

Lancashire County Council

Education Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 29th November, 2016 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Supplementary Agenda

We are now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday, 29th November, 2016, the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was despatched

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No. Item

- 6. Outcomes of the Property Strategy - Children's Centres** (Pages 1 - 8)

Presented by:

Kathy Ashworth, Senior Manager, Wellbeing,
Prevention and Early Help

Mel Ormesher, Head of Asset Management

Jo Turton
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 November 2016

Electoral Division affected: All

Outcomes of the Property Strategy - Children's Centres

Appendix 'A' refers

Contact for further information:

Mel Ormesher, Head of Asset Management,

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Executive Summary

This report informs the Committee of the outcomes of the County Council's Property Strategy following the decision originally taken by Cabinet on 8 September which was affirmed on 26 September following call in. Appendix 'A' sets out a summary of changes to the designation of children's centres.

Recommendation

The report is presented for information and comment as appropriate.

Background and Advice

The Property Strategy proposals in relation to the County Council's property portfolio were designed to ensure that all Lancashire residents can continue to be provided with high quality services and to provide a flexible response to future patterns of service delivery. The proposals were developed around the Neighbourhood Centre Model approved by Cabinet in November 2015, which is intended to provide a range of services from multi-purpose premises around the County taking account, in particular, of levels of deprivation.

At its meeting held on 12 May 2016 Cabinet agreed, for the purposes of consultation, proposals relating to the future configuration of the County Council's property portfolio. The proposals set out a total of 132 properties identified for retention as neighbourhood centres, with the consequence that 106 premises were no longer required to deliver the County Council's future pattern of service delivery. The consultation proposals, setting out the methodology for the review process and details of the Neighbourhood Centre Model, were included in the report.

The final report to Cabinet on 8 September took account of the consultation responses which included questionnaires, letters and petitions and re-applied a set of tests to ensure a consistent but workable set of recommendations for the future pattern of service delivery.

As a result 28 changes were made to the original proposals set out in the consultation documentation which for the Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help (WPEH) service, included a proposal that the WPEH service distributes its resources across 75 outlets (an increase of 2).

The revised proposals were considered by the Executive Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2016 and presented to Cabinet on 8 September 2016.

A range of considerations in relation to the assessment of need and the accessibility of premises proposed as children's centres and front-facing premises for the Young People's Service have informed the properties for use in the Property Strategy.

The WPEH Service offer and specification was included at Appendix "N" of the 8 September Cabinet report. This was finalised and amended to include feedback from extensive consultation undertaken with staff, service users and stakeholders arising from formal consultation on the service offer and principles during February/March 2016.

The future WPEH Service has been designed on an evidence base to meet the needs of children and families, particularly those in need of more intensive support. The new service is designed on the basis of service delivery through fixed locations – neighbourhood centres – delivering both a programme of group based and drop-in support, learning and developmental activities as well as one to one targeted support for children, young people and their families in the local area. This will be supplemented by outreach provision to meet the particular needs of individuals, groups or outlying/isolated communities.

Consultations

As set out in the report.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

The Property Strategy also facilitates substantial service expenditure reductions approved by Full Council. For the Wellbeing Prevention and Early Help Service this is c£7.4m over 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The closure of the properties as agreed by the Property Strategy will result in a reduction in revenue running costs from corporate premises. An initial investment in condition, suitability and sufficiency of the remaining premises would be required but this would to some degree be offset by the capital receipts from owned or freehold premises vacated and disposed of and the reduced requirement for investment in condition works of the vacated premises.

The implications of the Property Strategy means that a number of current designated children's centres will not be maintained within the Neighbourhood Centre model. There is a potential risk of financial claw back in respect of government funding used to develop these premises when they were first established. The maximum risk of clawback for these premises is estimated as £8.8m, being calculated on a sliding scale over a period of 25-50 years.

The basis of the clawback provisions is that where local authorities dispose of or change the use of buildings funded wholly or partly through capital grants then they must be re-paid. However, if the Department for Education is satisfied that the funding for the asset will continue to be used for purposes consistent with the grant, then repayment may be deferred.

In that context, the County Council has made capital resources of £20m available within its approved budget for investment in Neighbourhood Centres which will include WPEH properties. The children centre offer will in future be delivered as an integrated model as described in the report to Cabinet on 8 September and the combination of designated centres, linked provision and outreach services set out at Appendix "A" demonstrate that the County Council is retaining substantial investment in the service, therefore its position is that there is no case for clawback being imposed.

