

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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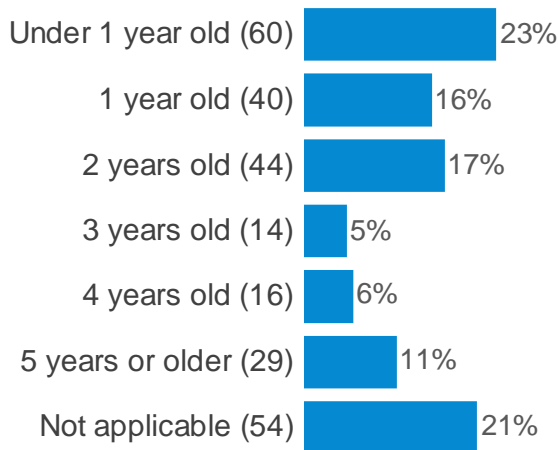
This report was generated on 26/03/19. Overall 262 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

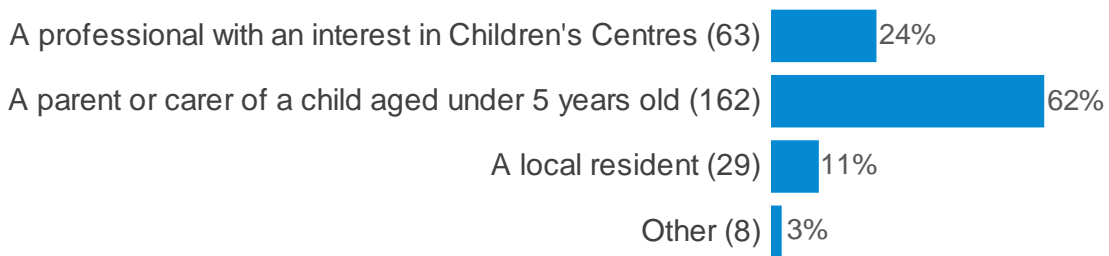
Are you a Children’s Centre user?



If you have children, how old is your youngest child?

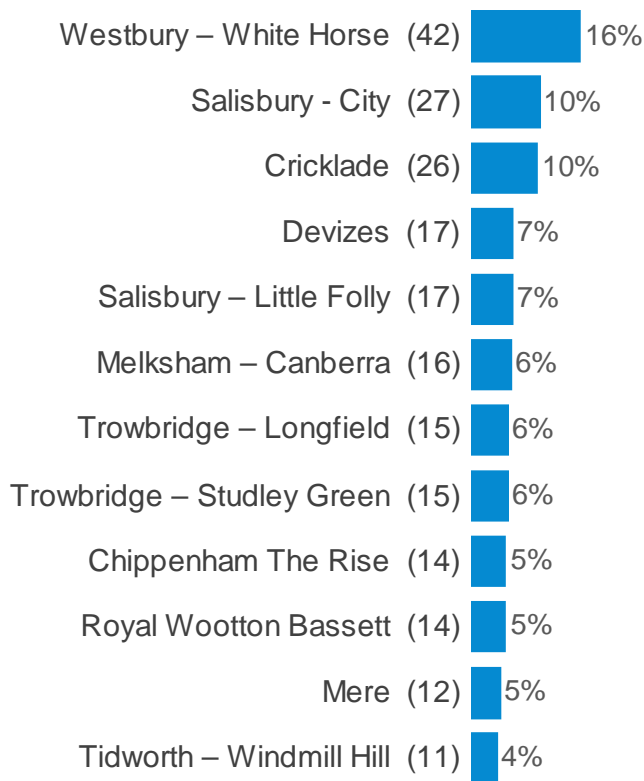


Are you?

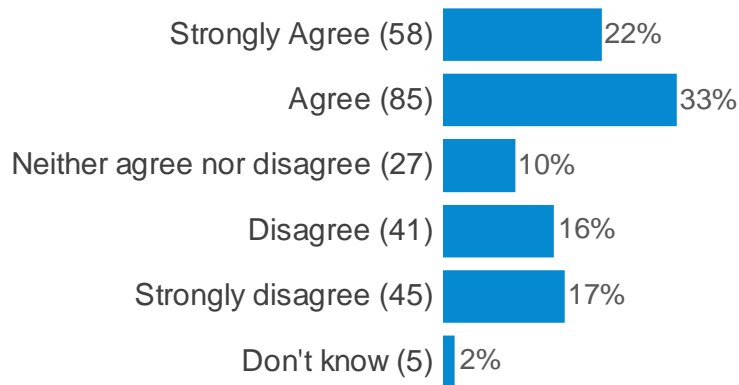


A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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



Do you support the decision to offer children’s centre services in the community and therefore invest in staff rather than buildings?



(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

- Transport

- It's important to have the childrens' centre as a community building, it has so much specialist equipment that can't be moved around.

- specialist equipment/facilities within cricklade CC, you can move health visitor services but what about everything else that takes place at the centre?

- Mom goes to children centre to get breastfeeding support

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

Children’s centres are currently equipped with a large smith of play/ sensory equipment. Where would this be stored? Or would it be lost? How would we supply play equipment to groups if they were held over a variety of different locations? I run a breastfeeding support group, but we use a large amount of the play kit at the centre. Can’t inagine people would attend a stay/ play session that had a “pop up” location and no toys!

Children’s centre provides the environment suitable for young children. If held in somewhere like a library or hall it won’t have the set up for young children

This has already happened in Malmesbury, and the services seem to be much less used, and I've met many parents who miss the "safe space" provided by the Children's centre. A purpose built building was much better for the services, in terms of having everything needed to hand. In Malmesbury the building currently being used by Rise groups is ok, but far from ideal for many of the groups, in my opinion.

The centres provide tailor made spaces for the staff, parents and children. Timings of groups are based on the need of the customer and not slotted in with other groups. I fear if groups had to use community spaces they would have to work around that centre and the other activities going on which would impact on the running of these services.

The question if very leading. Not sure who designed the questionnaire but there are two questions here, not one! Of course people believe in investment in staff, but really to use the existing buildings for childcare delivered by EY practitioners is not the same as supporting parents and children TOGETHER. Having a building/a centre to go to permanently is important. The Govt's childcare agenda to get more parents working longer hours is already backfiring with rise in mental health amongst ever-younger children.

The centres are far better equipped than any other community spaces and are the perfect location for groups such as the breastfeeding groups to run

CC's are purpose built so fill the need perfectly

The children’s centre is a safe space to attend

Families need to know where they can go to get support and have a safe, secure, and permanent place to receive that support. Children’s centres are already located in community venues.

However, I am not sure how communication between professionals will be maintained

Given the growing population of Melksham, more, not less, venues are needed. You need to invest in both staff & buildings. This question is weighted ref comment re staff rather than buildings.

