

Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Consultation report – 2018

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Lancashire

County
Council





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1. Executive summary

This report summarises the response to Lancashire County Council's consultation on the Children and Family Wellbeing Service.

For this consultation, paper questionnaires were made available in the buildings where children and family wellbeing services are delivered. An electronic version of the consultation questionnaire was available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk. The organisation Creative Exchange also conducted consultation workshops with service users during July 2018.

The fieldwork ran for eight weeks between 6 June 2018 and 3 August 2018. In total, 729 completed questionnaires were returned (271 paper questionnaire responses and 458 online questionnaire responses).

1.1 Key findings

1.1.1 Use of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service

- More than half of respondents (55%) said that they go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service about once a week or more. About a fifth of respondents (21%) said that they never go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service.
- Respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service, were most likely to say that the Children and Family Wellbeing services they had used in the last 12 months were activities and groups for their baby, toddler or child (62%), information, advice and support services (43%), and family and parenting support (34%).
- Of respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service, over half (55%) said that in the last 12 months they had used a building or buildings that we are proposing to keep delivering children and family wellbeing services from. However, two-fifths of these respondents (40%) said that they had not used one of these buildings in the last 12 months.
- Of respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service, about half (51%) said that in the last 12 months they had used a building or buildings that we are proposing to no longer deliver children and family wellbeing services from. Less than half of these respondents (46%) said that they had not used one of these buildings in the last 12 months.
- About one in seven respondents (14%) said that if the proposal happened they would go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service more often than they do now and about two-fifths of respondents (39%) said that they would go about as often as they do now.

1.1.2 The proposal for the Children and Family Wellbeing Service

- About one in seven respondents (14%) said that if the proposal happened they would go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service less often than they do now and about a fifth of respondents (22%) said that they would not go at all.
- About a quarter of respondents (27%) said that they agree with the proposal. However, over half of respondents (54%) said that they disagree with the proposal.
- When asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal, respondents most commonly responded that centres provide valuable support to local communities and their family (47%), they support merging/consolidating centres to improve the utilisation of facilities (16%), the closures will make it difficult/impossible to access these services (15%), it will negatively impact on the most vulnerable families (15%) and it will have a negative impact on other services provided in the building (eg nursery) possibly leading to closure and job losses (14%).
- When asked how the proposal would affect them, if it happened, respondents most commonly responded that it would be more difficult/impossible for people in the local area to access children and family wellbeing services and get the support they need (50%) and that the centre is important for the local community (29%).
- When asked if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently, respondents most commonly responded that we should find money elsewhere in our budget to keep the centre open/invest in them (22%), people may miss out on the services/support they need (18%), consider the future impact of the closure (17%), stop closing centres – we need more of them (17%) and that we could find alternative uses/options for building rather than closing/merging (16%).
- Section 4.3 outlines the key issues raised by respondents for the buildings we are proposing to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing service from, where more than ten respondents commented in the building. The buildings covered are Walton Lane Children's Centre (92 responses), Willows Park Children's Centre (38 responses), the Chai Centre Children's Centre (26 responses), Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre (25 responses) and Fairfield Children's Centre (24 responses).

1.1.3 Other responses to the consultation

- Section 5 includes any other responses that we received during the consultation period. These responses are
 - a response from Ribble Valley Borough Council about the centres in Ribble Valley
 - a response from Graham Jones MP about Fairfield Children's Centre
 - a response from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust covering several buildings (particularly the Chai Centre and Colne Children's Centre)
 - a response from Fulwood and North Preston Labour Party Branch about the proposals in general
 - a response from an Independent Chair of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board about the proposals in general
 - a response from Bretherton Parish Council about the proposal in general
 - a response from the Leader of Hyndburn Borough Council about Fairfield Children's Centre and Great Harwood Young People's Centre
 - a response from Preston City Council about Ashton Young People's Centre, Sunshine Children's Centre and Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre
 - 19 emails from members of the public
 - a petition with 1,067 signatories to save Chai Centre services.

2. Introduction

The Children and Family Wellbeing service in Lancashire identifies as early as possible when a child, young person or their family needs support, helping them to access services to meet their needs, preventing any problems getting worse and reducing the demand for specialist support services. Working together with key partners, they make sure that they have maximum impact on achieving positive outcomes for families. The Children and Family Wellbeing service prioritises vulnerable groups, individuals and communities, based on assessed levels of need under the following themes:

- Safeguarding and supporting the vulnerable
- Supporting family life
- Enabling learning
- Preparing for work
- Improving community safety
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Developing healthier places.

The service works with the people they support in different ways and places like:

- one-to-one support between a worker and a family
- group-based sessions held in different community buildings, like a village hall
- outreach in places like homes, at school or a local café
- their work with young people can even be on the streets.

The Children and Family Wellbeing service is implementing a budget reduction of £1.25 million as agreed by Full Council in February 2018. As part of this, the service needs to identify the most effective use of buildings to support their service delivery.

We looked at evidence of how the Children and Family Wellbeing Service made a difference to children, young people and families and how the service could become more effective. The service focussed on how they could provide support direct to people in their home settings where possible and delivering in community settings where best. This would enable them to become more people focused rather than building based. By doing this, the service plans to reduce the number of buildings where they are based and work more flexibly in the community.

We proposed to cease delivering the service from 19 buildings whilst still delivering a service in 57 buildings. The other services delivered in these buildings would not be affected by our proposals.

We looked at what is good about the buildings we use now and what could be better about them, such as:

- how easy it is to get to the buildings
- how much need there is for our services in different places
- how much each building is used and what it is used for
- how suitable the buildings are for delivering our services
- each buildings' running costs and condition

- what other services are provided in the building
- the likely impact on the local community.

Using this information, we identified which buildings we thought we should continue to deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services from and which buildings we thought we should withdraw delivering services from.

We will also commission a 12-19 years youth offer through the voluntary, community and faith sector to support our delivery of services to young people across Lancashire.

3. Methodology

For this consultation, paper questionnaires were made available in the buildings where children and family wellbeing services are delivered. An electronic version of the consultation questionnaire was available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk. The organisation Creative Exchange also conducted consultation workshops with service users during July 2018.

569 stakeholders with interests in the Children and Family Wellbeing Service were emailed at the beginning of the consultation. These stakeholders were informed that the consultation had started and that they could respond online, or by picking up a paper questionnaire from one of the buildings where children and family wellbeing services are delivered.

The fieldwork ran for eight weeks between 6 June 2018 and 3 August 2018. In total, 729 completed questionnaires were returned (271 paper questionnaire responses and 458 online questionnaire responses).

First, the questionnaire outlined the proposal for the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and then identifies, by district, the 57 buildings we propose to keep delivering children and family wellbeing services from and the 19 buildings we proposed to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services from.

The main section of the questionnaire included nine questions. The first four questions asked respondents about their use of children and family wellbeing services and the buildings these services are delivered from. This section of the questionnaire included the questions, 'Generally, how often do you go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service?', 'Which of the following Children and Family Wellbeing services have you used in the last 12 months?', 'In the last 12 months, have you used any of the buildings we are proposing to keep delivering Children and Family Wellbeing services from?' and 'In the last 12 months, have you used any of the buildings we are proposing to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services from?'. The next five questions asked respondents about their views on the proposal and how it would affect them. This section of the questionnaire included the questions, 'If the proposal happened would you go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service more often, about the same as now, less often or not at all?', 'How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?', 'Why do you say this?', 'If the proposal happened, how would this affect you?', and

'Thinking about this proposal, please tell us if you think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently.'

