

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>13 OCTOBER 2014</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Director for Communities

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### CHILDREN’S CENTRES AND EARLY YEARS UPDATE

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update as requested by Scrutiny in July on the activities happening in the de-designated centres.

The report will update Scrutiny on the following:

- The progress made in securing tenants for the remaining de-designated centres.
- The progress in delivering children and family centred support and activities from the de-designated centres.

#### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For Scrutiny to note the work and progress so far in terms of the delivery of the proposals identified in the ‘New Vision for Early Years, including Children’s Centres in Peterborough’.

#### 3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report relates to the Supporting Vulnerable People priority in the Single Delivery Plan.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of the proposals in connection with the re-visioning of children’s centre delivery in February 2014. From the point of the decision, significant work has been undertaken to secure continued future early years delivery from the de-designated children’s centres.

The position of the de-designated centres as of September 2014:

##### Thorney and Eye:

Discussions are still ongoing with the Headteacher and governors of the Duke of Bedford School re becoming the lead tenant for the Thorney building. The delay in decision making is as a result of the appointment of a new Headteacher to start in January 2015. The governors are reluctant to make a decision regarding the school’s involvement with the Children’s Centre until the new Headteacher has been recruited.

Monthly baby clinic delivered by the health visitors (second Friday each month).

The Eye centre is still being managed by the local authority pending further discussions with potential partner groups.

Health support activities continue from the centre. A number of parent led groups also run out of the centre as well as the designated early years’ development activity as approved by cabinet

to support the de-designated centres.

Early Years childcare is also delivered from the Eye centre as well as a thriving before school and after school club.

Midwives are delivering 2 ante natal clinics from the centre each week. A Baby clinic is delivered once a month by the health visitors (first Monday of the month).

**Welbourne:**

Welbourne School is the lead tenant and a range of early years' activities are delivered from the centre.

In addition, the Peterborough Learning Partnership is based in the building.

Health support (Health Visiting) ran throughout the summer holiday period and continues to operate out of the building.

Early Years childcare is offered through the pre-school based in the centre.

**Caverstede:**

Caverstede Early Years Centre is the lead tenant for the facilities. A full programme of early years' support activities are running from the centre. In addition, the centre continues to offer early years support to parents across the city where the child has a disability.

**Highlees:**

Highlees School is the lead tenant. The centre has been open throughout the summer period in order to offer health visiting activity to the community. This will continue.

Early years' development activities have been, and will continue to be, scheduled from the building.

**Brewster Avenue:**

Brewster Avenue Infant School are the lead tenants and have developed a range of activities to be delivered from the new Children and Families Centre. Early years' activities are running every morning from the centre. The funded early childhood development sessions are also operating from the centre.

**Stanground:**

Discussions are currently taking place with the owner of the pre-school to take on the tenancy of the building.

The funded early childhood development sessions are also operating from the centre. Health visiting and midwifery services continue to run out of the building.

**Hampton:**

Family Action are the lead tenants for the building. They have used some of the space to extend their two year old childcare offer in response to demand from the community. In addition, they have an extensive programme of activities on offer throughout the week. Parent led groups are also running from the centre as well as from the Serpentine Green facility.

The Open Day event in the summer holidays was particularly well attended.

Health visiting and maternity services continue to deliver support from the centre.

### **Wittering:**

Wittering school have taken on the tenancy of the building. A full range of support activities are being delivered from the building, much of which is funded through the Military Covenant and targeted at families on the air force base.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

5.1 Initial concerns voiced by parents during the consultation period around continuing to access early years' services locally have been mitigated through the securing of appropriate tenancy agreements for the de-designated centres. These tenancy agreements with identified tenants above have:

- Maintained services during the summer period
- Developed creative and innovative programmes of early years support activities for the future
- Created opportunities for the extension of early years' childcare provision
- Secured the delivery of health visiting and midwifery services in the local areas.

5.2 In the short term, because of timescales, Eye Children's Centre will continue to be managed by the council. It is likely, however, that a suitable tenant will be secured for this building in the near future.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultation will continue with the community in respect of the funded early years' development activities delivered in each of the de-designated centres to ensure that the provision offered is in line with parental expectations and demand.

## **7. NEXT STEPS**

7.1 Continue to work to secure tenants for the Eye, Thorney and Stanground centres.

## **8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

8.1 Cabinet paper.

## **9. APPENDICES**

9.1 **Appendix 1** - Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres – Brewster Avenue

**Appendix 2** Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres – Highlees

**Appendix 3** Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres – Hampton

**Appendix 4** Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres – Wittering

**Appendix 5** Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres - Caverstede

**Appendix 6** Timetable of activities for the Children and Family Centres - Welbourne

**Appendix 7** Early Childhood development timetable

**Appendix 8** Case Study of Peterborough Centre for Voluntary Services work with parents

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