I used to be a regular children’s centre user-after the last consultation and after Spurgeons took over I have stopped using it because it has been made unwelcoming and inaccessible to people who are not considered to be vulnerable. The purpose of children’s centres when they were set up was to provide a service for all parents with children under the age of 5, the children’s centre in Mere no longer does this. I would suggest that all new mothers are potentially vulnerable to many different things that might not be known about or spotted-when the children’s centre had the building in Mere 5 days a week it was run on a drop in basis and it was a haven for new mothers who sometimes just needed to get out of the house and wanted somewhere to go-there are plenty of baby/toddler groups already in the area-the thing that made the children’s centre stand out was that it was always accessible, it isn’t any longer and getting rid of the building will make this worse.

There needs to be more locations for families to access ASWELL as staff

Dedicated buildings are able to provide a safe learning environment that may be lost in more communal areas however more staff would increase the help available

Poorly paid staff can’t replace specialist venue access

The building I use has a sensory room and lovely playrooms

City is a vital children’s centre for Salisbury. The sensory room is a wonderful resource. The hv ran my weaning workshop at city. Folly is great if you drive or live in Bemerton heath but that is not the case for everyone.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

We like our centre as it is a safe place for us to go and be secure

I think the some dedicated buildings are important but as then proposal closes salisbury city which doesn't seem to be used for much any more but keeps little folly open this seems ok

Its always been nice to be able tomgonto a childrens centre any time and spend time there. Justbgoing to play or use the sensory room. No groups sometimes. Just to be able to go and use the toys etc anytime. Bring back Wiltons one.

Moving from Salisbury City Centre would disadvantage those who pop in when in town or access services at the centre of the city - the central hub of the Salisbury Children’s Centre and the most visible. Moving to Little Folly is to a less visible, less accessible location with high probability of less user engagement. I have used Salisbury City Children’s centre many times. I have used Little Folly once, found it hard to find, went to the wrong place, stopped to ask for directions and arrived very late. City site should be kept open.

Vulnerable mothers/children need a space to go which isn't a 'public' space. They need a dedicated place where they can access support in privacy and outside of set 'clinic' times.

It's easier to know where to go, what time etc

New parents need to know where to find support, the Children’s Centre building is the obvious place to go, if it's not there they might not know where to find the support.

Where are they proposed to be at the moment there is one very small centre for parents and children to access at limited hours. People living in suburbs from the city centre have no access and if parents choose not to send their child to a nursery or child minder how is it proposed these services will be accessible to those who will need them?

Whilst it is nice to do more in the community, I would hate to see our centre close to accommodate this as it's a great source of support and a place to meet like minded parents

Children's Centre venues are set up and equipped to run the services they provide. Community venues (libraries, halls etc) do not have the same facilities e.g. Only large adult tables and chairs, no catering facilities, no privacy for breast feeding mothers or cold halls for baby clinics. A Centre provides a hub so that nervous first time mothers can access help easily, and that the close working environment provided by the venue as a hub means that corners about wellbeing and safeguarding are picked up promptly and dealt with swiftly; with community venues vulnerable parents and children could slip through this net and be missed.

The sensory room is an essential free indoor resource. The Westbury centre needs an administrator to man the centre so that it can actually be used. I don't think this could be recreated properly in a community centre.

These won't be as accessible or have the permanent features such as the sensory room

The service will be used less and will ultimately have an impact on how vulnerable families are supported, risking an increase in costs to the public purse.

Community venues have their uses but important also for staff to have a base and also for community to have a known place to go. Permanent venues can be community hubs for a variety of activities. Their loss is of detriment to the community they are based in.

Invest in staff and buildings. This question is worded in a leading way.

The footfall in the children centre give parents and carers a outlet either social and if asking for help. More likely to ask for help from children centres than health visitor especially with the staff issues

Fails to recognise mental health needs of families not on low income

The groups that run are good at the children’s centres because there are safe rooms with toys and facilities that wouldn't be there in other venues

I would feel uncomfortable going to more public locations. I feel safe at the current location and so do my children.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

Since Corsham children's centre closed, we saw a massive reduction in support and activities for families with young children in Corsham with very little being delivered in the community as promised. The former Corsham children's centre was a lifeline for many first time parents like me, and without this central community based hub, families no longer have the same regular access to quality support on their doorstep. It is not viable for many people to travel to Chippenham and we saw very little being delivered in community settings - the drop in facilities at the old children's centre were vital, as you can't timetable when you are having a bad day and need support.

The money would be better spent on preschools and nursery who see children everyday not dip in and out, and on health visitors.

Impact on children not enough to justify the money spent. Shutting them and redirecting money to more direct services is of more benefit to all children.

The lose of the Wilton children's centre has had a huge impact on a number of families. Yes, staff are essential but running one session per week instead is not a sufficient alternative to people who depend on the support that these familiar sessions provide.

Won't renting facilities end up being an expensive option if we get rid of our buildings?

Children's centres offer a purpose built environment which is suitable and have facilities for young children. More often than not (Malmesbury for example) community buildings are hard to source and often unsuitable for the purpose. It can often mean that the services such as breastfeeding peer support become unavailable during the school holidays. The breastfeeding support group is crucial for women all year round. On malmesbury we have found it hard to build a regular group of mum's because the building we useisnt particularly suitable, child friendly or comfortable but it has proved impossible to find a suitable alternative. We have settled for the best of a bad bunch. Also, often privacy is required and community buildings often cannot

Safe place to go and see health visitors / use facilities

Families rely on the centres as a point of interest-a go to Centre

Important to have a go to place that parents can drop in anytime and visit knowing that is always available nd a safe space to go/visit.

I think the centers offer a place to go which is always set up and ready to go for groups and information and services, it would be a shame to see these centers go, I go to my local children's centre every week and have done with both my children, I think the groups and facility they offer is amazing and the staff are great to. I understand Bulford will not be affected by the closure so that is good news. Bulford has a great outside area which my son really enjoys and it is safe and enclosed, if centers are closed I don't think children would get the same experience in a library for example or village hall as they do in a purpose built children's center with access to lots of different equipment and activities.

You are trying to save money but venues are scarce. Wilts Council officers always looking for free venues to run their services. Venues are important for communities. Good to have a permanent base for such services that everyone knows about.

As a vulnerable family and a parent with autism, these familiar centres are crucially important to me and my family. Having autism means accessing places is very difficult for me. From planning and familiarising myself with the journey route, the parking, the place itself. It has taken me years through both my children 8 and 1 years to find this a comfortable environment to access support and services. The community spaces listed below a lot of them are very busy open community spaces which would create a sensory overload for me.

Can security be guaranteed in other public buildings? Children's Centre buildings can be reviewed as to safety measures in place (eg to stop children wandering out or the general public wandering in.