The remaining questions asked respondents for information about themselves; for example, if they or male or female. This information is presented in appendix 1.

In this report respondents' responses to the open questions have been classified against a coding frame to quantify the qualitative data. Coding is the process of combining the issues, themes and ideas in qualitative open responses into a set of codes. The codes are given meaningful names that relate to the issue, so that during close reading of responses it can be seen when similar issues relate to a similar code. As the analysis process continues the coding frame is added to and refined as new issues are raised by respondents. All responses to open questions are then coded against the coding frame, and can be subsequently analysed as quantitative data.

3.1 Limitations

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

In the open questions respondents were asked to identify any buildings relevant to their comments. The buildings identified by respondents are discussed in table 1 and section 4.3. Not every respondent identified a building because their response related to the Children and Family Wellbeing Service in general. Some respondent's comments focused on areas, such as Oswaldtwistle, without commenting on specific buildings. Other respondents didn't clearly identify the building they were referring to. Therefore, when processing the data and selecting which building a comment should be attributed to some judgement was required. Where a comment didn't clearly identify which building was being referred to, such as the Zone, or if the comment focused on an area, such as Ribble Valley, then these comments are presented in table 1 and section 4.3 as they were written by the respondent.

A small number of completed questionnaires were received over a week after the main data was processed. These responses have not be included in the results in charts 1 to 9. However, the responses do form part of the information in table 1 and in section 4.3.

4. Main findings

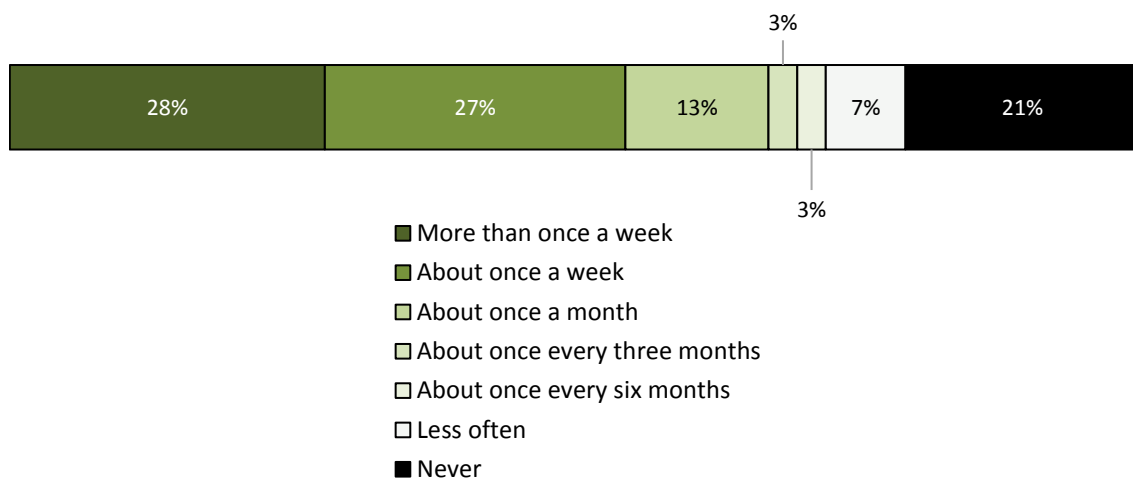
4.1 Use of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Respondents were first asked how often they go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service.

More than half of respondents (55%) said that they go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service about once a week or more.

About a fifth of respondents (21%) said that they never go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service.

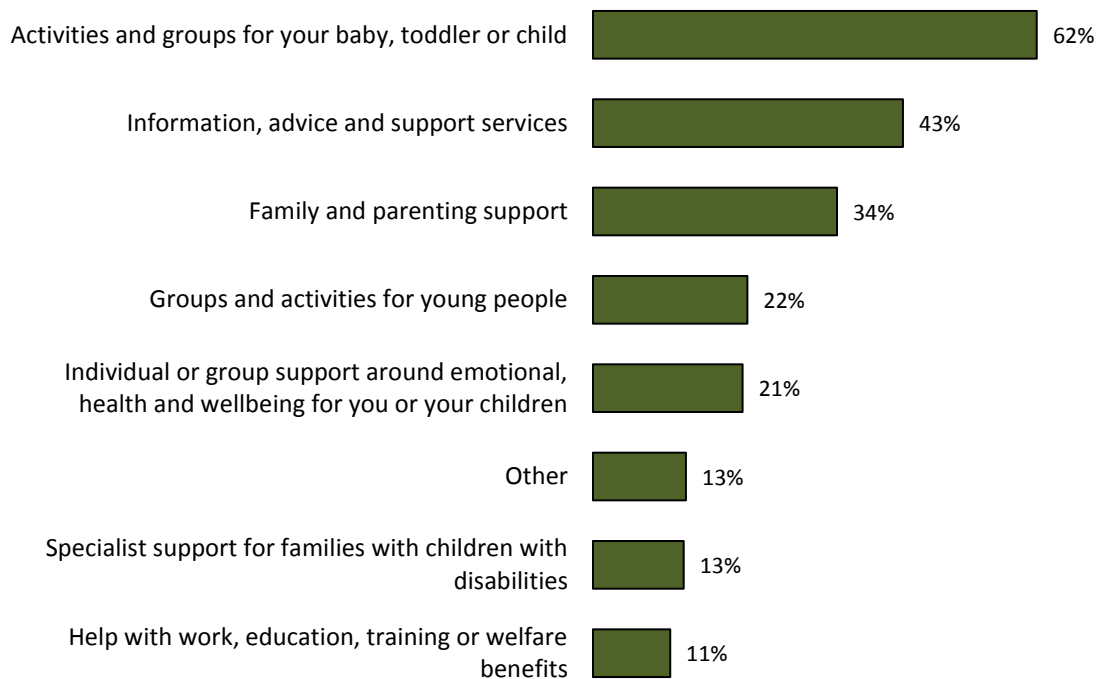
Chart 1 - Generally, how often do you go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service?



Base: all respondents (710)

Respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service were then asked which services they used in the last 12 months. These respondents were most likely to say that the Children and Family Wellbeing services they had used in the last 12 months were activities and groups for their baby, toddler or child (62%), information, advice and support services (43%), and family and parenting support (34%).

Chart 2 - Which of the following Children and Family Wellbeing services have you used in the last 12 months?

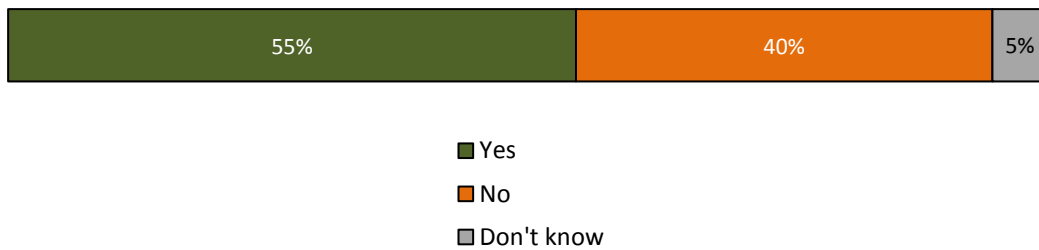


Base: respondents who have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service (582)

Respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service were then asked if they had used, in the last 12 months, any of the buildings we are proposing to keep delivering Children and Family Wellbeing services from.

