

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
3 FEBRUARY 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Sheila Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Director of Communities	Tel. 01733 863749

VISION FOR EARLY YEARS SERVICES INCLUDING CHILDREN'S CENTRES

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cllr Sheila Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Deadline date : 5 March 2013
<p>1. It is recommended that:</p> <p>(a) the modified proposals for the delivery of the Children's Centres as set out in this report be approved; and</p> <p>(b) the budget to be recommended to Council for the 2014/15 financial year be amended accordingly to reflect the savings arising from the redesigned children's centres.</p> <p>2. It is recommended that subject to Council approving the Budget inclusive of the recommended budget in relation to the future delivery of the Children's Centres, the Director for Communities be authorised to:</p> <p>(a) create four children's centre hubs, three outreach hubs and re-designation of the other eight children's centres as set out in the report;</p> <p>(b) vary or terminate the contracts with Barnardo's and Spurgeons to deliver the redesigned centres;</p> <p>(c) develop alternative ways to support families in areas where children's centres are proposed to be de-designated.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 On the 18 November 2013 Cabinet agreed to a public consultation on a proposal to change the way early years services are offered in Peterborough, including children's centres. The proposal was to create four super hub children's centres with a wider reach, three outreach centres and to re-designate the remaining eight children's centres for other uses. The consultation ran from the 2 November 2013 to 8 January 2014.
- 1.2 This report brings to cabinet a revised set of proposals for Cabinet's approval on how children's centre services could be run in the future.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update and inform Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation on proposed changes to the way early years services are run in Peterborough including children’s centres;
- seek cabinet’s approval on the creation of four children’s centre hubs that will be located in the City’s highest areas of deprivation and work with families in the greatest need across the city;
- seek cabinet’s approval for the creation of three ‘outreach’ centres that will support the work of the children’s centre hubs;
- ask Cabinet to approve a reduction in the original savings proposed from £1.28 million to £1.18 million to enable £100,000 to be spent on developing alternative ways to support families such as; helping to set up parent support groups, maintaining a weekly facilitated parent and baby session in communities and providing support to mothers around post natal depression, where it is identified that centres will be re-designated.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. No 3.2.1 ‘to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council’s Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council’s overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
Date for relevant Council meeting		Date for submission to Government Dept <i>(please specify which Government Dept)</i>	

4. MAIN BODY OF REPORT

4.1 Background

The first children’s centres were opened in Peterborough in 2002 with the aim of helping families in more deprived areas to give their children the best start in life.

Over the past decade a total of 15 centres have opened across the city, offering a range of services from toy libraries to parenting classes, information on health issues and healthy eating to helping parents get into work, education or training.

The centres bring together key services such as child care, health visiting, midwifery, employment and adult learning into one place.

4.2 Policy changes

However, since the first children’s centres opened, government policy on early year’s services has changed dramatically. The government no longer gives the council a specific pot of money to pay for children’s centres, nor provides any funding for new ones. At the same time the Government introduced a number of other ways to support families including:

- Funding to support 15 hours free child care for two year olds in low income families;
- Funding to support 15 hours free child care for all three and four year olds;
- Family Nurse Partnership which runs a home visiting programme for first time mothers under the age of nineteen (and dads);

- More funding for health visitors to support new parents through the Healthy Child Programme which supports parents from when a pregnancy is first confirmed through to birth and up to the child's second birthday;
- More funding directly to schools to provide activities and interventions, particularly for those entitled to free school meals;
- More funding for vulnerable families and families where there are complex issues through the Troubled Families programme (known as 'Connecting Families' programme in Peterborough).

Reflecting on these national changes, in the five years from 2010 the city council will have seen a 40% reduction in the funding we receive from government. This means that we have to look at all the services we provide to see how we can do things differently to ensure the services we are responsible for providing are having the biggest impact on improving the lives of children and families in Peterborough.

The government's policy for early years' services is focused now on two themes; supporting parents when a pregnancy is confirmed with maternity services through to that child's second birthday under the Healthy Child Programme and from two to five-years-old through early:

- Access to education and learning through high quality childcare provision and the reception years in school thus ensuring that young children are adequately prepared for statutory schooling and can make progress in their learning;
- The funding the council receives for early years reflects this approach with ring-fenced grants to pay for the 15-hours free childcare places for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds. This money can only be spent on funding high quality early years childcare places. The policy of providing free childcare places for two year olds for families with low income and the universal offer of 15 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds directly supports the government's aspirations to improve learning outcomes for all children.

