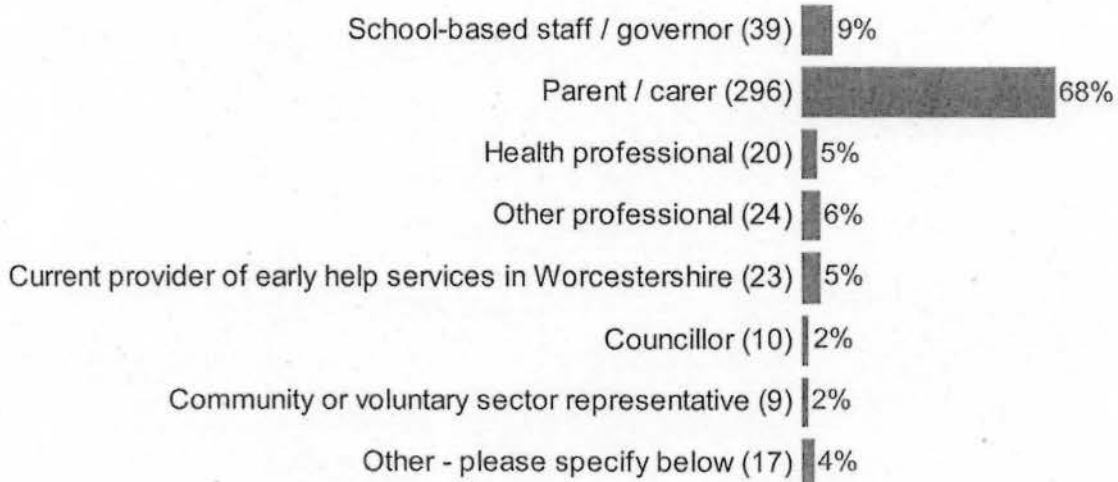


# Childrens centres phase 2

This report was generated on 24/08/16. Overall 440 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 30 codes.

**What is your interest in Children's Centres buildings? Please let us know whether you are a:-**



[Redacted]

Interested person

[Redacted]

Service User

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Child minder

[Redacted]

Retail worker

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

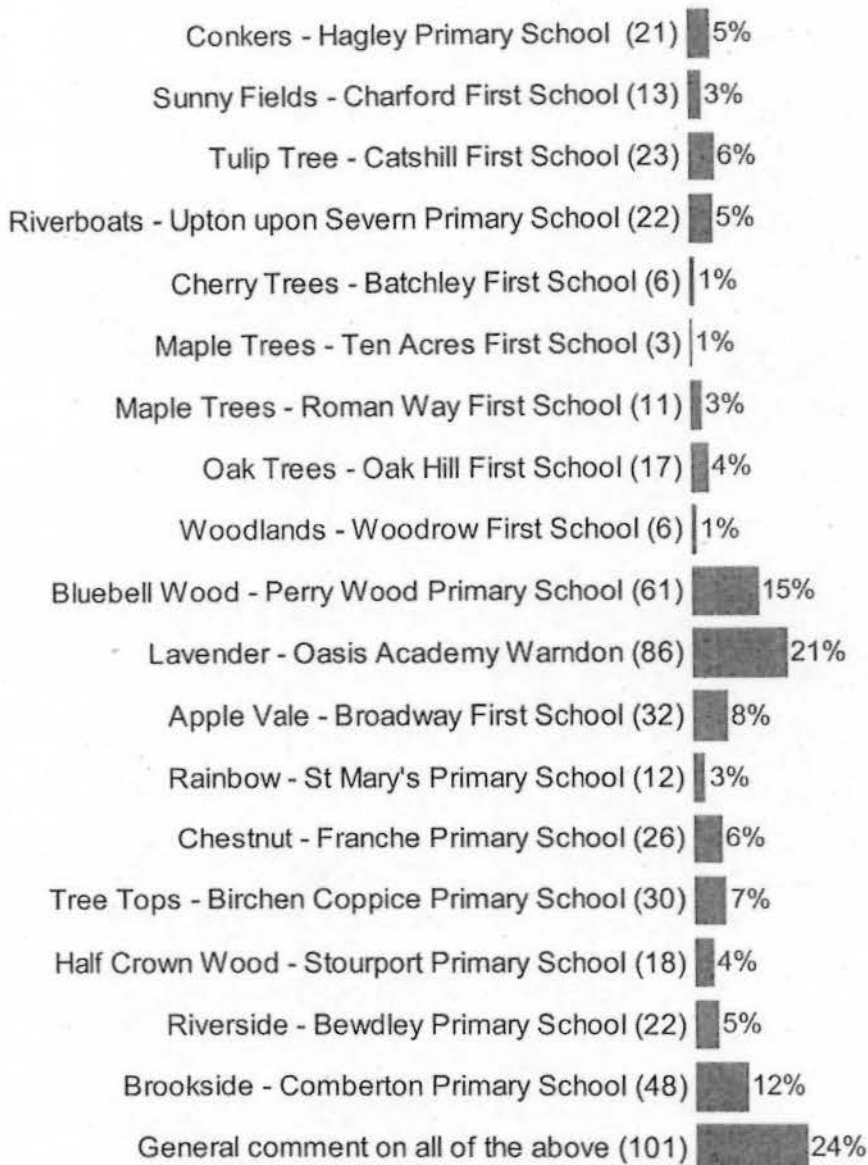
Parent

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Childrens centres phase 2

**Would you like to comment on the future changes of any specific building(s)? please select the building(s) you would like to comment on from the list below:-**



**Please give your comments on the changes to Conkers - Hagley Primary School building.**

The centre is not well used enough far too much vacant space sat there all day. If you aren't going to use it then commercialise it and let other people use it. The sensory sessions they used to do were great such a waste of the equipment just sat there.

Clinic still running is vital for parents

I am concerned that parenting support will not be delivered from this centre

I think the community lacks such stay and play groups and the Friday stay and play session held at Conkers is vital for social interactions. I feel isolated and times and being at such groups really helps build my confidence as well as my child's. it would be a real shame to discard these fantastic resources we have.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Conkers - Hagley Primary School building.**

it is such a huge shame that services such as the Friday stay and play will not continue due to its popularity, the support offered between mums and activities provided to children who love it. I can't see how this would impact on the building use as it would be after the morning session of childcare and not impact on this.

Conkers has been a fabulous resource for me [REDACTED] We have attended family activity mornings since [REDACTED] and it saddens me to think this vital centre may no longer be available. There is no other service available that is as access friendly as this. It is cost effective and we have made life long friends. I am concerned that the closure of this will increase family isolation.

As a local mum of [REDACTED] I feel very lucky to have Conkers Stay and Play on my doorstep. I don't feel there is enough for pre-school children locally. The group Stay and Play is run so well and is well structured with friendly mum's, and is a great way to meet new mums when you can feel very lonely as a new mum.

I would like it if the Conker's Centre stayed open as I have [REDACTED] that would benefit from this centre.

I would like to show my support to the centre remaining open for Stay and Play groups. There isn't much advice otherwise to these groups are crucial for the early developmental skills for toddlers in the Hagley area.

I think Stay and Play is essential to the community. I was new to the area and it was great to meet new people. It is great for the children and they look forward to coming every week. Surely you could still provide this service in the day so it does not affect the before and after school clubs. It will be a shame to lose Stay and Play.

I thoroughly enjoy coming to this group. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming. It's also very good for [REDACTED] to learn social skills through interaction with other children. I'll be very sad to see it fold.

I have found the "Stay and Play" Friday group really helpful in enabling me and [REDACTED] make friends within Hagley. It is a very friendly, well organized group which I have enjoyed attending weekly, making new friends and talking to people who without services like this group I would not have met. Please keep this group open.

[REDACTED] has been coming to this Stay and Play held at Conkers for the past few months and we both gain a lot from it. It provides [REDACTED] with a fulfilling morning playing with so many more stimulating toys and taking part in the activities than what we are able to being at home. It provides me with a chance to get to know other parents.

The [REDACTED] group is one of the highlights of my week with [REDACTED] They enjoy the different activities that are provided and there's always a new craft/ exploration activity every week. There is a fantastic social network of mums and it's such a welcoming community for new and old faces. Please don't close this amazing group down!!

I attend [REDACTED] with my [REDACTED] We really enjoy the session especially with the outdoor facilities which are available that no other toddler groups etc., which we are able to attend have. Could the centre be rented to the group for a nominal fee each week?

We use the centre for [REDACTED] I have found the group to be a great resource to me - as s new mum I have been supported bf and given advice. I strongly disagree with the closure - where else can we go? Especially in the long winter months.

As a parent of a toddler we use this facility every [REDACTED] It would be a great loss if it were to discontinue. It's always very well attended.

I wish to support the current use of the Conkers Mother and Toddler Stay and Play session. It is very well run by current providers and well attended by carers and toddlers. It is a lifeline for so many parents. There is nothing else available in the area on a Friday am. It is essential that the this support continues as it is.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Conkers - Hagley Primary School building.**

The children I bring to Conkers really enjoy coming so they can meet new friends and have a great time playing with all the different toys and crafts.

This facility is much needed in the community for our children to socialize and learn through play at an early age. I would be really sad if this is closed and was made part of the school as it is big enough already!!

This facility is very much needed and important to the community. We feel that not enough people are aware of this facility or that its been decided to hand over to the school (which is big enough already)

**Please give your comments on the changes to Sunny Fields - Charford First School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Glad to see clinics are still running for families

this change would actually benefit the local community

This service should continue to be fully funded with choices for development to be made with the full agreement of their management, staff and parents. There must be opportunities for developing parental competence through whole family support and education. On site access courses could be beneficial too for the community.

I have used children's centres for 8 years and found a lot of support for my family. I will be gutted to see the centre as we know it close.

This area really needs somewhere safe and happy to come and play. Really hard to travel to other places, children are familiar and enjoy coming.

We have been coming to Stay and Play at this centre since [REDACTED] and they have all really enjoyed it. There is always lots to do, it would be a great pity if we lost this service.

I feel if some of the services close and move, I will find it difficult as I don't drive and [REDACTED] will find it very hard to travel as public services are not very reliable and will be costly.

I feel that if some of these services stop I will find it difficult to find an alternative, as being a non-driver I need to stay local.

I am very concerned about families who will not receive family and parenting support, because they do not fit the criteria of being referred by Social Services or of deprivation. In Charford, we need a high level of family and parenting support, and I fear too many families could fall through the net and become affected by lack of support and services. This could have a huge impact on the area.

Not true - no Family Links or Triple P due to be run by Early Help so this is inaccurate information. Access to services are going to be delivered to only the families who fall into the lowest 40% of social need. Schools will have to meet the running costs of the centres. This will mean running profit-driven groups where parents pay for them to maintain the buildings. Will schools be charging the NHS & Speech & Language Therapy Services for using the centres? They do not have the funds to cover these costs either. No-one has mentioned that as part of the funding cuts over half the Early Help staff will lose their jobs. This will mean that services are stretched from day one & will be rotated throughout the area. When parenting support courses run for 12 weeks, how will all families receive support without long waiting lists?



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Sunny Fields - Charford First School building** ( [REDACTED] )

It is really important that antenatal and post natal health services can still be held at sunny fields. The centre is easily accessible without transport for mums to be and new parents which means they engage well [REDACTED] and attend for appropriate health surveillance in pregnancy. Pear tree does not have the room provision [REDACTED] to continue running these clinics in the early help centres. Before these centres were made available these clinics ran out of gp surgeries but now they have limited or no room space [REDACTED]. The worry is [REDACTED] unable to run these clinics local to charford pregnant women will not attend their antenatal appointments which could put their health and that of their unborn baby at risk

I heard the support was going to be to specifically targeted families, this is saying that no one else needs any help or support from time to time. Childrens Centres were supposed to be an open door for ALL families to go to for help or advice or Universal services.

sunny fields has many families using the centre, it is in the community, and is accessible for families who do not have a car. They attend midwife appointments, can see Health Visitor and attend parenting classes. Families very often attend the centre in times of crisis requesting urgent help. The proposed change of use of this building means that the families will no longer be able to do all these things. the above plans are incorrect. There is currently already a support group on a Saturday held at sunny fields for children with additional needs. this is not better accommodation, it is the same accommodation. The school taking over the building, would not enable them to have people coming and going to groups, for security issues, so in effect these groups would not be held in the buildings.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Tulip Tree - Catshill First School building** ( [REDACTED] )

Disappointed there are no clinics and that the centre will not be used during school hours. Where will parents access support if they cannot drive to pear tree. Alternative locations must be found I ensure clinics can continue.

This would be good to ensure that there is still some provision within the village.

Great it will be used by the school for such things

we can have a good place to meet and discuss things with the school

This sounds like an asset to the community that should be in the hands of the First and Middle School, creating a provision that could potentially go from birth to 13. The school has an improving reputation within Bromsgrove and would provide the support that is needed in the local area.

It is important to keep services for new parents available and it would help them prepare the kids for school next door. It would be better if the school can offer activities such as stay and play.

After school care and family services would be great support

I think the Tulip centre will be an amazing asset for the school. Providing door step support for children and parents at Catshill First School. To be able to provide, before and after school care. To provide access to private and confidential one to one support with parents. It would also be a good base to provide nurture support for the schools ever growing children who have additional and emotional needs. It would also be a great place to base a social worker, in an area that seems to have an ever growing issue with families who need support for outside professionals.

There is a need for social care support and parenting courses in our community as well as premises for a before and after school care club as our school population grows.

The school has developed a positive reputation within the community and has strong links with the church and local businesses. I feel that the school is in a good position to judge appropriate support needed for families and a early intervention family support base would be so valuable for families.

this seems to be a goos change

**Please give your comments on the changes to Tulip Tree - Catshill First School building**

[REDACTED]

This area so desperately needs the continuation of family support, advice and courses, so that is brilliant. It would be a lovely area for before and after school club. However, it is a massive shame that antenatal and (particularly) health visitor clinics will move. This would have provided a strong base for families for the outset. It would also be a fantastic way for different agencies to keep in touch and possibly identify any additional need/support required as early as possible.

