

Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Service / Policy:	Children's Centres
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Section 1: Background Information	
1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>This proposal concerns a 10% reduction to current value of the Children's Centre Contract. This is allowed for within the current contract. This is the final year of the agreement. New commissioning arrangements are currently being developed.</p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the budget for Children's Centres by £85,000 to a figure of £793,000 for 2016/17.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>The current budget for the Children's Centres is £878,000. Within this budget, pre-natal and services for children up to age 5 and their families are delivered as part of a commissioned arrangement with 'Action for Children'.</p> <p>Children's Centres provide a universal service available to all families with a child aged 0 to 5 years and include services such as stay and play sessions, young Mums to be, parents to be, dad's clubs as well as providing targeted family support for more vulnerable families. Torbay has two designated Children's Centres: Torquay and Paignton with Brixham.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>No alternative options have been considered at this stage as the reduction is contracted for.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions and principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>Protecting all children and given them the best start in life</p>

5.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Children as the current Service Provider • Current and prospective Service users – families with children under 5 and prospective parents • Partner organisations who deliver services from the children’s centre sites e.g. Health Visiting, Family Learning
6.	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>Consultation with the service users and key stakeholders identified above will be undertaken as part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>As part of this consultation Parent Advisory Boards will also be consulted.</p> <p>The potential impact of this proposal will also be explored through consultation with Action for Children.</p>

<p>Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment</p>	
7.	<p>What are the financial and legal implications?</p> <p>The Children Centre procurement contract identified a 10% budget reduction year on year for the life of the contract. The contract was awarded based on a reduced model of delivery. The budget reduction is in line with the agreed contract and is part of the forward planning of reshaping services for the future.</p> <p>The Children Centre is still able to meet the current legal statutory duties that are defined by the Department for Education for the delivery of Children Centres. The legal inspection framework (OFSTED) is currently out for public consultation, therefore any changes to the same will need to be checked for continued compliance.</p>
8.	<p>What are the risks?</p> <p>The 10% budget reduction was identified at the start of the contract. The budget assigned to Children’s Centres has been planned to take reflect this reduction. The decision to not implement the reduction would have a negative impact on budgets already assigned to other service areas within Children’s Services.</p>

	<p>The budget reduction will result in a further emphasis on the delivery of targeted services. This has the potential to result in less universal services being offered to children and their carers directly by the children centre, however the previous model of using parents to run community services has increased the number of families accessing universal services.</p>								
<p>9.</p>	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>The service is currently procured and will continue to be delivered through the current contract.</p>								
<p>10.</p>	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>In 2015 – 2016 the Children Centers implemented a budget reduction process to meet the 10% target. In this period of time the children’s centre continued to move towards a service delivery model that had a greater emphasis on targeted services. Some services have now become parent led, nursery led and church led with input from the children’s centers on a six weekly basis. Despite this change, evidence from the previous year demonstrated that the Children’s centers have seen a continued increase in their reach figures by adopting a more focused and targeted approach to delivering services to the priority Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) areas.</p> <p>The latest indices of multiple deprivation (Sept 2015) have shown an increase in Torbay’s LSOA’s in the Top 30%, rising from 39 to 43, a 10% increase. There has been a 75% increase in Torbay residents living in areas amongst the top 20% most deprived in England (16 LSOAs in 2010 to 28 LSOAs 2015). There are 2188 children under 5 living in the top 30% LSOAs in Torquay (56.4% of 0-4 population), 1345 in Paignton & Brixham (42.3%). The Children centre are currently reaching 46% of children under 5 and 67% of children under 2 in Torquay priority LSOAs and 42% of children 0-5 and 60% of children under 2 in Paignton & Brixham priority LSOAs.</p> <p>Reach Figures:</p> <table data-bbox="293 1197 896 1372"> <tr> <td data-bbox="293 1197 604 1236">Paignton and Brixham</td> <td data-bbox="604 1197 896 1236">57% (0-5 year olds)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="604 1236 896 1276">86% (0-2 year olds)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="293 1300 604 1340">Torquay</td> <td data-bbox="604 1300 896 1340">56% (0-5 year olds)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="604 1340 896 1372">83% (0-2 year olds)</td> </tr> </table>	Paignton and Brixham	57% (0-5 year olds)		86% (0-2 year olds)	Torquay	56% (0-5 year olds)		83% (0-2 year olds)
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The implementation of the 10% budget reduction would not remove any of the existing services within the children centres but would result in some additional groups becoming parent led, this would not have an impact on the overall reach of the centres.

