




Equality Impact Assessment Record Form

Section 1: Service Details and Summary of EIA Activity

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| Title of activity: | Children Centre Hub and Spoke model of delivery |
| Lead Officer for EIA: | Yvonne Coates |
| Telephone: | 01325 405864 |
| Service Group: | Children's Services |
| Service or Team: | Early Help |
| Assistant Director accountable for this EIA | Jane Kochanowski |
| Who else is involved in carrying out the EIA: | Rosie Banks Project Lead Sharon Quincey Team Manager |

What stage has the EIA reached? Provide date and a brief note of where you're up to. List any consultation or engagement. Facts, figures and findings go elsewhere.

| Stage | Date | Summary of position |
|---|----------|---|
| Stage 1: Initial officer assessment to identify whole population likely to be affected | 25/10/16 | The model applies to all Children's Centres service users within the catchment area of each centre. This will impact across the borough, the proposal will impact on all wards, and particularly those families with children under the age of 5 and their parents, teenage parents and pregnant women. |
| Stage 2: Further assessment to identify target population | 25/10/16 | Targeted engagement has been undertaken with Children Centre users, staff, external stakeholders and the Children Centre Advisory Board. |
| Stage 3: Further assessment to identify individuals | | Those users with protected characteristics have been consulted with via groups, social media and questionnaires. |
| Stage 4: Analysis of Findings | 16/06/17 | The reduction in services from a five day a week locality based service to a town wide 5 day service with specific area delivery with focused delivery in localities may impact on families with children under 5 and pregnant women. The analysis of findings can be found in Section 6 |

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| Stage 5: Sign-Off | |  |
| Stage 6: Reporting and Action Planning | | <p>The five day service will be offered from McNay Street and further work will be undertaken with service users in each locality to identify delivery times and days which would best suit the community. Data and EIA findings will be used to determine the range of services offered dependent on local need</p> |

Section 2: The Activity and Supporting Information

Details of the activity (main purpose and aims)

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposed to move to a 'hub and spoke' model of delivery as part of the efficiency savings identified for the early help model. The Hub and Spokes will take account of geographical location, size of the centre and nature of services to be provided at each of the spokes. There will be an emphasis on early intervention and prevention in reaching and evidencing outcomes for the most needy and troubled families. It is proposed that there is one main hub that is located where there is a concentration of high need and where a high proportion of priority groups can be reached from a single location.

The hub and spoke model will still have to deliver against the Department of Education Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance April 2013 and the core purpose of Children Centres.

The key focus will remain on providing services for the most disadvantaged families in order to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness supported by improved parenting aspirations self-esteem and child family health and life chances.

Services across the hub will be planned in response to:

- Identified key performance indicators.
- Analysis of local need.
- National priorities for Children's Centres.
- Other emerging priorities.

There will be an emphasis on proving early help to targeted families:

- Improving under 5's school readiness
- Improving under 5's communication and language
- Improving the health of under 5's
- Reduce the risk of poor parenting
- Promoting the economic prospects of families which will include volunteering opportunities ,
- Increasing uptake of 2 year old funded places
- Support uptake of 30 hour 3 year old entitlement from 2017

Bespoke 1-1 interventions will take place within the home environment following effective assessment to ensure appropriate time limited intervention is offered.

Darlington Children Centres have recognised the need to take services out to local communities. The centres already deliver outreach in local schools toward school readiness, weekly outreach from Red Hall Community Centre, Gurney Pease Academy, North Road Primary and Maidendale Community Centre.

We recognise that within the new model there will be a reduction of universal services that are currently delivered across the centres. The service would look at the possibility of Children's Centre volunteers delivering these activities. Children's Centre volunteers currently deliver 8 volunteer led universal activities across the centres.

If McNay Street Children’s Centre became the main hub with spokes sites at Skerne Park, Mount Pleasant, Red Hall and Maidendale there would be low impact to servicer users as services would remain on offer over 5 days and on specific days in the localities identified as spoke sites. The greatest impact would be upon those individuals who previously accessed Haughton Children’s Centre (as explored further in this EIA)

McNay Street Children’s Centre serves the community with the highest level of need. This community would continue to access a program of activity to support the need of the local community.

Delivery within the spokes would be on a needs led basis. The spokes have been identified to be delivered within areas that serve 30% areas of deprivation, targeting services at young children and families in the area who are at risk of poor outcomes. The spokes would provide effective outreach services, based on analysis of need.