I love the idea of before and after school care being offered there and maybe a breakfast club could be included. We have numerous families who need support in all areas of parenting and somewhere to go and talk or work with their child would be an asset to the facilities that are already being offered. We are a growing school and running out of space for private meetings or group work with parents and the Tulip Centre would be ideal for outside agencies to meet and support parents and children in our school community.

[REDACTED] feel the school would make excellent use of the Tulip Tree to support and nurture the children and their families.

This service should continue to be fully funded with choices for development to be made with the full agreement of their management, staff and parents. There must be opportunities for developing parental competence through whole family support and education. On site access courses could be beneficial too for the community.

Although we have a village hall we don't have a facility available in the community for the older children and football clubs etc. The Tulip Centre would be ideal for a Youth Centre as currently we have nothing to keep the youth of Catshill and surrounding villages off the streets. Although it would be aimed at the youth of the area it would be open for other residents to use as they so wish for example, conference room for hire, small gym equipment, even a small coffee shop. After school clubs and holiday clubs/ activities. Also, combining with the use of the library which is nearby or could be incorporated in this building to keep all facilities together. Running clubs in the area could also meet and use the facilities.

I use this centre a lot and [REDACTED] enjoy coming here for activities and resources they provide here. The girls have gained confidence in coming here with other people and children. Alison is also a valued member of staff here and provides a lot of activities for the centre and parents here.

[REDACTED] Tulip Tree is located at the First School Catshill and therefore has the potential to serve all families and children within the area. I support the new activity proposed at the centre A base for social care Family support base and provision of parenting courses (school funded) A base for meetings with families and for the school nurse Relocation of the Before and After School Clubs As well as the existing before and after school childcare.

Postcode lottery instead of county wide provision.

I'm very disappointed that the activity sessions and midwife/health visitor sessions will no longer run. Both services were [REDACTED] and I know they were all very popular to members of the community. There is very limited access to similar, easy access services locally and those centres that will still be able to provide similar services will be massively overstretched. What is the thinking behind this apart from the obvious money issue? Certainly not families/children!

See comments on Sunnyfield Centre

three clinics are run out of tulip tree by the community midwives all of which are well attended by all families of Bromsgrove but particularly those in the Catshill area. These clinics were originally held in Gp's surgeries prior to these centres being available. Unfortunately the surgeries no longer have times and rooms available for [REDACTED] find it very difficult to relocate these clinics. The clinics [REDACTED] are particularly aimed at those families in the local area of which some would find difficulty accessing our services elsewhere due to transport difficulties. This could lead to non attendance of vital appointments for health surveillance. This could have catastrophic results if things are not picked up because mums to be could not attend their appointments.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Tulip Tree - Catshill First School building**

Where will services be delivered from without the Centre? There is no where locally to run Child health clinic or access advice and support. Just because a family does not live in what is classed as a deprived or disadvantaged area does not mean they do not need help, advice or support in bringing up a family. Why are families being discriminated against just because of where they might live

**Please give your comments on the changes to Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School building**

This children's centre is a life line in the community and should stay as it is.

My main interest is with [redacted] Kempsey which is due to stop in July. I have [redacted] and has relied upon these services. I feel deeply saddened that funding means that there will be no more Wiggle and Jiggle and Kangaroos. I feel mums in the local area need to have somewhere to socialise their children. Just as importantly somewhere to go and meet other mums and get advice when they have a bad day. Being a new mum can be daunting at the very least and local meeting points can make a huge difference. Some can't drive and others would find going some distance in the car the last thing they would want to do when they need a break. When I had [redacted] these services did not exist. Things improved greatly with the aforementioned groups and now we are back to square one. It doesn't cost a great deal to run these groups and perhaps the way forward should have been a payment of a set amount rather than a donation. People wouldn't have

Under the previous consultation, which took place earlier this year, [redacted] school utilising the premises of the current Riverboats Children's Centre to expand [redacted] provision and to further develop services for [redacted] from 0-5. Sadly the building is currently being underused as the Riverboats have closed its door to services on Thursdays and Fridays from last September. [redacted] pre-school, which is run by the Governing Body of the Primary School, would like to provide [redacted] 2 year olds with their own exclusive 2 year old unit enabling them to increase numbers throughout both 2 and 3 year olds. [redacted] like to provide all year round childcare by offering services throughout the school holidays. This would be of great advantage to both the school and local community. If the Children's Centre building can be used by the school it would have a dramatic impact on the services [redacted] to the community in the future. [redacted] would use the mai Positive given the primary use of the building by families.

It is really important that the groups for mums and babies continue with the presence of a qualified member of staff this gives parents opportunities to ask questions and get valuable support.

wider use - thats good!

I hope the centre will remain open and if the school does take over they continue with stay & play sessions for babies/toddlers, breastfeeding support, weigh in with health visitor and other preschool activities. I live in [redacted] and use the facility [redacted] I have been very happy with the service I have received by the staff. My [redacted] development has progressed well due to attending Riverboats regularly for activities and interacting with other children. In the early days baby latte was a massive help and so essential for new mothers learning to breastfeed. Please save the centre for the community around Upton as it is such a great asset to local children. I was very upset to hear of a possible closure and hope my comments will be strongly considered. If Centre closes I hope the school will keep up with the great work for children.

Accessible childrens services are very much valued and required for the town and surrounding rural users

Kangaroos has been only one of 2 groups in village and invaluable to the family community. It will be a massive loss to have it gone now. [redacted]

Very sad at centre closing my [redacted] loves [redacted] and is going to be so upset when finds out it's no longer on. Staff were brilliant with helping me when [redacted] with [redacted] allowing me to get out of the house



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School building ([REDACTED])**

I think that the additional activities that would be offered would be beneficial. Although I think that the health visitor services should remain how they are as they are easily accessible at the moment.

I used Riverboats [REDACTED] and accessed the group's which I found useful as I live in a small village and felt isolated. It would be good if some services/ groups to still run so that parents can meet.

The services provided at Riverboats are outstanding and need to be maintained. The messy play group on a Monday is a fantastic group for the child and parents. The catchment area for Upton upon Severn is huge and to take this service away will have a huge effect on a very large area.

[REDACTED] really enjoy this group and are just starting to make friends and become familiar with it, it would be such a shame if it closed. There is not a lot of options for groups [REDACTED]. The group has great provision, variety and a lovely outdoor space and we enjoy coming. I hope it does stay open and I would be more than happy to pay to come if that was an option.

I support

There is really poor parking, making it difficult to access.

I welcome the additional service provision and would like to see the proposals for adult learning provision

**Please give your comments on the changes to Cherry Trees - Batchley First School building ([REDACTED])**

This childrens centre is brilliant and no services should be removed/reduced

this will take Social workers inot the community so it appears to be a good change

This is worrying if the schools are taking over the running of the community centre as where are they finding the funding and support to help mothers and carers in the attended meetings every week? It feels there is a lot of places closing and more pressure for schools to step up.

If services at these centres get cut, myself and my family will suffer. I have used these centres every week since my [REDACTED] I have since [REDACTED] and we use even more of the groups. They are great for support and we would be lost without them. Please don't close them :-  
(

Centres need to continue to provide the facilities as it already does, so that minimal impact is caused. Making extra use of the centre when not in use needs to be looked into to make full use of the centre.

Lack of activity sessions and support. These have been great as a first time parent

**Please give your comments on the changes to Maple Trees - Ten Acres First School building ([REDACTED])**

transferring this to the school appears to be a sensible transfer

Good



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Maple Trees - Roman Way First School building ( [REDACTED] )**

OK

It is a shame that these services will be lost, I doubt they will be offered anywhere else.

This building is already located within the school ground and is in fact right next to the school therefore I see no need to transfer to the school and to move to another school in a different location would cause me and I am sure other parents that use the before & after school club more inconvenience. Some parents do not drive therefore this may mean the service is then unavailable to them. Health services are already under strain so cutting them even more would be a bad move in my opinion. I also believe that the support given to parents and family/adult learning should continue unless they can be provided at a location close to the centre.

The centre works well in its existing capacity.

we use this service for afterschool club

Could the Childminders' Drop in be retained or offered another location at the same time, i.e. Friday mornings

Disagree that the loss of parenting support will be beneficial to the community. It should be retained

Lack of activity sessions and support. These have been great as a first time parent. The fact it is going to mixed use means in the long term the school will end up having it

**Please give your comments on the changes to Oak Trees - Oak Hill First School School building ( [REDACTED] )**

I have accessed breast feeding support here without which I would probably have given up

The sessions I have attended have saved me from isolation and supported my breast feeding my baby

I am worried the services I use will go

I don't think any services will survive

This centre has helped me and my family. I will be very sad to see any changes

Health services at this centre have been excellent. I am worried they will be lost

Services in this centre can not be fund elsewhere

Services will not be the same elsewhere

It is a shame this centre has to change. I would have been lost without the support I have received

This is a big loss to the community as the services cannot be replicated elsewhere.

OK

There is a very well established breastfeeding support group which many mothers in Redditch and beyond use . Redditch has one of the lowest BF rates in the county and if it wasn't for this group on a Monday many would have given up . Please consider not closing this group down . The school needs to think this is the future generations - breastfeeding is important

Loss of health services is dangerous and shouldn't occur. Parenting support should also not be losses here.

What will happen to the breast feeding support group? This is a very successful support network. You say these services may continue else where but where is that? Especially as it says that on all the proposals

Important that the centre is used to support parents and children, my [REDACTED] based in the centre and also meet [REDACTED] these services are vital to [REDACTED] provide a valuable community service.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Woodlands - Woodrow First School building.** ( [REDACTED] )

Not sure that removing parenting support with a music space is a good use of this space. Parenting is surely a more important service

Very shocked, disappointed. No Stay and Play.

I feel that this closure of Stay and Play will really affect parents. As a parent myself, [REDACTED] thoroughly enjoys these sessions and I feel this will affect [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] does not attend nursery.

It would affect me greatly if there were many changes made to the help this centre gives and it's staffing.

Lack of activity sessions and support. These have been great as a [REDACTED]

**Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building** ( [REDACTED] )

Attended anti natal classes here, and baby groups staff were very supportive and could see needed some further help. My weigh in clinic was also here.

It looks like there will be little or no support for new parents. The first year with a new baby can be challenging and isolating, where can we get for support and baby sessions?

I have attended both play sessions and health clinics at this centre since [REDACTED] and before this i was attending antinatal appointments and birth classes here. The centre has been invaluable for [REDACTED]. Not only is it somewhere in felt comfortable to be and meet other mums but it has also been a source of knowledge and a place to learn. The facilities, espexially the bumps to babies group at bluebell are some of the best around Worcester in my opinion it would be a great shame to lose them.

I think the changes are going to be catastrophic! You're pulling away all the support for the majority of family's in this area and further afield. There's no mention of the play groups, in which so much early low level family support goes on. These groups are a lifeline in knocking a problem on the head before a bigger problem emerges. Maybe the brains who've pulled the funding away think they're just Mum and toddler groups but that is definately not the case. The workers are highly skilled and amazing at what they do. I can't believe somebody thinks pulling away the services is a good idea. Mark my words in 3-4 years times when children's social care is full to the brim of children at risk somebody else will then say "why aren't we doing something earlier". Unfortunately by then all the wonderfully passionate and skilled workers will be long gone. Good luck with the number of serious case reviews that will occur as a direct result of the silly decisions made in pulling the funding no

The maternity services offered from bluebell wood are a core part to how our services work. As [REDACTED] from bluebell wood [REDACTED]. If bluebell wood closes its not just those clinics affected but our entire community service will need to be changed. The women & families will be negatively affected by this change. It is likely that information sharing regarding vulnerable families will disappear.

This will be detrimental to community- taking away unisex all services will leave many isolated and unsupported. Without these groups and onsite workers I feel less confident in my ability to parent my child

Need parenting support to stay

Bluebell currently opens its doors to many families from the ronkswood and surrounding areas. Offering a safe and friendly environment for parents to get advice and support on all areas of parenting from antenatal support right up to improving high school attendance levels. All of its rooms are used everyday by various professionals offering differing services for this who need it. Free stay and play sessions allow parents to share experiences no improve their child's development from day 1.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Bluebell Wood is a vibrant Children's Centre with huge footfall from local families that access the centre for its supportive and knowledgeable staff and the services offered. The centre's regular stay & play and bumps to babies groups are consistently well attended and feedback from families is that these groups are often a lifeline at difficult times. Families also access the centre for antenatal care, health visitor clinics, speech and language, evening antenatal education, and more. The building is fully utilised with rooms in use all day every day (and some evenings and weekends) by numerous external agencies such as Children's Social Care, NHS, voluntary organisations and local childminders. The centre is located in an area of high deprivation and for those local families, many of which do not have transport and will not realistically access the next nearest Children's Centre, the transfer of the building to the school and subsequent loss of services, will mean increased isolation.

I feel that families do not understand that staff members who usually support them are no longer going to be there. This needs to be explained clearly- job cuts for original staff needs to be explained. Families have built strong relationships with staff and have no idea that normal timetable will not be running as normal after September.

This centre provides so much support to children and families its a great location on the estate and near the school which works when having older children too. The service and staff work so hard to deliver to the community and there is always someone there to listen. Many children benefit from the stay and plays and other groups on offer often leading to support in other areas such as speech support without these kind of groups and services there on peoples door steps where will they turn.

There is very little in the area for support and activity sessions. The adult learning is invaluable to parents like myself who would like to gain confidence and learn something new. There are no other centres in the area and the nearest one is not easily reached. I think Ronkwood is in great need for parenting support also.

I'm utterly devastated that I will no longer be able to attend groups there with my baby we love going there as its a lovely atmosphere, lovely staff we love the way it's ran and all the groups they provide, it's an added bonus that it is right on my doorstep too. This centre will be missed greatly and I know that myself and lots of other mums would do anything to keep it going, we have even discussed paying for the groups that way the centre is getting money and we still get our groups, please consider this as an option we are more than happy to pay for groups!