It is important to have a fixed venue in the area of greatest need which we have in Westbury.

My experineces of community health visitors (and to a lesser extent midwives) has been poor. I have found them disorganised and unable to offer the same services that the children's centres can.

I loved the groups run from the children's centre

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

Because children's centres are vital! They give a meeting place and classes for new parents

I feel we dont need building and as much community engagement as it not offering support to the families we really need to reach and any evidence we have shows this. Parents with young children do not want to engage in service that don't directly impact on their children and the lack of interest in training shows this. The recent information on what parents are struggling with and need show its support with weaning, toilet training, behaviour etc.and that point to more health visitors.

the provision in Corsham has greatly reduced since the CC closed a few eyars ago. much harder to access for young fmaileis and harder to make connections with staff if they are not in one particular place

Studley Green CC is the least accesible to families in Trowbridge. Bellefield CC was closed down, Longfield is now the most central for parents who drive, use buses or have to walk.

While it is important help reaches where it is needed in the community, if people know there is somewhere safe and welcoming that is dedicated to their needs it can be much more reassuring. People who don't obviously need help may miss out because they don't fall into the target demographic but would greatly benefit from having a dedicated space where they can attend small groups and make new friends; whereas this is less likely to occur in larger groups or on an individual basis.

Marlborough children's centre was very well supported before the building was close. Residents from Marlborough need to get a bus to Pewsey and residents from local villages need to get two buses,

Having a specific venue allows volunteer groups a place to create a group if no staff can be paid at that time. Having the space allows those families that need physical contact and support rather than just faceless online help.

I am not sure how you are going to have 'services being placed more firmly alongside the work of pre-schools...and childminders.' Our local Children's Centre is an excellent resource for us Childminders, several of whom look after disadvantaged 2 year olds. My fear is that we will be edged out, when the provision is so useful for the children and us.

I think the childrens centre is a wonderful space that people could get the a lot out of, because it is free to use, it is fully equipped for all children from age 0-5, and it feels like a safe, open and non-judgemental, helpful space. Many community buildings and community run activities can become cliquey, or tailored to a specific age range, even if that is unintentional.

While providing services in the community at places like toddler groups etc is a good idea i feel there should still be centrs available that act as a central hub where people can access help and support when needed. Somewhere people could drop in to find out further info about where the workers will be or to arrange appointments.

Children's centres need a base and identity of their own. If they share facilities of other services and therefore only operate on certain days or hours, it limits the accessibility of the service. Privacy may also be lacking in other settings.

The children's centre is amazing. It's perfectly equipped for different children and baby groups. It was an absolute lifeline when I was a new mum and continues to be somewhere I can go to for groups, support, companionship. It has helped me bond and recover from low mood/anxiety post natally. Please don't remove the centre. Please allow other mothers this essential lifeline.

I believe that a centre for people to come and meet and access help is so important

There need to be more bases. There are none in Warminster making new mothers feel isolated. Because it makes it more difficult to determine a point of contact.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

It's important to have a building the community where everyone can meet and feel safe socialising with their children. Parents need somewhere they can go on a weekly basis to seek refuge and support. Without common ground mothers especially will be at a higher risk of depression. New mums especially are vunrable and emotional, they need a nuturing safe environment they can go to weekly to meet other new mothers and form positive relationships to help them through the challenges of raising a child. Vunrable mothers won't ask for help. They need a sanctuary to go to as and when they are ready to reach out for help. Somewhere they can see other mothers interacting with their children. Exposing them to good practice.

The children's centre is a wonderful venue which is ready made. A lot of money was spent setting up so to discontinue its use seems very wasteful. It has been a lifeline to so many local mothers and families. As a teacher we see so many disadvantaged children in school and these children are not just from the vulnerable families that need support. All families need help with parenting.

A dedicate children's center is an important focal point for children and mums to socialise and learn new skills. Non dedicated buildings will always be compromised in the facilities and specialist equipment they can store.

At a recent meeting of the Town Council, both individual Councillors, Residents and family members cited how valuable the Centre and Staff have been. Residents have found it very valuable and disagree with it closing. People cannot travel to Wootton Bassett

I can see both sides of the case. Investing in a bespoke building allows toys, equipment etc to be left in situ which makes the facility a better option as easier for staff and users. Packing up, setting up takes time and of course, time = money. Removing the centres and using local community space saves money but adds time - and also takes away the bespoke nature of the Childrens Centre...I support investing the often limited funding in the best way with optimal outcomes.

It is important for service users to know where they can go to access support and that support is available to any parent with young children not just those who are deemed to be needy enough. I believe closing centres will negatively impact this.

Children's centres are vital for families in Wiltshire. Having a place to go for playgroups, first aid training, Springboard and support are needed in a building purpose built for these needs, a familiar environment for our kids and a place where people can meet (staff included). I think this is another ill-thought through proposal by Wiltshire Council. It's letting down families and young children who need support in the early stages of life. This is so disappointing and I oppose these plans. Wiltshire Council should be ashamed of themselves!

Children's centres present a safe accessible location for Breastfeeding support

I've noticed a massive decrease in the amount of support I could get between having my daughter in 2016 and my son in 2018. Whilst I've appreciated many of the online services, I felt reassured by the presence of many of the support services at children centres. Now it feels like these face to face services have been severely reduced. As someone who is not confident going to new venues, or meeting new people, I struggle when I have limitations on when and where I can access support. For example, I haven't felt able to attend a health visit clinic session.

To provide our children with the best start we need to invest in people AND buildings. Travel is a major problem in this area , both public transport and volumes of traffic in general.

I believe that there should be equal focus on the building,providing a better delivery of service, and staff. There have been far too many childrens centre closures as it is

I don't think it matters in which building these services are offered as long as they are still available in Westbury, Cricklade, Pewsey, Longfield, Trowbridge, Mere and Salisbury.

I think that the question options are loaded to favour closure of buildings. A local concerned mother has said that of course we actually need both people and buildings.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you disagree in any way can you say why?)

The childrens' centre is much more than just a building - it's a hub for new mums to access support with drop in access to health visitors, weigh ins and the sensory room, which is a fantastic resource. In the early days I attended the children's centre with my son on a weekly basis. Removing this resource isolates new mums by robbing them of a safe space for them and their child.

I believe there should a central point for people to recognise as being about children in eah community. This doesnt necessarily need to be a childrens centre but there needs to be somewhere people can go face to face rather than spend money on using community hubs. Especially in westbury where we dont have a central point such as a campus. It needs to be somewhere people can pop by to find information as not everyone has the confidence to call or knowledge where to find it on the internet. Support should be there for everyone not just those who have been deemed in need.