Over half of these respondents (55%) said that in the last 12 months they had used a building or buildings that we are proposing to keep delivering children and family wellbeing services from. However, two-fifths of these respondents (40%) said that they had not used the one of these buildings in the last 12 months.

Chart 3 - In the last 12 months, have you used any of the buildings we are proposing to keep delivering Children and Family Wellbeing services from?

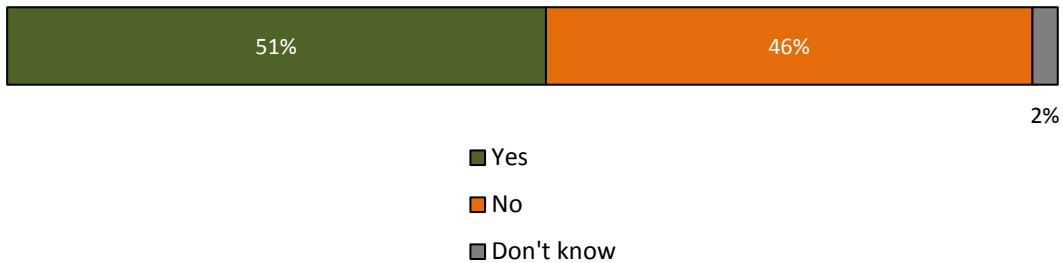


Base: respondents who have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service (679)

Respondents who said that they have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service were then asked if they had used, in the last 12 months, any of the buildings we are proposing to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services from.

About half of these respondents (51%) said that in the last 12 months they had used a building or buildings that we are proposing to no longer deliver children and family wellbeing services from. Less than half of these respondents (46%) said that they had not used the one of these buildings in the last 12 months.

Chart 4 - In the last 12 months, have you used any of the buildings we are proposing to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services from?



Base: respondents who have been to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service (667)

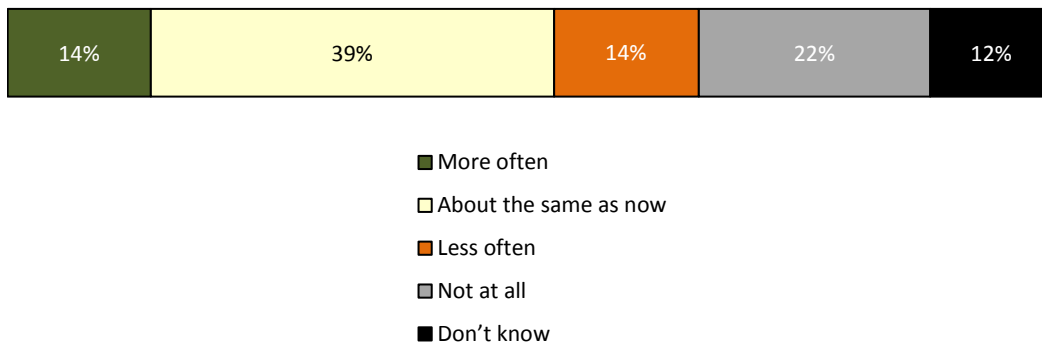
4.2 The proposal for the Children and Family Wellbeing Service

All respondents were then asked if the proposal happened would they go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service more often, about the same, less often, or not at all.

About one in seven respondents (14%) said that if the proposal happened they would go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service more often than they do now and about two-fifths of respondents (39%) said that they would go about as often as they do now.

About one in seven respondents (14%) said that if the proposal happened they would go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service less often than they do now and about a fifth of respondents (22%) said that they would not go at all.

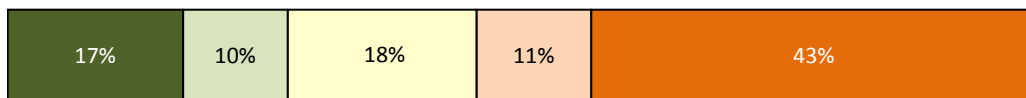
Chart 5 - If the proposal happened would you go to a building to use a Children and Family Wellbeing service more often, about the same as now, less often or not at all?



Base: all respondents (700)

Respondents were then asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal. About a quarter of respondents (27%) said that they agree with the proposal. However, over half of respondents (54%) said that they disagree with the proposal.

Chart 6 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

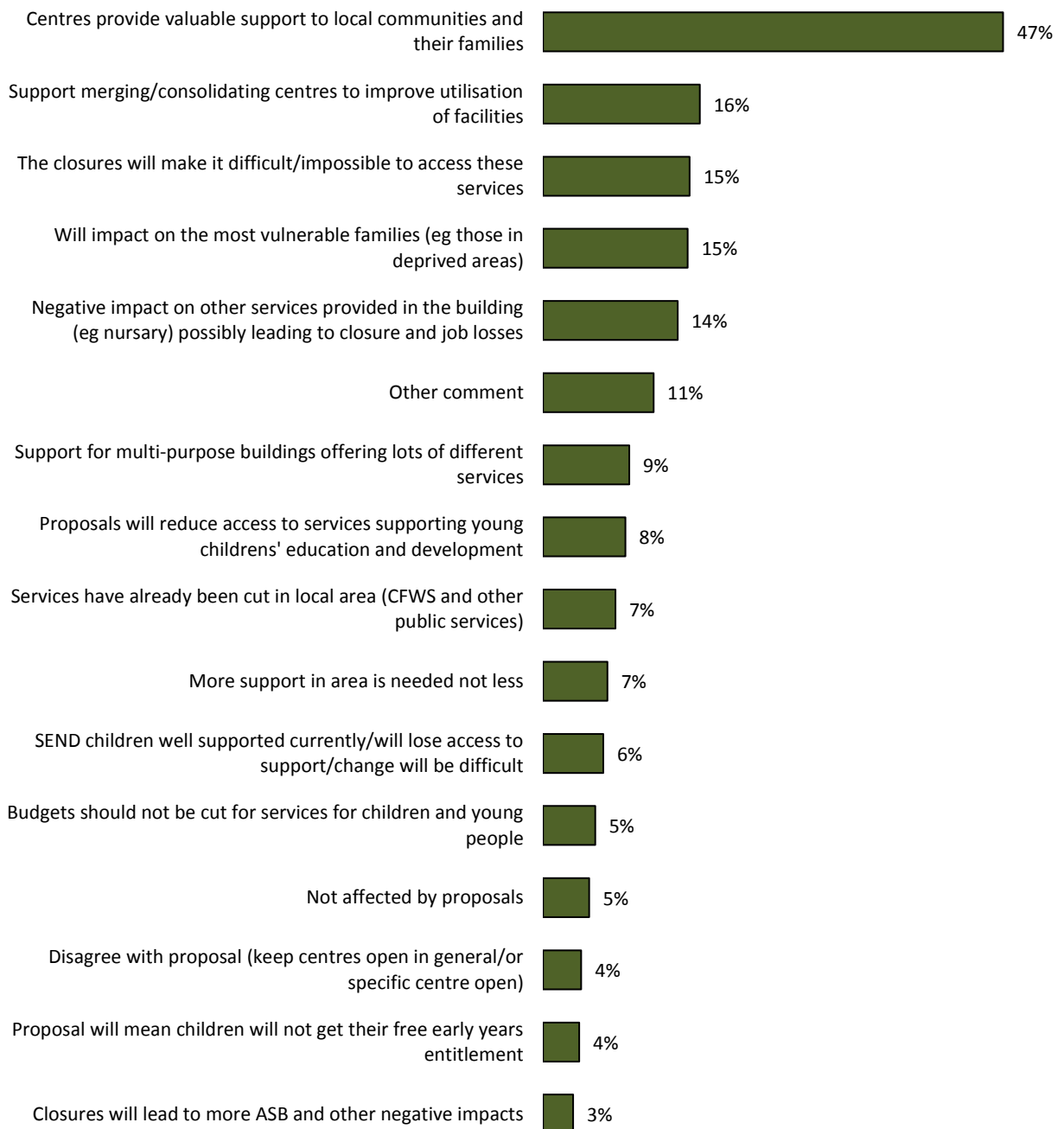


- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

Base: all respondents (709)

