

BUDGET CUT ASSESSMENT FORM

Budget Cut Assessment Form CHILDREN'S CENTRES/ EARLY HELP & INTERVENTION/ SPECIALIST FAMILY SUPPORT	Ref No Hu1	Responsible AD	Responsible Finance Manager	Responsible HR Manager	Responsible Lawyer	Responsible EIA Officer
Description of Proposal:						
CHILDREN'S CENTRES						
<p>The proposal is to change the operating model to a Hub and Spoke model with a centralised children centre and provide outreach services to five locations in the borough with reduced delivery to a maximum of 1 full day per week using community buildings to support delivery. Children's Centres provide early support in a universal and targeted manner specially to pregnant woman and children and their families 0-5 years. The Childcare Act 2006 defines the role of the local authority as ensuring there is sufficient children centres as practicably possible. There is a requirement to ensure consultation is undertaken in respect of any major change in children centre provision. The Local Authority works with health and job centre plus partners to ensure early childhood and employment services can be sufficiently signposted or offered from such centres. A children centre must also provide a number of activities for children 0-5 years to improve their life chances including health inequalities, school readiness and parental employment.</p> <p>Children Centres are currently based in Haughton (stand-alone building) McNay Street (stand-alone building) Dodmire (spaced leased from Longfield Academy Trust) Mount Pleasant (part of Mount Pleasant School a maintained school by the council) and Skerne Park (spaced leased from Hummersknott Academy Trust).</p> <p>Children Centres provide the opportunity for early identification of families and children who may, if not offered support at the earliest opportunity, require input from specialist services at an increased cost to the local authority. Opportunities for direct work with children and families would be limited given the reduction in bespoke children's centres buildings.</p>						
EARLY HELP						
<p>Working Together 2015 requires local authorities to work together with partner agencies and offer early help support to those families who are identified as having additional needs and support requirements. Following identification an assessment is required to ensure services can be identified to support the child and family to prevent escalation to Children Social Care provision. The local authority has a responsibility to promote interagency co-operation, establish the local process for Early Help and identification and establish the process as part of a continuum of need which should be agreed and promoted by the Local Safeguarding Board. It is the role of the Local Safeguarding Board to monitor and evaluate the offer of services.</p> <p>The current proposal is to merge existing family support services into one centralised team offering Early Help to those families where breakdown is imminent, who have multiple risk factors which impacts on family life. Support those young people who are risk of becoming looked after, have poor school attendance or are likely to become NEET. This will include a services that operate 7 days a week to the children and young people who are at risk of becoming looked after.</p> <p>Currently there is significant co-ordination with the DWP secondee to focus on adults in the families getting back into employment. Fewer resources would inhibit the ability to work intensively to achieve this objective.</p> <p>With reduced FIT resources there is likely to be an impact on the area based social work teams, the YOS and the FIT in terms of caseloads. There would be an increased expectation that social workers in the teams would complete the necessary interventions currently undertaken by the FIT.</p>						
Human Resources Impacts		Asset Management Impacts	Decommissioning Costs	Cost Shunting		
No. of posts to be deleted	Cca 35 equivalent, TBC	Detail any released buildings/building space Identify disposal or requisition issues	In addition to HR and Asset costs identify any others e.g. early contract termination costs	Is there any known or potential to increase costs elsewhere within Council budgets		
No. of potential redundancies	Cca 34 equivalent TBC	Children's centres: Potentially the buildings at Haughton and McNay Street could be released dependent on location of the centre. However, the centres were built with grant monies which may be subject to claw back clauses		The council may see an increase in Children in Need as defined under the 'Children Act 1989, i.e. Increases in cases going through to CAP/MASH/Area social work teams		
Estimated Redundancy costs	£474,667	Early Help & Intervention: McNay Street Children Centre and Haughton Children Centre (subject to the positioning of children centre delivery)		Termination of contract for space at Heathfield School, Coleridge Centre and Mount Pleasant School		

	Financial Summary				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimated reduction to budget	£170,567	£870,033	£1,287,310	£1,399,362	£1,399,362
Redundancy Costs (Estimate)	£106,353	£368,314			
Asset Implication					
Decommissioning Costs	TBC	TBC			
Known Cost Shunting					
Overheads	£5,570	£160,938	£175,411	£179,829	£179,829
NET Budget Reduction	£69,784	£662,657	£1,462,721	£1,579,191	£1,579,191

Equality Impact Assessment

Details of this proposal have not been finalised and therefore the Equality Impact Assessment has not yet been completed. This proposal will be subject to a further detailed report later in the year.