

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 April 2019

Report of the Head of Service - Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
(All Divisions);

Children and Family Wellbeing Service - Outcome of Second Phase Consultation (Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' refer)

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Executive Summary

At its meeting on 8 November 2018, Cabinet approved the recommendations from the Children and Family Wellbeing Service to implement decisions for maintaining or withdrawing service delivery from their current 76 service delivery buildings as detailed below:

- 50 to continue to provide Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery.
- 12 to no longer provide Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery, as proposed in the June 2018 consultation and the November Cabinet report.
- 14 buildings to be subject to further consideration taking into account the cost of building adaptations required to accommodate future Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery and further budget option decisions, following which 7 of the 14 settings will be identified to continue to provide Children and Family Wellbeing service delivery.

This report presents the outcomes for the settings that were subject to further consideration.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the findings of the further consideration and consultation as set out in the consultation report at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Approve that the revised proposals for the Children and Family Wellbeing Service, as detailed in this report, are implemented with effect from May 2019.

Background and Advice

At its meeting on 8 November 2018, Cabinet approved that the Children and Family Wellbeing Service implement a number of proposals for maintaining or withdrawing service delivery from the current 76 buildings from which it delivers services.

This decision followed a full public consultation on a set of proposals which had been conducted during summer 2018.

Cabinet agreed to:

- Continue delivering Children and Family Wellbeing Service from 50 of the existing buildings.
- No longer provide Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery in 12 identified buildings.
- Further consider the remaining 14 identified buildings.

This report presents options for this last category, following completion of further work, including consultation.

Review Criteria

Further consideration of the remaining centres included consideration of a range of factors including but not limited to:

- The local level of need in the areas where these centres were situated.
- The building locations and their accessibility along with time taken to travel to the centre from within the wider catchment areas.
- Their suitability to deliver services, including the whole Children and Family Wellbeing Service offer for 0-19yrs+.
- The type and scale of current service delivery and usage patterns.
- The operating costs of the buildings.
- What other services are provided there.
- Issues identified for wider community impact.
- The cost of building adaptations required to accommodate future Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery and further budget option decisions and emerging priorities.
- Site specific issues raised during initial phase of consultation.

Wherever possible, options which allowed for consolidation of services at single sites were prioritised to both ensure seamless service delivery and reduce costs.

Estimated cost appraisals for any required adaptations/amendments to the accommodation to make the buildings suitable for Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery were also taken into account.

Proposals

Following the completion of the further assessment and analysis, the following proposals were agreed for consultation:

Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery is delivered from the following seven buildings:

- Bradley Children and Family Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Pendle).
- Preston Central Neighbourhood Centre (Riverbank Children's Centre, Preston).
- Clitheroe Family and Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Ribble Valley).
- The Chai Centre (Burnley).
- Whitegate Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitegate Children's Centre, Padiham).
- Longridge Young People's Centre (Ribble Valley). (The county council does not own this building so this proposal is pending further discussions with stakeholders).
- Willow's Park Children's Centre, Longridge (Ribble Valley). (The County Council does not own this building so this proposal is pending further discussions with stakeholders).

Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery is withdrawn from the following seven buildings:

- Marsden Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Walton Lane Children's Centre, Pendle).
- Ashton Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Ashton Young People's Centre, Preston).
- Ribblesdale Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Ribblesdale Children's Centre Ribble Valley).
- Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Young People's Centre, Burnley).
- Padiham Young People's Centre (Padiham).
- Whitworth Young People's Centre (Rossendale).
- Whitworth Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitworth Children's Centre, Rossendale).

Consultation

In the case of the following locations, no change was proposed from the original options subject to consultation in 2018. They were therefore excluded from the new consultation:

Retain Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery:

- Bradley Children and Family Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Pendle)
- Preston Central Neighbourhood Centre (Riverbank Children's Centre, Pendle)
- Clitheroe Family and Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Ribble Valley)

Withdraw Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery:

- Marsden Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Walton Lane Children's Centre, Pendle)
- Ashton Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Ashton Young People's Centre, Preston)
- Ribblesdale Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Ribblesdale Children's Centre, Ribble Valley)

The second stage of consultation went live on 4 February 2019 and ran for six weeks, closing on 8 March 2019. An additional week was included to accommodate schools half term in February and ensure sufficient time for access.

Views were sought on the following buildings, where proposals had changed since the original consultation in 2018.

Retain Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery:

- The Chai Centre (Burnley)
- Whitegate Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitegate Children's Centre, Padiham)

Withdraw Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery:

- Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Young People's Centre, Burnley)
- Padiham Young People's Centre (Padiham)
- Whitworth Young People's Centre (Rossendale)
- Whitworth Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitworth Children's Centre, Rossendale)

In relation to the service in Whitworth, during the assessment and analysis phase, it was identified that Whitworth Library presented a viable alternative for delivery of the service. The consultation therefore also included the proposal to deliver the service from this building.

The second phase of consultation was promoted to service users at the affected buildings and in the local communities, all of which were contained within the Burnley and Rossendale areas.

The opportunity was provided to complete consultation questionnaires and provide viewpoints. Questionnaires could be completed on-line or paper copies were made available at the affected buildings.

77 questionnaires were completed and the outcome of the second phase consultation is detailed in Appendix 'A'. A further analysis of Equalities Impact has been completed in regard to the proposals in the second phase of consultation and this is included at Appendix 'B', alongside the original Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken in the original phase of consultation around all buildings, which is included again as Appendix 'C'.

