

Children's Centre Services Consultation 2019

This is a consultation on changes to the way that children's centre services are delivered which will open on 23rd January and run until 20th March 2019. If the proposals are agreed the changes will take place from 1st July 2019.

How we use your data

For the purposes of this survey Wiltshire Council acts as the Data Controller and by answering this survey you have given consent to the Council to process your personal data for the specific purpose of Market Research.

All your answers will be treated with the strictest confidence and your personal data will not be shared with third parties outside of the Council. Any reports made public will be anonymised so that no individual can be identified. For further information about how Wiltshire Council uses your personal data, including your rights as a data subject, please see our Privacy notice on the Wiltshire Council website

About you?

- Q1 Are you a children's centre user?
- Yes
 - x No
- Q2 If you have children, how old is your youngest child?
- Under 1 year old
 - 1 year old
 - 2 years old
 - 3 years old
 - 4 years old
 - 5 years or older
 - x Not applicable
- Q3 Are you?
- A professional with an interest in Children's Centres
 - A parent or carer of a child aged under 5 years old
 - A local resident
 - Other

Children's Centres

- Q4 Which of the following Children's Centres is the closest to where you live?
- Calne

- Chippenham Spring Rise
- Chippenham The Rise
- Cricklade
- Royal Wootton Bassett
- Devizes
- Pewsey
- Tidworth – Windmill Hill
- Bulford
- Mere
- Salisbury - City
- Salisbury – Little Folly
- Tisbury
- Melksham – Canberra
- Trowbridge – Longfield
- Trowbridge – Studley Green
- Westbury – White Horse

The Proposal

We are proposing to change the delivery of some children’s centre services from permanent bases to community buildings.

Children’s centre services will continue to work in collaboration with health visiting and midwifery as well as with colleagues who support housing and employment. Children’s centre services will also be placed more firmly alongside the work of pre-schools, nurseries and childminders. Services in the early years will work more closely together to support the family without duplicating support. Many families choose to access advice online and so the digital offer of children’s centre services will be enhanced.

- Q5 Do you support the decision to offer children’s centre services in the community and therefore invest in staff rather than buildings?
- Strongly Agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Don't know

Children's Centre Rationalisation Briefing No No 19-002

The Westbury Children's Centre, Eden Vale Road.

When debating this proposal what should be paramount in everyone's mind **what is in the best interest of the Child/Children** of that area.

It should also be remembered that within Westbury Town 16% of the Westbury population live within the most deprived areas¹², not just Wiltshire but England, and the Westbury Children's Centre is based in the very middle of that area.

We should also understand that many families that need the Centre are disorganised and dysfunctional. Some of the children are on the At Risk Register therefore this Centre is crucial to these children and to the community. There are parents who just need assistance with parenting, home learning, domestic abuse support, employment and *healthy lifestyles; or just a nonjudgmental person to listen. This trust can only be built through time and in an environment in which people feel comfortable – with the proposed move to different venues this trust and contact will be lost.

The most recent Ofsted report³ on the Westbury Children's Centre is shown as Good, which is a better result than some of the schools in the area.

To expect families some of the most vulnerable families to remember each week or month which Centre will be open on this occasion and at what time the Centre will be open is expecting too much. There also has to be taken into consideration that families may have more than one child, all of whom got ready and either looked after, taken to nursery or school. The Westbury Centre is based to all these amenities.

The cost of travel also has to be thought about. When living on a small budget, as many are, the cost of travel to another venue is out of the question.

Within the Westbury Children's Centre is a Sensory Room. The equipment in this much used room is large, heavy, expensive, and not easily dismantled. Therefore expecting this equipment to be dismantled and reassembled, at different venues is unrealistic. To subject such a valuable piece of equipment to potential damage and loss to the community would be reckless.

As a Wiltshire Magistrate I sat for six years in the Family Court and Chairman of the Wiltshire County Family Panel for three years, I fully understand the proposal and the families involved.

The Westbury Children's Centre is trusted and needed by all the families. It would be an irreplaceable loss to the Westbury Community and the most vulnerable if it were moved from its current home. ¹

Q6 When using community venues which of the following would you most like to attend for children's centre activities (This will help us to explore the best venues for your community):

- Libraries
- Leisure Centres
- Community Halls
- Schools
- Nurseries and pre-schools
- Churches and church halls
- Cafes and coffee shops
- Health centres and GP surgeries
- Other

Q7 Thinking about your local area, can you suggest a specific venue that would be suitable for children's centre events

___To stay where the Centre currently is._____

How the changes might impact on you

Q8 Looking at the information showing the proposed future use of the buildings, how do you think the changes will impact on you and your family?

___YES. Within Westbury Town 16% of the Westbury population live within the most deprived areas not just in Wiltshire but in England.
_The most vulnerable families and children live within the area of the Cente._____

Q9 What other options do you think could be considered for the delivery of children's centre services within reduced budgets?

__Leave Westbury where it is. This will save on travelling costs not just but for staff but for the families._____

² 28% of 10-11 year olds in Westbury Community Area are obese or overweight

³ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/13/23577>

Thank you for taking the time to undertake this survey.