone has a wealth of knowledge – legal, coping strategies, financial.

It is really important to get some level of frequency.

The carers shared personal stories of their experience of having a child with additional needs.

Response/comment

This has come out clearly in all the consultation. The centre provides a social network for the family.

Question/ comment

Some adults with additional needs need support.

Most people don't drive.

It's nice to have continuity and support.

Response/comment

GC encouraged people to fill in consultation and to provide the additional information. There is room in the text box (online) and extra pages can be added to the paper copy.

Question/ comment

The services doing outreach or offered from another centre – facilities needs to be considered such as crèche facilities. There needs to be package for people to access courses, etc.

It's nice to have another adult to talk to.

It gives you headspace and someone to talk to who understands.

When people come for one service in the centre, they can tap into other services. It helps with mental health.

Family & friends do not understand – they judge. Parents (in the group) get each other.

Our children in mainstream school – the kids get left out, us parents get left out. The group gets you. Other parents can offer solutions for their personal experience.

I encourage other parents (of children with additional needs) to come to group. They can get signposting and information.

Sefton Carers and the Children Centre work together.

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| Response/comment |
|---|
| The idea behind the principle is “early help” and 0-19 offer. We need to know what is needed in each location. Additional needs is provided in each centre. |

JF concluded the meeting by urging everyone to fill in the questionnaire and thanking everyone for coming.

Development of 3 Family Wellbeing Centres and Complementary bases: Equality Analysis Report

Introduction: What is an Equality Analysis report?

Any change to function, provision or policy that may have an effect on people is automatically subject of the Equality Act 2010. As such the 'decision makers' have a statutory duty to pay 'due regard' to equality legislation and the potential discriminatory impact that changes have on service users. To inform decision makers, an 'equality analysis report' is submitted to them at the time of decision making in order for them to consider equality implications as part of their final decision making.

The parts of the acts that are 'engaged' (i.e. that would be active in relation to this proposal) are:

Section 4 – protected characteristics

Section 13 - direct discrimination

Section 19 – indirect discrimination

Section 20 – duty to make adjustments

Section 29 – provision of a service

Section 149 – Public Sector Equality Duty

In relation to Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) there are three objectives that are supported by 10 subsections.

The three main objectives are:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have *due regard* to the need to—

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

In order to satisfy objective A, eliminate discrimination; – sections 4, 13, 19 and 20 of the Equality Act will have to be met

In order to satisfy objective B, 'Advance equality of opportunity' - subsection 3 of PSED, will have to be met:

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Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—

(a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
of PSED

The third objective, objective 'c'; 'foster good relations' is **partially engaged** in that whilst the children and adults centres are not specifically designed to fight prejudice and promote understanding, they non-the less act as a beacons of good citizenship and operate in a non-discriminatory and inclusive way, often looking at issues of integration and acceptance and supporting victims of violence against women, men and children as part of their programme of work.

This report looks at the proposals going to Cabinet and Council in relation to the children's centre, comments on discriminatory forces that may be at play and how these can be mitigated. The report makes advisory recommendations for Council to consider at the time of their decision making.

1. Details of service / function:

Family is one of the most important influences in a child's life. Children depend on family to protect them and provide for their needs. By nurturing and teaching children and young people families play a lasting role in making sure that children reach their full potential. The friendship networks that families are part of also play a key role in supporting parents and carers along the way. These networks often develop through being a member of a group or attending a local community activity. Sometimes families need a bit of extra support so that children and young people thrive, and parents and carers learn new skills or access information and advice. However, there are times when child protection concerns become so great that the child or young person no longer lives with their family.

The network that currently supports Sefton families includes 10 Children and 4 Family Centres. However, since the introduction of the Children and Family Centres in 2006-2007 there has been no review of the strategic vision and given the significant change in successive Government and local policies, Sefton is now taking a strategic approach taking account of the Council's Core Purpose and the approved approach to locality working.

Currently within Sefton, there are 10 Children's Centres operating from a number of schools and Council bases with delivery points in community bases. Nine Centres are based on Nursery or Primary School premises; operating as a commissioned service, governed by the school and quality assured by the Council's School Readiness Team. The tenth centre is under direct management of the Council and operates from a Council building. All Children's Centres are subject to inspection by Ofsted; however, this inspection regime is currently paused pending a government review.

In addition to this there are 4 Family Centres, two of these Family Centres are already co-located with a Children's Centre and two stand alone. The Family Centres are wholly directly managed by the Council. Again, all Family Centres are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

A snap shot survey (October 2017 see appendix 1 below for complete list of activities) showed a minimum reach of 77,559 (adults and children) service users across the borough, of which 11,043 are under 5 years of age and 2,559 are aged 6-11 and 1,039 are aged 12-19.

Snapshot at October 2017 relating to a 12 month period:

| | |
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| Number of adults accessing a set course: | 1,466 |
| Number of adults accessing other services: | 12,338 |
| Number of adults using service for themselves: | 4,352 |
| Number of adults using services that are primary focused on children: | 11,818 |
| Number of children attending services primarily for adults: | 2,608 |
| Number of children attending services focused on child: | 14,823 |
| Number of users accessing targeted services within centre | 7,341 |
| Number of users accessing universal services within the centre | 23,892 |

Family Centres provide services to Sefton's most vulnerable children, young people and their families. Their work includes

- the development of early help plans and delivery of some of the associated activity
- working with children and young people who are subject of interim care orders
- working with children and young people who are subject to Child Protection and Child in Need plans
- parenting assessments with families under any social care plan
- direct work with children on plans in order to understand their lived experience and how to improve their outcomes
- supervision of and assess contact between looked after children and their parents
- unannounced safeguarding visits to family homes where there is high risk of domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues
- supporting social workers to ensure that children who are receiving statutory intervention through social care involvement are safe to remain with their families, and to support families to improve family

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life to a level that they no longer require state intervention

Legitimate aim: Sefton Council has a legitimate aim in restructuring services due to the need to make savings and the need to make services more efficient.