If you invest in staff instead of the buildings there will be no buildings for the staff to actually be in. I cannot travel to another location so this would greatly impact on me and my newborn.

Because its empathy promises yo move them to other sites! We have a perfect building that has an amazing sensory room, it should not be cut just to save money the council will waste elsewhere!

This is a completely biased and leading question. This question should invalidate the questionnaire. I'm sure that most people responding to this questionnaire would value staff over buildings, so the council will get the responses it hopes to get! If we are genuinely being consulted we should also be given the option of investment in both staff and buildings. I would like to see the Children's centres remain open and staff jobs protected. Westbury is already 6 miles from where I live in Warminster, if it closed my nearest centre would be a 25 minute drive away in Tisbury or Trowbridge. We access Westbury's centre for the breastfeeding support group (as I cant attend the one in Warminster on a Thursday), the sensory room, and attend Little learners group in Westbury. Westbury's centre is also in an area of high deprivation (in the top 20% of most deprived areas in the UK) it needs the centre there so that the most vulnerable families in need of help can access it.

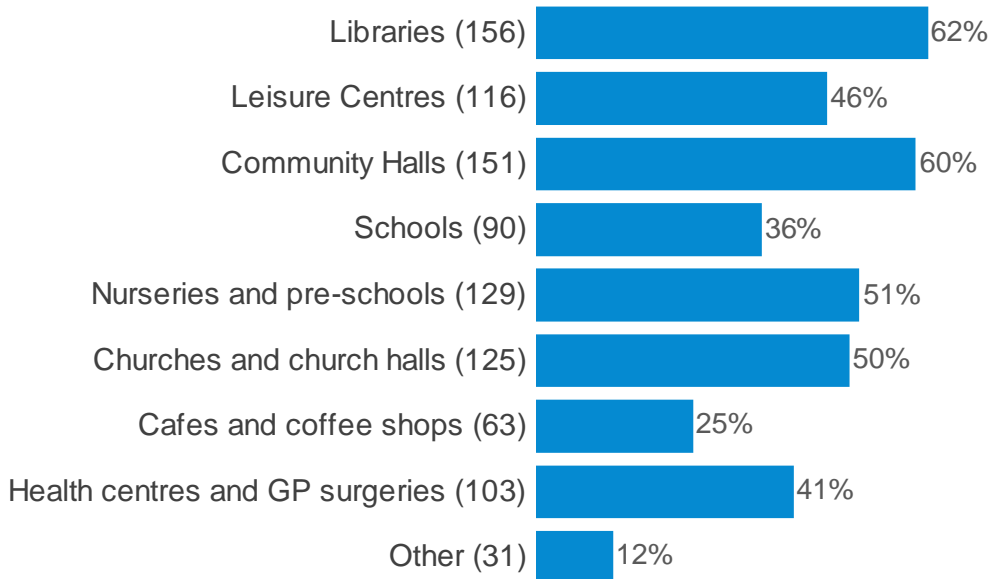
Warminster closed and all the services disappeared. I don't want this to happen in Westbury too.

Because without the buildings there is no children's center! Don't make questions complicated to try to get people to answer however YOU want them to. It's dishonest.

The centre in Westbury was invaluable to me at different stages of my children's lives. Firstly when my twins were born it gave me somewhere to go to get me out of the house and socialise with other adults (other parents and staff at the centre). It was local, welcoming and free. When I needed advice about child care I sought this from the staff there. When my twins were a bit older they thoroughly enjoyed the 'stay and play' sessions. When my third child was born the mum-to-mum breast feeding group gave me the support I needed to continue breast feeding in the early weeks and provided a weekly group that me and daughter could attend and socialise and support others. The support I have received at the centre has helped me with many aspects of being a new Mum and given me the confidence to feel I was doing a great job.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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. Please tick all that apply.



(If you said other can you please say?)

- H&S issues & cleaning of community buildings
- None, want to use the children's centre.
- none - save our childrens centre.
- I wouldn't like to see ANY of these used for CC activities. I would like the existing CC provision
- Hope they don't relocate the library in Salisbury - it's a beautiful and well-loved library.
- I wouldn't use any
- Baby and toddler groups
- Soft play centres
- Keep the current venues
- I would still like to go to the children centre as the other places are open and anyone can come in
- Outside spaces in the summer.
- Community Farm type place
- Cinema and children’s play centre for informative lectures/ symposiums regarding information such as
- NONE - keep children centres open in wiltshire
- Children's centres themselves
- Children's centres.
- Disabled friendly locations
- Health centres for health visitor clinics only. Have not ticked cafes due to cost of buying drinks
- If to continue alongside health visitors.
- Happy with any venue type
- Outdoor places like parks with toilet facilities are good for some events too.
- None of these. Keep the centres open.
- Children centres

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

(If you said other can you please say?)

Museum/civic spaces

See below

Children's centre

The Children's Centre itself is ideal, with all the toys and resources already there.

Dedicated Children's Centres would be best, privacy may be lacking in other settings.

You need a welcoming smallish and comfortable venue which has resources aimed at children

Dedicated children's center

Big, wide open space with outdoor space if possible.

A lot of community venues have been left to deteriorate (ie Calne Leisure centre) by the Council yuk

Needs to have parking

Any suitable venue

Dedicated buildings seem best. I think that there should be a childrens' centre in each town.

I wouldn't as these places are not appropriate for most classes.

if the children centres closes there will be no group activity available in Mere

In the Children's centre - Westbury's centre has a lovely playroom that can be used for small groups

The children's centre

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

A children's centre! Neeld Hall was also a great base for activities.

Wow. Stop cutting such vital funding and don't close children's centres.

Bradford on Avon go surgery

Ladyfield road church

Local nurseries and Pre schools

No

Calne library and community hub, Calne Heritage Centre, Calne Town Hall

Christchurch primary school

Colerne Village Hall or Colerne CE Primary School

Pound Arts Centre and Springfield

Village hall

Calne town hall

Not particularly

Masonic hall/ numerous church halls

No

St John's Place. Large, safe space. Underfloor heating, carpeted area and modern kitchen.