However, in the event that clawback does arise, this would need to be funded from the Transitional Reserve.

Children's centres attached to schools

As regards children's centres attached to schools where it is either proposed to cease activities or to provide a different service, the Schools Forum expressed concerns about the potentially detrimental impacts this could have on individual schools finances.

In particular they are concerned about timescale for the proposed changes in service from schools which they feel gives head teachers and governing bodies limited time to find alternative uses for the premises. Schools Forum therefore requested transitional funding to allow schools to secure additional income to make up for the expected loss of funding.

The school based children centre budgets take into account premises and staffing related costs which vary across all sites depending upon the size and scale of the service offer. The impact on individual schools will depend on a variety of factors including the exact interaction of the school with the Centre, the costs incurred currently, building condition, the alternative uses individual schools can find for the facilities and the nature of remaining provision within the centres. Cabinet were advised on 8 September that without further detailed work being undertaken it is therefore difficult to provide an accurate estimate of costs but the scale of the impact is expected to be in the region of £0.5 – 0.7m, albeit the individual school impacts are likely to vary considerably.

Cabinet therefore resolved to note the request for transition funding and that this will be the subject of future discussions between officers and individual schools. Any school found to be in financial difficulty will be handled through the normal processes and the Schools Finance team and are in contact with the Nursery Group particularly concerning this issue.

There is ongoing communication between Asset Management, Schools Finance and the Schools Forum to advise the Forum of progress in implementing the Property Strategy and to identify any issues arising.

In addition, meetings between WPEH, Asset Management and individual schools will take place during November and December to address specific future issues relating to each school or nursery setting resulting from the Property Strategy and WPEH service transformation.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Property Strategy – Responses to Consultation	8 September 2016	Steve Browne, Director of Commissioning and Deputy Chief Executive
Property Strategy (Neighbourhood Centres) – Consultation	12 May 2016	Mel Ormesher, Head of Asset Management
Property Strategy – Neighbourhood Centres	26 November 2015	Mel Ormesher, Head of Asset Management

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

	Consultation		Current Designated Children's Centres	Current Linked Children's Centre			Future Designated Children's Centres	Future Linked Children's Centre		
District	Number	Consultation Name			Current Linked to	Current Outreach provision			Future Linked to	Future Outreach provision
Burnley	6	Burnley Wood Children's Centre	•				•			
Burnley	7	Children's Social Care (Easden Clough)					•			
Burnley	9	Ightenhill Children's Centre	•				•			
Burnley	11	Reedley Hallows Children's Centre	•				•			
Burnley	12	South West Burnley Children's Centre	•				•			
Burnley	13	Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Young People's Centre						•	The Chai Centre Children's Centre	
Burnley	14	The Chai Centre Children's Centre	•				•			
Burnley	16	Whitegate Children's Centre	•				•			
Chorley	30	Clayton Green Library					•			Adlington area
Chorley	31	Coppull Library						•		
Chorley	32	Duke Street Children's Centre	•				•			
Chorley	33	Eccleston Library						•		Euxton Library
Chorley	36	Adlington Library and Children's Centre	•							
Chorley	37	Astley and Buckshaw Children's Centre	•							
Chorley	38	Blossomfields Children's Centre		•						
Chorley	41	Clayton Brook Children's Centre	•							
Chorley	42	Coppull Children's Centre	•							
Chorley	45	Highfield Children's Centre	•				•			
Chorley	46	Millfield Children's Centre	•							
		Children's Social Care (Sydney Street) and Oak Tree Children's Centre	•				•			
Fylde	48						•			
Fylde	53	The Zone in Fylde					•			
Fylde	54	Weeton Children's Centre		•			•			
Fylde	60	Lytham Children's Centre		•						
Fylde	62	Orchard Children's Centre	•							
Fylde	63	Pear Tree Children's Centre	•							
		Clayton-le-Moors and Altham Children's Centre	•				•			
Hyndburn	66						•			
Hyndburn	67	Copper House Children's Centre	•				•			
Hyndburn	68	Fairfield Children's Centre	•				•			
Hyndburn	69	Great Harwood Children's Centre	•				•			
		Sure Start Hyndburn - Church and West Accrington Children's Centre (The Park)	•				•			
Hyndburn	72									
Hyndburn	79	Huncoat Children's Centre	•							
		Sure Start Hyndburn - Accrington South Children's Centre (The Beeches)	•							
Hyndburn	83						•			
Lancaster	84	Appletree Children's Centre	•				•			
Lancaster	86	Halton Library and Children's Centre		•						
Lancaster	90	Lune Park Children's Centre	•				•			Halton Library
		The Carnforth Hub Children's Centre and Young People's Centre	•				•			
Lancaster	92						•			
Lancaster	94	Westgate Children's Centre	•				•			Heysham Library
Lancaster	96	Balmoral Children's Centre	•							
Lancaster	100	Firbank Children's Centre	•							
Lancaster	101	Galgate Children's Centre		•						

