North East Lincolnshire Council
The Future Of Children’s Centres – Have Your Say
5th January – 13th February 2015
Introduction

We aim to build on the excellent work that has been undertaken in children’s centres in North East Lincolnshire by further developing our work with families earlier to support them in their family life. We aim to extend the current offer, which mainly focuses on families with children aged 0-5 years, to a wider family focused age range of 0-14 (and for some health services up to 19 years). We aim to extend opening hours and include a broader range of services, to support and work with families across the borough.

What is a children’s centre?

There are currently 10 North East Lincolnshire Council children’s centres.
These are places where children under five years old and their families can receive services close to their homes. The provision is universal, entitling all children and their families to services, but with a more targeted approach to those children and families most in need. The aim is to build stronger, more cohesive and healthier communities.

The children’s centre philosophy is to include parents and carers in decisions every step of the way to ensure that the centre truly meets the needs of each individual community. Every children’s centre consults and shares information with local parents and partners on a regular basis.

North East Lincolnshire Council children’s centres offer a wide variety of services to families, including:
- Early learning and/or childcare for children under five
- Link to schools, health and out of school activities among others
- Services for children with special needs, speech and language and other support
- Ongoing visits and support at specific ages of each child’s life until the child reaches five years
- Information about family support services and activities
- Parenting support, advice and classes
- Child development information
- Antenatal, midwifery and health visitor services including; breastfeeding support, hygiene, nutrition and safety
- Information on physical, emotional and child health
- Help in stopping smoking
- Training
- Plus much more

**Why do we need to make changes?**

North East Lincolnshire Council’s aim is to respond as soon as possible to the needs of children, young people and their families when difficulties arise, to help them lead happier and healthier lives. This prevention and early intervention is already happening in North East Lincolnshire and we wish to extend the high quality services and support our children’s centres currently offer.

Nationally, all local authorities are facing challenging financial times, therefore we need to make better use of our children’s centre buildings and work better together with our partners to ensure services offered are good value for money and provided at the right time. Through better use of our children’s centre buildings, we would be
able to offer services for children, young people up to the age of 14 years (and for some health services up to 19 years) and their families.

**What changes do we want to make?**

At a time when local authorities are facing significant reductions in their government funding, difficult decisions are having to be made at local level to determine which services can best meet community need with a reduced budget. North East Lincolnshire Council are acutely aware of the success of their children’s centres and the important part they play in delivering outstanding early childhood services. We have listened to our families who tell us that children’s centres are an important part of their community. To enable us to retain the number of centres, we have to utilise them more effectively to ensure savings can be made, whilst working to improve outcomes for a broader age range of children and young people, particularly those most in need.

We want to use our children’s centres for a broader age range (up to 14 years and 19 for some health services) and in order to do that we will need to formally de-designate some of our centres (as listed below) and cluster them into 5 areas.

By de-designating some centres and clustering them into 5 areas, we can pool staff skills across the cluster to concentrate on reducing inequalities between young children in each of the 5 areas. Each cluster area will still have one designated children’s centre but provide a network of family hubs that are easily accessible to all families. Therefore the proposed provision will not compromise outcomes for children, particularly the most disadvantaged, as services provided will be linked to each local community need. Those centres that are de-designated will not have to meet the full core purpose of a children’s centre, but can concentrate on the improvement of outcomes and reduction in inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers.

Families have already told us that they wish they could continue to use children’s centres once their children reach 5 years. By transforming centres into family hubs and broadening the age range will allow us to offer ongoing services post 5 years.

**What does de-designation mean for the children’s centre services?**

De-designation of a children’s centre does not mean closure.

Being designated as a Sure Start children’s centre means each centre has to keep detailed records of activities and services and be individually inspected on its performance across its catchment area.
If **de-designated**, a centre no longer has to provide these detailed records or improvement plans. The services provided by the Centre are still recorded and will be inspected by Ofsted but as part of the wider cluster area inspection.

**How can you take part?**

Between 5\(^{th}\) January and 13\(^{th}\) February 2015:

- You can complete a survey
  - A paper version is available in all Children’s Centres
  - You can fill it in online at www.nelincs.gov.uk

- You can attend a focus group held in all children’s centres
  - Broadway – Rhyme Time, Monday 19\(^{th}\) January at 9.30am Baby massage 10.45
  - Central – Tuneful Tuesday, 20\(^{th}\) Jan at 9.15am
  - Cleethorpes Reynolds – Stay and Play, Friday 30\(^{th}\) January at 9.30am
  - East Marsh – Musical Monday – Monday 26\(^{th}\) January 1.30pm-2.30pm and Tiny Tiggers Tuesday 27\(^{th}\) January at 1pm
  - Highgate – Splatter and Splodge, Wednesday 14\(^{th}\) January at 9.15am
  - Immingham – Let’s Get Messy, Monday 12\(^{th}\) January at 10am
  - Nunsthorpe and Bradley Park – Baby Talk, Tuesday 13\(^{th}\) January at 9.30am
  - Scarthis – On Your Marks, Thursday 29\(^{th}\) January at 9.15am
  - Queensway – Bookworms, Thursday 5\(^{th}\) February at 2pm
  - Riverside – Active Tots, Tuesday 3\(^{rd}\) February at 10am
  - West Marsh – Stay and Play, Thursday 15\(^{th}\) January at 9.15am