2. Change to service

The original idea for change revolved around 3 points:

1. To provide equity on how funding was calculated for the different centres, by the development of a new funding methodology- this is an internal mechanism designed to do away with previously historic processes and to create a stable and accountable platform for calculating costs.
- 2 To create 3 main Family Wellbeing Centres and the other centres be turned in to 'complementary centres, plus the proposed possible relocation of a centre.
- 3 To establish principles that will in effect merge the Family Centres and Children Centres services and extend the age range from primarily 0-5 to 0-19.

Funding methodology:

The development of the funding methodology was subject to a separate Equality Analysis report, and it makes particular recommendations.

Three Family Wellbeing Centres and complementary centres:

The consultation programme was extensive and showed that the community was strongly not in favour of the proposed model. During the consultation period, Officers and service partners also looked at how they could make efficiencies and as a combination of being able to make internal efficiencies and listening to the voice of service users, recommendation to Cabinet has been revised by officers and the proposal to Cabinet is in the Cabinet report.

Principles of shared service for 0-19-year-old:

Whilst there were some reservations expressed linked to **safeguarding** in relation to the proposal, the general consensus were that in principle services should cover 0-19-year olds.

3. Protected characteristics and table of differential impact.

(Barriers relevant to the protected characteristics – identifying potential disadvantages)

This table lists all the relevant protected characteristics and the *potential discriminatory* forces that are linked to this proposal.

| Protected Characteristic | Potential discriminatory force | Remedy/Mitigation |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Age | Lifelong inequality sets in at | Consider community |

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| <p>Children (early years and on wards)</p> | <p>an early age and is linked to poverty and reduced options. Every attempt to socialise and educate children is vital. Removal of children’s centres or limiting their core services, without analysed research on use and outcomes, would have a significant discriminatory and detrimental effect.</p> | <p>feedback in decision making process</p> <p>Develop activities built on needs.</p> |
| <p>Disability:</p> <p>Evidence from the consultation and centre surveys shows that both children with disabilities and parents with disabilities use the services.</p> <p>Parents/Carers depend on the service to help develop and stimulate children with disabilities / SEN/ Autism</p> <p>The scope of disabilities reported by survey responders covered physical, mental and learning disability</p> | <p>Children with disabilities face additional challenges linked to core developmental skills and education.</p> <p>The Council has in place an SEND improvement plan which is accessible here</p> <p>Concern was shown by a few respondents of the questionnaire that support for children with disabilities could be improved</p> | <p>The centres need to be proactive in supporting children with specific needs. The environment needs to be adaptive to meet needs. Toys and learning materials need to be adaptive to enable all children to participate and reach their maximum potential. Services should be inclusive of children with disabilities/learning difficulties and be available on a regular basis with appropriately trained staff.</p> <p>Carers and parents with disabilities also need to be accommodated, whether it is physical, environmental support (accessibility buildings/ car parks etc) or emotional, communication needs. This is in the Council’s Accessible Information standards.</p> <p>Additional funding should be made available so that centres that service children with disabilities can provide the service the children (and parents/ carers) need.</p> |
| <p>Gender reassignment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling isolated • Potential victim of hate crime • Potentially treated less favourably in accessing | <p>The Family and Children’s Centres operate a non-discriminatory policy.</p> <p>Any detrimental behaviour</p> |

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| | services | targeted at transgender people will not be tolerated. Either by staff or service user. Consider 'awareness' training/short courses to staff and service users as part of the core activities of the service |
| Pregnancy & maternity | Often young parents can feel isolated, over whelmed and ill prepared or in difficult domestic circumstances of poverty, precarious housing or subject to domestic violence. Consultation showed: 1. the absolute value of the centres. 2. travel and parking would be difficult to move to different centres. 3. 'part time centres/ outreach provision' may actively bar people from using the service, unless thorough analysis of travel and circumstances is carried out | One reason for Children Centres is to help equip parents with the skills and support they need to establish roots and prospects for the future. These life chances are vital. The Children Centres must continue to operate and offer good core services across the borough. |
| Race | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling isolated • potential victim of hate crime <p>Demographic details of services users show that some centres are multicultural and specific centres (Southport area) have a higher proportion of service users from European countries than other centres in the borough.</p> <p>Often their first language is not English.</p> <p>Southport local economy (in</p> | Centres do put on English support classes and do work with parents and children from different countries and cultures. The funding methodology needs to recognise that some centres need resources to help cover the extra language support – this will ensure that centres are not 'impoverished' because of language needs which may have an effect on other service users. The advantage of a funding |

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| | <p>particular farming/tourism) relies on inbound migrant workers who settle with their families in the borough.</p> | <p>methodology is that it helps spread the costs of meeting specific needs across all centres budgets and it is not just the burden of one or two centres.</p> <p>The Council took steps to ensure participation.</p> |
| Religion and belief | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling isolated • Potential victim of hate crime • Potentially treated less favourable in accessing services. | <p>The Family and Children’s Centres operate a non-discriminatory policy.</p> <p>Any detrimental behaviour targeted at people with different religions and beliefs should not be tolerated. Either by staff or service user.</p> <p>Similarly, any persons expressing a religious view (e.g. Anti-Gay) that treats others, either staff or service users detrimentally will not be tolerated and be subject to the Councils equality policy/ dignity at work procedures. There is a refreshed corporate equalities plan, which can be accessed here.</p> <p>Centres do welcome people from different faiths and back grounds and help integration with the wider community.</p> |
| Sex (men/women) | <p>The snap shot survey of adults using the service found that 2,971 where men and 10,211 women.</p> <p>The service is predominantly used by women. Women within our society are still the ‘main carers’ of children and elderly. And the data confirms this to be the case within Children Centres.</p> <p>Barriers to ‘young mums’ are formidable as often they are</p> | <p>Keep all centres open.</p> <p>The centres are a vital service for women and have a track record of supporting and improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.</p> <p>Parents, grandparents, carers and guardians all use the service as a support service and mechanism.</p> |

