Reshaping services for families with young children

8th June 2016
This report is about....

* Targeting support on our most vulnerable families
* Maintaining the network of support for all families
* Ensuring there is enough nursery education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

It covers consultation feedback, proposals, options, policy and legal, risks + finance
Context

Local Policy

* Children + Young People’s Plan
* Active Communities
* Commissioning Intentions

National

* 1989 Children Act ++++
* 2006 Childcare Act
* Statutory guidance
* Expanding nursery education
* Social work reform
Lead Cabinet Member decision June 2015
Pre engagement process July - Sept 2015
Cabinet decision to consult December 2015
12 week consultation January 2016 - April 2016
Today’s Cabinet proposals
Tendering July - November 2016
Mobilisation December 2016 - March 2017
New arrangements begin 1st April 2017
Advice on consultation + key principles:

* Services organised around families
* Resources targeted to reflect levels of need and geographical location
* Consistent and good early identification of need
* Consistent use of evidence based/informed programmes
* Parent/community led services should be supported and encouraged
* Services will be appropriate to diverse need and will make a difference
Public Consultation Jan–Apr 2016

We asked questions about:

- C+F centres
- Children’s Centres
- Age range of service
- Childcare
- How services work together

- Children’s activities
- 656 responses to online + hard copy survey
- 313 attended 21 parent focus groups
- 327 attended 19 drop ins
- 1 petition + 2 council responses
Feedback from the online survey

* 86% strongly agreed or agreed with proposal for an integrated targeted family support service for families with children aged 0-11 years
* 77% thought that the proposed targeted service would have a positive impact on the early identification and support for children with special needs and disabilities
* 60% strongly agreed or agreed with proposal to create 16 Children and Family Centres in the areas of greatest deprivation

Responses to the proposal for the 30 other children’s centre buildings should be used for:

• Early education and childcare 86% strongly agreed or agreed
• Other universal services run by the local community 77% strongly agreed or agreed
• Bases for professionals who work with families 86% strongly agreed or agreed
Feedback from the online survey

‘I support the idea as long as local communities have the support, funding and training, if needed, to offer these universal services’.

‘This joined up approach to working with pre-birth to 11 would support vulnerable families when a child within a family is identified as having SEN or a disability’.

Childcare availability is really important for working families. It is also important to be able to access other groups and activities as being a mum is hard especially if you are on your own or don’t know many people’.

‘I think that the Children’s Centres should aim to help everyone and not just those most deprived’.

I support the proposal that 30 children’s centres remain open and to be enjoyed by universal families as well as targeted groups’.

‘I would like more parent led services which are easily accessible’.
## Locality Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Children and Family Centres</th>
<th>Number of responses for this locality question</th>
<th>% strongly agree or agree</th>
<th>% positive impact</th>
<th>% negative impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheltenham</td>
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493 responses to the questions about early education and childcare

20% used friends and family, 17% pre schools and playgroups, 16% used nurseries

44% of parents and carers were happy with quality of childcare they were able to access

22% thought childcare was not affordable for them

42% of responses cited a lack of suitable childcare as a personal barrier to training or working
To invest in the social care workforce to improve quality and respond to need

To reshape family support services for families with younger children to ensure they target emerging needs effectively

To maintain a diverse range of early years provision to support families
Our children & young people

Number of children and young people (0-19 years old) in Gloucestershire
138,192

- SEN (inc EHCP) (Jan 16) 12,206
- Youth offending intervention 443
- Eligible for Free school meals (Jan 16) 8234
- Children in poverty 16,030
- Child Protection Plan (Apr 16) 603
- Children in Care (Apr 16) 567
Demand is rising
Families seen at a children’s centre

Families Using Children's Centre Services Jan-March 2016

- **Cheltenham**: 2,500 families
- **Cotswolds**: 1,500 families
- **Forest of Dean**: 900 families
- **Gloucester North**: 800 families
- **Gloucester South**: 1,000 families
- **Stroud**: 400 families
- **Tewkesbury**: 1,200 families

Legend:
- **Blue**: Families using a children's centre service
- **Green**: Families in Greatest Need identified
- **Brown**: Families in Greatest Need seen
Summary of Proposals

- A targeted family support service (0-11yrs) run from 16 Children and Family Centres

- Maintaining community based universal activities at 30 children’s centre bases

- Ensuring nurseries can continue + expanding the nursery education ‘offer’
Targeted family support

Children and Family Centres

* 16 bases in areas of greatest deprivation
* Flexible family support service for families with children 0-11 years working on an outreach basis
* Working through early help hubs to identify need
* 3 contracts based on social care areas
* GCC run integrated team for Cotswolds reflecting geography + need
Maintaining support network

Children’s centres

* 30 Children’s centre bases
* Schools and libraries could host
* Many activities will remain e.g. early years + childcare, adult education, health services, community groups
* Commissioned Parent and Community Support service
* £300k ‘start up’ capital funding
High Quality Nursery Education

- 22 existing nurseries to remain
- 827 places available
- Expressions of interest programme
- Government plans to extend funding to 30 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds
- Application to Education Funded Agency for additional capital to support expansion
Report also considers

- Other options for service model + contracting
- Legal advice + Govt policy
- Resource implications
- Risks

and most importantly……….
Protected groups

* 7 Due Regard Statements – one for each locality
* Equalities data in consultation
* Current service supports children under five and 85% of service users are women
* No indication that groups with protected characteristics will be adversely impacted by proposals
* Recommendations have positive impact on
  * Children aged 0-11 years
  * Children identified as SEND
  * Working families who require childcare
Next steps

* Specification for targeted family support service in development
* Specification for parent and community support service in development
* Market engagement for potential providers event
* Tender process for contracts from July 2016
* Expressions of interest and business case process for 30 children’s centre buildings and nurseries summer/autumn 2016