

**BUDGET CUT ASSESSMENT FORM**

<b>Budget Cut Assessment Form CHILDREN'S CENTRES/ EARLY HELP &amp; INTERVENTION/ SPECIALIST FAMILY SUPPORT</b>	Ref No Hu1	Responsible AD	Responsible Finance Manager	Responsible HR Manager	Responsible Lawyer	Responsible EIA Officer
<p><b>Description of Proposal:</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CENTRES</b></p> <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> <p><b>EARLY HELP</b></p> <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	35	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	34	<b>Children's centres:</b> 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	£476,552	<b>Early Help &amp; Intervention:</b>  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)	£31,949	£444,603			
Asset Implication					
Decommissioning Costs	TBC	TBC			
Known Cost Shunting					
Overheads	£5,585	£161,033	£175,543	£179,955	£179,555
NET Budget Reduction	£144,203	£586,463	£1,462,853	£1,579,317	£1,579,317

**Equality Impacts**

Overview is EIA needed?			Protected Characteristics							
Put 'x' in relevant box if the proposal:		'x'	Comments, including any charge across the options. Include the number of people affected, where known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put 'x' in the box in the Impact column if there are positive (P) or negative (N) equality impacts. Leave box blank if there are no potential equality impacts</li> <li>Put L, M, H or ? in relevant column using following descriptions:  L = sustainable adjustment in daily routine  M = significant reorganisation or change  H = life changing or limiting impact on quality of life  ? = not known at this stage.</li> </ul>			Explain decision, level of impact and any change across the options		Yes	Brief Details
Affects	Service users	X	Population 0-19 including their parents		Impact		Level			
	Employees	X	Reduction in staffing numbers will impact on staff		P	N	L/M/H/?		Have Cumulative Impacts been identified?	
	The wider community	X	Services will no longer be community based but centrally delivered which will impact on the universal offer of advice and guidance which may impact on those who are unable to access centrally based services dependent on location	Age		x		Children 0-19 will be affected by this decision	Have unlawful impacts been identified?	
Significantly affects how services are delivered?		X	Working in partnership with health will be affected as services may not be integrated fully may also impact on school aged users who will find it difficult to access centrally based services	Race					Are there opportunities to advance equality?	
Have a significant effect on partner organisations?		X	Health in particular due to shared accommodation	Sex					Are there opportunities to foster good relations?	
Affect services known to be important to particular protected groups?		X	Health, Schools, Job Centre	Gender Reassignment					Have any other options been explored and discounted?	
Affect different protected groups in different ways?		X	Greatest impact is likely to be on those who are pregnant also those under the age of 19	Disability						
Relate to service areas with known inequalities		X	Health and Employment	Religion or Belief						
				Sexual Orientation						
				Pregnancy or Maternity		x		Expectant teen mothers will be affected		
				Marriage/Civil Partnership						

MFTP – 2016/17 – Equality Screenings. This screening tool is to gather information on potential equality impacts to inform decision making. It is not an equality impact assessment. EIA will be done at a later stage where appropriate. All proposals must have an equality screen document. Decision makers must have equality screening information before any decision is taken. DBC is at risk of legal challenge if decision makers do not have this information.