

# Children's Centre Services Consultation Feedback Summary

## Summary of consultation results

- 495 people accessed the Survey Monkey questionnaire. One person had submitted a response by email which has been incorporated.
- Organisational responses were received from Healthwatch, Northamptonshire Breastfeeding Alliance and Action for Children.
- There was broad support for the proposals outlined in the 5 'headline' questions:
  - 52% of respondents agree or strongly agree that in order to access the Children's Centre targeted service, all families (with children aged under 5 years) will be referred through a simple referral process which includes completion of an Early Help Assessment or as a result of a 'step down' from Social Care;
  - 75% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the three areas of activity identified as the focus of services delivered in the future were appropriate;
  - 32% of respondents indicated other activity to consider as part of any future Children's Centre targeted services;
  - Significant support for broader use of buildings currently designated to deliver Children's Centre services, developing these locations further as community hubs to offer additional services locally, was evident;
  - 68% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the ideas and proposals indicated in the previous four questions were appropriate for the future delivery of targeted children's centre services within the proposed budget;
- However the following issues, raised by consultees in their online representations, have also been noted:
  - Strong support for universal services which provide support for all families and build parents confidence in the professionals, thus enabling identification of vulnerable families.
  - Support for the idea of a 'community hub' with co-located services but with the proviso that it could include universal services in order to avoid stigmatisation
  - Impact the changes could have on long-term impact to vulnerable families which could result in an increased need for higher levels of support and intervention, i.e the impact on Children's Social Care Services.
- 336 respondents gave their main reason for interest in the consultation as follows:

I am a current or prospective parent / carer of a child under 5.	38%
I am a parent / carer and I used Children's Centre services when my children were younger.	10%
The work of the Children's Centres impacts on the service in which I work.	34%
I have a role which involves representing the view of a particular group of people	5%
Other (this includes grandparents, childminders, volunteers, councillors and family support workers and a significant number of respondents who seem to describe themselves in ways which would meet the categories above)	13%
- 95% of the respondents were female and the majority of respondents were aged between 20 and 64, with 65% being between 30 and 49.

## Cabinet Papers and Decisions

The Cabinet Papers from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017, in respect of Early Help and Children's Centres can be accessed by following [this link](#).

The outcomes of the Cabinet meeting (Cabinet Decision Sheet, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017) can be accessed by following [this link](#).