

Update on Children Centres – SCMPB 13 March 2019

The family resilience consultation including proposed changes to children's centres concluded on the 4th January. On the 29th January 2019 Cabinet members considered the recommendations and responses to the consultation and agreed to:

- Endorse the remodelling of the remaining Children's Centres to create Family Centres as part of a wider Family Service to support families with children aged 0-11 that are the most vulnerable.
- Agree to the reduction in number of Children's Centres in Surrey from 58 centres to 21 centres and satellite sites, to be located in areas where children are most likely to experience poor outcomes. At least one main centre in each district and borough supported by the use of satellites, outreach workers and community venues.
- Agree to reduce the number of mobile Family Centres in Surrey from two to one in order to reach areas where there are small numbers of vulnerable children and families.

Having received this mandate to proceed the council is asking the existing providers who expressed an interest in becoming a lead provider to manage a Family Centre going forward, to confirm whether they still wished to proceed having seen the specification for the new service. This part of the process will be completed by 12th March in most areas. We will then begin a transition process to close children's centres and begin the new Family Centre offer from September 19 onwards. There will be an individual transition plan for each centre as each has its own unique circumstances.

Where no lead provider has been identified through this process the council will discuss other options including the borough/district council or open tender.

The specification document, which will form part of the contract between the council and the lead providers, includes a list of the types of families that may need additional support due to their circumstances and individual needs and this includes military families. Children's centres representatives, including Major Carol Miller, contributed to the specification design to ensure that local information about the communities and families currently served by the centres was included.

Families served by Pirbright and Brookwood Children's Centre and Mytchett Children's Centres will continue to receive the current offer until the new provider is appointed and the new offer introduced. There will not be a gap in services for families. The new Family Centre will continue to work with the local communities and their representatives to ensure that vulnerable families' needs are understood and services are offered close to their homes. Major Miller has offered for the venue on Pirbright Camp to continue to be available to the new provider.

Contact: Lesley Hunt, Supporting Children Manager, Surrey County Council

This page is intentionally left blank