Halls/ churches with car parks

No

St. Paul's church hall

the arts centre, salisbury

Purton Village Hall or Purton Millennium Hall

Village hall purton

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

- Beversbrook sports centre
- Bouverie Hall
- ST Peter's Church Hall and Pre-School Playgroup, Chippenham
- Devizes leisure centre
- The community centre
- Pewsey Primary School
- There are no others suitable.
- Scout hall pewsey
- N/a
- Bradford on Avon library/museum. Many cafes and coffee shops don't have sufficient space for many pushchairs so accessibility is an issue.
- Wilton community centre
- DEVIZES library
- The one that got closed was perfect, but the Wilton Health Centre might be suitable if the upstairs room were available.
- Purton Village Hall
- Westbury Community Project (old youthe centre)
- The hive in bulford
- Proximity and ease of transport links centres, as well as the facilities they offer is much more important to me than the hosting venue. I worry that the questions as posed do not allow this differentiation to be drawn.
- Works very well at Paxcroft Mead
- Church hall
- Within the children's centre
- Jenner hall, town hall, school, leisure centre.
- Jenner Hall, Town Hall, Churches
- Bradford on Avon health centre
- No
- Chip Sports Club. St pauls church Hall
- Wilton community centre
- Trowbridge community centre or the Children Centre its self
- Bellefield, which was closed.
- If this is the proposal then why was over £500'000.00 of public money spent refurbishing a church hall near to a current children's centre and that new centre is not filling.
- schools during school holidays
- Village hall
- If the old Marlborough Children’s Centre building is still vacant it is very central And would be perfect.
- Children's centre
- Canberra Children's Centre
- Bellefield School

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

The United Church in Cricklade has a nice space, and is already used for a church toddler group. I think church buildings can have a nicer atmosphere than some others, but on the other hand, some churches feel unwelcoming, cold or dark.

Emanuel church (west wilts vineyard church).in the centre of Trowbridge where the food bank is.

Garrison centre, Warminster.

You did not give enough options on your Q4. I work in Warminster, Codford and Mere. You have encouraged joint working with health but are now reducing venues for confidential joint working with clients. There is a church which is being used in Warminster but it is not suitable for health services delivery. I do not know about the other areas. I have only used the Childrens Centre in Mere and the GP Surgery in Codford.

St barts church hall

Canberra Centre in Melksham

Library or hall

Village hall

Community centre

The children’s centre is ideal so please keep it.

Canberra Children's Centre. I don't think this venue is used often enough.

Christ Church, North Row Baptist church, assembly rooms,

The civic centre, warminster

Warminster Library. Atheneum.

Lakeside centre Warminster, local church halls

I don't no anywhere that would give you a venue free of charge. And nowhere has the variety of educational toys and materials that's the children’s centre has. It is vital omthe Cricklade community has at least one group that’s free for families to attend.

There isn't one that is as perfect as the children’s centre. It's a ready made venue.

Jenner Hall/Town Hall Annex

The Old School, Church Street, Market Lavington. SN10 4DT

SP2 and Five Rivers Leisure Centre and SalisburyLibrary

There are limited community buildings available to rent in Cricklade with large and small rooms.

St Thomas Church has a pre school nursery run in its hall, accompanying events could be held in the other rooms. Similarly Holy Trinity Church already runs fantastic toddler groups on Mondays and the venue could be used for council events on other days

Lecture Hall or Grove Buildings

Cricket Pavilion. Grove Buildings. Lecture hall. Churches.

GP surgery

White horse children’s centre. Bright stars nursery.

On Eden Vale road, same building as Bright Stars Nursery; Library.

None. They are all too dilapidated, small, full of other community events (yoga) or not equipped for safe playgroup sessions/training etc

Just anywhere in parks in Swindon. I'm so disappointed I have no where to turn to.

Westbury Leigh Park Community Centre/

Wyvern Club

I cannot, which should be a major factor in a decision to keep it open

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

- No. This is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.
- We pay council taxes for all of this to be done by Wiltshire Council for the benefit of all.
- The existing children’s centre.
- Im not sure there is anywhere which would meet expectations as westbury doesnt have a huge range of venues. Maybe the laverton as this is attached to the local council.
- The white horse children's centre
- the lecture hall Mere
- The Westbury Centre - next to the Children's centre could be converted and used as a Children's centre if more space were needed.
- Children’s Centre
- OUR CURRENT CHILDRENS CENTER!
- The White Horse Children's Centre!
- Any one of the church halls here

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

- Will continue to exclude my family as we’re not low income
- I currently support at the mum 2 mum breastfeeding groups and it would have a huge impact not having access to toys and a safe space for toddlers to play and move
- As there are hardly any services for babies these days (especially compared to Melksham 3 years ago, where we lived with our first child), hopefully changes will mean we have access to services.
- I am not sure I would be able to attend as I suffer from depression and anxiety and need small familiar places.
- N/A
- Now that my children have started school it would have less impact on me personally but am concerned about impact on young families locally
- May be more accessible.
- More difficult to get to, will there be less services?
- not having children’s centres would have little impact.
- Better support for families of children I teach.
- None
- I would have to drive to the children's centre but that is not a major problem for me.
- N/A Ideally we need the staff AND the venue
- No
- Harder to park, reduced range of onsite facilities such as change facilities: none in libraries as an example, less play space
- They probably won't as we go a lot less than we used to (the previous cuts had a huge impact on my family and mental health). I fully understand supporting those with the greatest needs but sometimes, those of us who get by also have needs that the centre were invaluable in supporting. I'm admin on a large Facebook group for Salisbury families (over 4000 members) and many cite that they would like some groups for specific age ranges rather than 0-5. My oldest and I tried every group last year but not one had a four year old present on the days we came along. The general feedback was that the groups, whilst welcoming, did not appeal to the old age band.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

They may not be close by, the groups may have a fee to pay for hall hire

Improve it

minimally; but would probably have to drive to visit the little folly centre rather than walk into the city.

It would allow us more opportunities to know what is happening at the childrens centres which is walkable rather than a drive

We have a purpose built children's centre in Westbury. I am aware that a nursery also occupies the building. It's slightly disappointing to think that our children's centres are closing, especially as ours is so close to the most deprived area if Westbury.

More accessible

N/A

Not affected as the Spring Rise centre remains open. More events in the centre of town (leisure centre or library) would be appreciated.

As long as we have access to the HV somewhere in Devizes, we won't be affected.

I have no idea, my children are 9 and 13, so I'm not sure what is on offer

I use the service to sign post families for support

I am hoping the changes won't effect me and my son too much because Bulford children's center will still be there and that's the one we go to

We probably won't attend anymore

I like taking my baby to family stuff without this I cant

These changes would have a huge impact on my family. It would mean i would be unable to access the support and oportunities for me and my children the the children centres offer. Things like weigh in clinics and courses like HEY healthy eating, outreach support, mum 2 mum breastfeeding groups, that i currently access all within the centres i would not feel comfortable or be able to attend in unknown locations.

Unlikely, but I support you finding accessible venues where families don't feel obligated to spend money.

Dependent on location to whether we would use it or not.

Investing in staff will be better, outreach can then work with families in their home environment and get a more hollistic picture of the families needs. I also think schools would be good, thinking of the future, getting the child used to a school setting from an earlier age.

Not sure

NA

Evdience shows that children with poor starts in life are a drag on our resources throughout their lives - false economy to cut budgets here.