Cuts that are vital to family's already accessing them.

This children's centre was invaluable to be [REDACTED] - having children is such a massive life changing thing to do and I always felt so welcome and safe at all the baby groups and walk in clinics they ran. Even if I was having a bad day and didn't want to leave the house I felt calm & happy here - I genuinely believe if it wasn't for these centres I would have slipped into post natal depression.

We really value the services offered x

The stay and play group on a Thursday has been a vital part of my children's development. With thanks to the team at Bluebell their imagination has risen, their social skills have improved and they have experienced activities I would never have dreamed of or would not be able to provide at home. The group only lasts for 90 mins. I think time slot should be extended, and include access to citizens advice or health visitors or social workers etc on a rota basis rather than separated clinics. Holidays are very stressful times for some. Private activities cater for school aged children. More structure and continuation of routines in the holiday for users would reduce parental and toddler frustration.

I feel very strongly about the changes that are being made to this children's centre and neighbouring centres. I feel they contribute such a lot of support to new mothers and mothers with more than one child. They are local and very welcoming, allowing children to socialise with other children and providing much needed support for families. There is nothing else like this for families in this area. It would be such a shame to have these centres cut of their activities and invaluable staff. The bluebell centre I have used [REDACTED] It has supported me and allowed me to mix with other families. Seeing these activities go would result in a lack of support for families, which would be extremely sad.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building**

This is unacceptable. Parents need support/advice and education to be able to move forward as a family. Children's centres help the whole family, whereas just turning it in to a nursery/use for the school is only beneficial to the children directly. Children's centres can tackle a wide range of issues, which schools are not equipped to do so.

No local community provision for supportive and stimulating Early Years (0-5) groups for families living on the Ronkswood estate and surrounding area to access. The potentially negative outcome of the reduction in home visits of health visiting teams (and lack of access to support available to families) was helped by families being able to access a health visitor at a local centre via group sessions. Families may well take up the two year funding positions but will not have a local centre to support and develop parenting and play skills at home.

The activity sessions;parenting support and access to midwives and health visitors have been invaluable to me as a new mum and my family. Giving access to parenting education that was thought not needed is helping tremendously. It is great to see my child develop and learn new skills throughout the classes each week is a blessing. I am unable to provide half the stimulation alone on itself at home due to time and money restraints. The interaction between other children of different ages also helps my child interact on a day to day basis for example snack time. It will be extremely unfortunate to see these services cut; change or move in any way; for my family and other families especially the ones whom are unable to drive to different locations. The current staff are providing an invaluable efficient service.

I do believe that the proposed changes to the centre are important service provision, particularly if used as supervised contact for looked after children. I just hope that the services which may be cut can be delivered elsewhere i.e. parenting support and health services. I have been to this children's centre many times during previous pregnancies and have found the support invaluable and also easy to access. I hope this is considered in future.

Concern about lack of universal services at this centre

Activities which are going are valuable to the parents especially new mums. This has been invaluable to me and such a shame that this will not be available to future generations.

OK

It will be a shame to loose the health services and the universal activity sessions as I'm a new parent and found all those services very useful.

The family links programme has been paramount to my recovery. Having centres that i am able to receive support and enjoy quality free activities with my children has made our change in circumstances an easier transaction. Without the support we have received other services would have needed to provide support.

This centre has been a tremendous support for me and my baby

I don't know what I would have done with out the support of the centre and the staff. I have used it continuously since [redacted] and they have helped me with a lot of things I have not felt able to discuss with my health visitor

I love coming to the centre and so does [redacted] who has learnt to socialize and uses lots of equipment I do not have at home

I have made some good friends here and we support one another. It s great to share stuff with each other. The staff are brilliant. [redacted] knows so much and is easy to talk to

If we had to pay to keep this group going then I would be happy to. There is nothing like it anywhere else near here and I don't have a car so it would be difficult for me to get to another centre

I have been coming to Bluebell wood since my [redacted] So do I and I would have gone nuts without the support from the staff. I love this place and feel so sad that it is not going to carry on

[redacted] and yet this center is the one place [redacted] plays [redacted] and I can talk to the staff about [redacted] and get advice. I do not know where else to go.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

This centre is so good on so many levels. The stay and play I attend with my child is really good. I have seen my child blossom here and when it is time to go to nursery I know she will be fine because I brought her to the centre to play and to socialise with other children. The staff are wonderful and go out of their way to make you feel welcome when you are new.

It is very disappointing that the [REDACTED] will no longer be delivered at this centre due to the changes. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] these activities have been a real life line for me and [REDACTED]

For example a [REDACTED] helped me to [REDACTED] I have also attended various other classes that have allowed [REDACTED] to reach developmental milestones, [REDACTED] and time for me to socialise with other mothers. These activities have been really important in building my self-confidence as well as improving my confidence [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I think the importance of these activity sessions for an awful lot of families are underestimated. Early intervention and prevention is always more cost effective than cure. Having previously worked in [REDACTED] I appreciate this first hand.

I think it is an absolute disgrace that the services within this centre are being closed. It is a vital hub for the community, professionals and parents and their children. It would be interesting to ascertain what the funds that usually go to children centres are being spent on? parents and children can have issues/problems at anytime in their lives due to circumstances, not just at designated times when you hope that Health Visitors can pick it up.

The change of services that is being offered at Bluebell is a difficult transition for Early Help providers to make. This is made even more difficult with the added situation that it is highly unlikely that Bluebell reach families will be offered alternate services out of other children's centres either. I think parents should be told the current situation so they can make informed decisions and choices about their feedback.

Family learning will be sorely missed

A lack of groups and health clinics would be detrimental to the local community immediate and within the wr5 postcode. I used this centre with both my children and it was invaluable. Meeting other mums in the area, attending specific groups ie baby massage as well as linking in with the early help workers with local knowledge and advice. Luckily I drive so can't attend other centres however for those in wr5 postcode other groups and services are very difficult to get to, given cuter get cuts to the bus services en route to the hospital. This centre is in good working distance to major residential areas.

A backward step; this centre covers Tolladine the highest need area in worcester and is inaccessible to Toalladine residents

Used universal services each week what will I do. Staff over me support.

I am genuinely heartbroken to be loosing our childrens centre. The school have said that they are only interested in using the building to extend their nursery. I now have [REDACTED] and i feel like my baby is going to miss out on so many wonderful experiences [REDACTED]. Its not just another play group, its a safe and supportive environment for families. Ive used several of their services and with pnd it is hard just leaving the house, but if i had to go to 3 separate places for advice on different topics then it wouldn't happen and the isolation would be unbearable. At the moment everything is under one roof with our childrens centres, it really is the hub of tge community. Please dont rip its heart out.

we attend bumps to babies group on a Monday & have been going into the crawlers to explorers group to get ready for the transition that would of happened had the facility of remained opened. without these groups [REDACTED] will no longer have the opportunity to make friends, socialise & learn. it's also been a helpful tool in weaning with the healthy smacks provided. [REDACTED] so I want to ensure [REDACTED] mixes with other children from an early age. staff are all welcoming and friendly.

## Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building [REDACTED]

The sessions ran at the centre for parents/carers and their under 5s would not be so popular if there wasn't a need for this kind of service. It is shortsighted to withdraw these kinds of activities as families needing support will not be able to access it in an informal manner and I predict people will slip through the net who need intervention and could get it before it reaches a more serious stage.

The children centres are critical in provisioning for the health and welfare of children across Worcester. It is an absolute crime that many of these centres are closing and this decision will have long lasting negative effects. Another tory failure for the counties vulnerable children. Extremely concerning.

Activity sessions for the babies and toddlers of ronkswood need to continue. The groups in town are already over crowded or expensive and families are losing out.

This is appalling. I used bluebell for all my antenatal care and attended for health visitor advice and classes when my baby was small. Without it I would have been an isolated new parent and would have had to take significantly more time off work to attend antenatal classes. If antenatal care is transferred to reduced number of centres or gps, there will be significantly longer waiting lists

This is a great local service, saw me throughout my pregnancy with visits to my midwife which carried on after my baby arrived. These centres are imperative to the local community & desperately need to stay open as they are.

Basically it's going to become a nursery for 2 year old funding removing vital services for those in need of them. All antenatal clinics and children services will no longer exist

there is no detail about the services to be lost, it is meaningless to just say 'some'. How can parents plan for their needs? How can you do a proper impact assessment? Schools do not have early years professionals with expertise in breastfeeding or postnatal depression for example.

Baby and toddler groups are well needed in the area as Warndon Villages don't offer anything to young families and this 2 centre kept us going. Helped me and other mums to make new friends and because [REDACTED] it was always going to know the people who run the groups counted on us to be there just as much as we wanted to get out of the house.

I've used the centre extensively during my pregnancy, and afterwards at antenatal classes, health clinics and baby and toddler sessions. It's a valuable resource and will have played a strong role in the good development of my child. Please do not limit this valuable service.

This was where I had all my antenatal appointments so I used it regularly. That said, when I was pregnant with [REDACTED] many years before I preferred the experience of having the midwife come to visit me for appointments. I attended a handful of antenatal classes here and one talk on baby led weaning by my health visitor. Other than that I haven't used the place. I always loved the idea of the things that are run there, but thought it was in the wrong area. I did not wish to travel by car to there (some 6 miles) to use the services. I much prefer using things in my own local area I can walk to, that way making local friends. I wished these services had been offered in St. Peter's. I think there would have been a much better take up rate. I would love to see communities have help to run services specific to the demographic living nearby. This would make things fairer.

Despite not being classed as a "vulnerable family" I have vulnerabilities that were addressed effectively due to hard working and intuitive staff.

I had my antenatal classes here. They aren't offered anywhere else I could get to as I don't drive and the bus services have been cut. This is the only centre I could get to and without it I wouldn't have been able to access vital support and information about pregnancy and breast feeding.

When I was on Maternity Leave the activity sessions were vital to family support. This does not identify which Family learning and parenting support will not be provided and whether the health services will be the Midwife sessions. There is not adequate information for a consultation when you are asking people to comment on the facilities that may still be needed within that area.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Please keep services for expectant and new mothers and fathers! The services have been invaluable so amazing i couldnt have survived the first year of [REDACTED] life without all the help and support from this centre! And still have to drop in to tbe support worker service from tine to time.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building ( [REDACTED] )**

Attended classes here, bery useful and supportive

Not happy with this at all. This centre offers a lot of support to local families, some of whom have many needs. Who will support them? I do not think we are being treated fairly

The bumps to babies group here was vital for me to get out and meet other mums, [REDACTED] living in the area who had very little support and had to find it myself through the children's centre at lavender. It was vital for me [REDACTED]

This will negatively effect so many families and the weekly routines and interaction they have with their children including myself

Getting rid of all of the health services that currently are delivered at lavender will have catastrophic implications on families from the surrounding areas. Getting rid it of the numerous stay and play sessions such as sensory play and messy play will be Sikh impact the development of the children who will be missing out on these crucial early experiences and not to mention the wonders it does for new parents.

Same comments as made for bluebell

To loose this centre and the groups which they run there and the services they offer will be a huge loss to the community. So many parents attend the groups here and use it as a source of support. Having it right next to the school allows easy access and reassurance that help is there at my convenience

This is my local centre and I attend groups. I trust the staff and made friends.

Families that attend this centre are in the 10 per cent area and feel very strongly that they will find it very difficult to access other centres. [REDACTED] lot of families who just turn up In Crisis and get support from the staff that they have built up relationships with over a period of time. Universal services target a lot of mums and dads and lots of early intervention takes place within these groups. Where else are these families going to go for support as local church groups are not always able to signpost to correct agencies . I strongly believe [REDACTED] setting [REDACTED] and staff up to fail.

This children's centre was invaluable to be when [REDACTED] were little - having children is such a massive life changing thing to do and I always felt so welcome and safe at all the baby groups and walk in clinics they ran. Even if I was having a bad day and didn't want to leave the house I felt calm & happy here - I genuinely believe if it wasn't for these centres I would have slipped into post natal depression.

I am not directly involved with the Lavender Children's centre but I am indirectly aware of the benefits. The work that the centre do to support young families is invaluable. There are families that cannot succeed in the local community without this support and if disbanded, this will have a negative impact on the community the families live within. The removal of this service will also place additional pressures on fellow public services that are already unable to cope.

To remove the health services from this premises is appalling! How are parents supposed to reach health care if they struggle for financial, physical or social reasons to travel and approach a new centre?

Great staff. Give lots of support. Local. All on hand help and advice will be gone.

You are taking away the very reason for the childrens centre and just turning into an extension of the school



**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building (.....)**

This is such an accessible centre for all that live in the area especially as the majority do not drive and are on low incomes so public transport cost may not be an option. The rooms and groups led by this centre are fun and well organised with such welcoming staff please don't take away my only chance of getting my child and myself out of the house to socialise.

..... and I attend the ..... at lavender. This resource has been invaluable to us. It's a safe play for ..... to play, explore and interact with other children. It's a safe place for me to go on days that may be ..... and it has been a real life line for us. I know that we and other families will be lost without the children's centres.

Parents need support, as well as the children. Children's centres do both and a lot of families would not be where they are now if it wasn't for children's centres.

No local community provision for supportive and stimulating Early Years (0-5) groups for families living in Warndon and the surrounding area to access. The potentially negative outcome of the reduction in home visits of health visiting teams (and lack of access to support available to families) was helped by families being able to access a health visitor at a local centre via group sessions. Many families tell us that groups and sessions have literally been a life line to them. We already know from working with many families that access to such provision needs to be on their doorstep and families will not travel further to another centre, instead missing out on vital early parenting support and not having access to advice on problems before they escalate.

I have used the centre as a parent ..... It has been an accessible, friendly community space where I have accessed health visiting support and advice, attended groups which have enriched my child's development and provided opportunities for new friendships. The extra advice available to families (support and financial advice) has been used by friends of mine who would have struggled to access wider provision. It will be a great shame to stop services that are so valuable to so many and I think the effects of withdrawing such provision will be seen when a greater number of families are struggling and the services that have provided support for so many years have been cut. This will be too late and will directly impact on us and our children.

