

**Alternative Services – Under 5's
A proposal for new delivery model for
Children Centres in Bury**

Consultation Plan

15th September 2014

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Purpose

The Consultation Plan for the proposal of a new delivery model for Children Centres in Bury, which sets out an approach of ensuring effective and accessible communication and engagement. It will serve as a guiding document throughout the consultation period and will include key objectives, drivers, target audiences and proposed methods of consultation. It is the vehicle by which the Local Authority will carry out their role in consulting changes prior to proposing to make significant changes to the range and nature of Sure Start Children Centres.

Background and Context

A report was taken to Cabinet on Wednesday 3rd September proposing a redesign of Children's Centre services to ensure that improved targeted support will be available for Bury's most vulnerable children and families. This is in line with Bury Council's stated priorities and the direction being taken by national policies.

Bury currently has 14 Children's Centres; some are organised into clusters and others are stand-alone. 9 of the Children's Centres are operated directly by the Local Authority and 5 of the centres are commissioned to be operated by a Primary School.

A re-design of the way Bury's Children's Centres are currently operating to support the U5's and their families is proposed in the report. Five Children's Centre Hubs and one spoke will deliver targeted services to the most vulnerable families across Bury and will come under the direct control of the Local Authority.

They will focus on delivery of:

- Improved health for U5's
- Improved school readiness for U5's
- Effective early intervention in safeguarding
- Improvements in families' economic prospects

Resources for the Hubs will be allocated based upon recognised need based upon the Index of Multiple Deprivation Rankings. The balance of staffing will shift from coordination, management and administration to front-line outreach support with 24 additional outreach staff deployed.

The remaining eight current Children's Centres will be de-designated as centres and seven of the centres will be converted to provide for the delivery of the 2 year old childcare offer for the 40% most deprived families in the borough. Currently there is a substantial shortage of these places in Bury.

The LA will not run the 2 year old provision but will tender it out to interested providers. There will be an initial subsidy of the rents for these centres to encourage schools, private providers or third sector parties.

Objectives

The objectives for this consultation plan are to:

- Raise awareness amongst stakeholders, staff, partners and members of the public about the proposals, key objectives and planned outcomes.
- Highlight key messages about the proposals and ensure all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the scope, nature and intended outcomes of the proposals.
- Provide a framework to support effective and informed dialogue and public scrutiny
- Provide opportunities for views to be sought and collated about the proposals, to inform a further report to be submitted to Cabinet at the end of the consultation period.

Target Audience (Stakeholders)

The following target audience groups have been identified as part of the scoping for this consultation:

Childrens Centre staff
Union representatives
Advisory Boards/Governing bodies
Primary Schools linked to Children Centres
Service Users/Parents/Carers
General public
Health Commissioners
Health Providers
Job centre plus
Police
Adult Learning Providers

Consultation details

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible Person/People
Children Centre staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings • Individual meetings where requested • Full team meetings at Cluster or individual centre level • Provision of written documents & data 	One of the following: MC, IC or SR

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible person
Union representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings • Provision of written reports & data 	IC

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible Person/People
Advisory Board/Governing Bodies	-Meetings held at each of the Children Centre cluster locations or individual Children centres where appropriate -Provision of written reports/data	One of the following: MC, IC, SR, DM, SD, CR

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible Person
Primary school Heads –linked to Children Centres	-Individual meetings -Provision of written report & data	IC

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible People/Person
Parents/Carers/Service users	-Drop-ins at Centres -Scheduled meetings Provision of written reports/data -Consultation questionnaires	One of the following: MC, IC, SR, DM, SD, CR

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible Person
General Public	On line Report Consultation Form	SR
Health Commissioners	E-mail On line Report Consultation Form Meetings where requested	SR
Health Providers	E-mail On line Report Consultation Form Meetings where requested	SR

Stakeholder	Method	Responsible People/Persons
Job Centre Plus	E-mail On line Report Consultation Form Meetings where requested	SR
Police	E-mail On line Report Consultation Form Meetings where requested	SR
Adult Learning Providers	E-mail On line Report Consultation Form Meetings where requested	SR

Key Milestones for this Consultation Plan

- The consultation will commence at 9am on Monday 15th September 2014 and will end on Monday 8th December 2014 at 12 noon.

Feedback

We will evaluate success of this consultation plan in the following ways:

- The number and type of consultation returns to inbox, representative to key stakeholders
- Feedback from events through face-to-face consultation, meetings etc.
- All findings will be collated and form part of a report to be submitted to cabinet at the end of the consultation period.

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