11. What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?

Public consultation on the budget proposals started on 6th November 2015 and closed on the 4th January 2016. The proposals were communicated to the Torbay community via local newspaper (Herald Express & Western Morning News), local radio, Twitter and Facebook and were detailed on the Torbay Council website. Emails were sent to key stakeholders and a range of opportunities were provided for people to contribute to the consultation, including a Budget Event held in Paignton. People were also able to send representations via email and post to Torbay Council.

Responses for this proposal were as follows:

Q) Children's Centres Contract: A 10% reduction to the current value of the Children's Centres Contract.

This proposal is expected to save £85,000.

Children's Centres provide a service available to all families with a child aged 0 to 5 years and include services such as stay and play sessions, young mums to be, parents to be, dad's clubs as well as providing targeted family support for more vulnerable families

Do you support this proposal	Number	Percent
Yes	330	46.4%
No	352	49.5%
No answer	29	4.1%
Total	711	100%

The provider (Action for Children) was informed of the proposal and has subsequently completed a budget analysis to identify the services that could potentially be affected. Below are some examples of the services that would be reduced or ended. The examples were taken to the Parent Advisory Board meetings across Torbay (approximately attended by 24 parents).

- Skills for Success programme

- Reduce Universal offer open to all children's and families in Torbay
- Family Support Family Support 1:1 work with families
- Baby Massage services
- Journey to Employment reduced

Service	Universal or Targeted	Cost Savings required from these services for a 10 per cent reduction in funding	Impact on the Children reached
Reduce Universal Groups	Universal	£16,937	716
Cut Universal Baby Massage (U)	Universal	£16,076	160*
Cut Journey to Employment	Targeted	£17,013	42
Cut Family Support 1 to 1	Targeted	£25,525	28*
Cut Skills for Success Programme	Targeted	£10,070	100
TOTAL		£85,621	1046

*estimate based on current reach, this is the minimum number of children, plus their families affected by the proposed budget reduction.

The above calculations would mean that if Torbay Children's Centres received a 10% budget reduction there could be approximately 18% reduction in Universal and 6% reduction in Targeted reach across Torbay.

Key findings

- Budget reductions could result in the reduction of universal services
- Budget reductions could result in the named services or will result in more services becoming parent led which can increase the vulnerability of these groups being able to continue.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current model is liked by the service users and changes would not be welcomed.
12.	<p>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</p> <p>As a result of the consultation there are no proposed amendments to the £85K budget reduction, however a number of mitigating actions are being implemented to ensure a minimal impact on service users:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health will supply additional financial resources to the Children Centre to ensure the continuation and further expansion of services that impact on the key health indicators. Being funded by Public Health will allow funds to be reallocated to continue the services above. A multi agency working party has been agreed to take forward the redesign and delivery of pre-natal parental education services. This will ensure that shared resources result in consistent delivery of this service and the potential for increased availability of services for weekend and evenings. The Children Centre will realign their budget to ensure funds are assigned to deliver the parent volunteer/parent champion training. This will ensure that the centre are creating a strong volunteer bank to continue the delivery of services when there is reduced staff capacity to deliver universal services. A new Children Centre has been opened in Brixham that is aligned with the integration of services proposed by SWIFT. The centre lends itself to co-working and this planned moving forward. This will result in parents having access to greater professional support.

Equality Impacts

13	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people		Mitigating action 1 Mitigating action 3 See section 12	
People with caring			No differential impact

Responsibilities			
People with a disability			No differential impact
Women or men			No differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			No differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
People who are transgendered			No differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		mitigating action 2 Mitigating action 3 See section 12	
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		mitigating actions 1, 2, 3, 4 See section 12	
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	mitigating action 1		

14	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	N/A	
15	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	N/A	