Concern not enough universal services , too vague need more detail to understand what is still going to be available

Activities which are going are valuable to the parents especially new mums. This has been invaluable to me and such a shame that this will not be available to future generations. The staff are such a great help to make it all work and advice.

Again parenting support is too important to be lost

It is very disappointing that the ..... will no longer be delivered the Lavender centre due to the changes. ....

..... activities have been a real life line for me ..... I have attended a ..... here with ..... This is the type of activity session that I can't afford to do privately and is ..... I think the importance of these activity sessions for an awful lot of families are underestimated. Early intervention and prevention is always more cost effective than cure. Having previously worked in ..... I appreciate this first hand.

I think it is an absolute disgrace that the services within this centre are being closed. It is a vital hub for the community, professionals and parents and their children. It would be interesting to ascertain what the funds that usually go to children centres are being spent on? parents and children can have issues/problems at anytime in their lives due to circumstances, not just at designated times when you hope that Health Visitors can pick it up.

I am a ..... and I simply cannot afford bus fares to travel to another venue to access services. I have used Lavender a lot ..... greatly from the activities which I cannot give ..... in our home. I would go stir crazy without getting out to the centre.

the staff at Lavender are the only ones who have listened to me and helped me. I would not be here today without them. They saved my life.



**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building ( [REDACTED] )**

All of my children have gone through Lavender before school and all have started really well because of what they were able to learn. I want to keep bringing my child to the stay and play at Lavender

[REDACTED] Since coming to the centre [REDACTED] has come out of [REDACTED] and joins in and plays independently from me which is a great step forward. The centre has helped me a lot and is very close. I will pay a fee to continue to come to the centre

I am a [REDACTED] and bring [REDACTED] to the centre every week and feel welcome and enjoy playing with my children in ways I wouldn't do at home, especially with the messy play that is put on and the music and songs which they love

My [REDACTED] loves the centre and so do I. I live in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a very active child and goes nuts when cooped up. After being at the centre and using the outside toys [REDACTED] is always much calmer.

Families accessing Universal services are often identified as needing support and [REDACTED] to supply that or signpost families to specific organisations. [REDACTED] relationships of trust so that families can talk [REDACTED] anything knowing they will not be judged and that they will be helped. Some parents come to rely heavily [REDACTED] through times of trouble until they are able to stand on their own two feet and sort themselves out. They come [REDACTED] for help and advice, often because they don't know their health visitor very well or don't feel listened to. Women have cried [REDACTED] sharing some of their fears and problems [REDACTED] lifeline for them. I worry that schools will not do for the families [REDACTED] and they don't have the same understanding of children under two and what they need.

The change of services that is being offered at Lavender is a difficult transition for Early Help providers to make. This is made even more difficult with the added situation that it is highly unlikely that Lavender reach families will be offered alternate services out of other children's centres either. I think parents should be told the current situation so they can make informed decisions and choices about their feedback.

[REDACTED] ante-natal care to the pregnant women surrounding the Lavender Centre. [REDACTED] 2 clinics on Wednesday's and Thursday's. [REDACTED] caseload of approximately 70 - 80 women, many of whom have no transport. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] women booked in past October. There has been no consultation with health services!

Lavender Children's Centre is a great opportunity to [REDACTED] see other kids. It is important because we haven't got any [REDACTED] to play with different toys and listen to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] For me also it's nice to speak with other mums and spend time together.

It is disappointing that the Council cannot see how much the Children's Centres are a benefit to the Local Community. The current Stay and Play sessions are often the only opportunity parents get to spend quality time with their child/children in a safe and nurturing environment. It is also sometimes the only way for children to attend such sessions, as many do not qualify for 2 year old funding but are unable to afford the high fees for nursery or pre-school. It is sad to think that any future children I have will not be able to receive these opportunities.

Lavender Children's Centre has been very helpful in getting me. [REDACTED] enjoys the sessions provided by them. It would be good for all the mum's and babies if it stayed open.

Lavender Children's Centre has been vital in [REDACTED] development. She has been able to interact with other babies and I have been able to get advice and support.

The Lavender Stay and Play is a really good centre which has helped [REDACTED] since they first came here. It has helped them socialize it is also place where we come to for advice from staff or other parents when we don't understand something to do with our children. This place should stay open.

The services currently provided by Lavender Children's Centre are fantastic and it will be a shame to lose them.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building ( [REDACTED] )**

Closure of the centres for their existing use is really going to have a negative effect on a lot of families. Claiming it will save money is ridiculous as there will be more parents and families in need falling under the radar and prevention is cheaper than a cure. Really disappointed in the Council.

It would be great if there could still be some provision for younger children 0 - 5 years. I have used the session provided at Lavender extensively and will really miss being able to meet other mums. It provides invaluable support to mum's in need.

I have found the Children's Centre's a valuable source of support and.

This is a particularly good children's centre - staff are very friendly and helpful and the facilities are really good.

It would be a shame if babies classes were cut, they're essential to lots of parents and a great way to socialise my baby.

I use Lavender Centre [REDACTED] times a week. It has been very useful and in the early days of having a baby I would have been lost without it! Messy Play is brilliant and has really helped my baby for hearing. The staff are always very friendly and offering advice and support.

I have get support from staff and made friends. Learnt activities to support my child and gained confidence in parenting. Without this centre I would be a different mum.

Although this children's centre isn't my most local centre, I have [REDACTED] utilised it as a parent. It will be such a shame to loses the universal services that I have accessed since having my baby [REDACTED] I have been so grateful to utilise the HV's and midwives within Bluebell and Lavender too.

It is a shame that universal services for children are now going to be cut and universal support was the original of children's centres when they were first introduced. Children and parents really benefit from the different groups that are provided in CCs.

Very sad that parenting support will no longer be offered. The Children's Centre has been a lifeline with it's welcoming faces and support in the early stages of being a new mum.

Lovely centre, been fab.

All the Children's Centres have been a lifeline, especially Lavender Children's Centre with my [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Becoming a parent can be a very lonely and daunting time. The Children's Centre gave me the confidence to engage with my children and socialise with other parents going through the same experiences. I am extremely sad to hear of the changes as I honestly don't know what I would do without them!

We would really miss the centre. Our local play area was closed so we travel to come. Fantastic facility would be such a loss to local area.

I feel that the proposed changes are vague and perhaps deliberately ambiguous. From what I can infer, it seems that virtually all baby classes are to go. I credit them with helping my wide overcome post natal depression and feel that other mom's will not get this vital service.

This centre is the best place to take [REDACTED] to socialise because he doesn't know any children [REDACTED] age.

I used to take my daughter to the sessions and loved the interaction not only with other parents but for my daughter too. I now volunteer and enjoy every part of it and would love to carry on as long as I can. The staff and parents at the all the centres are fantastic.

I enjoy partaking in the planned and creative play activities. This service provides opportunities for new mum's for support by talking and sharing experiences of what is going on with children. I was a new mum and the service has made me open and become confident in engaging conversation with others.

[REDACTED] Early Years Speech and Language Therapy service from the Children's Centres - families find it more accessible and are comfortable to attend [REDACTED] the centre of their community. There is no added demand on them to travel, making it a low stress positive experience.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building ( [REDACTED] )**

I use [REDACTED] to help [REDACTED] learn colours and be with other children. I also use this service to help myself. [REDACTED] one of the members of staff, has been fantastic in helping me to [REDACTED] as I find it hard [REDACTED]

Parenting support is vital in these areas

Where are the health services for Warndon going to be delivered? Moving these services out of this area is going to have a detrimental effect on the health & wellbeing of the community with many health & social needs.

I used Lavender when my baby was newborn. If it weren't for the groups there I would never have got out. I think the people who could afford it were asked for a small contribution to the running of the group -£1 maybe. it would be OK for me. The staff need to stay! I had extra support from them when I had a problem with my daughter

WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY A FEE TO KEEP THE GROUPS GOING. Would be willing to be a helper

All the services currently being delivered by this centre are vital to the surrounding community & should not be axed or moved. This centre is in a community where there are a lot of vulnerable & poor families & individuals; keeping the services are vital to their wellbeing. Even if they are still delivered elsewhere the people in the surrounding area to Lavender, in all likelihood will not be able to access them due to cost of travel or other difficulties like disability & the reluctance to go outside of a familiar area. Please keep services local & in the community, it helps not only with learning & development, but with social & community cohesiveness.

The loss of link with Worcester Community Trust will be another nail in the coffin of this valued facility.

Baby groups and baby clinics have been a lifeline for me and my family. I've received critical advice and even had referrals about my baby's feeding from health visitors. Had I not received advice about feeding and behaviour management for my toddler, I would be in a very different position, as would my children. I have had times when I've been extremely low and been to a group and had support and distraction that has changed my week. It has acted like early intervention for me and my family. Avoiding gp appointments and more.

Staff very welcoming had my midwives appointment, attended clinics, group sessions and family support. I am a mum who needs some support and made a good network of people. It is like my family the staff are great.

[REDACTED] I have used the lavender children s centre along with others to attend groups meet other mums and to build a social network. This is a vital source for the well being of mums and to build a social network and provide opportunities for children to interact with other babies and children within the area.

I used this centre for all midwife appointments and after [REDACTED] we went to different groups available. Everyone at the centre has been do helpful. As a first time mum I felt I was able to get support if needed by just turning up at the groups.

This is just disgusting how can babies and toddlers be mixed in with school children they have enough anxieties as it is We need parenting support and adult learning as a course I was doing there has had to stop due to lack of funding for a crèche and all of the participants were learning and enjoying it until the holidays came. And not everyone can get to their GP on the days that a health visitor is there to why cut health services?????? And I do think it's a good idea for the funded childcare but school based support? What? You need the support when your child is a baby not school age.

My comments are as per the last box but with the addition of saying your figures are inaccurate. I am confident that way more than 15% of families access the centres - what about the prenatal support currently offered at Lavender? It is disappointing that yet again the children in out county are being penalised, especially with the cuts to their health services in Redditch.



**Please give your comments on the changes to Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon building ( [REDACTED] )**

A huge number of parents rely on this centre for the only activities they attend with their baby. Removing these classes and groups will be disastrous.

The children centres are critical in provisioning for the health and welfare of children across Worcester. It is an absolute crime that many of these centres are closing and this decision will have long lasting negative effects. Another tory failure for the counties vulnerable children. Extremely concerning.

This should not be closed. The range of availability of health visitors across multiple sites means access to help is easy to obtain when it is needed. Closing this centre would make life difficult for many families

This is a great local facility which I have used countless times both for weigh in clinic for my baby & for drop in speech clinic. These centres are precious to our community & shouldn't be tampered with!!

Basically it's going to become a nursery for 2 year old funding removing vital services for those in need of them. All antenatal clinics and children services will no longer exist. The room is not big enough to accommodate after school care forcing parents who already have a space for the after school club to look elsewhere when hardly any options exist especially those who work full time

there is no detail about the services to be lost, it is meaningless to just say 'some'. How can parents plan for their needs? How can you do a proper impact assessment? Schools do not have early years professionals with expertise in breastfeeding or postnatal depression for example. Services are more important than buildings

Same reason as for Bluebell centre. Here we used their support groups like breastfeeding, citizen advisor.

Lavender is where I've had all my antenatal check ups since I found out I was pregnant. The support they offered me was vital. I knew nothing about pregnancy or being a parent. The midwives have supported me no end. The access and support from GP just doesn't compare to the support this centre offers!

When I was on Maternity Leave the activity sessions were vital to family support. This does not identify which Family learning and parenting support will not be provided and whether the health services will be the Midwife sessions. There is not adequate information for a consultation when you are asking people to comment on the facilities that may still be needed within that area.

The expectant and new mother services here have been so helpful and supportive. Without them i would have been a wreck when my son was born!

**Please give your comments on the changes to Apple Vale - Broadway First School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Although this building is not used as much as Orchard Vale Children's Centre in Evesham i am concerned that when OVCC is also handed over to the childcare provider there will be no base available from which services for vulnerable families with children aged 0-19 to access other than in Pershore and Droitwich. Therefore will that mean a lot of money will beed to be spent on hiring halls etc. - is this going to be cost effective?. Therefore i am not in agreement for this

The say & Plays sessions with a health visitor present are really important for the parents of small children. There is little opportunity for your children to socialise and parents to meet other parents and learn from them so losing the service would be really detrimental. It is also important that parents have easy access to health visitors, which would prove much more difficult without the weekly clinic at the centre.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Apple Vale - Broadway First School building ( [REDACTED] )**

[REDACTED] lots of families who drop in for support which they find invaluable. [REDACTED] concerned that this will lead to a lack of support for families in Evesham as many struggle to travel out of the area due to lack of public transport. I know family support will continue however the groups that run from Evesham are really beneficial for families who don't require 1-1 support but benefit from 'touching base'. The lack of support for families in Evesham is already an issue and I feel this will only increase the problem further.

They would have a positive impact on the provision that the school can offer.

I am extremely concerned that health services will no longer be delivered at this building. Children's Centre buildings are supposed to be the hub of the community, but can see that this will be lost. In addition I also understand that the centre in Evesham is also closing, so there will be no provision for families at all in Evesham. Both of these centres are extremely well used by all families, and I know from speaking to staff and meeting families that these are not just those who you say don't need the services, but are in fact families in great need of support. I feel that this is a huge loss to the communities and instead of working more closely with health, you are in fact moving further away.

Where will parents be able to access the services no longer delivered in Broadway? Transport can be an issue in rural locations and difficult to get to the other childrens centres without.

I think that this site is vital for many parents/caregivers as transport to other centres can be limited or unavailable which causes great stress. There are many people who need Apple Vale as they have no other way to attend at the other sites.