Respondents were then asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal. Respondents most commonly responded that centres provide valuable support to local communities and their family (47%), they support merging/consolidating centres to improve the utilisation of facilities (16%), the closures will make it difficult/impossible to access these services (15%), it will negatively impact on the most vulnerable families (15%) and it will have a negative impact on other services provided in the building (eg nursery) possibly leading to closure and job losses (14%).

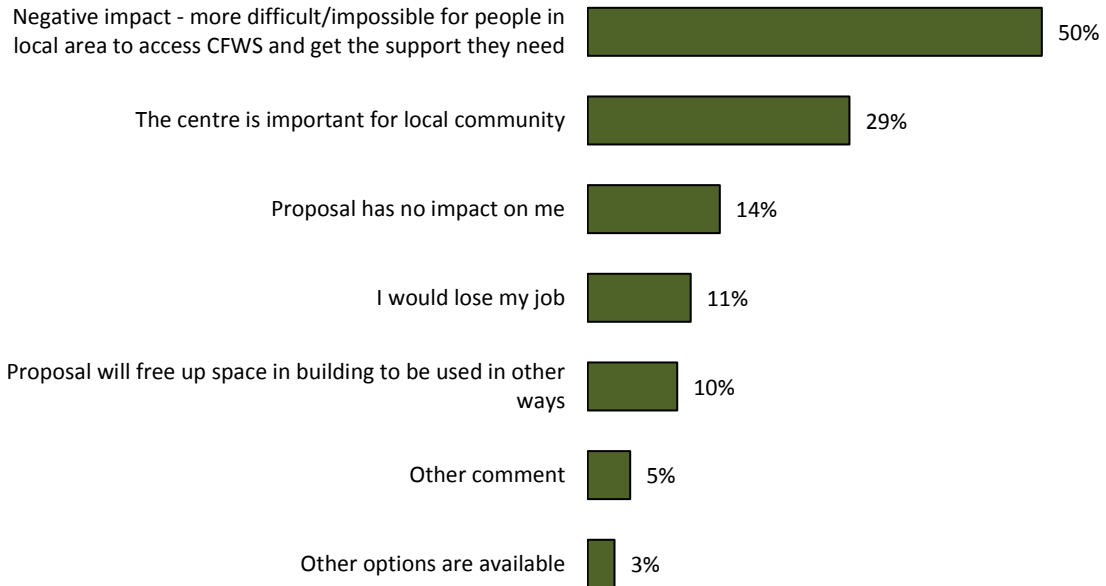
Chart 7 - Why do you say this?



Base: all respondents (488)

Respondents were then asked if the proposal happened how it would affect them. Respondents most commonly responded that it would be more difficult/impossible for people in the local area to access children and family wellbeing services and get the support they need (50%) and the centre is important for the local community (29%).

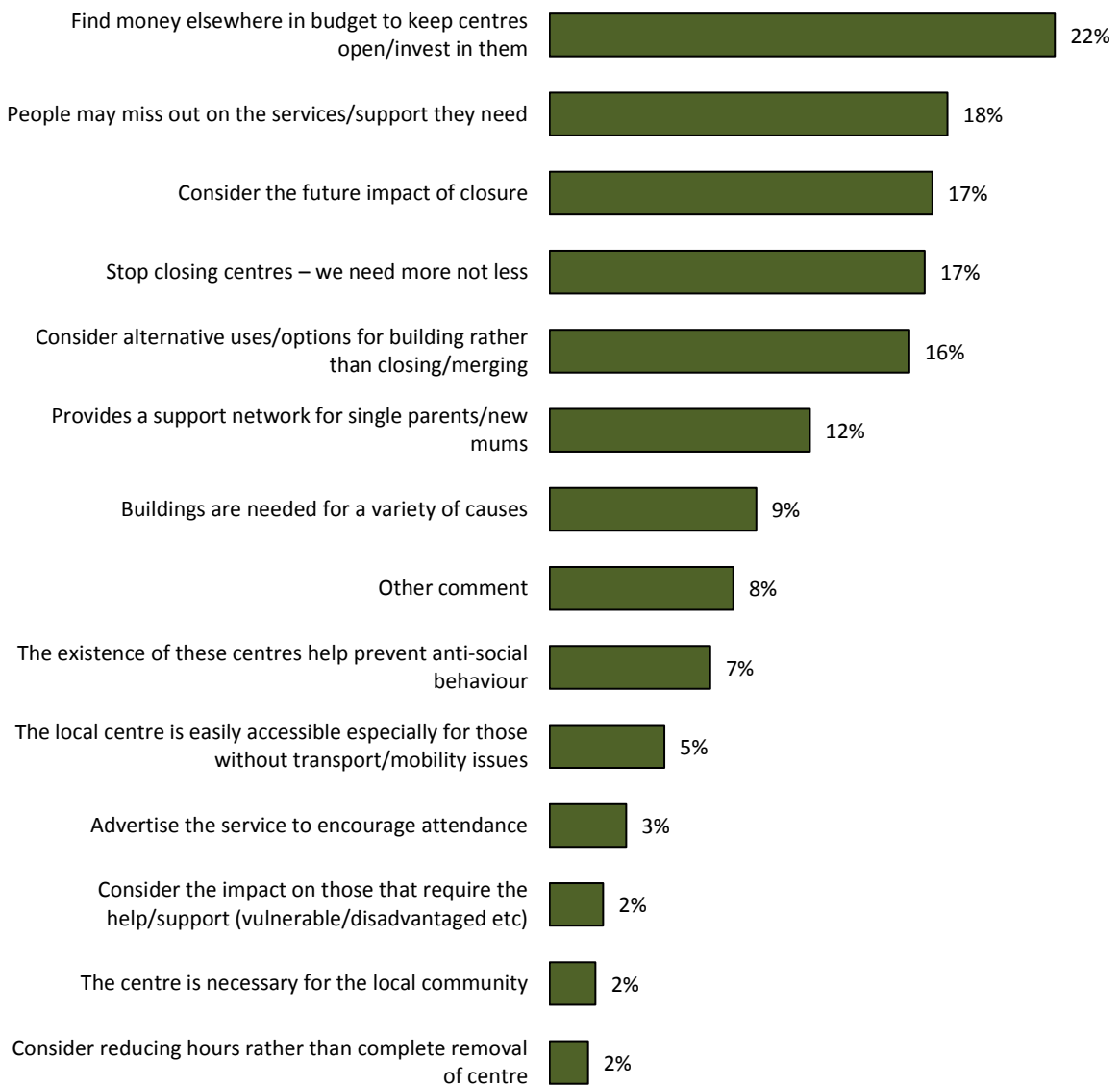
Chart 8 - If the proposal happened, how would this affect you?