Who will be affected by the activity? (groups and numbers)

Whole population

The primary impact is upon current and future parents of children and their offspring under the age of 5 . Children’s circles of support; Grandparents, Advocates, local voluntary and community support services Any adult supporting a child under 5 to access Children Centre activity support.

Target population

Families with children under the age of 5 and potential/future unborn children.

Individuals

Parents and those expecting a baby who are unlikely to take advantage of the early childhood services available.

What data, research and other evidence or information is available which is relevant to the EIA?

There is coverage of 6485 children 0-5 years living within Darlington of which 2605 children live within the 30% most deprived areas nationally.

| Children’s Centres | Number of children 0-5 years in reach area universal | Number of children 0-5 years in reach area living within 30% most deprived LLSOA | % of children living within 30% LLSOA |
|--------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mount Pleasant | 1275 | 280 | 22% |
| Skerne Park | 840 | 345 | 42% |
| McNay Street | 1150 | 815 | 71% |
| Haughton | 1370 | 325 | 24% |
| Dodmire | 1850 | 840 | 45% |

Three of the Darlington Wards LSOAs are amongst the top 1000 most IDACI deprived in England out of 32,844. These LSOA in order of IDACI deprivation are Northgate, Red Hall and Lingfield and Bank top and Lascelles Ward. Within the new model these wards will continue to be served by Children’s Centre services.

Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is a section of Income of multiple deprivation index (IMD) this looks at employment, barriers to housing, health deprivation and disability, living environment and crime. Data informs us that McNay Street Children’s Centre sits within the highest reach area for IDACI. Within the proposed model McNay Street will become the main hub for service delivery which will have a positive impact on those children and families with protective characteristics.

The proposal impacts on Haughton Children Centres negatively as the service will not exist in this area this will particular impact on those with children under 5. However, there will be proposed outreach services at Redhall which is 1.1 mile from the present Haughton Children Centre. Data informs us that

within the Houghton Children's Centre reach area Redhall is the area in greatest need with 150 children age 0-5 years living within the 10% most deprived super output area. Within the proposed new model Children's Centre services will continue to be delivered from Red Hall. Children and Families can also access any of the other centres either in person, or on days when activities are planned or McNay Street either in person or via telephone on a daily basis. 1-1 targeted pieces of work within the family home will continue for those families in need of support

Section 3: Officer Assessment (reviewed and updated to incorporate the impacts identified from the consultation referred to in Section 6:Engagement)

Use this table to record officer views on potential equality impacts. As the activity and assessment develop, views may change – record them here.

| Protected Characteristic | Potential Impact: Positive Negative Mixed N/A | Potential level of impact: High Medium Low Nil | Summary of Impact |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Age | Negative | High/Medium | The proposal impacts on Houghton Children Centres negatively as the present Children Centre will not exist in this area this will particularly impact on those with children under 5. However, the support activities will still be available, there will be proposed outreach services at Redhall approximately 1.1 miles from the present Houghton Children's Centre and users can access any of the other centres either in person, or on days when activities are planned or McNay Street either in person or via telephone on a daily basis. |
| Race | N/A | Nil | <p>The Children's Centres are not targeted at any specific race group (it is a needs led provision). The proposed model will continue to promote equal access and opportunity and therefore will have no impact. Although the majority of users of the Children's Centres are White British, some ethnic minorities are largely but not exclusively based in certain areas of the borough, such as the Asian community in Northgate, the Travelling/Gypsy Roma and Polish community around the Neasham Road and Yarm Road area. These communities will continue to be served within the McNay Street Children's Centre (the main hub) and the identified delivery point within Rydal Academy or any other delivery point. Presently there are certain Children's Centres which have tailored activities for a specific group of individuals, for example, a regular meeting of Polish parents at Dodmire. These meetings will be unaffected in the move to a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Individuals from culturally diverse community groups who participated in the EIA consultation did not identify any specific impacts relating to race, through a move to a hub and spoke delivery model. There will be a clear communications strategy through any transitions phase to ensure continuity of access as far as reasonably possible. There will be opportunities for continuity of contact with professionals where this is essential for wellbeing within the hub and spoke delivery model.</p> |