4.3 Provision in Peterborough

In Peterborough we have:

- 215 childminders
- 103 Pre-schools & Day Nurseries
- 1 independent nursery unit
- 6 maintained nursery units/schools

Of the above, 75 per cent of the pre-schools and nurseries have been graded as being Good or Outstanding by Ofsted and 67 per cent of child minders settings being graded Good or Outstanding. We have, therefore, in Peterborough a number of high quality early learning settings that offer parents provision that will effectively support their child to achieve the early learning goals.

Through the pupil premium all schools have funding to support children from low income families. Some schools in Peterborough are using this funding not merely to support the individual child but the whole family, specifically families where there are younger, pre-school siblings. This approach helps the school to develop a more long term relationship with the family and the school can support the family where concerns have been identified thus ensuring that younger children are ready for school and older children are not affected by family problems. The childcare sector is keen to offer children centre type services for the same reasons.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Process

- 5.1.1** Cabinet gave approval for consultation on the new vision for the delivery of early years service's including children's centres on 18 November 2013. Formal public consultation began on 26 November 2013 and ended on the 8 January 2014.
- 5.1.2** Six public consultation events were held in the city in each of the council's geographical areas – North, West and Rural, Central and East and South to give people the chance to have their say about the proposals. Events were held in the afternoon and also the evening to give working parents the opportunity to attend. In total 107 people attended the events (some people attended more than one event).
- 5.1.3** Council officers have also sought the views of each of the 15 centre parents' advisory boards and parents locally. The organisations that run some of the centres on behalf of the council – Spurgeons and Barnados - have also been consulted. There have been regular discussions with the two organisations throughout the period of consultation. All statutory partner organisations have been consulted and a full list of organisations consulted is contained in appendix (4).
- 5.1.4** The consultation was promoted through local media and the council's web site. By the end of the consultation period we had received 93 hard copies of the questionnaires and 166 electronic copies, via Survey Monkey. A further 104 comments were received by email and 6 petitions against the proposals. . All of the responses from parents and the community throughout the consultation period are captured in Appendix 1. A summary of the key issues, together with our more detailed response, is contained within 5.2.1.

5.2 Response

5.2.1 Public Feedback and Councils Response

Parents expressed concerns about the proposals, specifically the re-designation of some of the centres and the development of the 'Super Hub' concept and the removal of open access services.

During the consultation parents cited the following as their main areas of concern:

- Social isolation
- Support for post natal depression
- Professionally supported play sessions for 0 – 2 year olds
- Local health service delivery

Issues/concerns:

- 1.) *The public expressed a dislike to the name 'Super Hub' and were unclear of how they will operate;***

Response: We agree we should remove the term Super as we recognise that it implies a sense of superiority over the other remaining centres. It is proposed that the super hubs are called children's centre hubs, which more accurately reflects the purpose of the hubs to provide the base from which all children's centre services are organised, but not where all the services are delivered from, as many services will be delivered in the proposed outreach centres and other community resources or in people's homes.

The reach areas for the children centre hubs will not consist of the entire 0 -5 population for the extended geographical area but will be made up of the targeted families in the area. We

will work with the children's centre management and with our partners to identify these families and the agencies already working with them.

2.) *Concern and challenge around the data used to inform the decisions around the re-designation of children's centres and the identification of the 'hubs';*

Response: The IDACI (Income Deprivation affecting Children Index) data is a reliable method for identifying the areas where deprived families live. We recognise that the data is ten years old, but having supplemented this with new school population data, though this data shows increases in population and deprivation; it does not change the density of deprivation as evidenced in the IDACI data.

3.) *Challenges around the principle of delivering services to the most vulnerable families with the argument being that this could foster stigmatisation of these families and would not develop a sense of inclusion in communities;*

Response: Hubs will still offer some universal provision to families in their reach area.

4.) *Concerns over a loss of services in general to communities and that for some communities the children's centre is yet another community resource to go. There was a strong belief that the children's centre was a hub for the community and loss of the centre would fragment the community;*

Response: We have committed to the following:

- Ensuring that maternity and health visiting services still continue in all the areas where children's centres are at present
- Working with parental groups who are keen and willing to operate and manage services themselves

5.) *Many parents in outlying communities raised the issue of accessing the super hubs given a reduction in public transport to some areas;*

Response: We have consulted with public transport and are aware of the implications of the new bus routes. Our commitment to delivering outreach services to those most in need will mitigate the need for parents to travel where this difficult.

The proposed hubs are all accessible via a bus route. For exact detail please see Appendix 8.

6.) *Parents were concerned that access to universal provision via the hubs would be limited given the increased demand on these services;*

Response: We will actively encourage other providers to use the hubs, outreach centres and the de-registered children's centres to deliver universal programmes – some of these could be available at a cost.

7.) *Parents voiced concerns about how a reduction in the preventative aspect of children's centres could result in higher levels of need in future years with increased numbers of post natal depression and children on child protection plans;*

Response: In response to these concerns we are seeking approval from Cabinet for additional financial resources to extend the Peterborough and Fenland Mind 'Connecting Mums' project to ensure that early identification and support is available for mothers.

8.) Parents voiced concerns about 0 – 2 play sessions not being available – these sessions they particularly valued;

Response: We are seeking approval from Cabinet for additional financial resources so that we can commission the delivery of one weekly, one hour, independently facilitated play session in each local area where the proposal is to de-designate the children's centre.

9.) Parents voiced concerns about access to baby clinics and baby cafes if these are no longer delivered from centres;

Response: We are confident following our discussions with maternity and health visiting services that they will continue to deliver baby clinics and baby cafes in the areas they are currently working in. We will work with those organisations that take on the responsibility of running the de-designated children's centres to ensure that these programmes continue to be delivered from these centres. Where this is not the case, we will find alternative venues such as community centres for sessions to take place in.

10.) Some parents thought we should consider other ways of delivering at least some services in the least deprived areas – e.g. charging;

Response: Across Peterborough, an average of 2324 parents access services in the children's centres over a three month period. To achieve the £1.2m savings target, each of these parents would have to contribute £9.93 per week. However, many of these visits are to access health visiting services, midwives and drop in advice sessions. It would not be appropriate to charge for these activities and therefore the weekly cost per parent will increase.

An alternative way to consider charging would be to charge for activities such as messy play, singing groups, and universally accessible groups. An approximate cost for running such an activity would be £120 per session, including staffing costs for two members of staff and equipment, refreshments and contributing to building costs. If ten parents attended then the charge would be £12 per person. This is an illustrative costing, and it must be recognised that the costs and subsequent charge could vary enormously depending on variables such as the length of time the session and/or how many staff supported and what salary grade they are on, attendance at sessions and of course the administration costs of collecting and banking moneys and ensuring financial compliance. Costs for sessions could potentially range from £5 to £15 per session.

Whilst limiting charging to certain activities would not achieve the full savings of £1.2, this approach could be used to support some of the universally based activities in the children's centres.

11.) There were concerns about the long term impact of removing this early years support on the educational attainment of children in Peterborough;

Response: The government's policy for the delivery of early years is focused on two themes; firstly, effective pre-birth to 2 intervention and support through maternity and health visiting services under the Healthy Child Programme and secondly, from 2 years old to 5, early access to education and learning through high quality childcare provision and the reception years in school thus ensuring that young children are adequately

prepared for statutory schooling and can make progress in their learning. The funding the council receives for early years reflects this approach with ring-fenced grants for the two year old and three/four year old free childcare offer. This money can only be spent on funding high quality early years childcare places. The policy of providing free childcare places for two year olds for families with low income and the universal offer of 15 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds directly supports the government's aspirations to improve learning outcomes for all children. Our proposal to focus our children's centre delivery on the families most in need fits in with the government's early years agenda where educational standards are driven upwards through access to high quality childcare at an early age.

12.) During the consultation people raised an issue about David Cameron stating in Parliamentary Question Time that children's centres were getting more money.

Response: Cllr Scott wrote to Shailesh Vara MP and received a response, this is attached at appendix 9. The letter does not state that the local authority has been given more money for children's centres, but does state that councils have money for early intervention and prevention, alongside early learning for two year olds from disadvantaged families and adoption reform, these are new areas of funding.