Base: all respondents (408)

Respondents were then asked if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently. Respondents most commonly responded that we should find money elsewhere in our budget to keep centre open/invest in them (22%), people may miss out on the services/support they need (18%), consider the future impact of the closure (17%), stop closing centres – we need more not less (17%) and could alternative uses/option for building be considered rather than closing/merging (16%).

Chart 9 - Thinking about this proposal, please tell us if you think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently.



Base: all respondents (294)

In the previous three questions¹ respondents were asked to provide their comments on the proposal for the Children and Family Wellbeing Service using free text boxes. Respondents were asked to identify any buildings relevant to their response. Not every respondent identified a building (or, as some respondents did, identified a general geographic area), as their response related to the Children and Family Wellbeing Service in general.

The most commonly mentioned buildings were Walton Lane Children's Centre (92 respondents), Willows Park Children's Centre (38 respondents), Longridge Young People's Centre (30 respondents), The Chai Centre Children's Centre (26 respondents), Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre (25 respondents) and Appletree Children's Centre (23 respondents).

Table 1 - Buildings or areas mentioned in respondent's responses

	Count
Walton Lane Children's Centre	92
Willows Park Children's Centre	38
Longridge Young People's Centre	30
The Chai Centre Children's Centre	26
Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre	25
Fairfield Children's Centre	24
Appletree Children's Centre	23
Coppull Children's Centre	10
Ashton Young People's Centre	9
Halton Library and Children's Centre	9
Whitegate Children's Centre	9
Longridge	8
Sunshine Children's Centre (New Hall Lane Drop-in)	7
Fleetwood Children's Centre	6
St John's Children's Centre (Skelmersdale)	6
Colne	5
First Steps Children's Centre	5
Lancaster	5
Morecambe	5
Colne Children's Centre	3
Earby Community Centre	3
Family Tree Children's Centre	3
Fleetwood Children's Centre (Flakefleet satellite)	3
Morecambe Library	3
Poulton Children's Centre	3
Reedley Hallows Children's Centre	3
Ribblesdale Children's Centre	3
Whitworth Children's Centre	3
Burnley Wood Children's Centre	2

¹ Q7 – Why do you say this?

Q8 – If the proposal happened, how would this affect you?

Q9 – Thinking about this proposal, please tell us if you think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently

	Count
Clayton-le-Moors and Altham Children's Centre	2
Colne Young People's Centre	2
Copper House Children's Centre	2
Eccleston Blossomfields Children's Centre	2
Heysham Children's Centre	2
Lune Park Children's Centre	2
Ribble Valley	2
Rothwell Drive Neighbourhood Centre	2
The Carnforth Hub Children's Centre and Young People's Centre	2
The Zone in Rossendale	2
Whitworth	2
Ightenhill Children's Centre	2
Adlington	1
Barnoldswick Young People's Centre	1
Chorley	1
Civic centre	1
Colne Centre	1
Garstang Neighbourhood Centre (Garstang Library)	1
Gawthorpe	1
Gisburn Road Children's Centre	1
Great Harwood Young People's Centre	1
Heysham, Dallas Road	1
Highfield Children's Centre	1
Leyland	1
Preston East Children's Centre	1
Rossendale	1
South West Burnley Children's Centre	1
Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Young People's Centre	1
The Grove Young People's Centre and Children's Centre	1
The Maden Centre	1
The Park	1
The Zone	1
The Zone in Pendle	1
The Zone in West Lancashire	1
Thornton Children's Centre	1
Westgate Children's Centre	1
WLNSRHC	1
Young People's centre - Hyndburn	1
Young People's centre - Ribble Valley	1
Youth Zone Chorley	1
Hyndburn	1
Accrington	1
Clayton-Le-Moors	1
Oswaldtwistle	1

Base: all respondents (349)

4.3 Key issues by building

The following section outlines the key issues raised by respondents for the buildings we are proposing to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing service from, where more than ten respondents commented on the building.

4.3.1 Walton Lane Children's Centre (92 responses)

Many respondents felt that removing services from this centre will leave the nursery at risk of closure. Some respondents noted that Walton Lane Children's Centre supports a high number of children with special educational needs and disabilities. There was a feeling that other centres/providers in the region would not be able to meet the needs of the children who use the centre.

4.3.2 Willows Park Children's Centre (38 responses)

Although not universal, many respondents agreed Willows Park Children's Centre was under used and supported moving services to Longridge Young People's Centre.

Many respondents were keen to see the floor space used by Willows Park Children's Centre be taken over by the gym that already operates in building.

4.3.3 The Chai Centre Children's Centre (26 responses)

Respondents felt that the Chai centre is positioned in the heart of the community and is very accessible, particularly for those without their own transport. Respondents noted that the Chai Centre is a multi-purpose building and is close to other local facilities and services. Respondents noted that the centre supports minorities and those with disabilities.

Some respondents commented that they were concerned that the nearest alternative centre (Stoneyholme and Daneshouse) does not provide the same support offered by the Chai Centre.

4.3.4 Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre (25 responses)

Respondents commented that the centre is the hub of the community. Respondents also noted the good parking facilities and that the combination of library and children's centre in one building works well.

4.3.5 Fairfield Children's Centre (24 responses)

Many respondents felt that removing services from this centre would leave the nursery at risk of closure and would impact on the viability of delivering other services in the building. There was a feeling that other centres/providers in the region would not be able to meet the needs of the children who use the centre. For example, those who speak little English, or those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Respondents commented that many people who attend the centre walk to it and that the nearest alternative centres aren't a comfortable walking distance and that this would discourage people from accessing the services and support that they need.

4.3.6 Appletree Children's Centre (23 responses)

Respondents said that the centre is in the heart of a community that has a high level of deprivation. In comparison, White Cross is in the centre of a business park that isn't easily accessible for any part of the community and isn't close to the retail centre.

Respondents also noted that the centre benefits from an abundance of parking nearby and that service users benefit from being able to access a number of services at the building.

5. Other responses

5.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council

"I am pleased to confirm the views of Ribble Valley Borough Council on your proposals. This issue has been carefully considered by members of the RV Health and Wellbeing partnership who wish to confirm their view that it is critical that services to support children and families continue to be provided and the council would not support any reduction in services and indeed would wish to see services expanded particularly to address the needs of those who may be more isolated across the rural community.

Your specific proposal in regard to Clitheroe with a focus of delivery through the facilities at the Zone at Trinity, are supported. Similarly members held the view that the proposal to consolidate existing Longridge services at the Youth Centre at Berry lane and to close the offer from the civic hall was supported. I must stress that members wish to emphasise their view that overall there should be no reduction in service and that where possible opportunities to widen access perhaps through increased use of village halls for groups should be explored."

5.2 Graham Jones MP

"I am concerned about Lancashire County Council's proposals to remove the service from Fairfield Nursery School in Accrington. At present, as the Children and Family Wellbeing Service operates out of the nursery building, it contributes towards the maintenance and building costs. If the service is removed from Fairfield Nursery it will have severe consequences for the nursery and its budget, as this financial contribution would be removed.