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| Sex | N/A | Nil | The review of the Children Centres will not have a disproportionate impact on either gender, however, the majority of parents using the centres are females consequently a move to a hub and spoke model will have a greater impact on females. The consultation responses and potential impacts were from female users in the majority. Individuals who participated in the EIA consultation and did not identify any specific impacts relating to their sex, outside of an acknowledgement that by very nature of the service provision the prominent utilisation is by female parents. |
| Gender Reassignment | N/A | Nil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children Centres do not hold any specific information on gender reassignment. Access is needs led and support tailored to the needs of the families/child/ individual. The analysis of all impact responses did not identify any particular impact against this characteristic. This impact area will be revisited and monitored as any transition to models of delivery take place. The communications strategy regarding service availability via a hub and spoke model will include timely information to community based support services and venues. |
| Disability (summary of detail on next page) | Negative | High/Medium | <p>The proportion of parents who attend a Children's centre with a disability (self-reported) is low, the largest number of children with a disability attend sessions at McNay Street which are not impacted by the proposal, all the designated delivery points within the Hub and Spoke model are DDA compliant.</p> <p>There are impacts for disabled people who access the Haughton Children's Centre as these support activities will be provided in an alternative location. There may be associated cost implications for individuals who are traveling further to access support. The Hub and spoke model has provision for an increase in activities focused on children with additional needs at McNay, the present Treasure Seekers activities for disabled children remain unaffected.</p> |
| Religion or belief | N/A | Nil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children Centres do not hold any specific information regarding users religion or belief. Access is needs led and support tailored to the needs of the families/child/ individual. The analysis of all impact responses did not identify any particular impact against this characteristic. This impact area will be revisited and monitored as any transition to models of delivery take place. The communications strategy regarding service availability via a hub and spoke model will include timely information to community based support services and venues. |
| Sexual Orientation | N/A | Nil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children Centres do not hold any specific information on Sexual Orientation Access is needs led and support tailored to the needs of the families/child/ individual. The analysis of all impact responses did not identify any particular impact against this characteristic. This impact area will be revisited and monitored as any transition to models of delivery take place. The communications strategy regarding service availability via a hub and spoke model will include timely information to community based support services and venues, |
| Pregnancy or maternity | Negative | High/Medium | The proposal impacts on Haughton Children Centre negatively as the service will not exist in this area this will particularly impact on those who are pregnant or accessing services. There will be no withdrawal of support from individuals as a result of a transition to a hub and spoke model, there will be proposed outreach services at |

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| | | | <p>Redhall (approx. 1.1 mile from the Houghton centre) and pregnant women can access any of the other centres either in person, or on days when activities are planned or McNay Street either in person or via telephone on a daily basis.</p> <p>There may be negative impacts for pregnant women and women with small children who have developed friendship groups through the attendance of activities and support at Houghton Children Centre, as individuals may opt to access ongoing support and activities in different localities.</p> <p>The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> |
| Marriage/Civil Partnership | N/A | Nil | <p>The Children Centres do not hold any specific information regarding users Marriage or Civil Partnership. Access is needs led and support tailored to the needs of the families/child/ individual.</p> <p>The analysis of all impact responses did not identify any particular impact against this characteristic. This impact area will be revisited and monitored as any transition to new models of delivery take place.</p> <p>The communications strategy regarding service availability via a hub and spoke model will include timely information to community based support services and venues</p> |
| Mobility Impairment | Negative | High/Medium | <p>The services available at Houghton will no longer exist and will impact on those with mobility impairments as they will have travel to another centre. This will mean users will have to travel further (which has an associated cost impact) and use public transport which may impact on ability to attend. The buildings being retained are DDA compliant, activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves. Where a need is identified and is considered the most appropriate option for the individual, outreach sessions to a parental home could be facilitated.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Disabled People.</p> <p>A number of venues which will be used in the Hub and Spoke model have Disabled parking provision.</p> <p>The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> |
| Visual impairment | Negative | High/Medium | <p>The Children Centres could improve the experience of visual impaired users if needed by improving signage. McNay Street is currently accessed by Treasure Seekers (children with additional needs) including visual impairment and this provision will not be impacted by a move to hub and spoke model. The closure of Houghton could impact if parents with visual impairment are unable</p> |

