

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Children's Centre Plus consultation 13 September 2012

Report of Head of Community Engagement

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on Lancashire County Council's proposals for two Children's Centre Plus in the district and a recommended supportive response to the current consultation.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS OF the Head of Community Engagement

It is recommended that:

- (1) **The council provides a supportive in principle response to the Lancashire County Council proposals for two Children's Centre Plus arrangements in Heysham and Lune Park**
- (2) **That a request is made that the Lancaster Children's Trust Board is engaged in discussions with Lancashire County Council as more details emerge, to ensure Children's Centre Plus services have the best opportunity to add value to existing services in the district**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancashire County Council is currently consulting on proposals for Children's Centre Plus arrangements across Lancashire. This is a new approach that builds on existing children's Centre provision and creates seventeen 0 – 11 multi agency hubs offering additional services, including Early Support and integrated family intervention.
- 1.2 All Lancashire districts will have one Children's Centre Plus but in areas of most need, including Lancaster District, two will be developed to provide district wide services but located in areas that have been identified as having most deprivation and where strong existing facilities can be enhanced. The Children's Centres identified for development within the district are Lune Park and Heysham.
- 1.3 The consultation deadline is 21 September 2012.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Children's Centre Plus proposals seem to offer an efficient and potentially effective way to deliver key services for children and their families and should complement the 'Working Together with Families' approach well. The emphasis on early intervention is important in terms of working with families to reduce long term needs.
- 2.2 The Children's Centre Plus proposals have also been considered by the Lancaster District Children's Trust Board at its meeting on the 13th July and are included in the Trust's Children and Young People Action Plan for the District for 2012 -2013. The Board is supportive but will also respond to the consultation following individual comments from partner organisations.
- 2.3 At this stage the details of service delivery are not fully available and the recommended consultations response suggests that Lancashire County works closely with the Children's Trust to ensure that partners are fully engaged and that service delivery arrangements add value to local provision.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the council provides a supportive response to the consultation on Children's Centre Plus proposals but that a request is made that the Lancaster Children's Trust Board is engaged in discussions with Lancashire County Council as more details emerge. This would ensure Children's Centre Plus services have the best opportunity to add value to existing services in the district.
- 2.5 Further details of the proposals and the recommended response are included in the consultation paper at Appendix A.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 No formal consultation with partners has been undertaken but discussions have taken place with the Lancaster District Children's Trust Board, which will submit a formal response on its own behalf.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Option 1: Providing a response the consultation from the council reinforces the partnership approach to working together to create positives outcomes for children, young people and their families. An opportunity exists to formally request that the approach to developing the details of service delivery in the district is also based on a partnership approach

Option 2: The council has the option not to respond to this consultation with no direct negative impact although potentially loses an opportunity to engage in forward planning for an important development in the district.

Officer preferred option is Option 1

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Lancashire County Council proposals for Children's Centres Plus arrangements in Lune park and Heysham potentially add value to services for children, young people and their families across the district as well as support some important initiatives such as Working Together with Families. As such, the recommended response to consultation is supportive but requests ongoing engagement with the Lancaster District Children's Trust to ensure that the overall approach is holistic and reinforces a partnership approach.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly at this stage but detailed service delivery arrangements will require consideration by all partners in due course

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No specific legal implications

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No specific financial implications

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**Human Resources:**

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A - Children's Centre Plus consultation document and response

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Consultation Paper on a Children's Centre Plus Model for Lancashire

This paper forms the beginning of the consultation process with key partners and stakeholders. It sets out proposals for developing a Children's Centre Plus model which would be implemented across Lancashire. We are very keen to involve our key stakeholders and partners in the shaping and influencing of the Children's Centre Plus Model and invite feedback on the changes outlined in this paper.

Background

At a joint meeting on the 29th March the Lancashire Children's Trust and the Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Board agreed outline proposals for a comprehensive service redesign of the Safeguarding referral pathways and the structure through which we deliver both intensive work with families and the Early Support functions across Lancashire. This redesign will be part of an overall Transforming Service Delivery Strategy called 'Working Together in Lancashire' (attached as Appendix A), which will reduce the number of services working with families thereby reducing the duplication, cost and long term dependence on services. This will be achieved by services working smarter together, alongside families, doing with and not to, or for families. The service redesign will include:

- New common Referral/Request for Service pathways centred upon the creation of a new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that will act as a clearing house for referrals into social care and for de-escalations
- An integrated model facilitating step up and step down between Safeguarding and Early Support/Intensive work with families
- The creation of multi-agency delivery hubs and the co-location of services in integrated teams
- The appointment of a District Co-ordinator who will ensure the effective allocation of work and that effective joint working arrangements are in place within the new integrated teams
- New Early Support commissioning arrangements
- The refreshing of common assessment processes and structures

This consultation paper sets out how Children's Centres will respond to this overall service redesign and how they will form a central part of the new Early Support function by acting as 0-11 multiagency service Hubs.