Maintained nursery schools are already facing extreme financial pressures. As the government have revised the funding formula for early year's education, maintained nurseries have seen their funding reduced. At present, 75% of Lancashire's maintained nurseries are in, or face, financial deficit, with some at risk of closure. Whilst supplementary funding has been provided until 2019-20, there are extreme concerns of a funding shortfall after this period has ended.

Yet Fairfield Nursery School is a fantastic nursery, and is one that we cannot risk to lose. It provides high quality education to children; it is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted and has repeatedly received this classification. As a maintained nursery, it also gives priority to children who have Special Education Need or disability (SEND). Therefore, it is vital for providing education to local SEND children.

Maintained nurseries serve some of our most vulnerable and deprived children. Fairfield exemplifies this and it was recognised by Ofsted that the school provides excellent support to disadvantaged children. This is crucial to assisting social mobility within Hyndburn.

Therefore I am deeply concerned about the impact that the removal would have on Fairfield Nursery's budget, and the wider consequences that this would have on local children and families."

5.3 Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

"Further to your email 8th June to inform the Trust that the Council are seeking views on a proposal to reduce the number of buildings where the Children and Family Wellbeing Service is based and to work more flexibly within the community.

The Trust has carefully considered the proposals put forward in the consultation and our response is set out in this letter. We will also be feeding these views directly into the online questionnaire, although that appears mostly geared to consultation with members of the public rather than organisations, and so we felt this letter would help capture our response more fully.

The following table illustrates those buildings proposed for cessation of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service where LCFT currently delivers services from and the activity in question.

Building	Current LCFT activity
Chai Centre, Burnley	Base for 0-19 staff Baby Clinic
Colne Children's Centre	Base for 0-19 staff Baby Clinic
Whitworth Children's Centre	Baby Clinic
Great Harwood Children's Centre	Baby Clinic
Whitegate Children's Centre	Baby Clinic

The following buildings would also be affected by the proposals but do not currently involve any direct service provision by LCFT or serve as staff bases for the Trust

Coppull Children's Centre
St John's Children's Centre, Skelmersdale
Ashton Young People's Centre
Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre
Sunshine Children's Centre, Preston
Ribblesdale Children's Centre, Clitheroe
Willows Park Children's Centre, Longridge
Earby Community Centre
Walton Lane Children's Centre, Nelson
Fairfield Children's Centre, Accrington

In addition to the above, 4 buildings from the 19 affected by the proposals are based in the North of the County, which is covered by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals 0-19 services – Apple Tree and Halton (Lancaster); Westview Children's Centre (Fleetwood) and Fleetwood Children's Centre

The proposals, if taken forward, would impact adversely on the Trust and more broadly to service provision for Children and Families as follows

1. **The Chai centre** management is overseen by a charitable body on behalf of the Trust, LCC and Calico Housing. The departure of LCC staff would result in a rental loss of £40K per annum, which could threaten the viability of other services operating from the Chai centre, reduce crucial joint working and create a financial pressure for the remaining occupants. The building is also subject to restrictive covenants on its

disposal and future use and the Trust therefore has very significant concerns about the proposed cessation of the Child and Family Wellbeing service from this building in terms of its financial and wider impact on our services and those in the VCFS. It would also be helpful to know if Calico have been consulted directly in relation to the proposals referred to in this letter

2. **Colne Children's Centre** is owned and managed by the Trust. The proposals you have put forward would result in a rental income loss of £56.5K per annum to the Trust as well as reducing collaborative joint work between services for vulnerable children and families.

3. The **potential wider impact on communities experiencing deprivation**. A number of the buildings in the proposals are located in such communities. There is therefore a potentially major adverse impact in ceasing the Children and Family Wellbeing Service bases from within specific neighbourhoods where health outcomes and life chances are particularly challenged and families may be hard to reach in the first instance. Furthermore, the ability and willingness of families to travel to alternative bases and engage with services could be further compromised.

4. **The impact on joint working with the Council** and other partners where there is existing co-location with the 0-19 service, particularly in relation to the Chai centre and Colne Children's Centre. Our view is that the proposals would prove counterproductive in terms of fostering further integration and collaborative, holistic approaches to health and social care support we believe that there is a potential impact on the Specification for Trust 0-19 services given the emphasis on joint working between LCFT and the Children and Family Wellbeing service.

5. The consultation does not say **how the risks associated with the proposals will be managed and mitigated**, so sight of the equality impact assessment undertaken for this work would be most welcome. Furthermore the consultation information does not include any information about how deprivation weightings and other factors, such as the potential for greater integrated working, have been specifically applied to reach the proposals. It would therefore be helpful if you could provide more information about the methodology used to reach the conclusions which form the basis of these proposals.

6. It is also noted that the Council will also commission a **12-19 years youth offer** through the voluntary, community and faith sector to support delivery of services to young people across Lancashire, although no specific are provided with regard to this so more information on this would be welcome."

5.4 Fulwood and North Preston Labour Party Branch

I am writing on behalf of Fulwood and North Preston Branch Labour Party regarding the proposed closure of Sure Start Centres.

Closing such centres unless amalgamated with another centre is a retrograde step in the socio-economic and educational development of young children and adults in deprived areas. On a personal level, I spent many years as a councillor actively working with Sure Start and was on the Board of the first tranche of Sure Start programmes. Over the years there have been many changes to services such as, Lad's and Dad's Clubs, Parenting classes, Healthy eating programmes to name a few. These community hubs are now outreach centres signposting people to other services for example, GPs, advice on Domestic Violence, Smoking and Drinking. In the past I have spoken to new mums who have overcome depression and mums who have taken further education courses to provide a better life style for them and their families, all due to Sure Start.

The outcomes of Early Years Learning are well documented with empirical evidence that children with pre-school education are better equipped to adapt socially and educationally into the school environment. Closing the door will create an uneven playing field where children in deprived areas will be denied access to a better start in life which is the right of every child in Preston and Lancashire.

As a group, we strongly urge you to reconsider your intention of closing Sure Start Centres.

5.5 Independent Chair – Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

"Having read the consultation document and had a look at the "Have your Say" form – the document does not really work for my particular and unusual position – hence this brief response.

Without the underpinning research referred to, respondents have to trust that the rationale for which buildings to cease to use is sound – we cannot see this for ourselves!

In light of the above my only comment about the locations chosen is that it seems odd to be pulling out of buildings in some areas of high deprivation whilst staying in all the venues in, for example, South Ribble.

The consultation only refers to loss of locations but I had understood that a significant number of posts were also to be removed. Have I missed this in the document – if there are to be reduced posts then this should be explicit? I am aware that these may be vacant posts and as such will not lead to a reduction in the service per se but it does reduce service potential at a time when pressure on the delivery of Early Help has never been greater. Reducing the capacity to respond early is counter-productive and will very likely lead to a need for more costly services down the line. It reduces the capacity to offer strength based support to families early on.

Overall the work the LSCB does and the reports it receives all support increasing rather than decreasing access to early help."

5.6 Bretherton Parish Council

"The Parish Council feels that the County Council should be guided by the views and responses from those directly affected and organisation who work to support children and families."