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| | | | <p>to access an alternative centre.</p> <p>The buildings being retained are DDA compliant , activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves.</p> <p>Where a need is identified and is considered the most appropriate option for the individual, outreach sessions to a parental home could be facilitated. The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Disabled People</p> |
| Hearing impairment | Negative | Medium | <p>McNay Street is currently accessed by Treasure Seekers(children with additional needs) including hearing impairment and this provision will not be impacted by a move to hub and spoke model. . The closure of Haughton could impact if individuals with a hearing impairment are unable to access an alternative centre.</p> <p>The buildings being retained are DDA compliant, activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves.</p> <p>Where a need is identified and is considered the most appropriate option for the individual, outreach sessions to a parental home could be facilitated. The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to discuss with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Disabled People.</p> |
| Learning Disability | Negative | Medium/Low | <p>McNay Street is currently accessed by Treasure Seekers (children with additional needs) including Learning Disabilities and this provision will not be impacted by a move to hub and spoke model. . The closure of Haughton could impact if individuals with Learning Disability are unable to access an alternative.</p> <p>There will be negative impacts for individuals with learning disability through a move to a hub and spoke model particularly for; individuals who require a fixed and consistent routine; those individuals who stress and anxiety increase during periods of change and individuals who have developed informal peer support via friendships which they have developed at a specific Children's Centre.</p> <p>The buildings being retained are DDA complaint activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves. Sensory rooms will still continue to be</p> |

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| | | | <p>accessible in the Hub and Spoke delivery model.</p> <p>Where a need is identified and is considered the most appropriate option for the individual, outreach sessions to a parental home could be facilitated. The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Disabled People.</p> |
| Mental Health | Negative | Medium/High | <p>The remodelling of the Early Help service including Children Centre delivery has been mindful of those parents with Mental health needs and will offer one to one outreach in parental homes with a view to encouraging those parents to attend centres when they are well. This will impact on those in the Haughton reach area as they may feel unable to travel further to another centre.</p> <p>There will be negative impacts for individuals with learning disability through a move to a hub and spoke model particularly for; individuals who require a fixed and consistent routine; those individuals who stress and anxiety increase during periods of change and individuals who have developed informal peer support via friendships which they have developed at a specific Children's Centre.</p> <p>The consultation identified a specific potential impact for individuals with Post Natal Depression, the hub and spoke model will continue to ensure that timely access to support service is available.</p> <p>The consultation identified a specific impacts regarding individuals who prefer to access Children's Centres which are quieter and the reduction in physical centres, may naturally increase usage at centres where people have opted to go because they are quieter and also for those parents who have intentionally accessed Haughton Children's Centre as a quieter venue. This is may be detrimental for some individuals.</p> <p>The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model. This will include signposting to quieter activities where required.</p> |
| Long Term Limiting Illness | Negative | Medium/High | <p>The buildings being retained are DDA complaint activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves.</p> <p>Where a need is identified and is considered the most appropriate option for the individual, outreach sessions to a parental home could be facilitated. The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and</p> |

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| | | | community sector providers providing support to Disabled People. |
| Multiple Impairments | Negative | Medium/High | <p>This will dependent on individual circumstances which can be mitigated against via one to one outreach services</p> <p>The buildings being retained are DDA complaint activities will be spread across different days and times. Information will be widely available regarding the activities available through the hub and spoke model, enabling individuals to determine which are most appropriate for themselves. The transition phase will include opportunities for current and future users to speak with practitioners regarding their individual requirements and how they could most effectively be met in a hub and spoke model.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Disabled People</p> |
| Other – Carers of children under 5 | Negative | Medium/High | <p>The proposal impacts on Haughton Children’s Centre negatively as the service will not exist in this area this will particularly impact on those with caring responsibilities for children under 5. However, there will be outreach services at Redhall approximately 1.1 mile from the present Haughton Children’s Centre and users can access any of the other centres either in person, or on days when activities are planned or McNay Street either in person or via telephone on a daily basis.</p> <p>Targeted communications regarding any changes and updates during any transitional phase will be made to local voluntary and community sector providers providing support to Carers.</p> |
| Geographical Location | Negative | Medium/High | <p>Individuals living with the Haughton area of the town will be most impacted by a transition to a hub and spoke model. The nearest locality for support will be approximately 1:1 miles away within Redhall, (which still falls within the same area and has the greater need for designated provision).</p> <p>The distance from Haughton Children’s Centre to the other Children’s Centres is approximately as follows: Dodmire 2.6 miles McNay 1.8 miles (5 day service offer) Skerne Park 2.9 miles Mount Pleasant 4.1 mile</p> <p>The remodelling of the service has an increased emphasis on one to one support in the family home.</p> |

Potential Cumulative Impacts

There have been a number of other proposals with have directly impacted families these include:

- Previous MTFP proposal to reduce Outreach Support for people affected by Domestic Abuse
- Reduction in funding for Crisis and Community Care
- Increase in Council Tax
- Impacts of the various welfare reforms.

