Early help consultation: FAQs

**Q) What is being proposed?**

A) We’re proposing to merge a range of ‘early help’ and prevention support into one, new-style Family Wellbeing Service – these are services which work with children and families to tackle problems before they get serious.

**Q) How much are budgets reducing by?**

A) Funding pressures mean that we need to reduce the £12m budget by £3.8m – £9m will still be spent on providing specialist, tailored support for the most vulnerable.

**Q) Why do you have to make reductions in this area?**

A) This is a difficult decision to make and we understand people’s concerns – reducing the services budget by one third means we need to balance the needs of most challenging, complex children and young people against the wider population.

**Q) How will you reduce the impact?**

A) Our proposals are geared around reducing the impact on families – the more buildings we keep open, the less we have to spend on staffing, and on the level of support we can provide. Merging the four services also enables us to reduce management costs.

**Q) Won’t closing buildings have a big impact?**

A) It’s direct work with families that changes lives, not buildings. Only some of our children’s centre services are delivered from buildings – much takes place in people’s homes and in community venues. Currently, there are some centres where no services are delivered within the buildings.

**Q) How have the new centre locations been chosen?**

A) We’ve proposed keeping centres in the places where there is most need.

**Q) What happens to people who will no longer receive support?**

A) Reducing costs by one third inevitably means that some people wouldn’t be eligible for support – we’d make sure that each person was individually assessed and signposted to other agencies who can help.

**Q) How can we have our say?**

A) We’re committed to understanding the impact - we’ve carried out a lot of work analysing options but it’s important now to hear the views of residents, and I’d encourage people to have their say by completing the consultation survey.