6.0 Amended Proposal Following the Consultation

Having listened carefully to parents and others throughout the consultation process and taken into account all the concerns raised, alongside considering what alternative support services are available for families and the financial resource envelope we have to manage within as a council, we put forward the amended proposal below. The proposal will ensure that families with the greatest need have access to a children's centre, whilst also ensuring all families have access to some family support services in their locality.

The creation of four children's centre hubs:

- Orton
- Paston
- First Steps
- East

These hubs will be administrative centres for the location of staff and partners and for the planning of services; delivery will be in the hubs but also in outreach centres, local community settings and people's homes.

The creation of three outreach hubs:

- Bretton
- Fulbridge
- Gladstone

These will provide the space for the children's centre hub staff and other agencies and organisations to deliver from.

The re-designation of eight children's centres:

- Brewster Avenue
- Stanground
- Hampton
- Westwood and Ravensthorpe
- East Rural (Eye & Thorney)
- Caverstede
- West Rural (Wittering)

- Werrington

Throughout the consultation, we have had positive discussions with schools, the private, voluntary and independent sector regarding the future use of the proposed re-designated children's centres. The head teachers we have spoken to are keen to use the children's centre space to offer a range of family support type activities. The private, voluntary and independent childcare providers are also keen to use some of the spaces available to increase their childcare offer. For similar reasons to the schools they want to develop family support services that focus on creating parent groups and developmental play opportunities. As a result of these discussions we are pleased to say that we have identified possible future uses for all of the proposed re-designated centres identified in the consultation paper. The specific detail follows:-

- **Caverstede:** will continue to work with children with additional needs. This will be a commissioned activity funded through the SEN High Needs Block (Direct Schools Grant). In addition, as an Ofsted graded Outstanding Provider, the centre will be commissioned to deliver training, support for childcare settings and mentoring. Although the centre will be de-designated as a children's centre the positive discussions we have had with the head teacher indicates that they will use their financial resources to continue delivering children centre type services.
- **Wittering:** we are actively supporting the school to seek additional grant funding from the Military Covenant Fund in order to deliver early years support to military families and the community. We are also supporting the head teacher to establish the children's centre as a community interest company. This will allow the school to access grant funding not necessarily available to statutory bodies such as the local authority.
- **Brewster Avenue:** We have had a number of discussions with the school and they are keen to take on the management of the facility based at the school. We are working with the school to look at providing some parent activities, as well as to continue to maintain ongoing access to health services from the facility. We are also looking at the feasibility of providing childcare from 2 years to 4 years, extending the current maintained nursery offer at the school.
- **Stanground:** the Stanground centre is one of the smallest centres and the site of the building does not lend itself to be easily assimilated within the school's provision. We are therefore planning to transfer the Portage Team to the building as their administrative base. Parent run support groups could still be delivered from the centre, as well as one early year's development session per week. Maternity and health visiting services could continue from the site.
- **Hampton:** we have had very positive discussions with a private childcare provider who is keen to take over the running of the centre. They will use the opportunity to extend the much needed child care available in Hampton as well as offering some early years type services families want. They are keen to maintain links with maternity and health visiting services.
- **Eye and Thorney:** as part of the consultation process we met with Thorney Parish Council who are keen to use the centre to extend the child care offer for the village. Eye parents expressed an interest in investigating the possibility of operating the centre under a charitable trust status.
- **Werrington:** we are confident that an appropriate solution will be found for this centre and have been having discussion with the school head. We will work with the school to look at possibility of the continuation of health facilities. Further we will liaise with the school to ensure that outreach activities do take place in the area and the site used as a base for the delivery of such activities.

- **Westwood and Ravensthorpe:** we are having on-going discussions with the school about the future use of the centre facilities. We are confident that an appropriate solution will be found. As with the other re-designated centres the school will continue to allow maternity and health visiting services to operate from the buildings. Further, we are working with the school to ensure that outreach activities do take place in the area and the site will be a base for the delivery of this activity.