The Children's Centre has offered a vital service thus far [REDACTED] both as an opportunity to see the health visitor and to attend the Baby Group. My child has needed regular health visitor assessment for measurements and it's been more straightforward to pop into the centre than worry about booking appointments. The various baby and toddler groups are a vital source of support to new mothers. I would be devastated to see the Childrens Centre service in its current location be lost

Without this children's centre, I would be worried about where I would get my [REDACTED] weighed. It is vital that I can see my [REDACTED] growing and that [REDACTED] is doing well for [REDACTED] age group. I enjoy coming here to see the health visitor and to see the friendly staff. I love the baby groups and enjoy seeing [REDACTED] play with other children here

It is not clear which services will be continued and can't see how this is the same as I currently use. The loss to the community is huge. This centre is a place to go and get support when needed. I understand that the centre in Evesham is also closing and fail to see the reason behind this. I can't see the sense in this happening. there will be nothing for us families. Please rethink

[REDACTED] weekly child health clinic at the centre. There is no alternative suitable accommodation in Broadway to continue to deliver this service. Vulnerable families will no longer have access to a local child health clinic & will have to travel to Evesham which may be prohibitive due to the cost of public transport.

Cut of activities will put pressure on the Evesham centre, traffic into the town is bad enough. Will cause further social isolation in Broadway. Cut to the health visitor clinic here I'll again mean travelling into Evesham. Or not accessing services

This gives a reasonable new usage for this centre

I think this is a great idea and will help the school to continue to provide the excellent range of activities, including the extracurricular activities the school provides which enrich the children's education and help inspire them.

[REDACTED]

## Please give your comments on the changes to Apple Vale - Broadway First School building [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] early years childcare provider in the building, I see how valuable [REDACTED] is to continue a good transition for children to progress onto the attached school, but also how valuable the existing speech and language and health visitors base is also as important not just for parents of the community [REDACTED] it enables [REDACTED] good relationships with these outside agencies and as we all know these relationships are important to keep childrens learning, progression and support paramount. A break down of communication due to not working in the same base can be detrimental to children and their families.

Kept it how it is. Put regular baby groups etc in the building. And kept the plays school in it.

How can you propose that the building is "proposed .....joint work with the existing childcare provider" when the half money to build apple vale came from Govt capital funding for PVI early years providers that we Broadway & Towerview Playschool applied for and were awarded after it was match funded against surestart money ?????? Surely that means [REDACTED] the building - it cannot be PROPOSED - this should be made clear you cant PROPOSE something that is already established and 'brought and paid for' doesn't make sense. You should be protecting an 4 times Ofsted OUTSTANDING provider of over 50 years serving the community of Broadway and its surroundings ! Childcare provider must be allowed to retain use of building.

[REDACTED] visitor clinic weekly at the centre. This is a well attended and appreciated clinic. It is a drop-in community clinic. It enables parents to come and see a health visitor and discuss any concerns and check on well-being. The centre has been very important [REDACTED] in maintaining contact with isolated families

Easy access to know you can just drop in for baby to be weighed along with meeting other mums for talk about children. Use both Broadway and Evesham and would have thought that the main centre in Evesham would have remained. Both settings are set out lovely, have great equipment and facilities. These being shut are a real shame for everyone who uses them and new parents-to-be.

Not able to drive, need to be able to access services local. Very few services available in the village. The groups at the centre are more welcoming, better facilities, toys etc. I access all the groups available and would miss them if they were not there anymore.

If we were to lose the services at the centre here it would mean I would either have to travel to another centre providing it wouldn't clash with my older children or I would only be able to see my health visitor for my [REDACTED] checks and hope I can get hold of her for any concerns I have.

The child centre to me is a big help as I don't drive and don't know anyone with children the same age as mine. My older daughter is in nursery so I don't travel anywhere while she is in nursery in case of an emergency. I am as a parent upset that there will be nothing for my daughter to do.

i am in agreement with the proposals to AVCC

Ensure the building is kept open for the provision of community including Towerview playschool rental.

Universal activity sessions and workshops are very much needed for families of SEN. Very disappointing

It's a shame that this is going to go from being a community use building used by health professionals and more, to a room for the odd school meeting or to be hired out to give school some rental income! I also wonder where the consultation for the Evesham building is - why is it not being consulted about when clearly it is going to have a completely different use?

Broadway Evesham and surrounding villages need the children's centre it's a fantastic place for parents to go to it helps so many and without it i know alot of parents will struggle with so many different challenges that the children's centre is so helpful with

Apple Vale children's center should not close

## Please give your comments on the changes to Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School building

Do not close the centres to public they are needed and valued part of the community .drop insplay sessions family support

This is in a super output area and by closing the centre these families and children will not be able to access the critical service they require. These families will not travel to access other centres and will not ensure they are familiar with services available to them.

OK

Rainbow Children's Centre serves a very deprived area, families who currently access the services of this centre will not be able to afford to travel to other sites meaning they will miss out on vital services and support.

Currently [REDACTED] variety of baby groups, stay and play sessions and messy play sessions and have implemented family learning services to families within this area. This area sits in a 10% SOA not having these services I feel will have a huge impact on these families and the support levels will be decreased.

[REDACTED] recognising this children's centre sits in a 10, 20 & 30% SOA it is paramount for services to be available to those in greatest need, with access to family and adult learning sessions to build on families emotional well-being and resilience. Stay and play sessions are invaluable for supporting the rapidly growing speech and language concerns across the Wyre Forest with parents requiring guidance and support to provide their children with the best possible start in life.

This children's centre is based in a 10% Super Output area of Kidderminster and also targets a large proportion of the Bangladeshi and Polish communities living in this area. I feel that it is beneficial to increase the opportunity for childcare positions in this area, HOWEVER by eliminating the current services that are provided would not be beneficial. A lot of these families will not travel to alternative locations, and there are only so many outreach opportunities available in the area - all of which would take up time, money and resources to establish. Families from this area respect a friendly face, consistency and un-pressurised services. A suitable arrangement needs to be made between the nursery setting and the Early Help services, and admin needs to be provided accordingly. It is ESSENTIAL that midwifery clinics and health visitor clinics continue in this setting - families that we wish to target will not go to Doctors and GP surgeries as they feel judged and associate them w

This Children's Center was invaluable to me during my maternity leave, and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time as a new mum would have been very lonely. My self and [REDACTED] loved attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [REDACTED] development and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming 'high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

This is a very deprived area and there's a great need to build trust and relationships within the community. In order to do this we need to bring an end to the changes in service delivery. Everyone needs 'a constant' in their lives! People get tired of telling numerous professionals their stories and loose faith in the system. Be careful about taking away any services/professionals from this community.

Think the baby group sessions and messy play etch should still run as helps parents get out the house in the early days and weeks to meet others.

This is a lovely centre and caters for a good number of pre-school children. It would be a great shame to loose it.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Rainbow Childrens centre has been so helpful and an absolute god send. My child has developed so much from attending messy play. Thank you ladies - we thoroughly enjoyed every minute [REDACTED]

**Please give your comments on the changes to Chestnut - Franche Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Do not close this vital service

Workshops and parenting support vital.

Both centres have big demand for the health visitor and midwives services. Would both this services continue? Also the activities like baby massage and parenting support are quite requested and the staff provides an excellent work on this areas. If they are reduced the quality of this service will be endangered.

This is a highly used centre and will be greatly missed in the community.

it is excellent that the centre will be open for parenting etc in the evenings!

I would be interested to see how the school plan to facilitate health related provision given that they seem keen to use the building for their own educational needs. I do not believe schools are in a position to be able to support healthcare related services, they require considerable admin support.

If Chestnuts closes I won't be able to attend any baby classes. As a new mother who does not drive I am unable to get to other children's centres for baby groups or to get advice and help with my new born.

With the proposed cuts, the nearest centre to us would then be across town. My wife does not drive and chestnuts would be a perfect place in a perfect location for her to take our little boy to baby groups, particularly whilst she is on maternity leave. If chestnuts was to close then this would make it incredibly difficult to attend another one.

Chestnuts is a lovely children's centre with lovely staff who give 101o/o they deliver out reach stay and play ect the stay and play they put on at cookley school has now been stopped because of funding this is really going to be missed by the 0 to nursery age which has a good relationship with the school nursery this is so sad for these children how will they learn to mix and share play with others especially lone siblings please let it continue .

This location is central and accessible to the local community, some people do not drive and would have to incur extra cost to travel to alternative sites. It would put extra strain on families with young children including newborn babies. It is also a place for local families to meet up and perhaps in future support one another.

Such a shame to be losing th activity sessions as I know many people including myself have found these vital for meeting and spending time with other parents and for encouraging development for your child. Being a new parent is so daunting and knowing you can attend safe helpful environments is a real comfort. Chestnuts has always been very busy and there are always waiting lists for the activities so there is clearly a demand that could be met by this centre

Very sad that activity sessions are being lost, it feels as though socialising with other children and trying different activities and growing in confidence from this will only be available to those parents who are able to afford private nursery care or paid activity playgroups. Yet again greater opportunities will be available to those already more privileged and the most vulnerable children in society will suffer the greatest loss in services.

## Please give your comments on the changes to Chestnut - Franche Primary School building

This Children's Center was invaluable to me during my maternity leave, and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time as a new mum would have been very lonely. My self and [redacted] loved attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [redacted] development and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming 'high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

The activity sessions at chestnut have always been very popular. I have attended adult learning at this centre for three years. Will be very sorry to see it go.

I have [redacted] and this is a local centre to me which I have used frequently before and after [redacted] were born the activities that are put every week are useful for integrating all children of a similar age together helping with their social skills. If this was to go this would be a great loss.

This Centre is used by a lot of local Mums who are able to walk there and meet up with other Mums in same situation...giving them the opportunity to share information. The nearest Centre would entail two bus rides there and back as mor all Mums have their own transport. Ir serves the local community and this can only be good for the area. There are only positives to keep this Centre open.. No negatives.

I haven't seen any evidence or recognition of all the excellent work the local provider 1032 Wyre Forest Early Help has done and targets excelled. This is a very busy Centre and well used by the local community. I trust children and their carers will not suffer because of the changes, which have come about due to significant cuts to funding.

Think the baby group sessions and messy play etch should still run as helps parents get out the house in the early days and weeks to meet others.

[redacted] and I have been going to Chestnuts in Franche for their baby group, and later toddler group, [redacted] We both had a great time there, it was informative and the staff were full of knowledge, sympathy and understanding; you could rely on them to lend a sympathetic ear [redacted] loved meeting the other babies and playing with new toys - the bubble machine was simply spell binding. I had the opportunity to meet new people and it was a bit of a life-line for me as I met other adults in similar situations as myself and could get ideas, advice and have general baby, and adult, chats. [redacted] will be lost without it. I am now worried about where I can go so [redacted] can interact with other children [redacted] age. We live on a shoestring, so paying for groups is going to be difficult, plus, because I don't have a car, travelling is always an issue. It's sad that the activity sessions are ending; we took part in, not only the general baby and t

As a patent i have used all of the Children Centres across the Wyre Forest in the [redacted]. Weve attended many ground, sessions and trainings and they are all fantastic. The staff was always very pleasant,friendly and helpful. I would be sad to see that any of these children centres will not be able to provide the activities. I had to wait for some sessions for 6months as "The List" was that long so I can't see how new parents should be only limited to 2 children centres in the future. [redacted] has gained so many social skills through the activities available through the Children Centres and I will be always grateful for all the support they we were given.

I do not agree with the cuts to provision for families - family support and activities will be more limited [redacted] thoroughly enjoy coming to Chestnuts every week and socialising with children of all ages

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

The families in this area are vulnerable. Coming to the childrens centre for groups gives them invaluable support. It also ensures that professionals have regular contact with children and they are able to safeguard them

Do not close this vital service

It is not clear what services would be reduced.

This is in a super output area and is crucial to the local community.

Tree Tops is strategically placed in a very needy area. It would be detrimental to parents and children to lose this centre and would result in an escalation of need should it not be fully used as a childrens centre.

OK

I AM OUTRAGED. The Treetops center has helped me endlessly, whether its been the need for a friendly face to talk to, making adult friends, having educational and fun activities for [REDACTED] to take part in and referrals to other agencies for help and advice needed. Had these amazing people at the treetops center not been around i would not have come so far in my life as a mother. The services they all provide are key to the health and well being of the community, many of us would not have the skills, qualifications and self confidence had it not been for the treetops team. I have gained a [REDACTED] and am currently on the [REDACTED] which again is helping me so much. Finally I would like to add; YOU, the team in charge of the changes should be adding to the current activities and support provided not changing it and removing vital and essential parts of many parents and childrens lives. These changes (should they take place) will no doubt bring about

I have been using Treetops since my first born [REDACTED]. The centre has given me so much support. I did all my ante natal visits here and got to know the staff really well so felt happy to come back when my baby was born to see the health visitor and to get some breast feeding advice. I brought my child to the activities [REDACTED] got to know some of the other mums and felt at home here. I don't drive so getting off the estate is difficult and being able to go out once or twice a week to the centre meant such a lot to me. I know the other Mums feel the same. I am convinced my [REDACTED] is as bright as [REDACTED] is because I brought [REDACTED] to the centre, I learnt about what was good for [REDACTED] to play with, what stimulated [REDACTED] how important it was to read to [REDACTED] and what a healthy diet was. I am so grateful to the centre and so sad new Moms won't get the service I had. Its all wrong.

I bring my child to the [REDACTED]. There are loads of us and we all meet there and chat while we are watching the children. We are like a family and the staff are lovely with us. I know if I have a problem or need some advice I can ask the staff. There is no where else around here. I don't drive. I won't have any where to go

[REDACTED] both my children come to the centre. I have made friends here and my children learn a lot and play with all the lovely toys. [REDACTED] I don't know where I will go if this group finishes

I am a shy person but I really enjoy coming to the children's centre with my children. I meet lots of Mums and the staff are very friendly. My children love coming here and I see them playing with all sorts of things I don't have at home. I have friends here and I can ask for advice when I need it. I can go to the drop in and see the Health Visitor and get my baby weighed and then go down to the stay and play group. It is great.