In regards to the feedback provided through the consultation process, a detailed analysis of the responses and commentary provided by respondents is included in both Appendices 'A' and 'B'. Over half of the responses were from service users who attended for Child and Family Wellbeing support/services at the nominated centres at least once a week. The majority of respondents agreed with the proposals (41 of 77 where 27 specified that they disagreed) and 44 of 73 indicated that if the proposals were to be approved, they would go to a Children and Family Wellbeing Service provision at least the same or more often than they do at present.

As may be expected, in providing commentary responses to the questions raised in the consultation, many respondents provided feedback that is unique to them, which is difficult to group and classify. Commentary was provided across all the buildings that were subject to a proposed change of recommendation in the second phase of consultation. The most common shared response was that service users would continue to access services in their area. Some of the particular concerns that emerged from the feedback were as follows;

- Particular concerns were raised about the Whitegate property in Padiham in that it was viewed as unsuitable to provide a base for work with young people 12-19 years currently delivered from Padiham young people's centre, which was recommended for withdrawal.
- Whilst it should be noted that Children and Family Wellbeing Service is also commissioning the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector to deliver an element of our 12-19 years youth offer to support our delivery of services to young people across Lancashire, it is currently the case that an alternative venue for 12-19 years' work has not as yet been identified in the Padiham area. The service is working with the Asset Management Service to seek alternative venues in Padiham that could accommodate the 12-19 sessions. Feedback was provided concerning Padiham young people centre being regarded as a long established and well embedded access point in the community. There were concerns expressed about the general loss of services in the Padiham area.
- Concern about the loss of services based on the high volume of usage of Padiham young people's centre with descriptions of 40-50 young people being observed as accessing provision. Similar concerns were raised in regard to provision for young people at Stoneyholme and Daneshouse young people's centre, also proposed for withdrawal.
- Expressed concerns about a rise in anti-social behaviour.

Final proposals:

Taking into account the assessment and analysis, and the consultation responses, it is proposed that:

Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery is delivered from the following seven buildings:

- Bradley Children and Family Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Pendle).
- Preston Central Neighbourhood Centre (Riverbank Children's Centre, Preston).
- Clitheroe Family and Wellbeing Services (The Zone, Ribble Valley).
- The Chai Centre (Burnley).

- Whitegate Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitegate Children's Centre, Padiham).
- Longridge Young People's Centre (Ribble Valley).*
- Willow's Park Children's Centre, Longridge (Ribble Valley).*

(*subject to discussion with the building owners)

Additionally, that Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery is delivered from Whitworth Library

Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivery is withdrawn from the following seven buildings:

- Marsden Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Walton Lane Children's Centre, Pendle).
- Ashton Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Ashton Young People's Centre, Preston).
- Ribblesdale Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Ribblesdale Children's Centre Ribble Valley).
- Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Young People's Centre, Burnley).
- Padiham Young People's Centre (Padiham).
- Whitworth Young People's Centre (Rossendale).
- Whitworth Children and Family Wellbeing Services (Whitworth Children's Centre, Rossendale)

Consultations

As detailed in the report.

Implications

The Children and Family Wellbeing Service will cease delivery at the following buildings between 1 May and 31 August 2019, as appropriate and agreed on a site by site basis.

A range of accommodation, including that within school based settings, will become vacant if these proposals are approved, and consideration will be given to alternate use by county council services. Where this is not possible or appropriate the premises will either be considered for disposal, surrendering of the property interest or be transferred across to schools along with the associated premises costs subject to agreement.

Depending upon the Council's objectives, surplus property may also be considered for Community Asset Transfer. If the asset is appropriate for asset transfer, this will be advertised and expressions of interest will be considered in line with the asset transfer policy. The policy is currently under review and will form the subject of a future report to Cabinet in due course.

The Financial Management (Development and Schools) service will continue to assess the financial impact on any affected schools and working with and supporting them to

ensure that they address any financial issues resulting from withdrawal of these services.

Risk management

Changes to service provision are key to the delivery of significant elements of the Council's medium term financial strategy. One of the key mitigation factors is to carry out an effective consultation exercise.

Legal

In making a decision on the proposals Cabinet must take into consideration the responses to the consultation exercise as set out in Appendix 'A' and the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment as updated (Appendices 'B' and 'C').

Financial

This report describes the implementation proposals of the Full Council decision made in February 2018 contributing to reducing the service budget by £1.250m. It includes detail of the future service delivery model within the revised financial envelope.

These proposals could have an impact on service delivery from a wide range of settings, including those currently within schools. This could have a financial impact upon the maintained nursery and primary schools and will need to be managed. Consideration will need to be given to alternate use by other county council services. Where this is not possible or appropriate the premises will either be considered for disposal or be transferred across to schools along with the associated premises costs subject to agreement. The Financial Management (Development and Schools) service is working with affected schools to ensure that any financial impact is managed as far as possible.

In order to accommodate the change in service delivery, adaptations will be required in a small number of buildings, detailed estimates of these works will be submitted for separate Cabinet approval and will be funded from the previously approved property review programme.

Possible clawback

A number of buildings identified within this report as no longer being required to deliver the Children and Family Wellbeing pattern of service delivery are former registered children's centres. If this proposal is agreed by Cabinet, there is a potential risk of financial clawback in respect of government funding used to develop these premises when they were first established. The maximum risk of clawback for these premises where it is recommended services are no longer delivered is estimated at £0.8m (2019/20), being calculated on a sliding scale over a period of 25 years. It should be noted that we have not been able to identify any other Local Authority who have had to pay back clawback as a result of them reducing their number of designated children centres.

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.

However, in the event that clawback does arise, the decision to close former children's centres would need to be considered against the ongoing revenue savings in respect of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service referred to above and may need to be funded from the Transitional Reserve.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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