

**Westbury Children's Centre Consultation Meeting
26 February 2019**

Parent session 12 midday – 1:15pm

Present:

Lucy-Anne Bryant, Lead Commissioner, Wiltshire Council
Emily Wood, Wiltshire Council (minutes)
Gill Mills, Regional Manager, Spurgeons
Rachel Draper, Children's Services Manager, Spurgeons
Nadine Crook and her 8 month son, Warminster resident

NC_ Previously attended Happy Feet in Warminster and has attended the Antenatal group at the White Horse Centre, currently uses Little Learners at the Leigh Park Community Centre, for which she conveyed high praise.

LAB_ Explained that there is a lack of baby and 2-year-old places in Westbury. Little Learners will continue, alongside other support. Telephone contact and online advice will be available. Reality is that footfall at White Horse is limited and we must look at how resources are best used by using community facilities.

NC_ Explained that toddler groups have a different remit, there is no emphasis on early education. Concern that groups run out of churches alienate atheists and non-Christians. There is a lack of support at these groups. Privately-run group (Court Yard) didn't provide the support that the Children's Centre offer.

NC_ Concern that services were cut when Warminster Centre closed. Feel abandoned, worry that this will be repeated in Westbury.

LAB_ Will look at Warminster services with Spurgeons. Explained that the emphasis has shifted to support the more vulnerable parents.

NC_ Feels that there was a lack of advertisement about the consultation.

LAB_ Apologised if this was the case, we were confident that all communication channels had been used (eg Early Years Facebook page had over 1,500 engagements).

LAB_ Looking to use the libraries and leisure centres more than previously – better links, remove the silos.

NC_ These might have a lack of changing facilities/toilets. Suggested a building in the park in Warminster that could be used. (RD noted this down).

LAB_ We need to place more emphasis on Health Visitors to inform parents of parental support opportunities. We want to promote the 'Five to Thrive' agenda and ensure that all professionals working with parents are briefed on this.

GM_ We are now in money-strapped times, we're fighting to keep the services going. It's a blunt choice between keeping buildings open or keeping staff.

LAB_ We understand that the first 1001 days are the most important. Our focus has to be now on those individuals who will not walk into a Centre.

GM_ £22,000 annual costs to run White Horse Centre (doesn't include staffing costs)

NC_ conveyed frustration that universal services have been cut, sister in Glasgow receives so much more.

GM_ we agree with NC completely.

LAB_ Explained the FACT programme, we understand the early intervention agenda. We want to change the culture so that everyone understands the importance of early intervention.

LAB_ Concluded the meeting and thanked Nadine for taking the time to attend.