- You can attend a public consultation event
  - Grimsby Town Hall – 12\(^{th}\) January 2015 at 3pm - 4pm
  - Cleethorpes Library – 22\(^{nd}\) January 2015 at 5pm – 6pm
  - Immingham Resource Centre – 28\(^{th}\) January 2015 – 9.30am – 10.30am

- You can visit a Children’s Centres where there will be a display of the proposed changes and then post your comments in the box provided

- You can provide your comments and send by post to:

  Head of Children’s Centres, Highgate Children’s Centre, Trinity road, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 8TJ
What have we considered:

1. Full closure of some children’s centres
2. Reduce the workforce in all children’s centres
3. Children’s centres to be in a cluster arrangement and some de-designated

1. Full Closure of Some Children’s Centres

The full closure of some children’s centres would have made the savings required. However, it was felt that this option would be the most disruptive to families as some areas would not have any children’s centre provision and take activities out of their community.

2. Reduce the Workforce in All Children’s Centres

Another consideration was to reduce the workforce to make the savings. However, this does not support North East Lincolnshire Council’s prevention and early intervention strategy as it would remove staff from the frontline. This would result in fewer prevention and early intervention activities being delivered to the age range and make it difficult for North East Lincolnshire Council to meet the statutory requirements of a children’s centre.
3. Centres proposed for cluster arrangements and de-designation

Cluster 1 – East Marsh and Central are currently ‘stand-alone’ children’s centres, with a team of staff who only work in that area. Central will be de-designated and become part of the East Marsh cluster where the team of staff will work across the cluster. This may mean that some services are delivered from East Marsh Children’s Centre and some may be delivered from other venues such as Central outreach, Strand outreach or local schools. It will mean that you will be able to continue to attend activities at whichever venue is best for you. You may find that certain activities are delivered across the cluster and not from each venue.

Cluster 1 – Central and East Marsh
1,954 0 to 4 year olds
2,681 5 to 14 year olds
4,635 Children in total

When looking at the following maps, IMD means index of multiple deprivation. This is a measure of deprivation of all local authority areas in England. The lower the percentage the more deprived the area is.
Cluster 2 - Immingham is currently a stand-alone centre with a team of staff who only work in that area. Immingham will remain a designated centre but become part of the wolds cluster where the team of staff will work across the cluster. This may mean that some services are delivered from Immingham and some may be delivered from other venues such as the Humberston and Healing outreach or local schools. It will mean that you will be able to continue to attend activities at whichever venue is best for you. You may find that certain activities are delivered across the cluster and not from each venue.

Cluster 2 – Immingham and the Wolds
1,754  0 to 4 year olds
3,823  5 to 14 year olds
5,577  Children in total
Cluster 3 - West Marsh and Queensway are currently stand-alone centres with Riverside an outreach. There is currently a team of staff who only work in either West Marsh or Queensway areas. Queensway will be de-designated and become part of the West Marsh cluster where the team of staff will work across the cluster. This may mean that some services are delivered from West Marsh which will maintain its designation and some may be delivered from other venues such as Queensway or Riverside who will both become an outreach for the main centre or activities may run in local schools. It will mean that you will be able to continue to attend activities at whichever venue is best for you. You may find that certain activities are delivered across the cluster and not from each venue.

Cluster 3 – Queensway, Riverside and West Marsh
2,124 0 to 4 year olds
2,994 5 to 14 year olds
5,118 Children in total

Family Hub Clusters
Cluster 3
Cluster 4 – Nunsthorpe & Bradley Park and Broadway are currently a ‘stand-alone’ children’s centres, with a team of staff who only work in those areas. Scartho has been part of the Highgate Hub with a team of staff delivering services across that ‘Hub’. As we move forward Broadway and Scartho will be de-designated and become part of the Nunsthorpe & Bradley Park cluster where the team of staff will work across the cluster. This may mean that some services are delivered from Nunsthorpe & Bradley Park who will maintain its designation and some may be delivered from other venues such as Broadway and Scartho who will become outreach to the main centre, Woodlands outreach or local schools may also deliver some activities. It will mean that you will be able to continue to attend activities at whichever venue is best for you. You may find that certain activities are delivered across the cluster and not from each venue.

Cluster 4 – Nunsthorpe, Scartho and Broadway
2,120 0 to 4 year olds
3,779 5 to 14 year olds
5,899 Children in total
Cluster 5 – Reynolds is currently a ‘stand-alone’ children’s centre, with a team of staff who only work in that area. Highgate has been part of the Highgate Hub with a team of staff delivering services across that ‘Hub’. Highgate will be de-designated and become part of the Reynolds cluster where the team of staff will work across the cluster. This may mean that some services are delivered from Reynolds which will maintain its designation and some may be delivered from other venues such as Highgate which will become an outreach to the main centre. It will mean that you will be able to continue to attend activities at whichever venue is best for you. You may find that certain activities are delivered across the cluster and not from each venue.

Cluster 5 – Reynolds and Highgate
1,925 0 to 4 year olds
3,024 5 to 14 year olds
4,949 Children in total
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If you would like this information provided in a different language or format please contact your children’s centre and they will make the necessary arrangements.