

Changing the way children's centre support is offered for children and families



Have your say on changes to the way we deliver children's centre services

We're facing massive budget pressures like never before and need to save £157m by 2018 to meet Coalition Government spending targets.

We need to look at how we offer children's centre services so we can deliver them in the best possible way to support children and families within our limited budget.

Some services will remain, some will be run differently and some will have to stop. We might even have to look at closing some children's centres. We don't want to do this but we're having to consider all options.

We want you to be at the heart of all the services we provide so we want to know what you think.

The current situation

We currently have 54 children's centres across Derbyshire that offer a range of services suited to the area they are in which includes early education and childcare, health services, and parenting and family support.

They cost us £8m to run each year and we need to make a saving of £1.1m to meet our savings target.

Possible options

We are looking at a number of options to offer children and families support within our available budget. This includes:

- charging parents for using children's centres
- charging organisations for using the buildings
- reducing staffing levels
- closing some centres
- only offering services which aren't already available elsewhere through the voluntary, community and independent sector.

Feedback from the review will be used for a follow-up report to our Cabinet this autumn.

If any children's centres were to be subsequently earmarked for possible closure a further three-month consultation would take place before any final decision was made.

Now tell us what you think

We want you to tell us what children's centre services and support you'd like to be available to you and your family. Please take a few minutes to fill out our questionnaire.

We'd like to know what you think of centres/services and how easy they are to get to, what other help is on offer, what opening times and availability are like, and how good the support is for children and families most in need.

To give your views you can:

- hand in your questionnaire at your local children's centre.
If you don't know where this is you can find out by visiting derbyshire.gov.uk/childrenscentres or through Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.
- give your views online at derbyshire.gov.uk/ccreview

Our review will run until midnight on Tuesday 17 June 2014 so please get your views back to us by then.