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| | <p>outside education and training, benefit dependent, struggle for housing and may be bringing a child/children up with little support.</p> <p>Often when women are in work, it is part time and low pay.</p> <p>Anecdotes from service users show some of the most dire circumstances and challenges some women have faced, such as domestic abuse and controlling behaviour and how they have relied on the Children’s Centres to turn their lives around.</p> <p>In responding to the survey many women felt that they were unable to travel to ‘alternative centres’ if theirs closed down or did not offer core services.</p> <p>Also, many women responded that because they work part time, if the service is not open when they are off work, then to them this is the same as no service.</p> <p>Many parents and grandparents commented that if they are on ‘the school run’ getting the children from school and the children from the centres, then if the Children Centre moved they would not be able to travel to collect school children and centre children.</p> | <p>Many of the courses, provided by the centres, are targeted at skilling women and getting them ready for the work place.</p> <p>Some service users have gone from ‘dropping out of school’ to successfully studying at Master’s level – all with the help, guidance and encouragement of the service.</p> <p>A vital element that the service delivers is ‘belief in yourself’ and ‘confidence’, the foundation stones for improving life’s chances. There are no other services that provide this in such a systematic way and across large numbers</p> <p>The service is often ‘first port of call’ for women who are suffering domestic abuse. The service has helped and supported people leaving abusive relationships and developing a new life.</p> <p>The Children’s Centres and the service they offer to women are the ‘first line of attack’ against societal inequalities.</p> <p>Council should pursue all other avenues rather than develop a new Family Wellbeing service at this stage.</p> |
| Sexual orientation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling isolated • Potential victim of hate crime | The Family and Children’s centres operate a non-discriminatory policy. |

| | | |
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| | Potentially treated less favourable in accessing services. | <p>Any detrimental behaviour targeted at people with different sexualities will not be tolerated. Either by staff or service user.</p> <p>Centres do welcome people with different sexualities and help to support them in meeting their life goals</p> |
|--|--|---|

2. Does this service go the heart of enabling a protected characteristic to access Life chances?

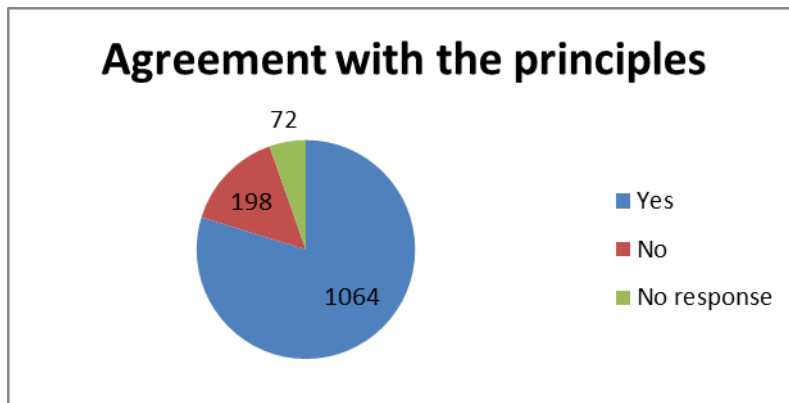
Yes – the Children’s Centres are a vital service in relation to fighting societal barriers that cause lifelong inequalities, particularly for children and women.

3. Consultation: Who responded and what where their main concerns

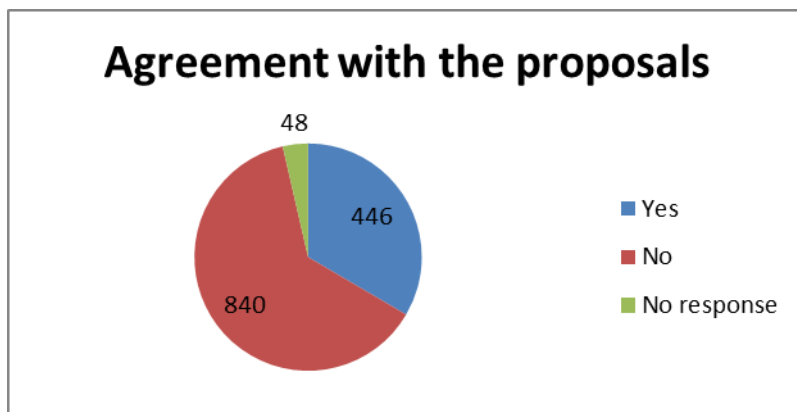
3.1 A full report of the consultation process and methodology is available with all the data and comments.

3.2 Key issues:

The consultation overwhelmingly accepted the principles of a 0-19 shared service, but rejected the notion of ‘3 Family Wellbeing Centres and complementary centres’.



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Officers in listening and keeping an open mind to the results and voices of the consultation, whilst working with service partners have identified ways of keeping all the as they operate currently in their existing location providing a service.

As such, the initial proposal to have 3 Family Wellbeing centres with complementary centres has now changed and the proposal to keep all centres in their current location without the three centres is more in line with service users/ respondent's views.

The following information is based on the consultation and is used here to illustrate the main equality worries and concerns.