District	Consultation Number	Consultation Name	Current Designated Children's Centres	Current Linked Children's Centre	Current Linked to	Current Outreach provision	Future Designated Children's Centres	Future Linked Children's Centre	Future Linked to	Future Outreach provision
Lancaster	102	Heysham Children's Centre and Young People's Centre	•							
Lancaster	105	Poulton Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	109	Beacon Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	113	Colne Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	115	Earby Community Centre						•	Gisburn Road Children's Centre	Trawden area
Pendle	116	Family Tree Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	117	Gisburn Road Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	120	Walton Lane Children's Centre	•				•			
Pendle	127	Pendleside Children's Centre		•	Beacon Children's Centre					
Pendle	128	Trawden Library and Riverside Children's Centre		•						
Preston	140	Preston West Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	141	Ribbleton Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	143	Riverbank Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	146	Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	147	Stoneygate Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	148	Sunshine Children's Centre	•							
Preston	149	Sunshine Children's Centre (New Hall Lane Drop-in)		•	Sunshine Children's Centre			•		
Preston	151	Preston East Children's Centre	•				•			
Preston	152	St Lawrence Children's Centre		•						
Ribble Valley	157	Ribblesdale Children's Centre	•				•			
Ribble Valley	164	Whalley Library and Spring Wood Children's Centre		•						
Ribble Valley	165	Willows Park Children's Centre	•				•			
Rossendale	168	Haslingden Community Link Children's Centre	•				•			
Rossendale	171	The Maden Centre	•				•			
Rossendale	172	The Zone in Rossendale					•			
Rossendale	173	Whitworth Children's Centre	•				•			
Rossendale	175	Balladen Children's Centre	•							
Rossendale	178	Staghills Children's Centre	•							
South Ribble	184	Leyland Library						•		
South Ribble	185	Longton Library						•		
South Ribble	187	The Zone in South Ribble					•			
South Ribble	188	Wade Hall Children's Centre	•				•			
South Ribble	189	Walton-le-Dale Young People's Centre					•			Kingsfold Library
South Ribble	190	Bamber Bridge Children's Centre	•							
South Ribble	192	Kingsfold Children's Centre	•							
South Ribble	193	Longton Children's Centre		•						
South Ribble	194	Lostock Hall Library and Children's Centre		•						
South Ribble	197	Wellfield Children's Centre	•							

District	Consultation Number	Consultation Name	Current Designated Children's Centres	Current Linked Children's Centre	Current Linked to	Current Outreach provision	Future Designated Children's Centres	Future Linked Children's Centre	Future Linked to	Future Outreach provision
West Lancashire	198	First Steps Children's Centre	•				•			
West Lancashire	199	Ormskirk Library					•			
West Lancashire	201	Park Children's Centre	•				•			
West Lancashire	204	The Grove Young People's Centre and Children's Centre	•				•			
West Lancashire	211	Hesketh with Becconsall Children's Centre		•						
West Lancashire	212	Moorgate Children's Centre	•							
West Lancashire	215	St John's Children's Centre (Skelmersdale)	•				*subject to further consultation			
West Lancashire	216	Upholland Children's Centre		•			*subject to further consultation			
Wyre	217	Children's Social Care (The Anchorage Fleetwood) and West View Children's Centre	•				•			
Wyre	218	Fleetwood Children's Centre (Flakefleet satellite)		•	Rural Wyre Children's Centre		•			
Wyre	221	Garstang Library					•			Knott End Library/Preesall area
Wyre	225	The Zone in Wyre					•			
Wyre	226	Thornton Children's Centre	•				•			
Wyre	227	Cleveleys Library and Children's Centre		•						
Wyre	228	Fleetwood Children's Centre	•							
Wyre	231	Over Wyre Children's Centre (Hambleton satellite)		•	Rural Wyre Children's Centre					
Wyre	232	Over Wyre Children's Centre (Preesall satellite)		•	Rural Wyre Children's Centre					
Wyre	233	Poulton-le-Fylde Children's Centre		•						
Wyre	235	Rural Wyre Children's Centre	•							

