

Dear families and interested stakeholders

Introduction

This document helps to explain the background to the proposal to relocate Worcestershire Children First Kidderminster based supervised family time sessions, from Radford Avenue Sure Start Children's Centre to Treetops Sure Start Children's Centre on the site of Birchen Coppice school, with additional facilities at St Oswald's Sure Start Children's Centre on the site of St Oswald's school.

- what is being proposed;
- why it is being proposed;
- facilities at proposed locations;
- the impact of the proposals – distance and travel time
- how and when the proposals if agreed would be implemented;
- who is being consulted;
- how to submit a consultation response; and
- what happens at the end of the consultation period.

What is being proposed

Supervised family time in Kidderminster currently takes place at the Radford Avenue Sure Start Children's Centre. Worcestershire Children First are seeking to improve the standard of accommodation in Kidderminster where supervised family time takes place and is therefore proposing to relocate this service to the Treetops and St Oswald's Sure Start Children's Centre buildings. Upon relocation of supervised family time to the named locations, Worcestershire Children First will seek permission from the Department for Education to dispose of the Radford Avenue Sure Start Children's Centre site in line with Sure Start children's centre statutory guidance.

Why it is being proposed

Radford Avenue is located next to a public park and there have been security concerns which have prompted the proposed move to alternative accommodation. The proposed new sites are both purpose built as children's centres and have secure outdoor play spaces which can only be accessed from the buildings themselves. Vacation of the Radford Avenue building

will leave it surplus to the requirements of the Local Authority and permission to dispose of the building will then be sort from the Department for Education in line with Sure Start Children's Centre statutory guidance.

Facilities at proposed locations

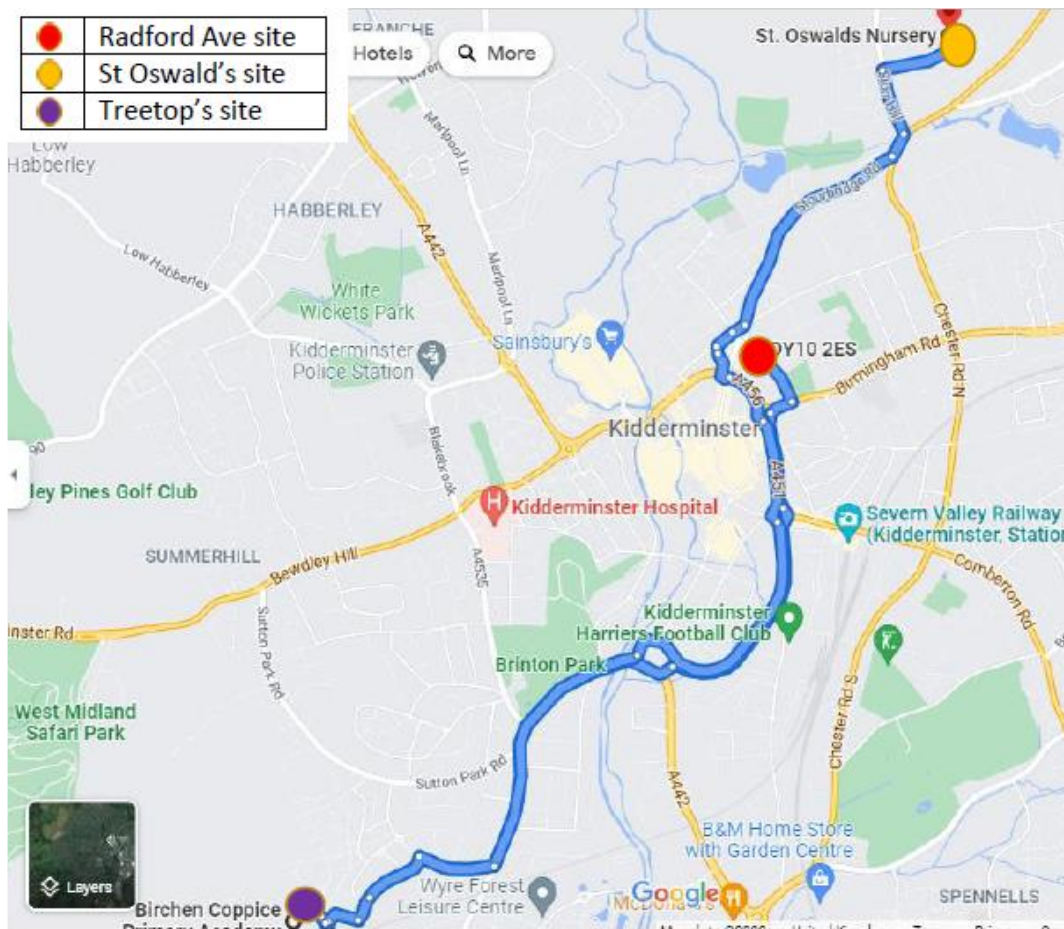
Treetops SSCC is a purpose built, modern building located on Woodbury Road in Kidderminster. The building is on the site of Birchen Coppice school and has secure gated entry. The building benefits from car parking. Prior to use for supervised family time, the building will undergo refurbishment works to provide a good standard of decoration and furnishings. The family contact suite will consist of three good sized family rooms – two of which can be converted into one large space for large family groups. Two of the rooms have direct access to a fenced off outdoor play area. There are child friendly toilet facilities and a baby change facility. Treetops benefits from under floor heating and is a bright, modern, family friendly building providing a welcoming environment for supervised family time.