Section 4: Engagement Decision

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| Do you need to engage now, or during the development of the activity, to better understand how the activity might affect people because of their protected characteristics? | Yes |
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Section 5: Involvement and Engagement Planning

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| Has the assessment shown that the activity will have a different effect on people because of their protected characteristic(s)? Yes |
| The assessment has identified that there will be greater impacts for some protected characteristic groups than others; most notably: age, gender, mental health and disability. Mitigation actions to remove or reduce the impact have been identified as part of the impact assessment process and will be monitored as any transition to new arrangements take place and throughout the implementation of a hub and spoke model. |
| Will the difference advance equality for people with that protected characteristic? - No |
| There will be no advancement of equality for people with protected characteristics, specified actions have been identified to remove or reduce arising impacts which will include; the involvement of parents in the programme planning to enhance the provision of services and ensuring that services meets the demands of children under 5. |
| Will the difference cause or increase disadvantage for people with that protected characteristic? No – the focus of the model is providing targeted and tailored support to vulnerable families. |

| Involvement and Engagement Plan | | | |
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| Which organisations, groups and individuals do you need to involve or engage and how? | | | |
| Date of plan entry | Organisation, Group or Individuals | Date of event or activity | Type of activity – venue, channels, method and staffing |
| 18 th April to 30 th May 2017 | General Public | 18 th April to June 16 th 2017 | Public consultation via the DBC consultation page. |
| 9 th May 2017 | Dodmire Children's Centre Users | 9 th May 2017 | Drop in public consultation session held at the centre, questionnaires via paper copy and survey monkey via the web based consultation page. Children's Centre Facebook page used to advertise the sessions and link provided to consultation page on the web site. Posters were displayed across the centres. |

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| 10 th May 2017 | Haughton Children's Centre Users | 10 th May 20 17 | Drop in public consultation session held at the centre, questionnaires via paper copy and survey monkey via the web based consultation page. Children's Centre Facebook page used to advertise the sessions and link provided to consultation page on the web site. Posters were displayed across the centres. |
| 11 th May 2017 | Dodmire Children's Centre Users – Polish Group | 11 th May 2017 | Consultation session held at the centre specifically for families from the Polish community. A Polish speaking Early Help Practitioner was available for translation if necessary. Posters were displayed in Polish. |
| 12 th May 2017 | Mount Pleasant Children's Centre Users | 12 th May 2017 | Drop in public consultation session held at the centre, questionnaires via paper copy and survey monkey via the web based consultation page. Children's Centre Facebook page used to advertise the sessions and link provided to consultation page on the web site. Posters were displayed across the centres. |
| 18 th May 2017 | Skerne Park Children's Centre Users | 18 th May 2017 | Drop in public consultation session held at the centre, questionnaires via paper copy and survey monkey via the web based consultation page. Children's Centre Facebook page used to advertise the sessions and link provided to consultation page on the web site. Posters were displayed across the centres. |
| 17 th May 2017 | McNay Street | 17 th May 2017 | Drop in public consultation session held at the centre, questionnaires via paper copy and survey monkey via the web based consultation page. Children's Centre Facebook page used to advertise the sessions and link provided to consultation page on the web site. Posters were displayed across the centres. |

Section 6: Engagement Findings and Impact Overview

Survey Results

Q1 What is your interest in Children's Centre Buildings?

183 responses were received. It should be noted that 6.5% responded both with the role of a parent and a/n. other. 93% were parent carers, 4% health professionals, 4% school teachers, 3% from community and voluntary sector and 2% other professionals

Q2 Which Children's Centre do you currently use?

In total 182 answered this question and 1 respondent did not answer this question. There were 48% of people who declared they used more than one centre. The number of people using outreach points is 12%. The proposed Centre Hub received the highest percentage of responses and the outreach at Red Hall the lowest.

Q3 Do you currently care for children 0-5?

In total 180 respondents cared for children in the age bracket 0-5 and 3 did not respond (1%). 86% responded that they care for children, 13% said they did not and 1% did not respond

Q4 Do you intend to care for children in the future?

In total 156 answered this question and 27 did not answer (15%). 69% said they intended to care for children in the future and 16% said no

Q5 What level of impact do you think there would be?

In total 177 answered this question and 6 did not respond (3%). 34% percent of respondents stated that the impact was either unknown or positive whereas 29% believed it would have a negative impact. 5% declared they did not know if it would have an impact.