[REDACTED] The staff have been brilliant with me and helped me integrate with the other Mums because at first I was very quiet. I can ask them anything and they will give me advice about things I worry about. We love coming to the group and I don't know where I would go if this stay and play isn't here.

The stay and play at Treetops is the only time [REDACTED] and I would be lost without it.



**Please give your comments on the changes to Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Running [REDACTED] the stay and play group means [REDACTED] more mothers and children than [REDACTED] a GP surgery (which is full of ill people) and exposes children to harmful germs. [REDACTED] attend regularly [REDACTED] frequently and get to know them. [REDACTED] the centre which is so easy and I literally just to walk downstairs. If this centre closes it will be a great loss.

Changes made to treetops will put children at risk. families need quick easy solutions to their problems before they get too serious

I would be interested to see what parenting support is no longer delivered from this centre. It is located in an extremely deprived area where families are crying out for support. Families cannot afford to travel to other centres and this will ultimately mean they do not receive the support they desperately need.

[REDACTED] running successful stay and plays, messy play sessions, baby groups [REDACTED] reaching more 30% SOA than universal families is crazy to say that these must not continue. These sessions are VITAL for families to be supported.

As a parent I just felt I needed to say "I can not express how grateful I am that my children and I have had Tree Tops Children's Centre in our life's. They have given us so much. the children and I have made lasting friendships. I have received training to help with my future once the children are at school. The staff are all just so wonderful, caring and supportive. My life would not be like it is today without this centre!! Thank you for all you have done for my family. I am so upset at the changes that are being made. It is cruel for the staff that work so hard and are so kind and good at their jobs and I worry for future families."

Families currently accessing this centre access few services outside of this area, therefore to maintain contact and in order to build on children and adults interaction and development, particularly the prevention of isolation it is vital that a range of accessible services are provided in this phase 1 children's centre. Families take time to build trust with professionals and in this very vulnerable area of the Wyre Forest, removing the Children's Centre and familiar staff will be detrimental. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] relationships with service users and a range of multi-agencies and recognise the valuable services they so desperately need. Health visiting and midwifery clinics are an essential part [REDACTED] and are well accessed [REDACTED] service users if the centres are not hosted by the children's centre staff how will such services be managed effectively? If this centre were to close I would be very saddened to think familie

Tree Tops is situated in a 10% Super Output area of Kidderminster and currently reaches a large proportion of targeted families. [REDACTED] families, and they are now accessing more services than before, and expressing an interest in further courses and activities. Feedback from courses such as HENRY and Sensational babies has stated that these courses have changed their lives and their relationship with their children. This setting would make an extremely beneficial base for certain children's centre activities and would provide families with a familiar place to go for help and support. Midwifery Clinics and Health visitor clinics are essential in this area - who will facilitate the admin for these if children's centre staff are not available to do this? It has improved relationships between Children's Centres and health professionals having midwifery clinics and HV clinics in centres, and has enabled a holistic approach to su

"The groups and support that has been provided through Tree Tops has been one of the biggest impacts on my life. Before I came I struggled to be around people and [REDACTED] didn't have others to play with. It is only through Tree Tops I have been able to improve my support network and access the other services needed to help me and [REDACTED]. The staff are all amazing and supportive the activities helped my children develop skills and have fun. Thank you to all of the staff for being such a positive impact in our lives."

These families are vulnerable and regular contact with professional at these centres helps massively

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School building**

In such a deprived area it is very sad that some activity sessions are being lost, it feels as though socialising with other children and trying different activities and growing in confidence from this will only be available to those parents who are able to afford private nursery care or paid activity playgroups. Yet again greater opportunities will be available to those already more privileged and the most vulnerable children in society will suffer the greatest loss in services. For a mum suffering postnatal depression and trying to entertain [redacted] these centres offer such a valuable opportunity to get out and meet other parents and give their child a better start..

Would be disappointed. To. See the playtime sessions stopped enjoy the centre regularly and the staff are brilliant

This Children's Center was invaluable to me [redacted] and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time [redacted] would have been very lonely. [redacted] loved attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [redacted] development and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming 'high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

Again this is a very well used Centre and in a very deprived area! Children and carers rely on the support the staff provide, I trust the proposed/new lease holder will ensure a smooth transition with limited disruption to families. Continued delivery of all services currently in place would need to be seriously considered. A full-time receptionist for this Centre is essential.

This is a wonderful building and it seems a shame that the amount it will be used will be reduced. Again, the loss of the group activities is honestly disappointing, I hope the sensory room will be staying.

As a parent i have used all of the Children Centres across the Wyre Forest in the [redacted] Weve attended many ground, sessions and trainings and they are all fantastic. The staff was always very pleasant,friendly and helpful. I would be sad to see that any of these children centres will not be able to provide the activities. I had to wait for some sessions for 6months as "The List" was that long so I can't see how new parents should be only limited to 2 children centres in the future. [redacted] has gained so many social skills through the activities available through the Children Centres and I will be always grateful for all the support they we were given.

Cuts to family support, careers advice and family activities are too severe - you may as well cut the lot for all that will be left!

Tree Tops is a central resource for Birchen Coppice Parents/carers. Tree Tops does not just provide stay and play but is a hub for family needs. Tree Tops provides families with advice and guidance via a family drop in. Parents regularly phone for food vouchers and vitamins. Parents/carers on Birchen Coppice are hard to engage and will not travel to alternative locations.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School building**

It is proposed to increase the amount of two year old provision that the school offers, to support the local community. This will not be possible without the Children Centre facility.

Dont close this vital service

## Please give your comments on the changes to Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )

Half Crown Wood is placed well to help the less affluent area of The Walshes in Stourport. I believe the school actually want 10:32 to remain on site as they have fully benefitted from the close working relationship they have with the current provider. It is a new purpose built Centre set in fantastic surroundings with access to rich resources in conjunction with the school. Having a Children's Centre in Stourport and another centrally in Kidderminster would cater for a wide catchment area and service so many more families easily.

all year round provision makes sense

Whilst it is commendable the provision for education is being considered, should it not also be considered that families still need support - midwifery appointments, interaction with other parents, help with budgeting/children's behaviour etc

Over the past few months the reach and engagement from the hard to reach families has significantly increased with families recognising this centre as a hub for them to access, removing such services will destroy engagement and increase social isolation.

Half Crown Wood Children's Centre at Stourport Primary is based in an extremely targeted area of Stourport, with a large traveller community locally, and currently reaches a significant amount of target families. Many families will not travel over the river to access help and support when most needed at the Half Crown Wood centre, and many can not travel into Kidderminster. The reach at Half Crown Wood has significantly increased recently, with an established Baby group that families are extremely grateful of.

Lack of baby groups for new parents will be sorely missed, especially in this residential area which is so easy to walk to

This Children's Center was invaluable to me [REDACTED] and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time [REDACTED] would have been very lonely. [REDACTED] loved attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [REDACTED] development and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming 'high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

No comment! As due to the design (size and layout) of this space, usage is restricted. I have thought since the outset, this location should have been the primary CC site in Stourport. It is geographically accessible to the majority of the community, being within walking distance of the town centre. The site at St. Bartholomew's, although in a deprived area is not central and a lot of people who live in Stourport could not tell you where it is or even how to get to it; being tucked away on the top of a hill! There are other deprived areas in Stourport, such as Manor Road, Newtown, the traveller site and Broomy Close!

As a parent i have used all of the Children Centres across the Wyre Forest in the [REDACTED] Weve attended many ground, sessions and trainings and they are all fantastic. The staff was always very pleasant,friendly and helpful. I would be sad to see that any of these children centres will not be able to provide the activities. I had to wait for some sessions for 6months as "The List" was that long so I can't see how new parents should be only limited to 2 children centres in the future. [REDACTED] has gained so many social skills through the activities available through the Children Centres and I will be always grateful for all the support they we were given.

I regularly attend the activities at half Crown wood with my [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I have been attending these sessions since my [REDACTED] They have been vital for me to help support and nature [REDACTED] it has also helped with my [REDACTED] Without these services I will struggle to find activities suitable for [REDACTED] the same time, and lose the vital network I have built up there.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School building ( [REDACTED] ..)**

severe cut to family support and activities laid on by experienced and knowledgeable professionals are too severe. There will be extreme limits of the work that can be carried out by the professionals who are left. It is more or less a virtual service you will have left.

I think you have listed the incorrect school information! Half Crowb Wood is based at St Bartholomew's School, Princess Way, Stourport! The 1032 centre has been a tremendous support to me and my son. I do not agree that these services should be cut or changed. They provide an invaluable service to the local community in Stourport. With so many other services and support being cut, where will people go to for advice?

**Please give your comments on the changes to Riverside - Bewdley Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Parental drop in needed

Dont close the existing vital service

again parenting support should not be compromised

Very disappointed that services are being cut. We've found them very beneficial and worthwhile.

[REDACTED] This group has been an invaluable service, lots of help and support on our breastfeeding journey. It is also important social interaction for the babies and their mums. This group is easily accessible and people are very friendly. The breastfeeding buddies are so important provide support to the mum's and babies at this group. We have learnt from a group we attended called "baby led weaning" which was extremely supportive and helpful. The loss of this children's centre will be a massive loss to the people that use it and to this area.

Breastfeeding support - great support group for mums. Should carry on running. Other play and support groups are very beneficial and we attend regularly. Would be a great loss for them to stop.

As this is the only Children's Centre in Bewdley, I think it is a travesty you are planning to strip it of its vital services to the community. There is very little alternative for parents within Bewdley to receive support with their families.

Extending childcare provision will be great for working parents but takes away from any mum in Bewdley without own transport, desperate to get out and entertain a child too young to benefit from free childcare hours. These centres should be available to help the most vulnerable, not as additional buildings for revenue producing childcare.

Riverside has provided excellent facilities for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The staff are always very friendly & welcoming to everyone. They offer a brilliant range of activities for the children whilst encouraging parents/carers to get involved. They have provided helpful advice to many mums & it is very sad that this will no longer be available.

This Children's Center was invaluable to me during [REDACTED] and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time as a [REDACTED] would have been very lonely. [REDACTED] loved attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [REDACTED] and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming 'high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Riverside - Bewdley Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

I think that riverside should continue with the universal activities and the parenting support. Riverside is the only children's group in bewdley where as Kidderminster and Stourport have a couple of children's centres. Some people do not drive so are unable to get to Kidderminster or stourport so it wouldn't be fair to takeaway things that people who cannot get to other groups rely on.

Think the baby group sessions and messy play etch should still run as helps parents get out the house in the early days and weeks to meet others.

As a parent i have used all of the Children Centres across the Wyre Forest in the [REDACTED] Weve attended many ground, sessions and trainings and they are all fantastic. The staff was always very pleasant,friendly and helpful. I would be sad to see that any of these children centres will not be able to provide the activities. I had to wait for some sessions for 6months as "The List" was that long so I can't see how new parents should be only limited to 2 children centres in the future. [REDACTED] has gained so many social skills through the activities available through the Children Centres and I will be always grateful for all the support they we were given.

I regularly attend the activities at Riverside with my [REDACTED] I have been attending these sessions since [REDACTED]. They have been vital for me to help support and nature [REDACTED] has also helped with my [REDACTED] Without these services I will struggle to find activities suitable for [REDACTED] the same time, and lose the vital network I have built up there.

Again the cuts are too deep to then expect significant impact and positive outcomes for families

I use this centre on a weekly basis and have especially benefited from the breastfeeding support, it is so sad that it will be closing.

As a Mom on maternity leave with a limited income all the Childrens centres have been a life saver to me to go to groups without having to pay for the privilege. But most importantly Breastfeeding support at Riverside has meant I have kept up with the breastfeeding when I wanted to give up. This group is priceless and should still be allowed to run and continue to support breastfeeding mums.

**Please give your comments on the changes to Brookside - Comberton Primary School building ( [REDACTED] )**

Centre should be kept as it is .vital part of the community

Good to hear about before and after school childcare provision.

This is an ideal proposal, suiting both parties, which allows important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

A great idea which suits both parties

This is an ideal proposal, suiting both parties, which allows important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

This is a great idea which suits both sides involved. This will allow important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

This is the perfect proposal which I believe is advantageous to be both parties and the children of the local community. It will allow the Childrens Centre to carry on providing its important services whilst giving the school access to much needed additional space.

This is an excellent proposal which would suit both parties. It is pleasing that important services can continue and the school can access a much needed resource.

This proposal will allow the current provision, that is required by the local community, to continue; however, it will also support Comberton Primary School's vital need for additional space to support all of the educational needs of the pupils.

Good ideas for the use of the building.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Brookside - Comberton Primary School building (How do you think Conkers - Hagley Primary School building...)**

This is an ideal proposal, suiting both parties, which allows important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

This is an ideal proposal, suiting both parties, which allows important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

This is a fantastic idea and would really support children at our school.

I think that this would be a fantastic opportunity for pupils at neighbouring Comberton Primary School to be able to site.

This would be a good solution, the community wouldn't lose the services already provided by the centre and the school will benefit from the extra space and resources.

This appears to be the ideal solution meaning that both parties have the accommodation they would benefit from.

The proposal is an ideal outcome to enable both the important services which currently exist to continue and providing school with an extra valuable resource.

This is an ideal proposal, suiting both parties, which allows important services to continue and the school to access a much needed resource.

Think this is a brilliant idea which allows the children's centre to still be used as it is useful and it allows the school much needed extra space to benefit all of the children for their future.

I believe that the proposed changes will maximise the use of the asset for the local community, and provide an ideal solution to both interested parties, ensuring that the early help provider will be able to continue to deliver its valuable services to local families, whilst providing the school with much needed additional resources and space

I think it will be very useful for the school to have extra room and facilities to use as the school is growing with limited space available.

Brookside is a well attended site and located well within a area of need. It would be able to accommodate staff and host activities but not lend itself well to a school nursery on site. I have concerns that wrap around care from school would take priority in the schools eye's and the rooms not be cleaned and cleared in good time. I feel this centre needs to remain solely early help provider to give them autonomy and control. The current provider is known to run after school sessions and courses for school age teenagers which would have to stop. This would be a suitable base in Kidderminster from which the Offmore estate could greatly benefit and draw in parents from surrounding areas of need; it needs to remain solely in the hands of the early help provider.