5.7 Miles Parkinson, leader of Hyndburn Borough Council and County Councillor for the Great Harwood, Rishton & Clayton-le-Moors Ward

"As a District Council we want to work with Lancashire County Council (LCC) to help make the best possible decisions for the people of Hyndburn. We would like LCC to clarify their presence and intentions with the Copperhouse Centre in Rishton and the Civic Centre in Clayton-le-Moors.

We also have concerns about the Young People's Centre in Great Harwood (Lowerfold) and feel this is an important facility to the local community. With this in mind we would be keen for this building to be transferred over to Hyndburn Leisure who could make this facility an asset to the local community of Great Harwood and beyond.

However, as leader of Hyndburn Borough Council I am disappointed with the proposal to close the service at the Fairfield Centre in Accrington. This centre provides a valuable service to a large number of vulnerable people across Accrington situated in a deprived part of the town. The service also covers a large part of the town where Hyndburn and Lancashire County Council struggles with take up to services due to the diverse makeup of the community. We feel we should be encouraging people from this local community rather than taking services away. The alternative nearest centre is over two kilometres away which would put a large number of parents / children off from participating at these facilities resulting in a large number of vulnerable families missing out on all the important activities and services provided."

5.8 Preston City Council response to LCC consultation

"Lancashire County Council is inviting views to their proposal to reduce the number of buildings where the children and family wellbeing service is based across Lancashire. In Preston three out of the nine buildings offering the service will be affected.

Proposals for buildings to no longer deliver Children and Family Wellbeing services:

1. Ashton Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Ashton Young People's Centre)
Tulketh Crescent, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, PR2 2RH
2. New Hall Lane Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Sunshine Children's Centre (New Hall Lane Drop-in))
184 New Hall Lane, Preston, PR1 4DX

3. Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre (Sharoe Green Library and Cherry Tree Children's Centre)
8 Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8ED

Councillor Nweeda Khan, Cabinet Member for Communities and Social Justice, Preston City Council:

“Preston City Council regrets Lancashire County Council’s proposal to close the three centres in Preston: Ashton Young People’s Centre; New Hall Lane Drop-in; and Sharoe Green Neighbourhood centre, and would urge LCC to reconsider the closure of these valued community centres.

The Ashton Young People’s Centre in Ashton-on-Ribble in particular is one of only two venues in Preston that caters for young people with disabilities and we understand that Lancashire County Council uses the Star Youth Club to deliver around half of all its services for 11-19 year olds with disabilities in Preston. This is undoubtedly a valued service that would be lost to the community or at the very least cause distress and disruption to current users should an alternative venue or way of delivery be proposed.

The centre has also recently undergone major work of around £50,000 in 2014 to improve its facilities, making its closure so soon after these improvements economically unsound.

I also understand that it used as an after school club and more recently as a holiday food market facility, something which will chime with both PCC’s and LCC’s fairness ambitions.

Local councillors are very keen for LCC to reconsider its proposal in this instance to allow them to continue to build on this kind of activity and to provide a real resource for the community in Ashton. There are real opportunities for a venue of this nature to be the focal point for many community activities covering health and wellbeing for all of the community in the area such as drop-in advice centres (eg financial inclusion), food clubs, work clubs, perhaps even on a co-operative basis.

As with all the centres, we are certain that the closure of these venues would be a huge loss to their communities and there is great opportunity to build on their usage to help LCC deliver its services in Preston.

Generally councillors have expressed their concerns to me saying closing down the three Children Centres in Preston would have a “devastating impact on the local communities they serve as the most vulnerable children and families will lose out the most.” Children Centres provide help to those families who need support in an environment local to them that they trust so they can raise their children to have the best chance to succeed in life. Closing these centres will exacerbate inequality in Preston and deny families and children the support they deserve and need. Keeping the centres open means that every child; no matter where they are born, has every chance to succeed.

Whilst we can sympathise with maintaining services with fewer resources, and that LCC states it is not reducing its frontline service in this respect, we would very much urge you not to view the centres merely as buildings, rather as much valued community facilities and therefore review your decision to close them."

5.9 Email 1

"Pilling will have a new village community centre at Taylors Lane, Pilling PR3 6AB in which we are expecting to provide space and accommodation to deliver such services. We would be interested in working with Lancss CC to serve any local need.

Besides being able to provide accommodation in our new premises we have a newly open Trim Trail and 1200m of Wheel Chair friendly pathways on our site along with extensive children's recreation and leisure facilities and two football pitches. We aim to provide a variety of services on site for all age groups.

We would be pleased to be kept abreast of developments and prepared to enter into discussions asap in order to explore collaborative working in this area."

5.10 Email 2

"I have no finger in this pie but heard of a charity (helps when money short!) called HENRY. Good talk on radio 4 re childhood obesity early prevention. Yoou can find Henry on net & 8 Elm Place, Witney Rd Oxfordshire OX29 4BD. Good if helpful no bother if not Good wishes"

5.11 Email 3

"This consultation is meaningless without the list of buildings for closure. I fully understand the Council's financial position and assume that it is legally required to provide "a service". Why not close all the buildings and work from some of the school based former Children's Centres on a part time basis. This would support school budgets and utilise quality under used buildings."

5.12 Email 4

"I am very concerned to read of the possible closure of Cherry Tree Children Centre which currently provides a wide range of family support services. As a retired Health Visitor I am only too well aware of the importance of these facilities to family health and wellbeing. Toddlers benefit from shared play and socialising with other children and mothers are able to be supportive of one another.

The close proximity to the Library is another important benefit to young families. I feel concerned that whilst the service will remain in Brookfield this is not easily accessible for a mother with a baby and toddler and no car!! ----- particularly if she has been up during the night or has postnatal low mood!

It is important to bear in mind that the services offered provide the support that may prevent family problems requiring future Council support and funding.

I feel that this Neighbourhood Centre has a vital role in the wellbeing of the local community and that its closure would be a very retrograde action."

5.13 Email 5

"Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre - This centre organizes more than five essential parenting and learning courses. This is a crucial information and support service for young and old and in particular for parents of young babies. Closing this facility of basic needs would be disgraceful and a disappointment in the Lancashire County Council."

5.14 Email 6

"I write to express my objection to the closure of Childrens Centres in Preston and in particular Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre. These centres provide a much needed and utilised facility for children and families in Preston. They are local amenities for local communities providing essential input and support especially to vulnerable children. LCC are responsible for the welfare of the residents it purports to represent and would be failing miserably if it were to remove these services. You must reconsider this action and keep these centres open."

5.15 Email 7

"I am writing to state my concern that the County Council proposes to close the Cherry Tree Children Centre. This has provided a valuable local service for my family and other parents and their young children."

Council Leader Driver has stressed the importance of maintaining local services. It is regrettable that under his control the County Council devoted scarce resources to re-opening libraries closed as economy measures, but must now make savings by closing centres for health care instead.

Under the Government's continuing austerity measures, the County Council will have to make further substantial cuts to local services. Which services does Councillor Driver consider most important to the community - local libraries, health centres or another service? And which areas does he consider have the greatest need of council services? Where will he strike next?"

5.16 Email 8

"Proposed closure of Sharon Green Neighbourhood centre - I am sad and surprised to learn the future of our local Neighbourhood centre is under threat of closure. The facility is a great asset in our area for families to access health provision. I'd like to register my objection to this proposal."

5.17 Email 9

"I'm extremely shocked and surprised to hear of the proposed closure of cherry tree children's centre."