Q6 Do you agree with McNay Street being retained as the main hub?

In total 162 responded to this question and 21 did not answer (11%).

The support for McNay as a main hub is positive with 49% agreeing to this however, 11% failed to answer this question.

Q7 Do you agree with the following centres being retained as identified delivery points?

In total 145 responded to this question and 38 did not answer (21%). The data identifies that the maintaining the proposed centres as delivery points was supported at each of the proposed centres. 56% support Mount Pleasant, 57% Skerne Park, 58% Dodmire, 46% Red Hall and 51% Maidendale

Q8 Do you agree with Haughton Children's Centre Closure?

This question 158 responded to this question and 25 did not answer (14%), although there is a high percentage who disagrees with the closure of Haughton it should be noted that only 23% of the total of 183 returned questionnaires was from direct users of Haughton Centre.

Q9 Would you continue to use any of these services if not in your area?

This question related to the removal of all services from the locality points. 154 responded to this question and 29 (16%) did not respond. 26% said yes and 58% said no.

Q10 Are you registered at a Children's Centre?

183 people were asked this question. Only 27% responded that they were register. 4% stated that they were not. 69% failed to answer this question

Q11 Outcomes from forums

Public forums were held across the centres, which were promoted directly through the centres, via the centre's Facebook pages and through Darlington Borough Council's main website. The forums were held at different times including early evening to ensure opportunity to attend was maximised.

Dodmire 9th May 2017. Number of attendees 0

Haughton 10th May 2017. Number of attendees 5 (however these were families attending a group activity). **Examples of comments raised by parents** - parent expressing her concerns regarding transport to other centres and getting her buggy on a bus was advised Red Hall would still be available. Two parents said they would use Red Hall. Another parent advised she lived in the west end of town but enjoyed coming to this centre, as it was quieter than the others.

Dodmire 11th May 2017. Number of attendees from the Polish community 5

Comments received from the Polish group included;

- Keep the Polish group running at Dodmire.
- Would volunteers still be able to run the group from Dodmire?
- Would there be access to outdoor play?
- Could the group be remarketed in the new model?
- Would they still get support?

The group were reassured that the proposals would see the continuation of Dodmire as an identified delivery point with continued commitment to support volunteers.

A mother and father attended the drop in session after the group had finished. They both felt very strongly that some services should still be delivered from Dodmire Children’s Centre. The father said he worked long hours and was rarely at home and both parents said that the centre had been a lifeline and they really appreciated the support they had been given. They were very keen that a group for children aged 0-2 years should still be provided.

Mount Pleasant 12th May 2017. Number of attendees 5. They all confirmed they had made their views known via the questionnaire. They were very keen that some services should still be delivered from Mount Pleasant Children’s Centre but felt it was a shame about Haughton.

McNay Street 17th May 2017. Number of attendees 0

Skerne Park 18th May 2017. Number of attendees 7. 2 parents stayed to ask further questions. One parent worked four days and attended this group on her day off. She loved attending however knew we needed to target those in greatest need of support but she felt the groups should be for everyone especially as they were free. They both felt it was shame about Haughton Children’s Centre.

Advisory Board feedback

The Children’s Centre Advisory Board which includes representatives from parents, health, housing, schools, PVI, Children’s Centre staff, volunteers and learning and skills have been fully informed throughout the process and support the proposed new model. They are pleased that a service is being maintained and will be fully involved in any next steps.

Summary of overall comments and impacts identified (via surveys)

There were a total of 80 additional general comments. The majority related to transport and accessibility. Service users commented on the fact they would be happy if there was still something delivered in their local area as identified in the proposed model for the identified delivery points.

Overview of themed comments and impacts received and mitigation options identified.

| <u>Area Raised</u> | <u>Impact mitigation</u> |
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| Accessibility: “I think there should be outreach points across the town to make it easy for parents to access” “Skerne Park is on my doorstep I would struggle to go anywhere else” “McNay is central but I would struggle to get there on a bad day” | Outreach points will be available in the Hub and Spoke model Skerne Park specifically will be unaffected, the Hub and Spoke model will seek to provide geographical coverage across the town. 1 to 1 provision will be available where a specific need is identified |