Shared use with the school would be a fantastic help to Comberton.

The changes will add valuable resources to the school while maintaining the essential services of the Brookside Centre. Relocating the before and after school activities to the Brookside building will allow the primary school to better utilise the space in the main school building where they currently have to hold additional classes in the dining room.

This would be an amazing opportunity for the school to use as more space for all the interventions that children require that we currently do not have space for. It would also provide a space for external agencies to come and work with children.

this is extending the services provided- good!

This seems a very good use of a facility that will benefit the school which has shortage of space for improvements and allow access for other users of centre.

My children attend after school childcare and they are very limited for space. Using the facilities at the children centre would offer more suitable facilities for the Afterschool care team and be able to offer better activities for the children.

This is the only positive thing in the whole consultation I feel I can comment on. Sensible thinking for once instead of taking away services without considering the needs of parents and families.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**Please give your comments on the changes to Brookside - Comberton Primary School building**

Brookside currently provides a fantastic service and the staff have been brilliant. I attended there for midwife appointments and continue to go now for the toddler groups. I'm pleased to see that there is no plan to close Brookside at the moment but I am concerned that when we have our next child I will struggle to get midwife appointments / spaces at any groups as more people will be using Brookside when other centres close.

In order for the children's centre to be effectively maintained consistency of provision from the children's centre provision needs to be maintained.

The building is not suitable for both Before and After school club, and early years activities. Will the midwives and health visitors still run clinics from here - if so how is this possible and fair when other centres are losing this service? Equally so with Family Support - families from the other side of Kidderminster will not travel over town to complete a course - it is not financially possible for the families that we want to target. Tree Tops would be a substantially better centre to keep with regards to location and reach.

I think before and after school provision would be a great addition to centre.

This is a great centre. I am a local resident and new parents and find this centre so valuable for both baby groups and health visitor clinics. Would be very keen to see both sustained.

This Children's Center was invaluable to me [redacted] and without it I would not have met any of the mummy friends I still have and my time as a [redacted] would have been very lonely. [redacted] attending baby groups, stay and play, baby massage, baby yoga, Moo music and messy play sessions and I believe it has helped immensely in [redacted] and my own development as a mother. Without these sessions there will be nowhere for 'normal' family's to go for support and guidance during the early days, which I believe will then have serious consequences for the future, not just of that family, but also the demand they place on services such as the NHS and social services. Unless you are a 'high risk' family there will be nothing for you, but surely the whole point of universal activity sessions is to stop families becoming ' high risk' in the first place? Such a shame that the local government thinking has become so short sighted. My family, for 1, will b

Please offer more stay and play groups for under 5's

A concern for me is the 'shared' spaces! Who will have responsibility for cleaning, maintenance, etc. This could potentially be very difficult to manage if no-one organisation has responsibility/budget!

Think the baby group sessions and messy play etc should still run as helps parents get out the house in the early days and weeks to meet others.

As a parent i have used all of the Children Centres across the Wyre Forest [redacted] Weve attended many ground, sessions and trainings and they are all fantastic. The staff was always very pleasant,friendly and helpful. I would be sad to see that any of these children centres will not be able to provide the activities. I had to wait for some sessions for 6months as "The List" was that long so I can't see how new parents should be only limited to 2 children centres in the future. [redacted] has gained so many social skills through the activities available through the Children Centres and I will be always grateful for all the support they we were given.

as mentioned for the other centres - the cuts to services are too much

## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

First of all I'd like to say that I fully support the prioritisation of "free" services for those in most need/experiencing greatest deprivation. However I disagree that these are the only parents that need support. The children's centres gave me the confidence help and advice to establish and continue breastfeeding, deal with my post-natal depression and to cope with severe sleep deprivation and social isolation. The stay-and-play sessions were part of a package of help proposed by my health visitor when my depression was recognised and (alongside medication) made the biggest single difference to my situation. My HV came to my home on a weekly basis for several months but I felt the Children's Centre sessions were even more essential than these visits. My concern is that by focusing 0-2 provision on interactions HV you lose the valuable peer support and social interactions that you gain from the children's centres. The stay-and-play groups allow for informed advice to be sought in a

Make cuts to other services such as substance misuse..people choose to use drugs they should choose to not use them!

I would be completely lost without our local children's centre - Blossom Vale in Pershore. Without family support we'd be completely lost. [REDACTED] at home, family support has given us so many strategies to help. Our family support worker has been the mesh between all support services involved with [REDACTED]. I also use the centre for groups with my [REDACTED]. I do not find it easy to interact with other mums but the centre's groups are so friendly and staff are lovely and so helpful. They will ask me how things are with my [REDACTED] without these services I would have been an isolated mum. Other parents like me need the centre to keep services running.

Children's Centres are vital, easily accessible sources of support and services for thousands of families. Their mass closure - and let's call it what it is, however you spin it, will have a massive detrimental affect. They work. And in 5 or 10 years from now, when more children are failing to thrive, failing in school, when more families are suffering from mental health problems, more children are being taken into the care system, when there's increased pressure on GPs, on schools, on the health service, on social care and prisons, someone will undoubtedly come up with the idea of early intervention and universal services. Closure of the centres will push more families into crisis and the outcomes will be socially and economically devastating.

I think it is underestimated how much these centres offer families especially ones with little or no support or who are going through a difficult time. I feel we will lose a great deal by cutting back in these areas and therefore putting greater strains on other areas.

Do not close any centres they are a great resource to many families with vital support for many children and families.

Having had an emergency section, which was the worst posse outcome for me, having a children's centre within walking distance was imperative to my mental and physical recovery. I was able to walk the short distance to meet other mums and get out of the house with my new born and see a health visitor all in one trip. The csection was extremely traumatic and I would not have fully recovered without the help of my local children's centre.

I want to comment on Orchard vale evesham but I can't find it

Children Centres save an awful lot of money in the long run. You have volunteer groups and organisations [REDACTED] doing great work via them that you probably don't even know about, supporting hundreds of parents every year at no cost to yourselves/tax payers. If you cut children centres, the long term costs will be disastrous for all involved.

parents really enjoy using the childrens centres and their is a need for them

These centres are a god send for parents. There is nowhere else they can go to get the information and courses that are run by these centres and without them children will really be missing out on the best start.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

Being able to attend children centres when my little one [REDACTED] was born was a fabulous source for friendship, services & help with brining up [REDACTED] which I found the whole change in my life massive. Without the source I would have really struggled with becoming a parent. Based on my experience alone I believe all the centre should stay open to give this support across the area. I know so many parents that have achieved so much from the centres

Reading the changes and the services that are to be left I am appalled at the lack of detail of what's going to be left as it appears the vast majority of support is being withdrawn with no details on where it is to be replaced so, one assumes it is not going to be. This is the destruction of the service as we know it, some thing many of us have used to support us come to rely on and be so proud of. To say these service may be offered at other centres but so many similar services being cut across the area it appears nowhere will be left to offer them. These are not changes to but destruction of this wonderful service.

Ideas to raise funds toward the centres sustainability; It's working out a way in which a donation box can be secured inside the entrance but also for mothers not to feel obliged to pay (low or no income) Also what about table top sales or cake sales at the centres with fees for tables or a percentage of takings to be donated?

These centres are a lifeline for parents and cannot be shut. They are needed and provide an amazing service.

The overall plan to cut the children's centre services is going against all evidence which demonstrates the high impact positive impact services have on children and families. By cutting these valuable services the commissioning body is placing children at greater risk and the work undertaken by children's centres and Early help will be any thing but early intervention, families will need to be at crisis before they receive a service. The closing of the centres is not the issue it is the forced reduction in front line services, the focus on the centre buildings is being used to mask what is really happening, which is that services are taking a backwards step and there will be little if any early intervention work being undertaken. The manner in which the commissioning body is hiding the severity of the cuts from the families places children at greater risk due to the inability of providers to be open and honest and support and prepare parents for the changes.

Where is Sunshine Children's Centre? When will plans be announced at Evergreen?

these plans do not put the families in our areas first. It is a complete backward step for their futures and the future of the service. How can you support the families of Bromsgrove and Redditch when the support service has been taken away from them

I think it's disgraceful that this cuts are being contemplated. There isn't much in in the first place and to reduce this even further to nothing is deplorable. You and taking resources from the most vulnerable members of society. Maybe if the council didnt retarmack rainbow hill and the tything every four to six months we might have some money for our children. What do you expect parents and children to do without these centres?

the reduction of coordinated universal services will impact the development of under 5s within Worcestershire. it will also reduce the opportunities for families to be supported to access appropriate targeted support further diminishing the life chances of vulnerable under 5s

"Restricting services to those in greatest need" will mean the introduction of some bureaucracy to know who is eligible and so will greatly put off those who need the support the most. Some needing support will not know that they need support and others will be stigmatised. When anyone can go free of charge it means that mothers can invite others along more easily. Means testing gets in the way of the community building aspect. Inevitably those that really need the services will fall between the cracks.

We [REDACTED] use access to all the sure start centres due to shift patterns and child care demands. I hope the proposed changes do not affect our ability to use the services in this way.



## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

[REDACTED] in Evesham/Broadway. Closing these children's centres is going to have a significant impact on the children and their families within this area. The children centres provide a vital service and definitely improve the outcomes [REDACTED] families. This is a rural area with poor bus links so closing these centres is going to isolate many families. The bases also provide a facility for multi-disciplinary working. In time, [REDACTED] only be able to assess the true impact but my prediction is that [REDACTED] have many more isolated families, an increase in mental health issues, an increase in behaviour issues due to struggling parents and an increase in referrals to children's services/health visiting service. I feel that the care and support for children and their families in this area is going backwards not forwards.

There is no mention of any changes to Pear Tree which is my local Children's Centre. Please update documentation to address this oversight because at the moment it is not clear what future this Centre has.

These centres provide an important source of support to young families and I feel strongly that they should not be subject to cuts. In particular restricting free access to them to those in greatest need will tend to stigmatise those who use them and could in itself cost money.

The children centre I use at Evesham, I have been informed today is closing in October. This provides a valuable service to the whole. Community, especially those who have just had babies with no previous experience. Where will the young first time mums go for information and a place to chat with others in the same situation? They have helped me with antenatal classes, weaning, and a place to meet other people. Don't take the service away it's a good confidence boost and reassurance for those raising children.

I use the Orchard vale and Spring vale children's centre in Evesham. It has been an invaluable service to me and my child, they offer support, training, advice and a friendly face at all times. As a [REDACTED] they have been an amazing support and I find it hard to believe that services such as these are to be cut. The staff are fab and very re-assuring.

I am concerned that parenting support seems to be being cut in most areas. Supporting parents to be the best parents they can is vital to help children reach their full potential

More funds should be found to invest in children's services, rather than making cuts.

I would like to comment on Orchard Vale [REDACTED] I am very disappointed that this has been excluded from the consultation process although significant changes are being made by transferring the running to the adjacent nursery school. I feel that this is unconstitutional and unfair as other centres with significant changes are going through a consultation. As I understand it there will be no provision for "under twos" and a great deal of the integrated services such as midwifery and speech therapy will be moved elsewhere. Orchard Vale captured the dynamics of a true drop in centre as was envisaged in setting up the Sure Start Programme in the 1990s. I feel that by focusing on early years education rather than family dynamics and parent child relationships much will be lost. In 2010, robust research conducted by NESS demonstrated significant effects of SSLPs on eight of 21 outcomes: two positive outcomes for children (lower BMIs and better physical health), four positive

We currently engage with the Saffron centre but I note this is not on the list. I sincerely hope that in restructuring services that the capacity within baby drop-in and toddler drop in sessions is not lost. I have found them useful and enjoy the mix of people that attend. It is important to remember that community drop in sessions offer something different to people from all walks of life and in reorganising support that nobody should be forgotten.

Children's Centres provide an invaluable service to the families and communities of Worcestershire and across the country. To cut funding would be false economy as it will create further, more serious, and more difficult to solve problems for the future.

This service should continue to be fully funded with choices for development to be made with the full agreement of each Centre management, staff and parents. There must be opportunities for developing parental competence through whole family support and education. On site access courses could be beneficial too for the community.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

keep the childrens center teams and services the same just expand not remove these services are VITAL.

Why is Evesham not included in this list? It is an important resource in an area that has a lot of families needing support. Many recieve funding and are in need of help. Some do not recieve funding but still access valuable services there. Close Broadway and pershore but keep Evesham open as it is so desperately needed.

Am concerned about the cuts leading to the reduction in groups which are in place to support parents and children. At a time when children's mental health is consistently in the news, I feel the cuts in funding will have an even more detrimental effect on children and their families. The groups and sessions provide an informal setting for parents to find support, allowing them to discuss concerns and be sign posted to other services, if appropriate.

The services currently provided at each centre are vital to some and what is stopped/continued should be carefully considered and the impact of the changes on the community within the area should be looked at. If the services currently being provided are not being used to their full extent then these are the ones that should perhaps be cut or moved to another area.

The plans are awful. These children's centres are fantastic and the staff are brilliant. They are an invaluable asset to the community and these proposals are short sighted at best.

All the children's centres provide valuable support for families in a variety of ways, from providing socialising groups for parents and children to signposting support networks available for families with any concerns or struggles, these issues without being dealt with or noticed early on can easily spiral out of control.

[REDACTED] about how our local children's centres have benefitted our family - without these services we would be entirely lost.

Just as connections were being made into the community, it now seems that they are about to be lost. Schools have their own ahendas and requirements, childrens centres were always different. From what I can see they will now just be an extension onto schools. What a shame.

The children centres are an invaluable resource for professionals and parents. Using them to help with antenatal, post natal and conception advice and support. To socialise and help with concerns, it is vital that services are kept up. More promotional aspects need to be considered. There is so much scope to build on but getting g rid of services and centres is only going to isolate and deter women and families from seeking advice and support from the local trust and councils.