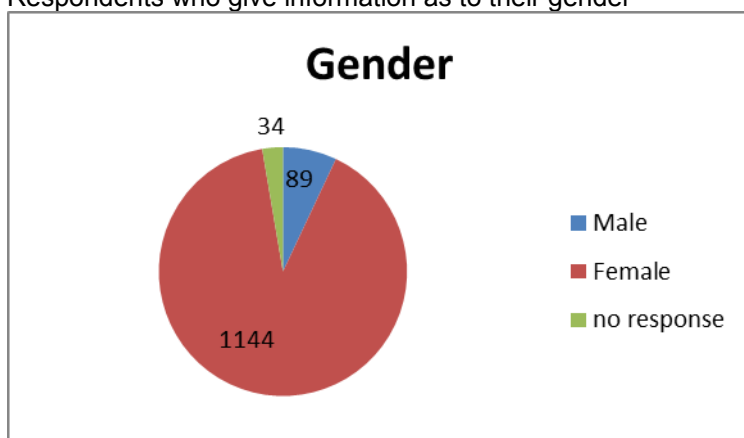
Respondents:

How respondents responded fits broadly in to three groups; responses to questionnaires, consultation events, and private correspondence/ petitions from the public.

Questionnaires:

There were 1662 returned questionnaires. Some respondents did not answer all questions but those that did shared the following information

Respondents who give information as to their gender



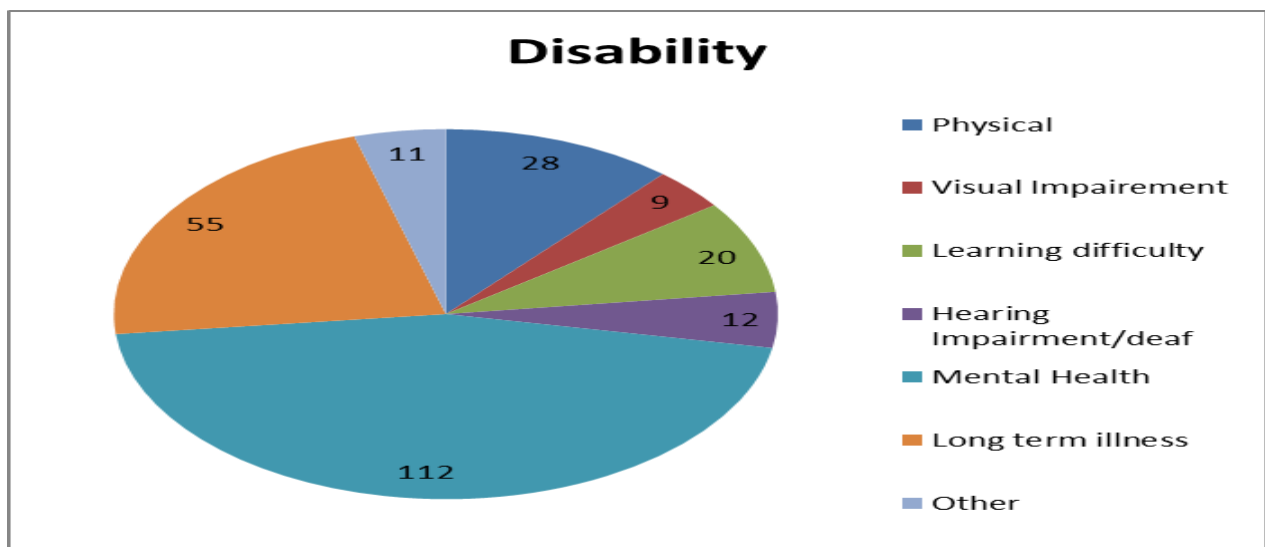
Main equality issues presented by women:

Over 90% of all respondent where female and they held children's services in very high regard, with terms being used such as 'invaluable', 'life saving', the core equality concerns where:

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- Not to close centres (unable to use other centres)
- Closing centres will cause more deprivation for families who need them and are verging on social service support
- Not to reduce centre opening hours (if working part time, may not be able to access service on offer)
- Only provision solely aimed at their needs (from breast feeding/ looking after baby, natal depression to course that help with employment)
- Great difficulty in travelling to other centres
- Struggle with prams and push chairs on bus
- Can't walk to other centres – too far
- Can't afford the travel costs to other outlets (if their local service closes /reduces hours)
- Worry about getting support with food for children
- Logistically impossible if parent has school age children and using children centre, if they have to use another centre then will struggle to pick up children from geographically different sites
- Worry about losing vital support (child care and early years development)
- Worry about losing friendship bonds
- Worry that the service will no longer meet needs
- Worry about being vulnerable travelling outside known areas
- Worry about domestic violence and not being able to access support
- Centres need to be local
- Essential during holidays to help feed children
- Not fair on deprived areas (to close/reduce centres)
- Worry over losing vital mental health provision for new mums (tackling post-natal depression)
- Worry over safeguarding in merging centres and raising age to 19

Respondents who identified as having a disability (limiting long term illness) or a child with disability



*other includes: Fibromyalgia, Dyslexia, Diabetes/cancer/arthritis, cancer recovery, depression, MS, Thyroid & high blood pressure