The baby led stay and play group was a massive advantage when I had my children. I used this in 2008 and 2014. I met some amazing mums and we all supported each other and still do. My husband accessed the dads group too! The breastfeeding support I received there was excellent which helped me give both children the best start in life! The sensory room was an added bonus as well as baby massage and weaning talks.

This children's centre has a real community feel. If anything it should be utilised more. With it being next door to the library it is a perfect location.

I believe if this children's centre closes down it would be extremely detrimental to the health and well being of new mums and dads who need support at such an important time."

5.18 Email 10

"I was so saddened to hear that Cherry Tree Children's Centre is due to close. I attended baby and toddler groups and it was a great comfort to be able to meet other mums there. As a first time mum, having somewhere local to meet other new mums was a great help to my mental health. I really looked forward to going to the groups and made friends for life there. It worries me that places like this will close and new mums won't have the same access I did to local services at a time when they are most vulnerable. I really do hope that this decision is reconsidered."

5.19 Email 11

"Cherry tree needs to stay open it's a lifeline for most people in the area!!"

5.20 Email 12

"Disappointed to hear of the proposed closure of Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre. Almost five years on I am close friends with a group of mum's I met at the centre. I turned up on my own and found friends and support that will last many years. The city is growing and this service should remain to help many many more families."

5.21 Email 13

"I am writing to complain about the proposed closure of the Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre. This is a vital local asset that provides support for the most needy in our community and it should remain open."

5.22 Email 14

"I am emailing about the proposed closure of Sharoe Green Neighbourhood centre.

I attended the Stay and Play sessions here on Tuesday mornings until I went back to work a couple of months ago. These free sessions are important for parents to meet other local parents of babies and toddlers, to get out of the house and to encourage their babies development. In these times of austerity, the fact that they are free also enables all local parents to attend. With better advertising for the centre and it's services I believe there would be many more local parents wishing to use it. The centre is in a good location with easy parking at the library and with nice, informative and friendly staff - it should stay open!"

5.23 Email 15

"I am writing in response to the proposal of closing cherry CC.

I feel strongly this should remain open for the following reasons:

The CC is in a neighbourhood with a high population of children and families which they can currently access with ease as it is in a central area of Fulwood, on a bus

route, has good parking facilities and it is some distance to access other childrens centre.

I have used childrens centres in the past to access baby groups, make other mums, meet health professionals, access health groups and resources and would intend to use this particular children centre in the future if I have another child. I feel childrens centres can be a valuable form of support and help reduce post natal depression which affects all mums regardless of their background.

If the facility is closed then not only the most vulnerable families in fulwood will be significantly affected but also all families that require additional support and will be unable to access valuable groups, access health visitor and health professionals on a regular basis"

5.24 Email 16

"I am writing regarding the proposed closure of Sharoe green children's centre. I have found it to be a fantastic centre with great staff. I have used it for baby clinics, stay and play, and parenting courses. I believe it is vital to have local services such as this in the community and feel that its closure would be a great loss to the local area."

5.25 Email 17

"I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre. My son is older now, so it is some time since I have visited it, but I know how important it is for services to be provided locally for the parents of young children. Child development and education are essential to the creation and maintenance of a safe, stable and fair society and I would urge our councillors to consider carefully whether short-term savings will have far reaching costs."

5.26 Email 18

"I hear that you are considering closing the Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre, and I am writing to ask that you don't close the centre.

We all know that pre-school activities and health care are absolutely vital to ensuring that children aren't disadvantaged before they get to school. If we want to have any chance of a society where people can prosper regardless of their background, we need to be expanding such centres, not closing them down.

Financially, it must cost less to invest in pre-school facilities than pay the costs of dealing with kids who are disruptive in school, and worse, because they are so far behind their peers."

5.27 Email 19

"I am very concerned to hear about the proposed closure of the Sharoe Green Neighbourhood Centre.

During my pregnancy and as a new mum I have visited the Centre for Support and Guidance for specific issues I was going through at the time which were dealt with in an extremely positive manner to help me overcome my anxieties and worries.

In addition, it opened doors which I did not expect in meeting other people and I am very much still in touch with this support network to this day going through similar experiences, whereby I am now an Advocate to help others. This was as a direct result of visiting the Centre.

I believe, without this support I would not have coped and ultimately the strain would have been put on the NHS where services are already overstretched.

Please, please continue to keep the Centre open to help people like me."

5.28 Petition - Save Chai Centre services

1,067 signatories (138 online, 929 paper) in support of the following statement.

"We the undersigned, petition Leader of the Council and Lancashire County Council as follows:

We object to the proposed Conservative cuts to LCC Children and Family Wellbeing (CFW) services at the Chai Centre in Daneshouse and Stoneyholme ward, in Burnley Central East division."

Appendix 1 - Demographic breakdown

Table 2 - Are you...?

	%
A Lancashire resident	89%
An employee of Lancashire County Council	14%
An elected member of Lancashire County Council	<1%
An elected member of a Lancashire district council	1%
An elected member of a parish or town council in Lancashire	2%
A private sector company/organisation	5%
A member of a voluntary or community organisation	14%
Other	5%

Base: all respondents (695)

Table 3 - Are you...?

	%
Male	19%
Female	78%
Prefer not to say	2%

Base: all respondents (707)

Table 4 - Have you ever identified as transgender?

	%
Yes	1%
No	95%
Prefer not to say	4%

Base: all respondents (695)

Table 5 - What was your age on your last birthday?

	%
Under 16	3%
16-19	2%
20-34	40%
35-64	47%
65-74	5%
75+	1%
Prefer not to say	3%

Base: all respondents (706)

Table 6 - Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?

	%
Yes	6%
No	91%
Prefer not to say	3%

Base: all respondents (700)

Table 7 - Which best describes your ethnic background?

	%
White	85%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	1%
Mixed	1%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	4%

Base: all respondents (702)

Table 8 - What is your religion?

	%
No religion	34%
Christian	47%
Buddhist	<1%
Hindu	<1%
Jewish	0%
Muslim	9%
Sikh	<1%
Any other religion	1%
Prefer not to say	7%

Base: all respondents (701)

Table 9 - What is your sexual orientation?

	%
Straight	87%
Bisexual	2%
Gay man	<1%
Lesbian/gay woman	0%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	10%

Base: all respondents (698)

Table 10 - Are there any children or young people in your household aged under 20?

	%
Yes, aged under 5	50%
Yes, aged 5-8	24%
Yes, aged 12-16	19%
Yes, aged 9-11	17%
No children aged under 20	16%
Yes, aged 17-19	9%
Prefer not to say	5%
No, but expecting	3%

Base: all respondents (706)

Table 11 - Are there any disabled young people aged under 25 in your household?

	%
Yes	11%
No	85%
Prefer not to say	4%

Base: all respondents (701)

Table 12 - Does your household have access to the internet (dial-up, broadband or mobile internet)?

	%
Yes	93%
No	4%
Don't know	2%
Prefer not to say	1%

Base: all respondents (708)

Table 13 - Respondent postcode by district

	%
Burnley	15%
Chorley	4%
Fylde	3%
Hyndburn	7%
Lancaster	14%
Pendle	20%
Preston	12%
Ribble Valley	8%
Rossendale	4%
South Ribble	2%
West Lancashire	7%
Wyre	3%

Base: all respondents (673)