All services should be continued at all centres as currently provided - not everyone can travel to different centres for different services. The document outlining services that will continue to be provided uses the word 'some' a great deal but this is meaningless and could mean next to nothing.

Until I became a parent [REDACTED] I did no realise the vital role that Children's Centres play in our community. I am particularly alarmed that parents will no longer be able to access support and health services at many locations. One of the most invaluable attributes of these centres is their central location within communities. Having worked in Children's Services and education I recognise that there is an increasing belief in and drive towards early intervention. However the reduction of support services provided at Children's centres will definitely undermine the success of early intervention.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

Yet another consultation! However one wonders if anyone will actually look at the information that is fed back - no one listened last time! All early help providers across the county have provided a vital service over the last 2 - 3 years, to all sectors of the community. The good work has not been recognised by council who have decided to revamp everything (yet again!) Early Help has been more than 'nipping the problem in the bud' - as funding is cut in other areas more and more high end family support is passing to early help to pick up (often very complex issues requiring specialist support). To take away all these centres and hand them back to the schools etc. does not make sense. Council keeps saying that they are not closing centres - that is not strictly true. They are not closing buildings, but they are removing the services which have taken place in them. We are constantly being asked by families 'Where will we go once the buildings have closed?' - families are being

my comment is regarding the lack of consultation of the closure of the Orchard and Spring Vale Children's Centre. We heavily rely on this centre to deliver our counselling services and the team themselves have been fantastic in working with us to ensure that young people have access the service.

I would like to comment on the Evesham centre which is not listed on here. I don't understand why this building can be closed or handed to the nursery without being part of this consultation. The centre covers a big area including the rural area where I live. If I want to go somewhere to get some help after the centre has closed where will that be? 20 miles away? With hardly any public transport from where we live? This centre has been a life line for us and lots of families we know. I think it is a big mistake to get rid of it.

I refer a lot of people for support to Orchard Vale Childrens Centre in Evesham, Their support and continued help with my client base is crucial

[REDACTED]  
parent that uses the centre. the children centre is an essential part of the community and supports a high number of vulnerable families within the area. it also helps to provide other services such as SALT, Health visitors and midwives, etc. The early help support workers help families with behaviour issues, home issues, housing issues as well as helping provide courses for parents to help them back into work. without the children centre and its supportive staff there will be many families that will go under the radar (so to speak) and this will lead to more issue in the long run.

These are extremely valuable services which provide a much needed service for parents and young children in the area.

More services need to be provided not less

Why isn't Wychavon on this list? Does this show that the Children's Centre in Evesham IS being closed? Parents and carers need this provision in Evesham. The building will probably be handed over to the nursery for child care and we will never be able to use it again. I think it's absolutely appalling the way the councillor have handed this. Why start making proposals in the first place? It won't be until something happens to a family, who DID use the service that they will realise how great it was and will then want to open them up again!

I relied heavily on the support of the Childrens centre when I had my baby, I was almost put on anti depressants but because of the terrific support network and activities on offer I was able to focus my energy on positive things and get through it. [REDACTED] now and we still attend some groups. I can't imagine what it would have been like for us without them.

the centres are ideal venues to deliver support and healthcare to those that need it most



## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

The children's Centre in Evesham has provided invaluable and excellent support to families for a long time. As a volunteer at a local support group [REDACTED] I have witnessed how important these places are to New and established parents. We live in an area where lots of people have moved in from far and wide and many people do not have family close by. These centres are a life line of support and help families to build good supportive communities for their children and prevent isolation. The staff are fabulous and are able to signpost and safeguard the vulnerable and in need as well as providing excellent facilities and services. We need these centres in our communities. I cannot stress this strongly enough.

It is distressing to see the good will and community links that have been forged by these Centres being dismantled by a change in use and purpose. These Centres provide valuable support to the most vulnerable hard to reach families. It feels like a false saving to reduce funding in these areas as there will inevitably be a need for other further possibly more costly interventions at a later stage.

Disgusting that the council think removing these valuable resources is a good idea. Not only is it a safeguarding issue but mothers need these support networks to cope. Where are the council supposing these parents go. With no more Heath visitor drop in the gps will be busier. In Evesham there is a huge increase in population with family houses being built but you are removing the family support where is the logic?!!!!

If it were not for the family support workers and other parents attending children's centres I would not be here today. I can't be the only person that goes through these incredibly hard times, and with access to mental health support and it's lack of funding such a mess in the UK, children's centres are amazing for helping people in these sad situations

I think it's disgusting the Worcestershire County Council can hand these buildings over and think they can get away with saying "no centres are closing". The centres will no longer be children's centres. They will become early years/education settings. They will no longer be a hub of advice and support for the families that desperately need it, like Orchard Vale which isn't even being mentioned. There won't even be any children's centre workers in them! Disgraceful and dishonest.

What will us moms do without these centres. [REDACTED] these groups and given me the confidence to go out and go to these groups and meet new moms which I have become friends with and meet at centres 3-4 times a week. I will not be able to go out 3 times a week as I will no be able to afford to do so... Looks like I will have to sat home and go crazy!!!!

Cutting current spending on CCs by 50% (on top of savings already achieved by contracting them out to new providers) cannot possibly offer anything like the services originally offered when SureStart centres were first opened. The likelihood of increased demand for children to be taken into residential care will be increased as a consequence of reduced support earlier in their lives.

Surely it is unviable to have only one centre for the whole of Wychavon right on the edge of the district!

Children centres have a vital role in today's society, all serious case reviews share a common thread of lack of communication between professionals leading to lack of sufficient support to the family. Threatening the future of our centres in any way will lead to children being missed, families not being supported and an increase in serious case reviews. Children centres provide so much for all families and can give vulnerable children and their parents a safe place where they feel able to disclose any issues they may be having. Take this away and you take away the chance for making positive changes in people's lives.

Children's centres are a great place for early leaning & support for new parents

Since the days when Sure Start began right up until the present time or Early Help Centre's previously known as Childrens Centres they have proved time & time again how succesful they are from Antenatal to adulthood. These centres have interviened & provided preventative preventative measures to support our families and improvr there lives and the lives of their children's & hope the children of the future. This decision is detrimental and time will prove what a damaging decision this was.

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

Accessibility to groups of mixed ages would be useful to encourage integration and mutual support across ages and contexts. Parents/carers are on hand to supervise, older kids can benefit from activities that involve problem solving, crafting, completing puzzles etc as well as cooking and preparing snacks for younger ones. Is it possible to look at this as a model?

The cuts to work with families and NEET prevention have decimated the work of Worcestershire's Early Help. The service has been really successful over the three years and all outcomes and targets reached. The axing of NEET prevention for targeted Year 10/11 students is short sighted. You will have an increase in unemployed teenagers (drop out from courses, young people falling through gaps in provision and lower aspirations) leading to more problems in the community and a drain on resources, resulting in long term 'worklessness'. This will be as a direct impact of axing services and poor careers guidance from inexperienced and unqualified workers. It will take a couple of years for NEET statistics to increase, but like other county councils in the West Midlands (Sandwell, Wrekin, Dudley, Walsall etc) you will need to re-employ experienced and qualified IAG workers again to find these 'lost' young people because you have axed all preventative work which has been so successful. Without c

As a health professional who has been involved with multidisciplinary working across Wychavon and Worcestershire within the Children's centres for well over 10 years I feel that removing these assets will have an extremely detrimental effect on new parents and young 7 vulnerable families & children & everything that can be done should be done to maintain their original core provision from Every Child matters report

I understand that the council is only obliged to consult on these specifically centres. However, the implications of the proposed cuts run far wider than these 18, hence I would like to provide general comments. I am supportive of the concept of making the most efficient use of building space to deliver children's services as long as these buildings are still easily accessible for all. However, I think the real issue lies with how the proposed budget cuts will affect the services delivered and the experts that currently deliver those services. The council has not offered any alternatives for where the money could otherwise be cut from - I find it hard to understand how the health and future of our children could fall down the list of priorities. The children's centres as they stand (I am not talking about the physical buildings here) provide an absolutely critical service to children and parents alike. They provide face-to-face expert support that simply cannot be replicated via online

Please ensure that any planned changes taken full account of the range of uses that parents make of the centres. They are a lifeline for many and even for those who don't access specific support, they are a hub of information and advice. You should also ensure that an Equality Impact Assessment is completed in all cases.

Nowhere else sees these families and children every week. Nowhere else will notice if something isn't right. Nowhere can possibly provide the same service that a well funded children's centre provides. The complete round care, access to other parents, support for every single need or problem you ever have as a family. Not just in early years but older children too. These services are vital. You really have no idea how vital they are.

Childrens centres have a vital role to play with families, they offer a support network that nowhere else provides, I have known many women who would not have the confidence to go anywhere else. The service provided is excellent and absolutely vital especially for new mums. It would be devastating to lose any childrens centres across the County.

## Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

I am writing to express my huge concern at the proposed cuts to the children's centres - particularly my local Bluebell centre. [REDACTED] but the centres were the centre of my world for 2 years. From ante natal services, to the "bumps to babies" and then "crawlers and explorers" the support I had from them was immeasurable. Being a first time parent is a daunting and often stressful period. I remember turning up one day, having not slept more than a couple of hours for weeks and must have spent an hour being comforted, guided and coached by a support worker and left feeling a more confident and capable mum. This was a scenario that was to be repeated during weaning, toilet training and extreme tantrums. The lack of formality and judgement from staff always made you feel that you could openly talk about all your parenting worries and concerns and the camaraderie from other mums has resulted in deep and lasting friendships. Family and particularly child welfare should

The suggestion of any cuts to children's centres is purely disgusting, short sighted and ideologically motivated. The overwhelming outcry from the public should demonstrate to anybody with half a brain that the children's centres are extremely valued, and desperately needed by Worcestershire parents. I for one have met with several areas of disadvantage [REDACTED] I've lived in Worcestershire, including domestic violence, severe and ongoing mental health problems, single motherhood, life on benefits, as well as needing the support of the centres [REDACTED] Staff at the centres, and the services provided at the centres, are so very efficient, hardworking, useful, nay essential! [REDACTED]

Stopping groups for toddlers is a mistake as these are vital chances for development and support for families that can't afford paid for groups or nursery and don't yet qualify for free hours.

I have used children's centres for midwife care, breastfeeding support, access to health visitors for weighing and advice, and although I haven't used it directly am aware of access to SLT support. I would like reassurance that all these essential services will still be on offer to parents in local venues. If they are taken over by schools will they really care about breastfeeding for example?

Childrens centres are a valuable community resource, especially to young families and those struggling with the stresses of having children.

I feel it would be extremely short sighted and have disastrous implications for Worcester families if funding and services are cut to the children's centres. They are a life line to a great many, regardless of socio economic status and other factors politicians are banding about. Issues affecting families happen across all types of families and the council needs to be proactive in providing safe and secure facilities rather than reactive when it might be too late for families that needed intervention. I personally used the children centres with my first child and plan to do so with my second child.

These children's centres are essential to everyone. During my pregnancy and after I use/d them a lot the classes there and the help they give is essential. It helped me get out of the house with my little one. [REDACTED] it's scary and to know people are in the same boat and the classes don't cost the earth is amazing. They are doing a brilliant job and it's discussing this is another good thing that is being taken away from our children. They are our countries future we need to help them and educate them not take away places like this.....

It is disingenuous to think that the massive reduction in early years funding proposed will have no effect on the future health and wellbeing of children and families in Worcestershire. Our future citizens deserve so much better than this. It is completely unacceptable to just 'hope' that these reductions in services provided by children's centres will not impact on GPs or social services. Unmet needs will escalate to require more serious interventions in future and greater health risks.

I have found the children's centres and their support invaluable from early in my pregnancy right up until now. From midwife appointments, stay and play sessions, breast feeding support, educational sessions on feeding and other childcare issues and weigh in clinics they provide a wide range of resources and support that you just can't find anywhere else. The proposed cuts are scandalous.

Childrens Centres are needed



Childrens centres phase 2

**We prefer comments on the plans for individual Childrens Centres. However, if you have any general comments concerning the plans in general please include them here:-**

Why isn't Evergreen listed?! I am astonished that you are making such severe cuts. You are completely blind to the effect this will have on parents in the future, who find themselves in difficult situations. Like myself, unexpectedly, finding life very difficult, having been comfortable. If I didn't have the children's centre's then I can guarantee you, I would be severely depressed and unable to cope with being a lone parent as well as the emotions that are involved with the breakdown of a long term relationship. Please, think again. Find funding. You will be saving lives, I promise you.

So shortsighted. My undiagnosed pnd was helped by the care of staff who were my lifeline

Why isn't Saffron childrens centre listed? You have cut services here and they are not on the list! This centre provided me invaluable support as a new mother when I had my second son. I felt supported when I had questions about being a mother. They hosted inclusive stay and play sessions which [redacted] took advantage of.

I'm currently accessing the [redacted] at Bluebell. I used to take [redacted] to Bumps to Babies at Saffron and the Action for Children worker who ran the group was very helpful when [redacted] Going on postcode, I'm not the intended demographic to benefit from children's centres but I'm still grateful they're there for me. I would like to see the introduction of means testing so that parents like me, who can afford to pay, contribute towards supporting the services they use. If the Council had planned a proper engagement strategy for the target families, perhaps more of them would be using the centres. Cutting services because the Council failed to plan properly, and expects charities to deliver quality services on a shoestring, is not going to improve early years outcomes across Worcestershire. It will mean that needs will go unmet and children will suffer. Long term thinking isn't common in politics, but maybe the Council should try

When I was on Maternity Leave the activity sessions were vital to family support. This does not identify which Family learning and parenting support will not be provided and whether the health services will be the Midwife sessions. There is not adequate information for a consultation when you are asking people to comment on the facilities that may still be needed within that area.

Children's Centres are necessary for many families and provide valuable support for many. They need saving and their remit expanding; not neglected and palmed off/ closed.

**Please give your email here if you wish to receive feedback about the consultation or in case we need to contact you (optional)**

[Redacted email address]