Won't impact too much at all

Access to children's centres will be inhibited by closing the central location in Salisbury down and only allowing access to an outlying centre.

Very little

It's a shame to lose a facility that I used a lot with my first child when he was a newborn and the groups were so important to us but I Hope groups can still run in the community and that families who need the services the most are provided with even better levels of staffing and services.

No base for services

no

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

The children’s centre lost a number of parents when it changed hands a couple of years ago. It used to bring families together and now it is rarely open and offers limited community activities.

Wont

I wouldn't be able to go to mum2mum breastfeeding groups

If there were less or no children's centres there would be no impact to us as a setting. To parents they would not have access stay and plays etc but maybe that shows there is more of a need for toddler groups or met at the parks which need to be led by parents. The focus should be supporting the families who really need it, it would be better to funded a place at a music group than than put on a whole event for very low numbers of the families who need that extra support.

I feel it is beneficial for parents to have a local venue that is consistent, non threatening, accessible and local. Networking is helpful and a drop in centre is useful

N/a as a parent. As an Early Years Practitioner a lot.

None as I hvae never used a children centre but it will have an impact on my customers.

More venues would hopefully mean more services available

I can't actually see the supporting information while I am filling out this survey, but if the Cricklade children's centre closes it would be extremely difficult for me to attend any other centre. I am reliant on public transport and there is none to wootton bassett, the next closest children's centre.

NA

There is no real place safe to hold children services within cricklade other than the children's centre.

It would be a loss to our local Childminding community. We only get to use the Children's Centre once a month and the children we look after benefit from it greatly. We are already feeling edged out by the Centre limiting us to an early afternoon slot when our children are resting or having their nap, which makes it nearly impossible to get there

N/a

This won't impact my family as we are moving from the area this year, however I have many friends who feel that it is a shame that the childrens centre, as such an amazing space, isnt used to its full potential.

No impact on me personally but as a childminder i would like to feel that theree were ways to help parents of the children i come into contact with.

There may be less activities available locally, the venues may have a larger catchment so staff are not so familiar with each parent and child

None

This would significantly impact my clients. Use of buildings in rurally isolated areas such as Mere is not about numbers. It is about isolation, deprivation and lack of public transport.

They wouldn't

Significant negative impact on families. We have already seen an impact when the service reduced its offer to 0 to 5 year olds. Children's centres need a base and identity of their own. If they share facilities of other services and therefore only operate on certain days or hours, it limits the accessibility of the service. Privacy may also be lacking in other settings.

Won't change

It won't

Can't use sensory room while in town

Early years development is crucial for all children, I can't see any current sessions there for the under 5's unless you have an appointment with a health visitor. More information need to be provided to parents. However, in answer to the question, I am happy for young people and the elderly to make use of the space to utilise the building and make it more accessible to the whole community.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

Not much as they were very little use in the first place

I felt very lucky to have been able to access the children’s centre when it was in Warminster. We felt a huge loss when that centre was taken away

The children centre in Warminster was invaluable to me as a new mum. And though I was not viewed as the most in need, it was a preventative measure as it positively impacted my mental health.

I don’t think it will as my children are older now. I was sad to lose Warminster children centre as I received a lot of support from the centre when my eldest was born. It’s irritating that the centre was closed and I didn’t go to Westbury as it meant driving and wasn’t my area to meet other local mums. It seems to be that those who are on benefits receive the help and support from these services as deemed most needy but based on what evidence? There are many professional mums who need help and support just as much sometimes more than the ‘needy’ so streamlining services for a specific audience is unfair and unwarranted. It needs to return to offering and advertising services to the widest audience as many mums and dads struggle and need help and indeed the children can benefit too.

I started going to the children’s centre the week before my child was born. It provides me with an instant support network. I made friends with other new mothers in Cricklade. I’m now pregnant with my second child and the through of having nowhere to go on a regular basis makes me feel sad and insecure. I know I’m having a C section and won’t be able to drive for 8 weeks after the birth. Without the Chikdren’s centre to walk to and socialise with like minded mothers in the same position, I fear I may become isolated and may struggle.

My family are now all in school but as a breast feeding peer supporter, teacher and mother I know just how valuable the centre has been to me and to others in the local community. We need it to stay open and to return to how brilliant it used to be before even the previous changes took place.

We need a local venue to run Breastmates from. This will be a huge loss to the Swindon breastma Community.

Reducing the venues/buildings specifically effect how I carry out my role as a Community Nursery Nurse

At present none but as I plan to bring my own family to the world shortly I will have to travel a long way for these facilities the current children’s centre is ideally located for young children and parents in cricklade

N/a

However, providing support in community buildings and homes may have a negative effect on accessibility and availability of equipment and families supporting each other.

In a limited way, we much prefer attending groups run by the voluntary sector as they are more informal and relaxed

I am unable to drive so wouldn’t be able to attend Little Learners or weigh clinic

The nearest CC for Mere will be Salisbury: a 45 minute drive away. We have poor public transport links and the CC is a lifeline for many local residents who otherwise would have nowhere to go with their children. I think closing Mere would be 'a bit of a disaster' and would impact greatly on many people who really do rely on the facilities and friendship offered there.

Would be detrimental not to find an alternative venue within the immediate locality if the current one is to go.

Use weekly for children weigh in. Sensory room play. Baby/child groups/support.

Sensory room was an instrumental space for us as I had an emergency C section and had a ling recover. Since the current sensory room is so close to us we were able to go there quite often which felt therapeutic. I don’t drive so having facility like that this side of town is important to us.

It will be a great loss not to have free play sessions and advice on how to be better parents.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

It would benefit me! I have no where close by or atleast one bus or walking distance. Everything is far away where I could receive support.

It would impact my family in that there wpuld no longer be childrens centre. The expansion of the nursery is not necessary

Not applicable to me personally

Whilst not personally impacted, as my children are much older, I am very concerned about the overall impact on young mothers.

If we have any further children, I'm not sure where I would turn to for advice in an informal capacity for myself and my child.

It wont have much effect on me as my child gets older however it was a huge support for me when i was the first time mother i went to their group for new mums when my daughter was 6 weeks old and found a group of friends which i am still really close with 18 months later without this it would have been alot lonelier. These groups were never at the center which is a shame as that could have been utilised more.

Massivley impact us. We wont be able to go to any other locations or towns. This is an awful decision to make!

