

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Children and Family Wellbeing Service: Responses to Consultation and Final Proposals

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information

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Executive Summary

At its meeting on 8 February 2018, Full Council approved proposals to reduce the number of settings from which the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) delivers its service offer subject to consultation. The outcome of the consultation was presented to Cabinet and received final approval on 8 November 2018.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note and comment on the report.
- ii. Discuss and formulate any further recommendations from the information provided.

Background and Advice

Full Council agreed as part of the 2018/19 budget to apply a permanent reduction of £1.250m to the Children and Family Wellbeing budget. This reduction was made up of a reduction of £0.750m in non-staffing cost, and £0.500m in staffing resources. These reductions impact on the number of settings through which the Children and Family Wellbeing Service delivers its service offer.

Options were considered as to how the service could provide support direct to people in their home settings and deliver in community settings where possible. This would enable Children & Family Wellbeing to become more people focused rather than building based by reducing the number of buildings where they are based and work from.

In order to achieve a reduction in settings, a consultation took place between June and August 2018 to identify the settings which the service could best utilise by making the most effective use of the remaining staffing resources.

Of the current 76 buildings that the Children & Family Wellbeing service delivers from, Cabinet agreed at its [8 November 2018](#) meeting, that the service continue to deliver from 50 Neighbourhood Centres and cease to deliver from 12 of the current settings.

Further to this, the original consultation proposals were to withdraw service delivery from 19 buildings in total. Following receipt of the consultation feedback, Cabinet then approved the proposal to further review 14 of the current delivery settings in order to decide upon which 7 buildings CFW would continue to deliver services from, and also which 7 buildings the service would cease delivery. (See Appendix 'A')

Buildings where the Children and Family Wellbeing Service is the sole occupier will be considered for alternative county council service occupancy or may be considered for disposal. Any other services currently delivered from these buildings will not be unduly affected by these proposals.

The CFW service will continue to support children, young people and families with an emphasis on 1 to 1 case work, outreach and detached work delivered in local communities.

The review of the agreed 14 buildings listed in Appendix 'A' takes into account:

- Indices of Deprivation (IMD).
- The cost of building adaptations required to accommodate future Children & Family Wellbeing service delivery and further budget option decisions.
- The assessed level of need (targeting support where it is needed most).
- The historical data with regard to use (footfall).

Once the review is complete, proposals with regard to which 7 Neighbourhood Centres CFW will continue to deliver services from, and which 7 Neighbourhood Centres the service will withdraw delivery from will be presented to Cabinet for final decision.

Consultations

The consultation process commenced on 6 June 2018 for an 8 week period ending 3rd August 2018, comprising on-line and hard copy questionnaires, detailing the proposals on a District by District basis. (See Appendix 'B' for the full Consultation Outcome Report).

Implications:

Finance

The service budget was reduced in April 2018 by the £1.250m saving agreed by Full Council in February 2018.

Risk management

The proposals to cease delivery at any current building that is recorded with the Department for Education as a designated Children Centre, could involve a potential risk of claw back of Government funding.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA