

| MAYOR AND CABINET | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Report Title | Early Intervention Proposals for Children's Centres | |
| Key Decision | Yes | Item No. |
| Ward | All | |
| Contributors | Director of Children's Social Care, Executive Director Children & Young People, Executive Director of Resources and Regeneration Head of Law | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: 15 July 2015 |

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to feed back to Mayor and Cabinet on the proposals for Children's Centre provision in the borough following consultation with service users, staff and professionals as requested at the meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 11th February 2015.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report for the meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February 2015 set out the proposal to make savings of £5.515m during 2015/18 through improving triage for Children's Social Care services and re-designing the Children's Centres Early Intervention offer.
- 2.2 Part of these savings concerned the reshaping of early intervention services run via the Children's Centres in order to reduce costs by £1.936m by reducing the unit cost for each family worked with, reducing the number of families to be worked with from 5500 to 3800 and saving administration costs by enabling some Children's Centres to be freed from Ofsted inspections which would allow them to operate at a lower cost. This would require the Centres to be removed from the Sure Start On database even though they would continue to deliver services for children and families.
- 2.3 The total savings of £5.515m were agreed at the meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February. The Mayor also requested a consultation exercise with the Children's Centres in relation to the proposed new model of operation. This report feeds back the results of this consultation.

3. Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 3.1 note the responses to the consultation
- 3.2 agree that the following Children's Centres remain open providing services to children and families and remain on the Sure Start database: Clyde, Ladywell, Bellingham, Downderry, Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove.
- 3.3 agree that the following Children's Centres remain open providing services to children and families and are removed from the Sure Start database: Besson Street Gardens, St Swithun's, Evelyn, Amersham, Hatcham Oak, Manor House, Torridon, Marvels Lane, Beecroft Garden and Kilmorie.
- 3.4 confirm as closed Heathside and Lethbridge and remove this Centre from the Sure Start On database.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 The Council's Sustainable Strategy "Shaping our Future" sets out a vision for Lewisham and the priority outcomes that we can work towards in order to make this vision a reality. Children's Centres' contribution to the Strategy includes increasing attainment at school, empowering communities to take an active part in their local area including volunteering opportunities and improving health outcomes for children and families. The Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015 sets out our priorities for development. The work undertaken by officers and the proposals set out in this report are in line with the aims and objectives of these policy frameworks.

5. Context

- 5.1 At the present time there are 17 Children's Centre sites across the borough. They are all commissioned services on a payment by results basis. The contract with The Children's Society to run services at 8 Centres came to an end on 31 March 2015 and Clyde Early Childhood Centre and Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA) took over the running of these Centres with the exception of Heathside and Lethbridge which is currently closed awaiting demolition. Currently, we have 5 Children's Centres being run by Clyde Early Childhood Centre (CECC), 5 by the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA) and 7 are school-run Children's Centres. In addition to the 17 Children's Centre sites, services are run from other venues in the borough by Children's Centres including at Deptford Park, health centres and TNG. A map showing the Children's Centres and their geographical location is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 For the £1.936m savings proposals from the Children's Centres to be taken forward, it was proposed in the 11 February 2015 Mayor and Cabinet report that we should change the existing model of delivery, in order that the Centres remain viable and can ensure that they maximise the resource spent on children and families rather than on administration.

- 5.3 Proposals to extend the current Children's Centres provision until 31 March 2017 are the subject of a report to Mayor and Cabinet Contracts on 15 July 2015. It is proposed in that report that, in line with the savings agreed in February, the value of these contracts be reduced from £3.214m in 2014/15 to £2.44m in 2015/16 and £1.8m in 2016/17. The agreement to the recommendations in this report are designed to allow the Centres more flexibility to operate within these reduced funding envelopes.
- 5.4 In order to enable Children's Centres to have this flexibility in operation and reduced administration and data capture costs, the proposal is that some Centres are freed from Ofsted inspection to allow the reduced resource to be directed to delivery of services for children and families rather than administration. The DfE database 'Sure Start On' holds the records of Children's Centres and is used by Ofsted in order to plan inspections. Removal of a Children's Centre record from this database means that the Centre no longer appears on the database and therefore will not be inspected by Ofsted.
- 5.5 The remainder of the Children's Centres will still be inspected by Ofsted but they will also have reduced budgets. The proposed funding allocations to these providers is considered to be sufficient to enable them to continue to offer the full range of services and administration required as this was taken into account when drawing up the funding model.
- 5.6 Providers running the Children's Centres which are not on school premises would need the flexibility of provision of Centres which will not be inspected by Ofsted in order to deliver effectively at both these and the Centres which will remain subject to inspection.
- 5.7 Officers have reluctantly concluded that Beecroft Garden needs to be removed from the database because of the centre management's lack of confidence that it could successfully meet Ofsted expectations with the reduced funding.
- 5.8 Kilmorie and Marvels Lane are each in relative close proximity to other Children's Centres which would continue to be subject to Ofsted inspection. Due to the reductions in budget for these Centres they would not be able to meet the expectations of an Ofsted inspection.
- 5.9 In the report to the Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February, it was stated that one of the burdens required by Ofsted was for Centres to be open from 9-5 Monday to Friday; Ofsted has informed us that there is no longer a stipulation regarding opening times for Centres. However, other requirements are still in place for Centres on the database, including being subject to inspection by Ofsted, production of extensive data sets and making available a range of services as specified by statute. When carrying out inspections, Ofsted inspectors in general will look for:
- data about the make-up of the area and locality

- a needs analysis of the families with young children in the area that identifies the families and young children most in need of intervention and support (target groups) and the types of services that will benefit them most
 - contact data, including information about outreach visits and their impact
 - participation data, including those that relate to the centre’s activities as well as activities provided externally – this includes, for example, take-up of the free entitlement to early education; centres should be able to show the numbers of participants from particular groups, including target groups
 - agreed targets and service level agreements with the local authority and key partners
 - evidence about how participation and contact rates have improved over time, particularly in relation to target groups and those identified as being most need of intervention and support
 - unemployment rates in the locality
 - evidence of ways in which services and activities have been adjusted following consultation with parents, including those in the wider community who may not be using the centre
- 5.10 The data sets required are extensive in terms of subject area (including a range of health data as well as take-up of early education, achievement at school, teenage pregnancy, disability, worklessness, children in poverty, minority ethnic groups, fathers and detailed analysis of the Centre’s chosen target groups including outcomes and sustained impact) and the data is a key factor in inspectors determining an Ofsted judgement. While we will still require the Centres to keep data to evaluate impact and we will monitor and support them closely, in particular in relation to the key performance indicators provided by the local authority at reach area level, the burden will be less extensive as required by Ofsted and more amenable to local adjustments to keep bureaucracy to a minimum.
- 5.11 To achieve the significant savings required, the recommendations in this report are designed to ensure that services continue to be delivered to children and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable as well as ensuring the requirement for sufficient Children’s Centres is met. The Childcare Act 2006 as amended, requires “arrangements to be made by local authorities so that there are sufficient children’s centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need.” (Section 5A). As set out in section 7.5, officers are confident that the sufficiency duty will continue to be met.
- 5.12 The 11 February report set out the results of the borough-wide consultation carried out in December 2014 and January 2015 and focused on the savings which needed to be made. The consultation carried out in May and June 2015 was focused on the removal of the burden of Ofsted inspections and consultation meetings were held at each of the Centres for which this was proposed.

6 Results of the consultation

- 6.1 The public consultation was focused on whether parents, carers, professionals and staff were concerned about the removal of the requirement for Ofsted inspections. Officers took the opportunity of finding out what services parents and carers valued most at individual Centres.
- 6.2 A public consultation was carried out between 27 May and 16 June 2015 for eleven of the Centres at which significant changes are proposed: St Swithun's, Evelyn, Amersham, Hatcham Oak, Manor House, Torridon, Marvels Lane, Beecroft Garden, Kilmorie, Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove.
- 6.3 A separate consultation had been held earlier in the year on the same issue for Besson Street Gardens which is managed by NXG Trust and so it was decided not to repeat this. The Heathside and Lethbridge consultation was held through Quaggy Children's Centre in Greenwich, situated very close to the estate and which works with a large number of families from the estate. Unfortunately the Centre had closed and we had no responses.
- 6.4 The consultation for the eleven Centres covered:
- the need to make changes to Children's Centres in order to make savings;
 - the proposal to keep four Centres as they are now: Clyde, Ladywell, Downderry and Bellingham;
 - the proposal to make changes to the twelve other Centres remaining (excluding Heathside and Lethbridge to be demolished). This could include reduced opening hours;
 - the services respondents would most like to see at a specific Centre and what other services they felt were important;
 - the times and days they thought a particular Centre should be open;
 - whether inspection by Ofsted would affect the way they use Centres.
- 6.5 The consultation documents were specific to each Children's Centre (apart from the web portal consultation) and an example of the consultation paper is attached at Appendix B.
- 6.6 The public consultation used the following approaches:
- drop in sessions at each of the eleven Children's Centres for which significant changes were proposed (a joint meeting was held at Kelvin Grove for both Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove which operates as a group of Centres);
 - paper consultation documents individual to each of the eleven Centres were distributed to each Children's Centre;
 - online consultation using UEngage.
- 6.7 85 people attended the drop in sessions across the eleven Children's Centres (12 at Manor House, 5 at Torridon, 8 at Amersham, 6 at Marvels Lane, 10 at St Swithun's, 3 at Hatcham Oak, 5 at Kilmorie, 24 at Beecroft Garden and 12 at Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove, held at Kelvin Grove). No parents attended the consultation meeting at Evelyn but the consultation paper was taken to a local venue at which many parents were in attendance. In addition, 13 professionals attended the consultation meetings. There were 351 responses to the consultation paper.

6.8 Overall, the respondents detailed the services they value the most for each Centre, the times of day they felt were most suitable and responded in the majority to say that the Centre being inspected by Ofsted would not affect their use of the Centre.

6.9 **Ofsted inspections.** On the specific question of were the Centre to be no longer inspected by Ofsted whether it would change their use of Centres, the results were as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------|
| Hatcham Oak: | Yes | 24% |
| | No | 57% |
| | Unanswered | 19% |
| Evelyn: | Yes | 14% |
| | No | 14% |
| | Unanswered | 72% |
| Amersham | Yes | 17% |
| | No | 50% |
| | Unanswered | 33% |
| Beecroft Garden | Yes | 61% |
| | No | 37% |
| | Unanswered | 2% |
| St Swithun's | Yes | 0% |
| | No | 75% |
| | Unanswered | 25% |
| Manor House | Yes | 0% |
| | No | 100% |
| | Unanswered | 0% |
| Torridon | Yes | 4% |
| | No | 88% |
| | Unanswered | 8% |
| Marvels Lane | Yes | 0% |
| | No | 100% |
| | Unanswered | 0% |
| Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove | Yes | 12% |
| | No | 80% |
| | Unanswered | 8% |
| Kilmorie | Yes | 15% |
| | No | 74% |
| | Unanswered | 11% |

| | | |
|-----|------------|-----|
| Web | Yes | 33% |
| | No | 67% |
| | Unanswered | 0% |

6.10 The figures show that the majority of respondents did not feel inspection by Ofsted would be an issue with the exception of Evelyn where 14% said 'yes' and 14% said 'no' but with 72% not giving an answer, and Beecroft Garden where 61% felt this would make a difference. Notwithstanding this the management of Beecroft Garden strongly want the Centre to be freed from Ofsted inspections and interpret the parents' and carers' response to this question as a concern that services might be stopped in the future at the Centre.