Support and services for the proposed re-designated children's centres:

In order to mitigate some of the impact on communities where there would not be a Children's Centre it is requested that cabinet authorise £100,000 to be deducted from the proposed savings to be used to support the following:

- Maintain health visiting and maternity clinics (including baby cafes and baby massage) in areas where it is proposed that the children's centre be de-designated. Funding will be needed to support caretaking and key holder functions. Maternity and health visiting services have already agreed to maintain services in these communities;
- Support to schools and child care providers to deliver family support activities to be delivered from the proposed de-designated centres;
- Support to parents who have expressed an interest in running sessions/centres. This support might take the form of training or securing charitable status;
- Commission the delivery of one weekly, one hour, independently facilitated play session in each local area where the proposal is to de-designate the children's centre;
- Extend the Peterborough and Fenland Mind 'Connecting Mums' project to ensure that early identification and support is available for mothers where post natal depression might be an issue;
- Support to childcare providers to extend childcare provision and also to provide some universal early years provision.

7.0 ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

The vast majority of the responses received came from the communities where it is indicated in the proposals that the children's centre will be re-designated. These communities are ones where the density of need is not as great as in other areas. We do, however, recognise that with Peterborough's growing population the level of need might increase in these areas. We are confident that the proposed location of children's centre hubs reflects the density and complexity of need in the targeted areas currently and will not change in the future; though some areas will have a rise in children living in deprived households.

We are proposing we drop the term 'Super' from 'Super Hub', as we had feedback that this title is misleading. It is proposed that the Super Hubs are called children's centre hubs, which more accurately reflects the purpose of the hubs to provide the base from which all children's centre services are organised, but not where all the services are delivered from, as many services will be delivered in the proposed outreach centres and other community resources or in people's homes.

We have listened to the concerns raised by parents and are putting forward an additional package of support to go some way towards mitigating the concerns raised.

We have not been able to find a way of raising the money needed keep all the centres open, we have looked into charging, however, as outlined above other organisations are

interested in using the proposed re-designated centres to provide some level of family support service.

In light of the changes to government policy on early years support and the reduced funding, proposals have been developed which will allow the delivery of early years support in a different way, enhancing opportunities for increased early years learning and focusing children's centres in Peterborough in areas where there is the greatest need. The key elements of our proposals are:

- The re-designation of centres which operate in the less deprived areas of the city to be used to provide other kinds of early years services;
- The creation of 'children's centre hubs' with associated 'outreach centres' in the most deprived areas of the city;

The proposals identified in the 'New Vision for Delivering Early Years Services Including Children's Centres' will ensure that the reduced resources of the council are targeted effectively to the areas most in need in the city. Government policy, and subsequent ring fenced funding to focus on early learning and the improvement of educational outcomes from the age of two will ensure that the impact of our proposals on long term education attainment will be limited.

In addition, it will ensure that access to early years services are available in all three localities via the 'Hubs' or the associated outreach centres. The 'Hubs' and the outreach centres being located in areas where families with the greatest need can easily access support. Through adopting the new vision the savings identified will be achieved whilst still ensuring services are available to the families most in need. A breakdown of the how the proposed savings were calculated is in appendix (5). The additional support funded through the £100,000 will ensure that those communities where the children's centres are proposed to be re-designated will continue to have access to some services previously provided by the children's centres.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposals for children's centres will ensure that services are maintained for vulnerable families and communities and identified savings are mainly achieved. It will also ensure in addition, the re-designated children's centres will provide a much needed increase in premises for childcare as well as maintaining health services and still offering parents access to some support services.

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Given the reduction in the city council's central government funding, doing nothing was not an option. Given the other funded services for the under fives e.g. free childcare it is considered that a reduction in children's centre costs is appropriate. However, we have listened to parents and we are recommending reducing the original recommendations by the sum of £100k to enable us to respond to parental requests for support.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS

Three contracts make up the outsourced children's centres as a result of the procurement exercise in 2012, two contracts are held by Spurgeons (North West and Rural Locality and South Locality) and one is held by Barnardos (Central Locality). These contracts were initially awarded for a 3 year period and are due to expire naturally on the 31st March 2015, however as these services are financed by non-ring fenced external grants the contracts have termination clauses which allows the Council to terminate the contract by issuing three months' notice where the external funding for the service is reduced or withdrawn. As stated above, central government has significantly reduced the amount of funding it gives the Local Authority.

In addition to the outsourced children's centres there are three children's centres which were not included in the original outsource as they are integrated with other settings. These are internal agreements which can be terminated in the same way as those above.