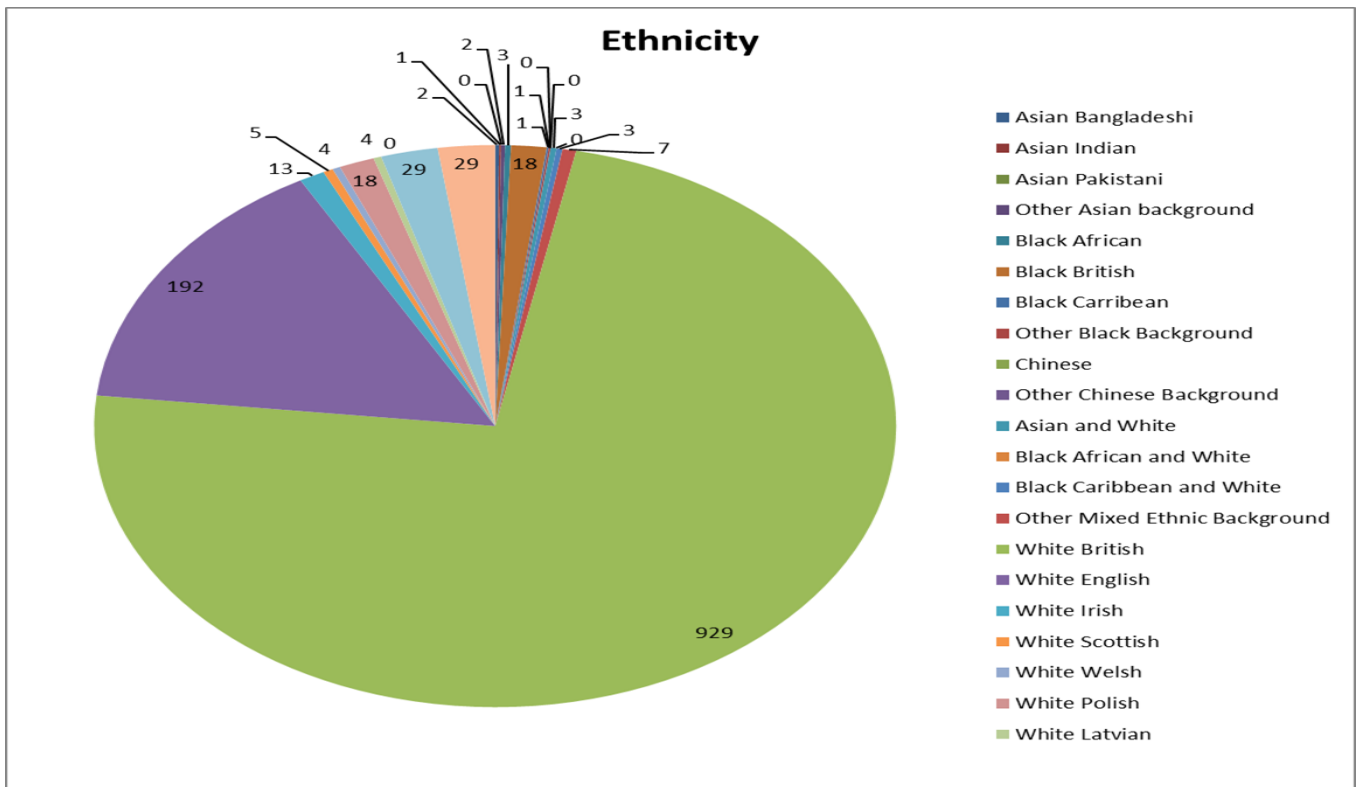
Main equality concerns:

- Not to close centres (unable to attend other centres)
- Not to reduce centre opening hours (service already reduced)
Children's mental health should be priority

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- Great difficulty in travelling to other centres/ not all centres has disability parking
- Struggle with prams and push chairs on bus
- Can't walk to other centres – too far / bring on anxiety
- Strong concern over service provision and meeting disability needs e.g. sensory toys/ adaptation/mental health support
- Life line to families with SEN children / autism
- Worry over losing support with mental health issues
- Problems with accessibility
- Losing services will create and trigger anxiety
- Most services inaccessible/based in Liverpool (too far) need local service to help with disabled children
- Would affect measures to help with depression and obesity
- Worry over breakup of friendship groups and informal support networks from friends that attend the centre

Respondents who give information at to their ethnicity/race



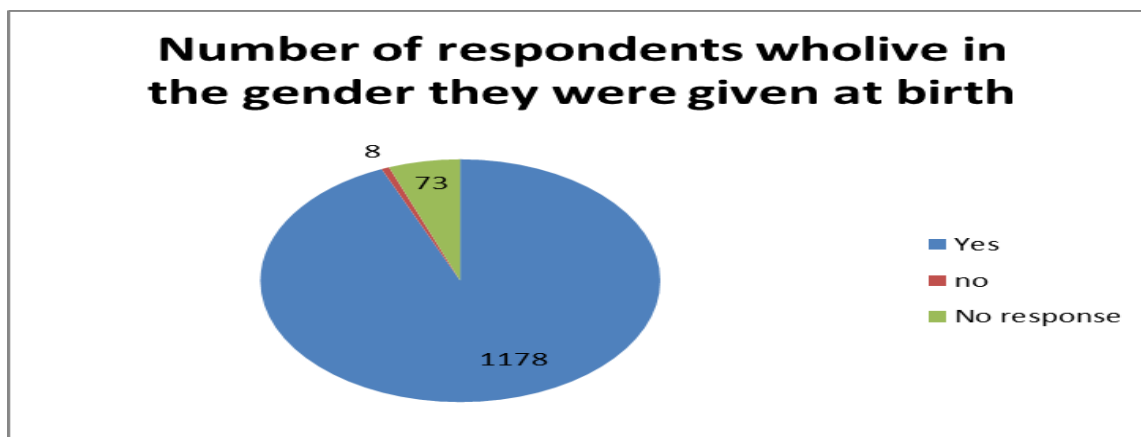
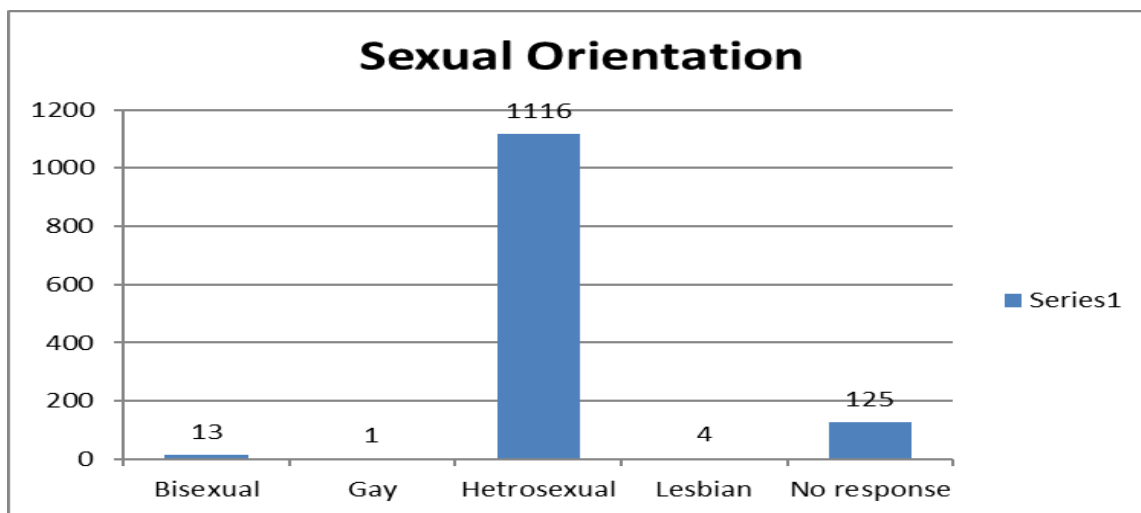
N.B a number of requests where made to have the questionnaire translated in to Latvian, Polish and Lithuanian. This was done, and responses have been returned (and re-translated in to English to add to the analysis)

