

Notes from public engagement and consultation sessions held between 25<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> November. There is a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny on 5<sup>th</sup> December where what has been proposed will be scrutinised and on 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
If you get rid of frontline staff, perhaps part time hours, you won't be able to delivery your services
<b>Response</b>
If you can't get to Marie Clarke or Waterloo there will be outreach. It sucks in money keeping the building open.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
Waterloo is on a main bus route and there is parking nearby.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
You have to pay for parking
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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

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 <b>next</b> 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

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
<b>Response</b>
Sefton Parent Carer Forum are saying what you describe
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
I realise that the confidence to come to places is because of the work of family and children's centres
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response (Headteacher)</b>
This is when Sure Start was rolled out
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Why is this no longer
Surely this was the first pin stuck in (on a map to agree phase one)
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
What type of services
<b>Response</b>
We would negotiate with Headteachers and we are working with Sefton Parent Carer Forum to co-produce services
<b>Question/ comment</b>
What if it is a few hours every other day
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Will there be something every day
People who come here get support from foodbanks, I am not saying this doesn't happen in Waterloo

<b>Response</b>
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)
<b>Question/ comment</b>
This is the whole reason we were set up
<b>Response</b>
Yes there are 10 Children's Centres, included the most deprived areas. We will carry on some services.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Statistically we are most in need
What about the most used or most needed
What about benefits of term time offer
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
We are looking at this, Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth may need higher funding.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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?
<b>Question/ comment (Headteacher)</b>
I am open to discussions
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Why is this happening now?
<b>Response</b>
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

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

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 <sup>th</sup> November, Overview and Scrutiny meets on 5 <sup>th</sup> December in Southport and on 7 <sup>th</sup> 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



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.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Netherton 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Once the decision has been made it will be publicised.

Responses were made by Dwayne Johnson

Question/ comment
The 0-19 service, what will this look like?
Response
There are two phases, 1 <sup>st</sup> 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.

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

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.

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

on numbers, the message is support and training and looking at people in crisis.
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Response
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The theme about communication is it should be imaginative and innovative
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DJ thanked everyone for attending and putting forward their views and comments.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>



December. A final decision will be taken by Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> 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
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

<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>

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:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. In 2 or 3 years look at Health and Social Care option work with GPs on a bigger model.</li> </ol>
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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> November. There are two main meetings following that, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Question/ comment</b>
Are you looking at removing universal services or targeting families, with classes for all
<b>Response</b>
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
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Will staff float?
<b>Response</b>
We will look at this and other alternative proposals but it could be that Farnborough and Kingsmeadow share staff with Freshfield.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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)

As an adopter I couldn't get out I need to be local
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Some courses are popular, you wouldn't get on
<b>Response</b>
We would look at the volume, may need to put them on in two places
We do that already (Children's Centre Manager)
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Freshfield is so far away
The train station is far away from the centre.
<b>Response</b>
I realise not everyone drives
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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?
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
What about social care, contact for Looked After Children?
<b>Response</b>
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

<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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<p>What position would Children's Centres be in in the third model, could they fundraise?</p>
<b>Response</b>
<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 5<sup>th</sup> December there is a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny and everyone is welcome. Consultation ends on 17<sup>th</sup> 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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<p>Would 0-19 be in the third option?</p>
<b>Response</b>
<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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<p>Parenting 2000 had some good facilities.</p>
<b>Response</b>
<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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 were 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 5<sup>th</sup> December to look at the consultation followed by a Cabinet Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December where a report will be presented based on feedback received by the close of the consultation on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 proposal 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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

consider the impact this will have on people.
<b>Response</b>
I can't, this is the budget to 2020, and we don't know what the Government will do.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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
<b>Question/ comment</b>
You say £900K; Talbot Street will cost most than that to do the work on the building so the figure will go up again.
<b>Response</b>
I am picking up that you don't think this is fit for purpose
<b>Question/ comment</b>
How much will this cost in the future? Services in the future, how much impact on people (will this have)
<b>Response</b>
This has come up at every event, the pressure on mums and the community and I won't disagree with this.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
About breastfeeding support, the timings if you can't get there that will be gone and the group support
<b>Response</b>
We do run one group at the Atkinson
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
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 Netherton, this is a model that is working – you can visit if you wish.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
How long will this take to happen?
<b>Response</b>
If members decide this option, 12/18 months but services will continue meanwhile.