6.11 In keeping with other consultations, respondents were also asked what services they found most important and other services they would like to see.

A summary is below:

| The services ranked in order of importance were as follows: | No. Respondents rating this as most important |
|--|--|
| Stay and play for children of specific ages | 215 |
| A chance to meet other parents in similar situations | 124 |
| Messy Play | 123 |
| A person I know and trust to ask for advice | 109 |
| Support with breastfeeding | 95 |
| Experts who can inform me how my child is developing | 90 |
| Help with domestic abuse, drug/alcohol use or mental health problems | 89 |
| Advice and information on where to get other help | 85 |
| Child developmental checks | 81 |
| One to one help | 79 |
| Health visitor clinics | 79 |

Suggestions for other services. These included (3 or more responses):

- Music and movement / singing sessions (16 responses)
- Stay and play / soft play (5)
- Groups for children with additional needs (5)
- Post natal groups (4)
- First Aid courses (4)
- English classes for speakers of other languages (3)
- Help, advice and support (3)
- Reading / story sessions (3)

6.12 The responses for each individual Centre will be fed back to Centres which will help them to inform their service development. Centres will be working alongside parents, carers and professionals to develop their offer in each Centre taking into

account responses at individual Centres. They will also be working collaboratively so that, if they are unable to offer a particular service at their Centre, they can signpost to an alternative Centre.

- 6.13 **Opening times.** Different days of the week were preferred by respondents for each Centre. This will be taken into account by the Centres.
- 6.14 **Consultation meetings.** The meetings were all very positive with parents, carers and professionals glad that Centres were remaining open. The overwhelming majority of parents, carers and professionals at the consultation meetings accepted that savings needed to be made and understood that this would mean changes to services and opening hours. There was vibrant discussion around parents' and carers' thoughts of how to make savings or generate income with suggestions such as:

- parents/carers willing to volunteer; a number of Centres already have peer volunteers
- suggestions that a small charge could be made for services
- donations by parents/carers of resources
- income generation through hiring out Centres for children's parties
- links with social enterprises
- partners such as health visitors running sessions
- running fewer, larger sessions with more attendance rather than lots of small sessions
- holding fundraising days

Officers will explore these ideas for income generation and cost savings with the Children's Centre providers.

- 6.15 Other themes were repeated across all Centres including:
- It was felt that the Centres bring parents, carers and communities together;
 - Access to other mums and networking for dads were seen as important aspects of the centres;
 - How much parents/carers valued the Centres and the difference the support they received had made to their and their children's lives;
 - There were suggestions of how to better promote activities at Centres, including the use of Social Media.
- 6.16 At the Beecroft Garden consultation meeting, parents and carers expressed concern about why cuts were being made in early years, citing the risk as long term potential community costs and asked why money could not be taken from somewhere else.
- 6.17 Equal opportunities monitoring information from the consultation is provided at Appendix C.
- 6.18 The consultation at Besson Street Gardens was undertaken separately by the management of the Centre, NXG Trust, through consultation forms and web-based approaches.

- 6.19 17 feedback forms were completed by people who attend the stay and play sessions with their children. No responses were received to the on-line questionnaire. A copy of the consultation paper is attached at Appendix D.
- 6.20 One of the questions asked whether the Centre should 'de-register' as a Children's Centre; 11 said 'yes', 5 said 'no', and 1 said 'don't know'.
- 6.21 When asked '**What other Children's Centre services do you think it is important to have available in the local area?**': all the respondents thought it was important to have Children's Centre Services, such as Stay and Play sessions. A few also identified a need for individual family support, health visitor clinics and general information and advice and guidance available in the local area. Some parents/guardians said they would like a toy & book library, adult and baby activities and housing support.
- 6.22 All of the parents/guardians who responded to the consultation were between the ages of 18-64 years. The majority of them were female but a small number of fathers also completed feedback forms. Respondents came from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. None of the respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