Main equality concerns:

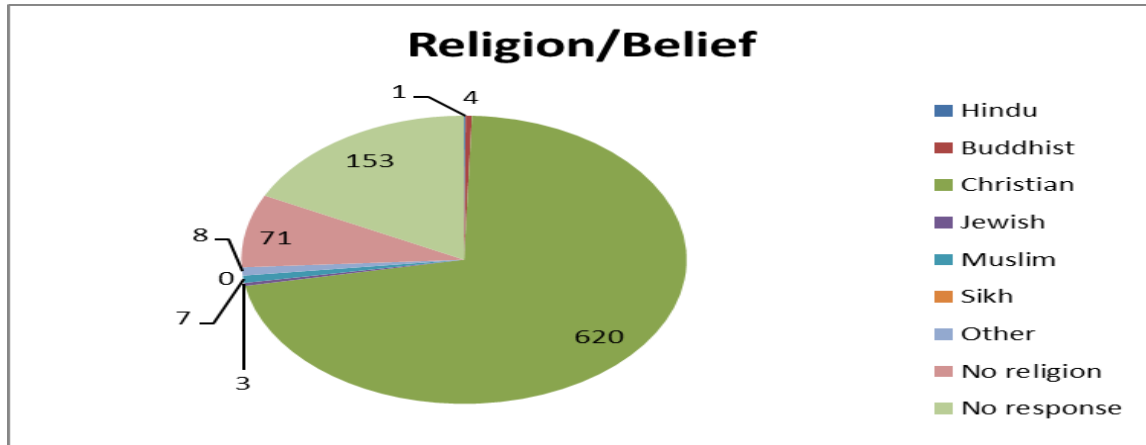
- Not to close centres
- Not to reduce opening hours
- Worry over travelling to other part of the borough (fear of hate crime)
- Need support with English language as this may go.
- Worry over losing friendship ties with other centre users

- Worry over isolation
- Worry over not being able to access educational courses
- Worry over child support
- Worry about not being able to integrate in to the community

Respondents that give information as to their sexuality, trans gender status and religion.



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Main equality issues:

No particular worries were identified directly linked to issues of sexuality, trans or religion. The concerns reflected, where the same concerns already aired/addressed

3.5 Consultation events:

The notes and minutes from the Public engagement events at the different centres and the Parent carer forum show the main equality concerns to be:

- Difficulty with travel (should centres close down and people have to transfer)
- High cost of public transport / difficulty on buses with double push chairs
- Poverty and deprivation in areas (likely to increase if centres close down)
- Keep services within walking distance
- Additional support for the needs of disabled users
- English as an additional language support
- Mental health support
- Domestic abuse support
- Emotional wellbeing
- Part time services will effectively be a 'closed service' to some people who can't attend due to part work commitments
- Safeguarding – worry about merging family and children's centres and the age range going up to 19. There was a belief that this would expose young children using children centres to some clients of the family centre service

Sefton Carers Centre with parents of children with disabilities and also at Thornton which is a hub for parents of children with disabilities main concerns:

- Already a reduction of service (from weekly to fortnightly)
- Unable to travel to other centres
- Too few places
- Centre being used is non-judgmental and everyone know our needs – worry this would change and cause disruption to child's life
- Need to plan service for disabled children to meet future needs
- Unable to work rely on centre for help and support
- Worry over how to support families with additional needs children

Gypsy / travellers groups: contacted and offered questionnaires/help in completing them - but no response was offered/received

BME: no specific meetings but centres ensured that BME service users were given a questionnaire and some were translated as requested. The analysis of the results of the questionnaire shows that BME service users did participate in airing their views.

Children (young people/teenage): a specific meeting/workshop was put on for 'LAC kids' known as MAD (Make a Difference) – the questionnaires were discussed and explained and the young people filled them out – their views supported the idea of Children's centres and family centres and they supported the notion of extending the age to 19. They wanted to know if it could go beyond 19 as they felt the transition to adulthood was difficult and would like support.

3.6 Private correspondence and petitions

Officers received various private correspondence and petitions as detailed within the consultation report.

Equality issues from correspondence:

- The petitions are simple statements as to the importance of the centres and keeping them open.
- Letters from the public give first-hand accounts of how they have used the services and how the services have influenced their lives and do not want to see service closed, reduced or moved. The letters give information that reveal their protected characteristics and the barriers they faced.
- The information pack with case studies – illustrated how many service users have extremely difficult starts in life and with the help of the centres have overcome sizable problems. Issues revolve around early pregnancy, dropping out of secondary education, domestic violence, homelessness, loneliness, lack of skills, lack of confidence and near suicidal positions and go on to show, with the help of the centres, how their lives have been transformed and this is why they will fight to keep the centres open to give others the same chances and support they had.

4. Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will be met (give details)

The proposal to maintain and keep all centres in their current location links to PSED by;

PSED 1(a) Eliminate discrimination. –

The service is set out to support people from difficult circumstances and back grounds that face entrenched inequality.

Evidence shows that all protected characteristics present in the Borough demographic are also present in the centre services demographic. This means that the lines of access to the service are 'open' across all protected characteristics.

However, Council has to be mindful that in providing the service that it particularly pays attention to the needs of disabled service users.

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Both section 20 of the Equality Act 2010, 'duty to make reasonable adjustment' and section 19 'Avoiding indirect discrimination' are particularly live at this point – there is evidence to show that disabled service users have some support, but more can be done to elevate and further remove the risk of 'indirect discrimination' towards disabled service users, their carers/parents as well as disabled parents accessing the service for themselves.

Services for disabled children that are capable of accessing the Children's Centres should as close as possible be on a par with non-disabled children. This means frequency of attendance, support and provision of the service, meeting their need, whilst in the children centre environment.

PSED 1(b) Advance equalities of opportunity

The Children's Centres focus on developing skills of children and their parents in order to provide a better chance in life goes to the very heart of the Equality Act 2010 and PSED. This service, by its very design, is advancing opportunity, particularly for women and children

The programme of services and how the services are delivered **meets:**

PSED (3) (a)

'remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic';

by delivering a service, primarily designed, for the betterment and wellbeing of women and children close to their homes to increase access and participation.

PSED (3) (b)

'take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it';

The service demographic covers all protected characteristics and delivers services to meet differing needs. In addition, women in our society are the child bearers and predominantly carers and have differing needs than men in society. The role of carer often breaks in to education and work development, as a consequence, women can be treated less favourably in society and especially employers, from the provision of child care, time off to care for children and in particular children with disabilities, to lower pay and difficulty in obtaining promotion to the higher positions.

To challenge this societal discrimination every effort has to be made to create fresh starting points and processes to overcome barriers.

PSED (3) (c)

encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

'Public life' here simply means 'life's chances' to be self-determining and enjoy the fruits of society, whether it be working, having an education, having a home, living in a loving home, living free from

violence, expressing views and participating in social discourse with confidence and self-assurance. Many of the service users will face barriers that keep these life's chances from them. The work of the centres help and develop skills for service users, provide supportive environments and 'bench marks' against which to assess individual achievements - giving many women the foundation and the confidence to press ahead in to their own opportunities and goals.

PSED 1(c) Foster good relations between different protected characteristics-

The Children's Centres as a project were not set up with the sole purpose of PSED (5) (a) 'tackling prejudice' and PSED (5)(b) 'promoting understanding' so the objective 1c is not engaged.

However, many centres have a diverse user profile and much of the work 'brings people together' due to the sharing of learning experiences. Many service users have commented on the 'love' and sense of 'community' they have at the centres. They are safe places where primarily women and children come together and develop together. Being friends with each other tackles prejudice and promotes acceptance and understanding. These centres are beacons of hope in our community.

5.Recommendation to Cabinet

Having local community Children's Centres that meet the need of women and children is a position strongly supported by this analysis, therefore, the revised proposal of keeping all the children centres in their current locality is recommended by this equality analyses report and as such will meet PSED.

In determining the new service and provision Council needs to ensure that:

- English as a second language courses/programmes is embedded in to core services in the most appropriate centres and held in Adult Learning centre
- The funding methodology takes the above two points in to consideration, to ensure centres providing for disabilities or ESL are not disproportionately impoverished compared to other centres.
- Concern over safeguarding issues have been raised in relation to developing 3 Family Wellbeing Centres and increasing the age of users to 19. Whilst there is evidence of good practice where these two services already share facilities, its recommended that a policy and practice review takes place, including interested parties and partners, to address public concerns and to alleviate any public anxiousness

Council needs to note that over 90% of respondents were women and 86% of all respondent where under the age of 50.

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Equality Analysis Report: Funding methodology Children and Family Centres

1. Change to service and the Equality Act.

Any change to function, provision or policy that may have an effect on people is automatically subject of the Equality Act 2010.

The parts of the acts that are 'engaged' (i.e. that would be active in relation to this proposal) would be:

Section 4 – protected characteristics

Section 13 - direct discrimination

Section 19 – indirect discrimination

Section 20 – duty to make adjustments

Section 29 – provision of a service

Section 149 – Public Sector Equality Duty

In relation to Public sector Equality Duty (PSED) there are three objectives that are supported by 10 subsections.

The three main objectives are :

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have *due regard* to the need to—

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

In order to satisfy objective A, eliminate discrimination, – sections 4, 13, 19 and 20 of the Equality Act will have to be met

In order to satisfy objective B, 'Advance equality of opportunity' - subsection 3 of PSED, will have to be met:

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Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—

(a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low. of PSED

The third objective ‘foster good relations’ is **partially engaged** in this project as the project is not one designed to tackling hate crime, challenging prejudice or building relationships across community and cultural boundaries, but in providing the activities at the children and family centre some work, and some activities will undoubtedly be of this nature.

2. Details of service / function:

Historically, the Children and Family Centres have been funded without a transparent methodology as and they were developed under different Government directives. This meant that the centres in Sefton all have different funding levels. In order to be more efficient and equitable to manage the costs of centres, the function of funding the services will have a new ‘funding methodology’. This has been devised to ensure parity across the borough.

The **legitimate aim** of the redesign of this function is to ensure transparency and more efficient and equitable services giving value for money.

3. Change to service. In looking at the project is there a change?

The funding methodology will take the place of previous funding distribution to Children and Family centres.