Context

Children's Centres have a key role to play in building resilience amongst the most vulnerable families across Lancashire. Through the development of a children's centre plus model (hub) a clear early support pathway can be provided to ensure that children and their families receive support when they need it, tackling issues as they arise and preventing more costly intervention later down the line.

Proposals for Service Delivery

This proposal builds on the existing Children's Centre provision across Lancashire. The new model of delivery will provide a minimum of one Children's Centre Plus per district and a maximum of two in areas of highest need and will offer an extension of services. Other Children's Centres will continue to provide their services in line with the core offer.

Set out below is the proposed criteria for the Children's Centre Plus model:

- Serving highest areas of deprivation within reach area
- Serving the highest population within reach area
- Centres rated good or outstanding by Ofsted
- Designated as a top 30% Children's Centre
- One per district
- Location

Delivery Specification

Each Children's Centre Plus Centre will be expected to offer the following as a minimum:

- Full Children's Centre core offer in line with the national core purpose and statutory guidance
- A leading role in the provision of Early Support
- Leading an integrated family support service for children 0-11 and their families
- Services from 8am-6pm including Saturdays, 50 weeks per year. This will be on a demand led basis.

They will also be responsible for:

- Leading on the Early Support core offer for children aged 0-11 and their families
- Meeting the needs of Early Support within the district through the Early Support system
- Leading the childminder networks within their area
- Leading on increasing access to the targeted FEYE places for vulnerable 2 year olds
- Leading on the take up of FEYE for three and four year olds where there are areas of low take up
- Co-ordinating the delivery of evidenced based parenting programmes
- Leading on integrated working having a named social worker, health visitor and midwife
- Linking into the Local Children's Trust as the strategic planning vehicle for children and young people. Taking forward local priorities within their area to ensure provision reflects the districts needs.
- Leading the integrated family support service for children aged 0-11 years and their families

- Acting as a hub for the local community, building social capital and cohesion
- Leading on the sharing of information and expertise with other early years settings to improve quality childcare provision across Lancashire
- Being the hub in providing access to universal early years services in the local area including high quality and affordable early years education and provision
- Developing effective partnerships with local schools, GPs, PCT's and the voluntary sector

Implementation and Key Timescales

The development of these will be done in three phases creating an anticipated total of 17 Children's Centre Plus' across Lancashire and will be complete by March 2013.

Phase One- Completion by the end of October 2012

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Children's Centre Plus</u>
Preston	2
Pendle	2
Wyre	1
Morecambe/Lancaster	2

Phase Two - Completion by the end of December 2012

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Children's Centre Plus</u>
West Lancashire	1
Rosendale	1
Burnley	2
South Ribble	1
Fylde	1

Phase Three – Completion by the end of March 2013

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Children's Centre Plus</u>
Chorley,	1
Hyndburn	2
Ribble Valley	1

Efficiencies

The delivery of this model will also ensure that efficiencies are realised through removing duplication, reducing longer term management costs and ensuring that resources can be better targeted.

Proposed Children's Centre Plus Centres and Implementation Timetable

Phase 1 – October 2012

Preston – Stonegate, Sunshine (2)

Wyre – Fleetwood, (1)

Lancaster/Morecambe – Lune Park, Heysham (2)

Pendle – Beacon, Colne (2)

Phase 2 – December 2012

South Ribble – Wade Hall, (1)

West Lancs – First Steps (1)

Rosendale – Maden Centre (1)

Fylde – Oak Tree (1)

Burnley – Chai, South West Burnley (2)

Phase 3 – March 2013

Chorley – Duke St, (1)

Hyndburn –Accrington South, Mount Pleasant (2)

Ribble Valley – Ribblesdale (1)

Consultation Feedback

1.	Do you support the principle of developing a Children's Centre Plus model to create a hub for early support in each district?	Yes
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Lancaster City Council welcomes the proposals for a Children Centre Plus model and fully supports the principle of multi-agency hubs that will allow service providers to work more closely together to deliver services to children and families. We have committed to this approach through the district Children's Trust which has adopted support for the implementation of these hubs as part of their action plan for 2012/13.

2.	Do you have any comments on the proposed implementation of the Children's Centre Plus model?	
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Both centres proposed for the district (Lune Park and Heysham) will be logically sited in areas with the highest level of need for children aged 0-11 and their families. We understand that an 'outreach service' will also be provided by the specialist staff to service users at other locations requiring their services. We believe the expansion of the two centres will add extra value and quality to the already successful provision in the district, and are pleased to note existing facilities at other Children's Centres in the district will not be affected or impaired in any way.

Lancaster City Council requests that the Lancaster District Children's Trust Board is fully engaged and consulted regarding the development of service delivery arrangements, to ensure that the Children's Centre Plus model has the opportunity to complement and add value to existing service provision in the district.

Please could you ensure feedback is returned by Friday 21st September for the attention of K Makinson, 3rd Floor JDO, East Cliff, Preston, PR1 3JT or alternatively email Kelly.makinson@lancashire.co.uk. Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for your support and interest.