<b>Question/ comment</b>
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)
<b>Response</b>
I haven't cost it yet, if I had you would have said it was a done deal
<b>Question/ comment</b>
I feel it is a done deal, there are lots of different options
<b>Response</b>
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
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
If you are planning the budget to 2020, swap your services around, plan properly as this is a tiny amount.
<b>Response</b>
This is part of the decision making, factor in all model
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Schools are underfunded, centres are underfunded, and you need to make Children's Centres more accessible.
<b>Response</b>
That is the purpose of today, to gather your thoughts and feelings, as people who use the services what do you want.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
What is in your mind, whatever you do, you are not going to make people happy
<b>Response</b>
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.

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

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
<b>Response</b>
The Headteacher is right we need a communications strategy so we are not duplicating effort
<b>Question/ comment</b>
You can start with new born access elsewhere, when you get to 2020 you already go elsewhere
<b>Response</b>
I am meeting with the Headteacher to look at the engagement proposals

DJ thanked everyone for attending and putting forward their views and comments.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
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
<b>Question/ comment</b>
People won't travel
<b>Response</b>
We will have to look at travel and transport, it is included as a question in the consultation
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Young Minds is starting, that is from a voluntary group
<b>Response</b>
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"> <li>1. We cannot afford everything</li> <li>2. We widen to 0-19 looking at everyone (survey question)</li> </ol>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.

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



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 <sup>th</sup> November (after the consultation closes) and all responses will be part of the report to Cabinet on 7 <sup>th</sup> 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

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 <sup>th</sup> November, a report will be presented to Cabinet on 7 <sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.



## Family and Wellbeing Centres/ Family and Children's Centres Consultation.

20<sup>th</sup> 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"><li>Sefton is making savings but is costing us. (transport costs)</li></ul>

- 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

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**

- 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.

- 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**

- 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.

<b>Response</b>
<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 &amp; 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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would families go to school for support if the Centre was not here?</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>
<p>Schools do not have the full offer and schools send parents to the Centre.</p>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<p>You are saying the Family &amp; Well-being Centre would help our families' needs but these needs can change at any time.</p>
<b>Response</b>
<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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<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>
<b>Response</b>
<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>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will parents have a say in the services offered?</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>
<p>Yes.</p> <p>Footfall will determine where these services are offered.</p> <p>The Family Centre offer is not changing.</p>

**Question/ comment**

19 year olds do not want to come into a Children's Centre.

**Response**

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.

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.

**Question/ comment**

- What about the staff? We are used to coming in and seeing them.

**Response**

That is difficult to say at the moment. That will depend on the decision of the Elected Members.

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.

**Question/ comment**

Can't the money be saved anywhere else? Why fix what is not broke?

**Response**

Looking across the Council, many things are being looked at to save money.

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.

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.

*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.*

**Question/ comment**

(From Cllr Spencer) Can you pass on other Centre's suggestions?

**Response**

I can tell you what the proposals are do far.

Some are saying they want to be a Family and Well-being Centres and would welcome everyone.

Some are putting forward proposals to be a consolidated base.

Some are putting forward how they can continue to provide the current services but

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.**

**20<sup>th</sup> 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

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.



**Question/ comment – Sand Dunes Nursery**

- (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**

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?

**Question/ comment**

- (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**

We are looking at this

**Question/ comment**

- 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**

DJ assured that this was not the case.

**Question/ comment**

- When looking at the figures, did you look at the impact of services?

**Response**

Yes

**Question/ comment**

- (from staff) We listen to parents; the starting point for parents in Seaforth is

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**

- 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**

- 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**

- It does not feel like that!!!
- And there is the cost of travel.

**Response**

We will look at that.

**Question/ comment**

- 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**

- 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

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

The facts and figures will also go to Elected Members.

**Question/ comment**

- 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**

- Can we have a list of the services targeted?

**Response**

Yes – we can send it.

**Question/ comment**

- 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.

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> 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
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

to somewhere you are not welcome
Response from JJK
Why are you not welcome?
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.
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.
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"> <li>1. Have a 0-19 offer</li> <li>2. Outreach, to sustain and do more, more away from base approach</li> <li>3. Early intervention</li> </ol> <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"> <li>1. If we did look at consolidating the base could you assure us you would offer 0-19 services</li> </ol> <p>Yes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Outreach</li> </ol> <p>Yes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Most early years and help</li> </ol>

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@



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

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.

Question/ comment

If this is a consolidated base, what will we lose

Response

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.

