

Reading Children's Centres Consultation

4 January 2017 - 29 March 2017

We are proposing a new model for our Children's Centres. This includes changes to the services we offer, who can access them and where they will be based.

Visit www.reading.gov.uk/childrenscentresreview to see the full consultation and have your say or come along to one of our events:

Southcote Children's Centre	24 January 2017	10am - 12pm
Ranikhet Children's Centre	10 February 2017	11.30am - 1.30pm
Surestart Whitley Children's Centre	16 February 2017	10am-12pm
Caversham Children's Centre	20 February 2017	10am - 12pm
Katesgrove Children's Centre	1 March 2017	10am - 12pm

The purpose of this consultation

Under the 2006 Childcare Act Reading Borough Council must ensure the sufficient provision of children's centres in its area to meet the local need of parents, prospective parents and young children, especially for those in the greatest need of support.

Children's Centres offer a range of family services to parents, prospective parents and young children in Reading.

Reading Borough Council is asking for the views of local families, centre staff, advisory boards, service providers and members of the public, on the proposed remodelling of Children's Centres, including considering alternative options that consultees may wish to suggest.

Reading Borough Council has a statutory duty to consult with those affected about any proposals that may result in significant changes to, and/or the closure of, its Children's Centres, which are part of the proposed remodelled Children's Centre service.

What are the proposals?

We are proposing to reorganise Children's Centre services so they operate from four hubs located in the areas of highest need. A remodelled service would offer universal health and maternity services and early intervention support for vulnerable families. The Health Visiting service would also be integrated into the

centres. Some Children's Centres would close as part of a remodelled service while others would continue to operate as community buildings.

Why are these plans coming forward?

Despite £65 million of savings made since 2011, we still face a funding gap of £42 million because the Government has cut Council funding at a time when demands on Council services are increasing. By 2020 we will have had to make more than £100 million of savings. The Council is having to make some difficult decisions to deliver a balanced budget, including delivering some services differently. If agreed, the remodelling of Children's Centre services will save £400,000 and help close the funding gap.

How to have your say

You can read the full proposals on our website at www.reading.gov.uk/childrenscentresreview. Paper copies can be viewed at Children's Centres, libraries and the Civic Offices.

We are encouraging people to fill out the online form but you can also write to us at:

Reading Children's Centres Consultation,
Alice Mascarenhas, 2nd Floor North
Front,
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU



Have your say at www.reading.gov.uk/childrenscentresreview