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| <p>Range of support: "My daughter attended a home to nursery transition group which was so valuable would these still run across the town?"</p> <p>"If sessions continue as normal with staff available in bespoke points that would be ok"</p> <p>"Worried that you won't deliver as many diverse bespoke groups"</p> <p>"Some sessions should be available to all centres"</p> | <p>There will continue to be a 5 day support offer, parents will be involved in the development of sessions available.</p> |
| <p>Timely access to professionals: "Having support from professional is vital"</p> | <p>Professional and multiagency support will still continue to be available.</p> |
| <p>Levels of provisions: "I think every area should have its own centre"</p> | <p>The current provision is not sustainable , the hub and spoke model will seek to provide geographical coverage across the Borough.</p> |
| <p>Impact on mental wellbeing "McNay may become overcrowded" "Size of McNay suitable for the hub but not necessarily for the needs of families"</p> | <p>There will be other community based venue used in addition to McNay Street.</p> |

Comments received in relation to the proposed closure of Haughton Children's centre

A total of 68 comments received however as stated only 23% of the total responses from questionnaire were from Haughton Children's Centre users.

Example of comments

| Area Raised | <u>Mitigation Identified</u> |
|--|--|
| <p>Accessibility "May be difficult for families from Haughton area to access services"</p> <p>"There should be enough Children's Centres"</p> <p>"Would be a loss to the community"</p> <p>"Local services are vital"</p> <p>"Not a centre I use but would be shame to lose it"</p> | <p>Outreach points across the Borough will be available in the Hub and Spoke model</p> |
| <p>"Shame to lose baby clinic facility"</p> | <p>Baby clinic facilities will still continue to be available</p> |
| <p>"Free accessible services benefit families"</p> | <p>Free Services will still continue to be available.</p> |
| <p>"People who live close by will suffer"</p> <p>"Many parents do not drive and parents living up near Whinfield it's too far for baby weigh days"</p> | <p>Individuals may need to travel further than previously; however, there be will be provision across the Borough via a Hub and Spoke Model,</p> |

Overall there has been quite a low key response re the proposed closure of Haughton Children's Centre. This could be a reflection in that it is one of the quieter Children's Centres situated in the lowest area of deprivation in comparison to other centres, and currently delivers one well child health clinic per week and a stay and play group one session per week. This level of activity meets the demands of the community. It is worth noting there are currently weekly activities delivered from Red Hall that are meeting local needs.

Out of those that responded to the closure of Haughton (23% said they were users) 9% of these said it would have a very negative impact, however none of these declared themselves as having any of the protected characteristics.

It is recognised that through the remodelling of services, specifically to those targeted groups of families does have an impact on the universal provision of Children’s Centre services. However the statutory guidance April 2013 and the core purpose of Children’s Centres must provide services for the most disadvantaged families in order to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness supported by improved parenting aspirations self-esteem and child family life chances.

Section 6: Engagement Findings – Continued

Please explain your findings for each area of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

| |
|--|
| <p>a) Does the activity help to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation?</p> |
| <p>The Children’s Centre review supports our commitment to equality by further targeting services to children and families most in need and this will enable increased contact with identified groups. Increased targeting of provision to those in most need by moving to a hub and spoke delivery model and includes providing services to families directly in their homes as required.</p> |
| <p>b) Does the proposal help to advance equality of opportunity?</p> |
| <p>The Children’s Centre review support our commitment to equality by further targeting services to children and families most in need this will enable increased contact with identified groups. A strengthening of a targeted approach will support improved outcomes with a focus on school readiness, particularly those at risk of achieving poor outcomes. Concentrating on those families with the greatest need of support will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics. All communities will still be served by a Children’s Centre or identified delivery point with targeted outreach as appropriate. We will ensure that retained centres and those venues identified as specific outreach venues are fully accessible and specific provision for Children with Disabilities is identified and retained/developed as part of the new Children’s Centre offer.</p> |
| <p>c) Does the proposal help to foster good relations?</p> |
| <p>The Children’s Centre review support our commitment to equality by further targeting services to children and families most in need this will enable increased contact with identified groups. We will improve partnership working to put in place effective support mechanisms and enhanced services.</p> |

| |
|---|
| <p>During the engagement process were there any suggestions on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate any negative impacts? If so, please give details.</p> |
| <p>Where mitigation was identified it focused on not making any changes to present arrangements or reducing the number of Children’s Centres where it was acknowledged that changes were required the primary mitigation was to ensure that there is retention of the present range of support activities available.</p> <p>A number of parents identified that as long as there is not a withdrawal of range and type of support available this will begin to address any arising impact. The impact assessment work and consultation identified which activities were valued the most by parents and the activities which parents would most like to see in the new model, which will be considered as part of the transition arrangements.</p> <p>The potential closure of Haughton could result in a loss of service for those living within the local community. The impact of such a proposed closure is mitigated by Children’s Centre Services remaining to be delivered within Red Hall Community Centre, which sits within the Haughton Children’s Centre reach area. This is further supported by targeted one to one family support</p> |