Liabilities – The council has no liabilities regarding redundancy costs relating to the two outsourced contracts as the staff are employed by either Barnardos or Spurgeons. However, there are potential liabilities associated to the three internal agreements as the staff who are potentially affected are employed by the council, but are not supported by the council's HR team and as such the council cannot gain the necessary employee details to profile the extent of the liabilities as a result of terminating the contracts. If the proposal is approved the necessary steps will be followed to identify the actual costs.

If the proposal is agreed by Cabinet contract variation discussions will have to take place with the two children's centre providers – Barnardos and Spurgeons.

The establishment of Children's Centres was assisted through the Department for Education grant funding. The reorganization and de-commissioning of some centres may result in grant conditions being triggered, but given the passage of time and redesign of the service the risk of significant capital claw-back of funding is considered minimal.

10.1 Financial;

The changes proposed in response to consultation feedback, investing £100,000 in developing alternative ways to support families, will mean a reduction in the original savings proposed from £1.28 million to £1.18 million in a full year.

The exact level of savings achieved in 2014/15 will depend on the timing of implementation, including the discussions with existing providers.

10.2 Legal;

Children's Centres - The Council's Children's Centres are provided under section 5A Childcare Act 2006. The Council provides sufficient childcare to meet local need. What is deemed to be sufficient to meet local need is dependent upon a number of factors including the resources available to the Council. In approving these recommendations the Council is consulting on an alternative means of meeting current early years need.

Consultation - Under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 the City Council must consult before making any changes to the services provided through existing children's centres.

In undertaking the consultation, the Authority has factored in the four underlying obligations that the Council is required to follow in undertaking any consultation. These obligations are that:

- a) Consultation must be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage;
- b) The proposer must give sufficient reasons for its proposals to allow consultees to understand them and respond to them properly;
- c) Consulters must give sufficient time for responses to be made and considered: and
- d) Responses must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising the decision

The first three of these obligations are felt to have been met by the Authority in the steps undertaken so far. Cabinet and Council are reminded of the fourth obligation in considering this report.

Equality Impact Assessment - Amongst the Council's duties in taking this decision is the requirement to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in the terms of the obligations set in place by the public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed in relation to these proposals. In summary, adverse impacts were identified and have been justified or mitigated in the following ways.

- (a) The reconfiguration of the children's centres will affect the number of children under 5 years able to access support from children's centres. Whilst there are a number of other newly Government funded programmes families will have access to, there may be a negative effect on this age group.

Alternative services are offered as part of the Healthy Child Programme, which provides universal support for children in their early years, in addition to the central government policy in targeting resources to the programmes providing:

- 15 hours free childcare for two year olds from low income families
- 15 hours free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds
- Increased resources to the health visiting service
- The Family Nurse Partnership; providing support for new mothers and fathers under 19;
- The Troubled Families programme (in Peterborough known as the Connecting Families programme) which provides holistic support for families where there is a range of issues.

Access to the above will mitigate the impact of the re-designation of children's centres and the impact of wider reach areas around the children's centre hubs.

- (b) Disabled parents and children form part of the target group that children's centres aim to work with and the reconfiguration of the children's centres may affect the number of parents that can access children's centres. There are, however, a number of other newly Government funded programmes families will have access to in addition to the new programmes set out above.

In particular, the Local Authority is working with Caverstede Nursery, which has particular skills working with children with complex needs, to enable them to provide support and training to professionals giving them the skills to work effectively with children and families with complex needs. Additionally a Portage home visiting service is available to families in Peterborough working with young children with complex needs to support families in their homes. It is envisaged that this service will be based in one of the de-designated centres – providing outreach in the home to families who are referred to this service.

- (c) The children's centre services currently include delivery of services to expectant families, working closely with the midwifery services. Midwifery services are delivered in several centres and the Authority is committed to support midwifery services to continue delivery in local areas.

11.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Appendix 1	Community responses to the consultation
Appendix 2	Questionnaire responses
Appendix 3	Schools' data and demographics
Appendix 4	Organisations consulted
Appendix 5	Calculation of savings required
Appendix 6	Plans for de-designated children's centres
Appendix 7	Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 8	New transport routes and access to proposed Hubs
Appendix 9	Letter from Elizabeth Truss MP