

Proposed changes to Children's Centre Provision in Winsford

Evidence based equality analysis

Giving every child the best start in life is important to improving outcomes and reducing inequalities through the rest of their life course. This means supporting the child and family to have early positive health experiences but also in their journey through the educational system. Investing in early years is crucial to breaking the cycle of inequalities and reducing the gap between the least and most advantaged in society.

0 – 5 years Healthy Child Programme (including Family Nurse Partnership)

The 0 – 5 years Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership programmes lead the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme for this age group. Both are commissioned to a standard specification, based on the national service specification. This includes a specified number of qualified health visitors required to deliver the services and the model of service to be delivered such as the five mandatory health reviews for every child.

5 – 19 years Health and Wellbeing Service

The 5 – 19yrs Health and Wellbeing service is commissioned to a standard national specification that has also been developed to reflect local need, including the shift from a school-based to an all-year round service for all children and young people aged 5 – 19yrs.

Children's Centre core purpose

Children's Centres are responsible for delivering the 'core purpose' as defined by the Department for Education. The core purpose of Children's Centres is to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for young children and their families by providing a full 'core offer' of early childhood services with a particular focus on:

- Child development and school readiness
- Child and family health and life chances
- Parenting aspirations and parenting skills

Service delivery is responsive to local need therefore the services offered are driven by each Children's Centre and will adapt in accordance with those needs.

Consultation February – March 2018

The main aim was to carry out a consultation around the proposal of re-instating Over Children's Centre in Winsford as a main site and changing Greenfields Children's Centre to a linked site. These options are being considered as there has been an increase in the number of children in Winsford living in the top 30% deprivation, there is also an increased number of children living in the top 10% some of these areas are the most deprived in the borough. New housing stock is being built and there is a high demand for two year funded placements.

There were 2 options for consultation:

- Option 1 = Greenfields children's centre to remain a main site and Over children's centre to remain closed.
- Option 2 = Over children's centre to be reinstated as a main site with Greenfields children's centre changed to a link site.

A 30 day public consultation took place from Wednesday 14 February to Friday 16 March 2018. In addition to the public consultation there was one stakeholder event.

The recommendations following the process are as follows:

- Over Children's Centre to be re-registered and opened as a main Children's Centre.
- Greenfields Children's Centre to change to a linked site (providing further services tailored to meet the needs of local children) and that these changes to take place from September 2018.

Lead officer: Sue Charles-Jones (District Manager Early Help and Prevention)

Stakeholders: Parents, professionals, schools, nursery, third sector, libraries, health providers including Mid-Cheshire Trust and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.

Equality analysis is a valuable tool to help embed equality into everything we do

While process is important, equality analysis is essentially about outcomes
 Lack of evidence of discrimination is not evidence of a lack of discrimination

It is not acceptable to say that a policy is applied uniformly to all groups and is therefore fair and equal. Applying a policy or procedure consistently may result in differential outcomes for different groups.

For each of the areas below, an assessment needs to be made on whether the policy has a positive, negative or neutral impact, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation should be included. Where the impact is negative, this needs to be given a high, medium or low assessment. It is important to rate the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Target group / area			
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers, asylum seekers etc.)	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data shows that the Winsford grouping has a lower proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic residents compared to Cheshire West and Chester	The majority of the children who live on the Traveller site which is located in the Greenfields footprint attend Oak View Academy already. The extra 2 year old provision will support these children to access the high quality provision on site (Ofsted April 2017) at the earliest opportunity therefore supporting transition into nursery and school	
Disability (as defined by the Equality Act		There is a percentage of children attending both Over	The potential negative impact is mitigated by the