Section 7 - Sign-off when assessment is complete

| Officer Completing the Form: | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| Signed | Name: | |
| | Date: | |
| | Job Title: | |
| Assistant Director: | | |
| Signed | Name: | |
| | Date: | |
| | Service: | |

Section 8: Report Findings to Decision Makers

Any report to decision makers should clearly identify impacts, options and reasons. What does the EIA show? More than one may apply:

| |
|--|
| a) No negative impact. All opportunities to advance equality have been taken. Monitor progress on implementation. |
| b) Negative impacts identified. Adjustments to remove barriers or to better advance equality have been proposed. This may apply due to the reduction in service proposed in particular areas of the borough. The reduction of five day service in the localities is mitigated by five day service provided in McNay Street Children's Centre and one to one provision in the family home. The closure of Haughton will have the greatest impact on those who reside in the area. This is mitigated by maintaining Red Hall outreach which is in Haughton reach area. Parents and children are able to access any of the hub and spoke centres including the five day provision at McNay Street. Targeted families are able to access one to one provision in their own homes. |
| c) Negative impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality have been identified. If the proposal is for the activity to continue unchanged, justification or compelling reasons have been given. |
| d) Unlawful discrimination identified. Stop and rethink activity. |

Section 9: Action Plan and Performance Management

| What is the negative impact? | Actions required to reduce/eliminate the negative impact (if applicable) | Who will lead on action | Target completion date |
|--|--|---|---|
| Reduction in services due to removing the 5 day provision in specific localities and the closure of Haughton | The offer of services from one centre on a 5 day basis, offering bespoke services to the communities affected by targeting resources to those children in greatest need. Using the local advisory board (which includes parental representation) for Children's Centres to monitor the progress and assist in defining the services and provisions required which would best meet the needs of those disadvantaged by the change in provision. | Yvonne Coates Head of Services | December 2017 |
| People with Mental Health Needs: Individuals unclear as to what support will be available where, particular impact for people with mental health needs or PND. | Timely access to support will continue, individuals with specific concerns/need will continue to be able to directly access the multi-disciplinary teams for timely support. Key stakeholders and voluntary and community groups supporting vulnerable people will be provided with up to date service information through the transition period to the new arrangements. | Sharon Quincey Children's Centre Development Manager | Ongoing from service transition to implementation |
| People with Mental Health Needs: Disruption to friendship groups | The local advisory board will assist in defining the services and provisions required which would best meet the needs of those disadvantaged by the change in provision. The range of support via the hub and spoke model will be publically promoted and with key stakeholders to enable individuals to make informed choices about which alternative locality they may like to access. | Sharon Quincey Children's Centre Development Manager | Ongoing from service transition to implementation |
| Age/Disability/Mental Health Needs Pregnancy and Maternity; Individuals may not be able to access provision in alternative localities | The hub and spoke model will still continue to provide coverage across the Borough, therefore there will still be choice for individuals to access the locality most appropriate for them. Where an individual is unable to access support in another locality, the opportunity for 1 to 1 support in the home will be explored. | Sharon Quincey Children's Centre Development Manager | Ongoing from service transition to implementation |
| Age/Disability/Mental Health Needs Pregnancy and | The hub and spoke model will still continue to provide coverage across the Borough, therefore there will still | Sharon Quincey Children's Centre Development | Ongoing from service transition to |

| | | | |
|---|--|---------|----------------|
| Maternity Cost of travel to alternative support venue. Individuals unable to access support in alternative localities | be choice for individuals to access the locality most appropriate for them. Where an individual is unable to access support in another locality, the opportunity for 1 to 1 support in the home will be explored. | Manager | implementation |
|---|--|---------|----------------|

| Performance Management | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Date of the next EIA review | This EIA will be reviewed and monitored through each stage of transition through to the full implementation of the hub and spoke model |
| Further review dates | Ongoing |
| Who will lead the review? | The local advisory board who will have the review and monitoring of this impact assessment as a standing board agenda item until all new arrangements are embedded. |