7. Conclusions from the consultation meetings

- 7.1 Inspection by Ofsted, with the exception of Beecroft Garden, was not seen by respondents to the consultation as a factor which would influence how they used Children's Centres.
- 7.2 It is therefore proposed that Besson Street Gardens, St Swithun's, Evelyn, Amersham, Hatcham Oak, Manor House, Torridon, Marvels Lane, Beecroft Garden and Kilmorie are freed from inspection but continue to offer services to children and families.
- 7.3 It is proposed that Clyde, Ladywell, Dowlerry and Bellingham continue unchanged except for funding reductions.
- 7.4 Despite the reductions in funding, Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove believe that they can continue with the full offer of services and meet the requirements of Ofsted inspections.
- 7.5 The Childcare Act 2006 (as amended) requires that local authorities must, so far as is reasonably practicable, include arrangements for sufficient provision of children's centres to meet the needs of parents, prospective parents and young children in its area. There will be a Children's Centre subject to Ofsted inspection located in each of the four Children's Centre areas and an additional group of two Centres in the southwest of the borough. With these and the fact that we will still be providing services to children and families from all Centres along with the other Early Intervention services, officers are confident that the sufficiency duty will continue to be met.

- 7.6 It is proposed that Heathside and Lethbridge be confirmed closed as it will no longer be delivering services. Quaggy Children's Centre in Greenwich is located very close to the Heathside and Lethbridge estate and already works with families from this estate.
- 7.7 Other services which also form part of the Early Intervention offer in Lewisham will continue; these include universal services at some Centres such as stay and play sessions as well as the range of services in health centres such as baby clinics, developmental checks and ante-natal support in addition to community midwifery teams, health visitors and other early intervention service providers co-located in some Centres.
- 7.8 All Centres will continue to be monitored by officers, both those Centres which will continue to be subject to Ofsted inspections and those which will not, through robust, outcomes-focused performance management as well as quality assurance audits. Providers will continue to be supported and challenged as to how well they are improving outcomes for children and families. The three outcomes that we expect from the Children's Centres are:
- to improve parenting and attachment
 - to improve school readiness
 - to prevent escalation to more specialist services, such as Children's Social Care or child mental health services (CAMHS)

8. Other options which were considered.

- 8.1 Officers considered other options that might allow Children's Centre providers the flexibility they need to operate in the reduced funding envelope. There is an option which Local Authorities can consider of merging Children's Centres where a Centre ceases to fulfil the legal definition of a Children's Centre in its own right but continues to offer access to some of the Early Childhood services on behalf of another Centre and becomes a link Centre to the main Centre. The Children's Centres have a range of different leadership and management structures and the Centres which will not be subject to Ofsted inspections are situated in different reach areas and wards from the Centres to remain inspected and it would therefore be difficult to consider them as linked sites. Officer interpretation of guidance is that merged Centres retain the reach area of both Centres which would not reduce the requirement for the considerable resource required for data analysis and administration in terms of inspection and would therefore not result in cost saving in respect of this.
- 8.2 A further option would be not to free any Centre from inspection. The effect of this would be to significantly further reduce the amount of face to face time with parents and carers by the staff. This option was rejected.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 The report for the meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February 2015 set out the proposal to make savings of £5.515m during 2015/18 through improving triage for Children's Social Care services and re-designing the Children's Centres Early Intervention offer.
- 9.2 The savings concerned with the reshaping of early intervention services run through the Children's Centres which will enable a reduction in costs by £1.936m over 2015-6 and 2016-17.
- 9.3 **Capital Financial Implications**
A number of the Children Centres benefited from capital investment funded by central government. There is a provision for capital clawback if a centre ceases to provide certain activities. The basis of clawback would be the initial capital investment the period over which benefits have flowed and the expected life remaining of the investment. The proposal is for some services for children and families to continue to take place. On this basis capital clawback is unlikely to apply.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to improve the well being of young children and reduce inequalities between such young children in relation to physical and mental health and emotional well being, protection from harm and neglect, education, training and recreation, the contribution made by them to society and social and economic well being.
- 10.2 In responding to these duties a local authority is further required to make arrangements in an integrated manner with a view, broadly, to securing maximum benefit for users of early childhood services, and making their availability known. Local authorities are required to facilitate and encourage the involvement of parents and prospective parents, early years providers and others engaged in activities which may improve the well being of young children in its area.
- 10.3 The Childcare Act 2006 (as amended) requires that local authorities must, so far as is reasonably practicable, include arrangements for sufficient provision of children's centres to meet the needs of parents, prospective parents and young children in its area. In making decisions about what is sufficient to meet local need a local authority is able to take into account other children's centres which are being provided (or which they expect to be provided) outside its area.
- 10.4 A children's centre is a place, or a group of places –
- (a) which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements made with an English local authority, with a view to securing that early childhood services in their area are made available in an integrated manner,
 - (b) through which each of the early childhood services is made available, and
 - (c) at which activities for young children are provided, whether by way of early years provision or otherwise.