I would lose our breastfeeding peer support group, my son and the child I am expecting would lose their sensory room. It's unfair and not right.

we enjoy little learner which has helped us meet mums and staff have provided us with useful information

We would have to travel 25 minutes to Tisbury or 20-25 minutes to Trowbridge to access a centre to get face to face advice or to access referral on if we needed it. The nearest group would probably be Tisbury but we may end up driving over there to be turned away because there isn't enough room (this is stated on Children's centre information if groups reach capacity they have to turn people away). We'd probably end up loosing the Little learners group as the Council have said they will keep the groups running for 1 year and will then review this. The groups that are currently accessible to everyone like Little Learners would be the next thing to be cut to meet next years financial savings targets. In Warminster when the children's centre closed in 2016 the Council promised to keep all groups running but all groups (excpet the breast feeding suport group) stopped. When the groups that everyone can access stop a sfaety net is lost - people who need more help and support will slip throu

I have attended the breastfeeding peer support groups at the children's centres. These were invaluable to me and other mums in the local community. Without this suppure myself and other mums may not have had a successful breastfeeding journey and would have had to rely on more expensive formula. The children's centres are in communities that need them the most, meaning they are accessable. If they arw closed and groups run in other children centres/public buildings, those who don't have travel options such as a car will not be able to attend. Although health visitors could visit at home (although let's all be honest they won't, we've had appointments in an office room with no toys available), the good thing about weighing clinics in children's centres is the social aspect. Especially for mums who might be extremely lonely.

There will be no groups to go to, and no one to talk to.

I run the mum2mum group in our children's center. Without that group the mums won't feel as though they have a safe and familiar. I have met so many parents who would have been stuck without he children's center and the groups in runs, myself included. Also many parents I have met may not be ables to, or will struggle to, get to a children's centwr in a different town.

My children are older now so this will have less impact on me but for new Mum's in the area, not having a designated building to obtain advice or attend groups could mean they don't leave the house that day, don't socialise with another adult that day, can't easily access the advise and support they need to continue to breastfeed their newborn.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

Access - I think it'll be much more difficult to access support where needed

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

Ask for donations, for drinks, creative activities to cover cost of materials

Keep the Children's Centre open but be more imaginative with use of space, hire it out to local organisations, clubs and people

Less stay and play and more targeted and specific services

Better online planning/structure , site navigation, mobile friendly, timetables easily accessible to reduce paper waste, theses could all encourage more local support and involvement. Outsource the funding and seek it from large companies from product testing to demos to advertising to enable use/procurement of more educational aids and also just for fun. Outside groups such as community gardening would be great for development on many levels also easy to source cheaply/freely and is helping the community. Kids would love it!

Access free and community settings such as Tesco community room, attend family days, laverstock community farm, give information on social media platforms with news/ updates and links to nice/ nhs and child development sites.

Sell off all currently owned buildings and have one county hub

I work for the WEA, the largest voluntary adult education charity in the UK. We work with Children Centres across the South West delivering free courses to parents in subjects such as 'helping your child to read' and 'helping your child with SEN'. This helps parents to support their children alongside the services offered by the Centres. This could be rolled out across Wiltshire as we have qualified teachers in the area. My contact details are bhartclarida@wea.org.uk

Investing in toys/developmental learning tools as well as staff, and instead of buildings

Prioritising support for young children and families in council budgets

Offer the activity room to playgroups and charge a small nominal fee

Don't heat them to 1 billion degrees! Invest in a centre based admin who can properly organise everyone's time and have more centre-based visits instead of home visits (more time efficient, less mileage claim).

Donations for courses and play sessions

Prioritise this service and provide children's centres in Wiltshire with the funding they need. It makes better sense in the long-term.

Make centres available to other users in community and charge rent etc?

Invest more. Lobby national govt. Use existing venues to generate income.

There shouldn't be a reduced budget for families needing support. Children centres have a huge impact on families that need it. What you think is the average family always have underlying issues. Cutting important services will not assist these families and put more pressure on social care or these families will possibly go without support, which is devastating!

More e-learning, awareness and more support for vulnerable families

The space for the mum 2 mum groups would just need to be thought through

Good question. I don't have an answer, I just wish budgets weren't being reduced. It's a very sad state of affairs and difficult for all involved.

using schools as venues would be helpful for parents and would be free for your organisation.

Weekend activities to support working families, potentially with voluntary donation for those who can afford it.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

- More support and activities for young children with SEN as this was never a high priority criteria for the current provisions.
- Advertise services and sessions more. Perhaps a small charge for sensory etc
- Invest in health visitors.
- None
- Nothing, I think you are taking the right path with this.
- We need additional funding. We need to invest in the future by supporting the kids and their families.
- Not sure
- Tricky. None at this time.
- Do local fundraisers, ask for volunteers to run services
- unsure
- Unsure
- Higher use of volunteers to support
- Visiting existing groups with health and parenting info in the villages as the group leaders want them. E.g. dentist info, healthy eating.
- New parents need to be informed they do g need to take their child to get weighed every 2 weeks, this only takes up more time from each member of staff
- Community projects
- Families pay £1 to attend groups each time, I am sure people would be happy to make a small donation to a group which is at the moment free.
- Charge more taxes
- Do more activities 3 days a week in children's centre
- Only accessed by families with CAFS, key workers, CIN plans, child protection plans etc. Those most in need. Smaller groups that can be accessed all within the centre to save on fuel costs, rent costs of community spaces for the staff.
- With my first daughter we used to attend play events with visiting specialists. This was really good to generate a community feel; I was new to the area.
- Better advertising
- Unsure
- There might be a possibility of using students who are training as nursery personnel, nurses, playgroup leaders nannies etc. or on apprenticeship schemes for working with the young.
- Some services could be means tested
- Staying where you are and fiding more budget
- Closure of the Little Folly to focus resources on the (more popular) Salisbury City Centre location.
- I use to use the children’s center all the time until it got taken over...no groups or course for us to go to
- Keeping the building they have
- Offering just one group a week under 5’s will greatly help people to know there is one group that all new mums and those looking to build support networks can meet up at.
- Not sure - u hav a tough job
- none
- Collaborate with other parent groups and activities already set up in the area. Offer support sessions at the Stay and Play group which takes place every Wednesday in the Town Hall.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

More health visitors to make things speed up - recently wanted a visit to help with behaviour and took 3 weeks

Not my job to give you ideas but parents and children shouldn't suffer for your budget!

Shut the buildings and base a support worker alongside the health visitors so that the families who really need the support have it straight. Running groups is just too much on the current budgets and its having little or no impact on the key families and children who really need that support. Placing a worker alongside the health visitors means its targeted support for the 0-3 and then when pre-school and school starts these children and their families would be on a better path and we should start to see some more long term effects. At the moment the support offered crosses a lot with pre-schools and when they see the children more regularly it can be more of a problem than a help. Parents also struggle with so many people's involvement and its more important that the key people have the involvement at the key points in order to help families. At the moment the support is like a drip in the ocean and its not helping families long term or the right families.

Sessions for parents in preschool/ nurseries

work more closely with outreach work/ support and less with activities that are not attended by parents.