Question/ comment

Would staff move?

Response

Staff do already, the uptake and what staff have to do whether universal or not

Question/ comment from CCM

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.

Response

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.

Question/ comment

What about other sources of funding

Response

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.

Question/ comment

Original Children's Centres were main hubs, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

What about older kids, 7 years olds etc

Response

That is what we are moving towards

Question/ comment

We used to have a kids club next door

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

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, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10 a.m. at Bootle Town Hall. The report will be public on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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.
<b>Response</b>
I understand about connecting
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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)
<b>Response</b>
The budget we are trying to save is £900K-£1m
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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



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.

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

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 <sup>th</sup> 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

published on 29 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December is the Overview and Scrutiny at 6.30 p.m. at Southport Town Hall and 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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
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

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
<b>Response</b>
Is it the same class (each week)
<b>Question/ comment</b>
No I attend several different classes here
<b>Response from Children's Centre Manager (CCM)</b>
We have Chesterfield who with an initiative from Sports England bring their 6 <sup>th</sup> Form students who are training to deliver role play and exercises, mimic story and rhyme
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response from JJK</b>
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.

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

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.



**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Question/ comment</b>
How do you define deprived?
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Why 0-19 years?
<b>Response</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> , most Public Health services are working well, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
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.

<b>Question/ comment</b>
They will still be at the same building, if there are mental health services, troubled teenagers would you bring your child
<b>Response</b>
This has worked elsewhere
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>

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?

<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
Another good point, housing
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
There is a report with background papers, at this stage it is a model and we are consulting on the approach
<b>Question/ comment</b>
I can't get the papers (online)
<b>Response</b>
We will send you a copy (name and address supplied to Gill Cowley)
<b>Question/ comment</b>
These are good staff, we are concerned about them leaving
<b>Response</b>
I can't disagree, it is a challenge
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
I am very open minded about sponsorships but it has got to be sustainable, £100k one year, £50K another year would not work
<b>Question/ comment</b>
People will always be having babies, there will be a new market every year
<b>Response</b>
You are right that will always happen and we do look at population projections.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
There will be peaks and troughs but they will market harder when they need to.
<b>Response</b>

Age is an issue as we have recently had to close a secondary school because of numbers dropping.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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)
<b>Response</b>
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
<b>Question/ comment</b>
I was struggling with postnatal depression, if I didn't have them for counselling, positivity.
<b>Response</b>
You can't measure prevention
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
Children's Social Care and Children's Centres are different offers
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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

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

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

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



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

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
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
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
I worked with children I thought I would be ok (when I became a mum) I wasn't.
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
They have money behind closed doors
Although there is an index of deprivation in some areas, some streets it is more than 50%
<b>Response</b>
I agree with all of that, I have been a social worker all my life but we don't have the money
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Social workers don't come out, it is Family Support Workers who come out
<b>Response</b>
That is their role, Family Support Workers, to come out
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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
<b>Response</b>
I agree everyone is stretched, we are going to go somewhere to meet the need
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
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
<b>Response</b>
These are powerful stories; we have heard them to from other centres.

<b>Question/ comment</b>
It is not quantifiable the good the children centres can do, from pre-school there is such a knock on effect, they address things.
<b>Response</b>
I am happy to meet again, if groups of parents with options something tangible, doesn't have to be costed
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response</b>
All the things you have said have been recorded and will be included with the information to elected members.

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.

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?

**Family and Wellbeing Centres/  
Family Centres (FC) and Children's Centres (CC) Consultation.  
Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Question/ comment</b>
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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.
<b>Response/comment</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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?
<b>Response/comment</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Elected members – are they representative of the people who use the centres?
<b>Response/comment</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Public Health are now part of the local authority – has a health assessment been carried out?
<b>Response/comment</b>
An Equality Impact assessment has been carried out by an external consultant and will be presented as part of the report to Cabinet.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
Can the public see the report?
<b>Response/comment</b>
Yes

<b>Question/ comment</b>
0-19 offer – how will this look?
<b>Response/comment</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>It is the genuine ambition, if it goes forward, to co-produce the offer with the community and other agencies.</p>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.
<b>Response/comment</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
If service is extended to 19 years – how will it be provided with cuts?
<b>Response/comment</b>
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.
<b>Question/ comment</b>
What is the timeframe for all this?
<b>Response/comment</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any changes will take place in Spring/Summer 2018 at the earliest.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Question/ comment</b>
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.

**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.