This methodology will provide a more equitable and fair distribution of funding taking account of Sefton’s most deprived areas. In line with the draft strategic vision – it is proposed that a new funding methodology is introduced which will encompass both current Children Centre and Family Centre delivery by way of a new Family Wellbeing service. The funding will be allocated using a methodology that weights the following factors:

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- the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which is also used locally to allocate some school funding
- inequalities in particular disability, migrants (English as a Second Language), travellers
- reach footprints
- the number of new births
- an indication of the percentage of children in an area requiring social care support
- case weighting for children in need and looked after children
- a minimum funding protection factor that ensures no centre will see a reduction in funding by more than 31% of its historical funding.

4. Barriers relevant to the protected characteristics (where are the potential disadvantages)

The funding methodology is based on the above, however there will be some service users that would need more support/ provision than others.

| Protected Characteristic | Issue | Remedy/Mitigation |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Age Children: | Poverty / lack of opportunities | The Children’s Centre activities are supportive of tackling early age intervention and the funding methodology covers age and deprivation affecting children up to the age of 19. |
| Disability | Poverty/ lack of opportunity/ lack of service tailored to assessed needs | The funding methodology does look at ‘deprivation’ but there is nothing specific that ‘protected or provided provision for disabled children/ and or disabled adults using the centres’. Whilst data shows that disabled children and adult do use the facilities generally, there is no data that points to extra provision for servicing the needs of this group. This currently means that there are no specific monies targeted towards disabled users, and that the ‘general centre budget’ would be under strain if disabled users presented at particular centres, as service providers by law have to make reasonable adjustments to |

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| | | |
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| | | <p>facilitate the needs of disabled service users: section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 'Duty to make adjustment '</p> <p>In addition to section 20, PSED sub section 4 states <i>'The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities'</i></p> <p>The funding methodology should be able to demonstrate how it takes disability in to account and how it allocates funding to centres that have disabled children/young people using their services.</p> |
| Gender reassignment | Not applicable to the funding methodology | <p>Service provision needs to show understanding and acceptance of any service user who is trans gender and offer an environment which is safe and free from bullying and/or harassment</p> <p>The funding methodology covers 'population' within an area and will include transgender in that population.</p> |
| Pregnancy & maternity | Poverty / lack of opportunity | The Children Centres are targeted at new parents/ parents and legal guardians and the funding methodology takes this in to account when calculating funding. |
| Race | Poverty/ lack of opportunity | All communities can use the services; however, some areas may have a higher influx of new residents from European partners or immigrants from other countries, trying to service the |

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| | | |
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| | | <p>low paid of Southport and Sefton. In servicing and supporting this group there will be additional language needs, both in terms of translation but also in terms of new residents learning to speak and write in English. The funding methodology doesn't pick up on any additional pressure this demand may make on particular centres. The methodology needs to consider this element.</p> <p>PSED section 6 states:</p> <p><i>Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.</i></p> <p>It would be within the view of PSED objective B, in that allocating funding to support migrants to learn English would be 'advancing equality of opportunity'</p> |
| Religion and belief | No additional need outside core service parameters. | <p>Service provision needs to show understanding and acceptance of any service user's belief and faith that is accepted by society and offer an environment which is safe and free from bullying and/or harassment</p> <p>The funding methodology covers 'population' within an area and will cover people with different religions/belief</p> |
| Sex (M/F) | Poverty/ lack of opportunity | Data on service users shows that the adults are overwhelmingly female (over |

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| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>90%) and the centres are 'core service to allow women to develop skills and abilities, not just to navigate life in a more supportive and supported way, but also to get them 'job ready' to re-entre the labour market.</p> <p>The funding methodology uses deprivation figures and child number figures to determine expenditure, in doing so it inescapably helps women to advance their life chances.</p> <p>The services are also available to men and male carers, however, societal norms means that low numbers of men use the services. Women are still the 'carers' in society</p> |
| Sexual orientation | No additional need outside core service parameters. | <p>Service provision needs to show understanding and acceptance of any service user's sexual orientation and offer an environment which is safe and free from bullying and/or harassment</p> <p>The funding methodology covers 'population' within an area will cover people's different sexual orientation</p> |

6. Does this service go the heart of enabling a protected characteristic to access to Family Wellbeing services?

Yes: Children, young people and Women

7. Is there evidence that the Public-Sector Equality Duties will be met (give details)

(a) Eliminate discrimination. –

The funding methodology uses demographic and social care needs as its bench marks. This in and of itself is not designed to be discriminatory but inclusive. However, there is a worry that by not directly addressing the needs of disability and immigrant needs (race) within the funding

methodology, there could be ‘indirect discrimination’ in the system at section 19 of the Equality Act, subsection (b), (c),(d):

Section 19: For the purposes of [indirect discrimination] a provision, criterion or practice is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of B’s if—

(a) A applies, or would apply, it to persons with whom B does not share the characteristic,

(b) it puts, or would put, persons with whom B shares the characteristic at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons with whom B does not share it,

(c) it puts, or would put, B at that disadvantage, and

(d) A cannot show it to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim

(b) Advance equality of opportunity

The funding methodology is a strong element in advancing equality of opportunity as it looks at children, deprivation and social care requirements of local areas and funds specific services to meet these challenges.

The *principles* behind the funding methodology meets PSED object b, at subsection 3

(a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

(C) Foster good relations between different protected characteristics-

The funding methodology by providing for service for people to meet and share life experiences, learning and moving forward together, is inadvertent also meeting Objective C of PSED, in that it is challenging prejudice and promoting understanding.

10. Recommendation to Cabinet

The funding methodology strives for equanimity in how funding is allocated to allow the essential work to continue. As such it is designed to be inclusive of needs. The recommendation is to accept the formula *but to consider revision/ adjustments to the mechanism to include ‘tariffs’ for disability and non-English speaking migrants.*

With this consideration the Public Sector Equality Duty will be met

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