- a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)		Hall Community School and Oak View Academy who have been identified as Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Issues mainly in relation to communication and language. Both sites are compliant with accessibility requirements.	Starting Well service manager continuing to have a close working relationship with the Head at Oak View. The Oak view Ofsted inspection report states that the school use pupil premium well ensuring children are supported at the earliest opportunity.
Gender	N/A		
Gender identity (gender reassignment)	N/A		
Religion and belief	The large majority of people in the Northwich and Winsford locality are of Christian faith (2011 census) at 71.2%. 21.4% state to have no religion and 6.3% not stated		There is potential for minority groups (only 1.1% have a non-Christian faith) which may get lost therefore provision to support these groups needs careful consideration.
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	N/A		
Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older older people 81+. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs)		Children and their families will have access to increased provision in the Winsford locality. Currently there are two main children’s centre sites open. The proposals if agreed will see the deregistered centre opened as a main site and Greenfield remain open as a	

		link. Wharton will remain as a main site. The Starting Well Service is open to a wider cohort. This service is for ages 5 – 19 (25 where SEND has been identified) as well as the 0 – 5 population.	
Carers		Carers will continue to be supported to attend children's centre provision. Young carers will continue to be identified and offered support	
Rural communities			Recognise potential reduction of provision in a rural footprint however Greenfields and Over Children's centres are very close in proximity with driving distance of 1.1 miles and walking distance of 0.8 miles.
Areas of deprivation		Cheshire West and Chester experiences relatively low child poverty compared to England, at a very local level some small areas (Lower Super Output Areas - LSOA) record rates in excess of 40%. In total there are 4 small areas which exceed 50%. An LSOA with over half of the children living in poverty is located in the Over footprint. There has been an increase in LSOA's % deprivation.	

		<p>47% of children accessing Over Hall Community School are in receipt of free school meals</p> <p>32% of children in Oak View are in receipt of free school meals, 39% SEND, 61% pupil premium. Ofsted inspection report was very complimentary to the support Oak View provides for the children.</p>	
Human rights		Right to education increasing 2 year provision	
Health and wellbeing (consider both the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, employment, environment, crime and transport, as well as the possible impacts on lifestyles and the effect there may be on health and care services)		Families will have access to the Starting Well 0 – 19 service in the heart of the community	Some families in the Greenfields footprint may need to travel further for some health provision however there will be a full range of services across both sites with driving distance of 1.1 miles and walking distance of 0.8 miles. Access to some health provision will remain the same.
Procurement/partnership (if project due to be carried out by contractors/partners etc, identify steps taken to ensure equality compliance)	The Starting Well team are commissioned by the Local Authority to provide a 0 -19/25 age service. This service is currently being delivered by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership		

Evidence:

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
 Children's Centre Dashboard
 Insight and Intelligence Report (Key Findings)
 Ofsted framework
 Sure Start guidance

Action plan:

Actions required	Key activity	Priority	Outcomes required	Officer responsible	Review date
Recognise potential reduction of provision in a rural footprint	Ensure all families who are currently registered at Greenfields are aware that there are a full range of services across both sites	Low	Families have knowledge of services across the locality.	Sue Charles-Jones	
The Council Traveller site is located in the Greenfields footprint.	Ensure all children on site are identified and offered 2, 3 and 4 year placement. Starting Well service are well placed to monitor this	Low	All families have support to access the new 2 and current 3 and 4 year old provision at Oak View Academy or a provision of their choice.	Sue Charles-Jones	
Some families in the Greenfields footprint may need to travel further for some health provision however there will be a full range of services across both sites with driving distance of 1.1	Midwifery Service are supported to work from both Greenfields and Over Children's Centres Children's Centre. Starting Well team to continue to support families through their statutory	Low	All families in the Winsford Greenfields and Over footprint have access to high quality midwifery support in the heart of the community. All families are supported through 5 key contacts of the Starting Well service.	Sue Charles-Jones	

miles and walking distance of 0.8 miles. Access to some health provision will remain the same.	responsibilities of 5 key contacts across both footprints.				
There is potential for minority groups (very small numbers 1.1%) which may get lost therefore provision to support these groups needs careful consideration.	The services adopt a pro-active approach to engagement with minority groups in both Greenfields and Over Children's Centre footprints.	Low	Equity of access to service	Sue Charles-Jones	

Sign off	
Lead officer:	Sue Charles-Jones
Approved by Tier 4 Manager:	Helen Brackenbury
Moderation and/or Scrutiny – People Directorate Equality Group	
Date: 26 April 2018	
Date analysis to be reviewed based on rating (high impact – review in one year, medium impact - review in two years, low impact in three years)	Review in line with wider Starting Well analysis