St Oswald's SSCC is a purpose built, modern building located on Sion Avenue in Kidderminster. The building is on the site of St Oswald's school. Prior to use for family time, the building will undergo refurbishment works to provide a good standard of decoration and furnishings. There is roadside parking immediately outside the building. The family contact suite consists of 1 large room, suitable for large family groups and a smaller room ideal for babies and toddlers. The large room has access to a large, fenced outdoor play area. There is a kitchen and toilet facilities, including baby change. St Oswald's benefits from under floor heating and is a bright, modern family friendly building, ideal for supervised family time to take place.

The impact of proposals: distance and travel time

Treetops SSCC site is located 2.5 miles away from the current Radford Ave site. The site is serviced by the number three bus and is a 12-minute journey from the town centre. There is a 0.6 mile walk from the bus stop to the Treetops site. For those traveling by car to Treetops, there is dedicated car park.

St Oswald's SSCC is located 1.1 miles away from the current Radford Ave site. The site can be reached by the number 9C bus and is a seven-minute walk from the bus stop, although it should be noted this site is accessed via a steep hill. There is no car parking facility at St Oswald's, but there is on road parking immediately outside the building.



How and when the proposals if agreed would be implemented

If the proposal is agreed, refurbishment of the sites would commence, and we anticipate transfer of supervised family time sessions to take place from approximately August 2022. The proposal would be implemented via a managed schedule of works to the property to ensure the buildings are fit for purpose for family visits.

Who is being consulted?

The consultation will be made available to:

- Children and young people who experience supervised family time at Radford Avenue
- Families who utilise Radford Avenue
- Staff members who work from Radford Avenue

- Any other local stakeholder

How to submit a consultation response

During the consultation phase, anyone can express their views on the proposals expressed in this document. It is very important that all those involved or have an interest have a say, we welcome your views.

To express your views on the proposals, please access the feedback form using the following link: [Consultation on the proposal to relocate supervised family time sessions in Kidderminster](#)

If you require a paper copy, please e mail lbutler@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

The 6-week consultation period commences Monday 11th April 2022 and closes at noon on Friday 13th May 2022. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to these proposals do so within this timeframe.

How the decision will be made?

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Cabinet Member with Responsibility (CMR) for education in consultation with the Director of Children's Services (DCS) will consider any issues that will be raised:

The Local Authority will consider evidence from various sources to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular, the following factors:

- Existing guidance, regulation, and policy
- the response to the public consultation
- funding to cover the capital costs of the proposed change has been secured.

Cabinet Decisions

Where the statutory process for significant changes to Sure Start Children's Centre sites are required, and the CMR in consultation with the DCS is the decision maker, officers at the County Council will prepare a report for CMR and DCS, detailing the arguments for and against the change. The anonymised responses of the public consultation will be shared with

the Cabinet Member along with a decision recommendation from the Director of Children's Services.

If the Cabinet Member decides to support the proposal, the County Council will publish formal Public Notice. The public will then have a final opportunity to comment or object within a four-week timescale laid down in law. Notices are published in the local press and displayed outside the site. At the end of the four weeks if there are no objections, the final decision will be made by the CMR. If there are any objections to the proposal, the final decision will be made by Cabinet.