A central CC in the middle of Trowbridge, so that all parents could access it... Should have happened in the first place, before 3 were established, then 2 shut down.

Not spending half a million pound on a refurbishment when another centre is within 1/2 mile. Having staff that go out to settings and provide the service in existing nurseries.

Working with local toddler groups already set up in the area. Using their venues to meet families.

Continue to build links with pre-schools and nurseries and Childrens Centre staff to go to these venues

If you close buildings please consider if those that remain are still accessible by public transport for all of the population that they serve. If relocating to community spaces can they provide the same, safe, comforting, welcoming, reassuring space; where people feel safe to talk freely, relaxed enough to make new friends and lessen the feeling of isolation and loneliness that can occur?

There is nowhere. The town hall or church halls are always being used for other general things and older age groups. The 2 pre-schools are full and used everyday. Unless could use cricklade pre-school playgroup at weekends. We need this service, especially as there are a number of new housing projects happening and rwb is too far to get to.

Childminders in Melksham are not offered appropriate access to the children's centre. We are a vital link between the families and the centre and sign post the cc where we can. This is not reciprocated and I feel we are not taken seriously. We need a place to meet and somewhere for the children to feel safe. We are not offered access to courses and children miss out because their parents are trying to earn a living. Things have become more target driven over the past few years and this is to the detriment of children whose parents want to support their children

Maybe we should all vote for a labour government and then the budget wouldn't be so reduced!

Good quality web site with lots of useful info to support families and keep people informed of what is available and where to find the services.

Looking at existing buildings, but also making sure that services are offered throughout the county and not just in a small number of towns. Warminster has already have its children's centre closed.

Look at local support networks and voluntary bodies. Why is there no Homestart? Are there local people who would like to be involved in voluntary work? Would the churches be willing to work together with LA's on improving local services? Look at other areas not so far away such as Calne and Chard where this is happening.

Make them multi purpose, paid clubs for children for various ages, running various activities for the children. To be used as a youth club

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

Isn't it better to invest to save. If the council truly wants to invest in early help services, surely getting the support right early through Children's Centres is key.

Don't know

Fund raising events to promote the site and services, leaflet drop at toddler groups, doctors surgeries and nursery's quite often I don't find the information online I need easily but a leaflet from my son's nursery is always welcomed. Easy accessed information as trawling facebook isn't the ideal and quite often as I say, I miss events. Maybe a voluntary scheme for parents to sign up too give time to raise awareness and potentially funding.

Unsure

Having clear bases, sign posting and a responsive service. Building accessible hubs makes sense, but only if they are visible.

Online help and support with signposting to external sources or services appropriate to their area. For example links and numbers to services such as counselling and childcare issues, a flow chart of who can help with whichever issue you are facing along with a resource base to help educate and support parents. A list of various children's groups, nurseries, schooling and issues. This needs regularly updating. Signposting to approved websites and apps.

The children’s centre is a fantastic building, full of educational equipment and facilities. Surely there are groups, clubs and organisations in the Cricklade community that would be interested in renting these facilities. The cost of which could go back into the budget to help keep the building open and service the community.

We are stuck in a position of small budgets to support so many families. We know there needs to be more support in the early years of children’s lives. We are seeing more and more children arrive in Reception who are struggling with behaviours, emotions and cognitive skills. How best we address this is challenging. Children’s Centres were incredible at supporting a large section of the local community and the support workers like Liz who used to be employed at Cricklade were superb. Those vulnerable and disadvantaged families who did not attend the groups still need a lot of support and that is where those support workers can also go into the community or be present at weigh-in clinics and midwife visits perhaps. These have been happening in the Children’s Centre in Cricklade so without these centres we are even less likely to be able to support our vulnerable families.

Renting the facilities out in unused periods to other community groups.

None

The need for publicity and networking between professionals to ensure vulnerable families/children are identified and supported.

Funding voluntary sector groups (eg sessions run by church volunteers) to fill any gaps in provision

The role and opportunities in the Mere CC are not widely advertised. It is a 'closed' environment and when efforts are made by local Mum/Baby focussed businesses to engage, we are turned away. There are 2 good sized rooms and a fabulous downstairs space which could easily be rented on an hourly/half day etc basis for external agencies to come and deliver programmes to local Mums. I am a Pregnancy and Postnatal Exercise & Wellness Coach and would have jumped at the chance to hire the space to positively influence the health and wellbeing of Mums in Mere but I was told I could not do this. By expanding the range of services available, you will attract more 'customers' - by only offering free things, you close off so many opportunities for other practitioners to get involved. I recognise that CC is there to offer free services but free means that a lot of Mums won't come because they want the next level. Make these FAMILY centres because a happy family is a happy child.

More groups and activities which could have a small charge for attending

?

The room can be rented out for midwife appointments since there is no midwifery services in Westbury.

A survey on changes to childrens centres and their locations

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

Reducing salaries of senior council staff and councillors.

Consolidate them or provide other services within them to make them viable.

Using places already available would be good.

I think better investment is needed, i feel it gorssly underfunded already, without funding being further reduced

Don't reduce the budgets for Children's centre services.

I do not agree with reducing the budgets of support services. I observe widespread tax avoidance, which the central government could curtail. I have seen significant inappropriate spending on vanity projects within Wiltshire Council. I have seen expensive lobbying by Wiltshire Council for some sort of super-highway between the M4 and Poole following the unsuitable route of the A350. I observed £5 million of our council tax money wasted on the ridiculous Eastern Westbury Bypass vanity project.

I understand the need for reducing budgets in the current climate. I believe the centres could be utilised more renting rooms out to community midwives and other community groups to make the centres more of a hub for those with young children. If the centres were to go there would need to be plans in place of how people access information and face to face support.

More volunteers to ensure the centre stays open!

Save money from counsellors salaries! Pay the big wigs less and stop removing services and places from the people who bloody pay the taxes!!!

renting the lecture hall or using the library

Children's centre budgets should be ring-fenced. Prevention is much cheaper . Spend to save later. Children's centres will save the council thousands in the future by giving all children the best start in life - preventing obesity (through very early healthy eating advice, giving children a head start in school, reducing youth offending (as children will have better communication/ social skills), etc. Couldn't the relatively small amount of 250,000 be continued to keep these 6 centres running and couldn't the money be not spent elsewhere eg do we need to spend so much on the campuses project or Wiltshire college? The Children are our future. We need to start being so short termist!

Stop paying the top people in the council stupidly high salaries and maybe invest just a little of that money to those who need it in the community

They already rely on volunteers, like myself, and quite honestly, in comparison to a lot of things, I do t think it can cost that much, epscially considering how much of an impact it has. I think cuts should be made elsewhere.

Less paper work for staff to complete and more time spent with the families that need the services