For the purposes of the Act, “made available” means either that the early childhood services are provided directly at a children’s centre, or that advice and assistance are provided to parents and prospective parents on accessing early childhood services elsewhere.

- 10.5 A children’s centre provided as a result of arrangements under section 3(2) of the Childcare Act 2006 and which meets the definition set out above is to be known as a “Sure Start Children’s Centre”.
- 10.6 Section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to ensure that appropriate consultation is carried out when they are considering the establishment or closure of a children’s centre or making any significant change in the services provided through a children’s centre (including a change to the location of those services). A local authority is also legally required to have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.
- 10.7 Such Guidance is contained in the Sure Start children’s centres statutory guidance - April 2013 (the Guidance) and requires that local authorities should ensure that a network of children’s centres is accessible to all families with young children in their area and to ensure that children’s centres and their services are within reasonable reach of all families with young children, taking into account distance and availability of transport.
- 10.8 The Guidance emphasises the statutory requirement that local authorities must ensure that there is consultation before making any significant change to the range and nature of services provided through a children’s centre and/or how they are delivered, including significant changes to services provided through linked sites and where closing a children’s centre; or reducing the services provided to such an extent that it no longer meets the statutory definition of a Sure Start children’s centre.
- 10.9 The Guidance further advises that such consultation should explain how the local authority will continue to meet the needs of families with children under five as part of any reorganisation of services and that decisions following consultation should be announced publically and should explain why decisions are taken.
- 10.10 In coming to decisions in relation to the future configuration of children’s centres the Mayor must be satisfied that, as far as is reasonably practicable there will continue to be sufficient children’s centres available to meet need of parents, prospective parents and young people in the borough.
- 11. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act)** introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
 - 11.1 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

11.2 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

11.3 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

11.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice.

Further information and resources are available at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

12 Equalities implications

12.1 An Equalities Analysis Assessment has been produced and attached at Appendix E. The Mayor’s attention is specifically drawn to the conclusions of the

same which confirms the recommendation to continue with the proposal but with actions to mitigate negative impact on equality and diversity. The EAA identified that the closure of any services would have the greatest impact on children under 5, pregnant women, those from minority ethnic groups and women. The report states that the contract specifications for the Children's Centres will stipulate the outcomes Centres need to meet to ensure they are delivering high quality services to the communities they serve. This will be monitored on a quarterly basis as part of the council's performance monitoring framework.

13. Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

14. Environmental Implications

14.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Background documents

Appendix A – Map of the Children's Centres in Lewisham.

Appendix B – Sample consultation document May and June 2015 for eleven Centres.

Appendix C – Equal Opportunities summary from consultation May and June 2015 for eleven Centres.

Appendix D – Consultation paper for Besson Street Gardens consultation.

Appendix E - Equalities Analysis Assessment

If there are any queries arising from this report, please contact Kate Platt, Service Manager Early Intervention, telephone 020 8314 6408.