

## **Plan for Children's Centre Services (focus on those with most need)**

Children's centres will be a key member of FACT Best Start in Life Workstream.

Children's centres will provide support in a tiered approach. There will be universal support for those with little identified need:

- We are investing in Five to Thrive, an attachment-based approach which encourages parents to interact with and listen to their child, improving behaviour and parenting expectation as well as language development.
- Wiltshire children's centres are part of the scaling up of the Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme which supports families with parenting and is facilitated by volunteers alongside a trained practitioner. This model enables parenting support to be more accessible to parents across Wiltshire and as it is delivered with parents, other parents are more likely to engage.
- Open access stay and play events are available and will have the principles of Five to Thrive as a basis of the session.

The children's centres programme provides additional support for families with identified need:

- There will be closer work with health visitors with a focus on identifying children early. Where there are concerns about a child at birth, six weeks or at the 9-11 month check by health visitors, families will be offered evidenced based support from the children's centre teams
- There will be an increased focus on the development of early language and communication as part of an Early Years Strategy led jointly by Public Health, commissioning and the Clinical Commissioning Group
- Bookstart Bookcorner activities will be undertaken with families who need support with children's literacy
- Wiltshire children's centres already have a good relationship with Family and Community Learning, but, in the future, programmes will focus on getting families into further training and work and for them to be delivered where there is an identified need.

Finally, the children's centres programme will also provide intensive support for those families with greater need:

- Wiltshire children's centres will continue to host and co-deliver Baby Steps, a nine week NSPCC evidence based programme, which supports attachment and develops parenting.
- Webster Stratton Incredible Years parenting programmes will continue to be offered to parents whose children are receiving support from social care or where there is a concern that without intervention the need could escalate to social care threshold.
- The Freedom programme will offer support to mothers affected by domestic abuse.
- You and Me, Mum will be available for families affected by domestic abuse.

- More outreach support will be offered in homes to families where a 1:1 approach will have the greatest impact. They will use strategies from the evidenced based programmes that are used in the children's centres.

### **Other considerations**

- Staff in children's centres have been trained in Make Every Contact Count (MECC) and this approach will support families to change behaviours that may be damaging to their and their child's health.
- Wiltshire is part of a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Contract Package Area in the south west to deliver programmes that will work with families to Reduce Parental Conflict. This offers additional face to face support for families affected by moderate and high levels of parental conflict.
- Monitoring outcomes will ensure that we achieve the Troubled Families outcomes of a reduction in support from the public purse
- Local Area Co-ordinators are in place in nine Wiltshire areas. This role will be used to link the work of the children's centres with the wider community. Children's centres will also link more closely with the Community Engagement Managers. They will continue to be represented at Multi Agency Forums
- The Good Level of Development (GLD) for children at the end of Foundation Stage has improved year on year and it is currently at 72.1%. Focussed work is undertaken with parents in areas where there has been a low GLD. The GLD achievement gap is currently 25.9% and children's centre staff work with families who are eligible for Better2gether Funding (free early learning for two year olds of 15 hours a week) to support the family with the Home Learning Environment.
- Wiltshire children's centre staff will work closely with the early years team from Wiltshire Council to plan forum meetings and focus work so that those that are most in need receive appropriate services and support at the earliest opportunity.

We will place children's centres more firmly within an integrated offer of early help:

- Early Years Services in Wiltshire are being reviewed to offer a more streamlined approach to supporting settings. As part of this review children's centres staff will continue to link with childcare settings to offer complementary parenting support to families
- Children's centre staff will target work with settings to offer support to parents where there is a low Good Level of Development to improve the Home Learning Environment and family relationships
- Children's centre staff will check termly with settings on the progress of Better2Gether funded two-year olds and offer additional support for families where necessary
- Children's centre staff will work with the Early Years Advisory Teachers to ensure that the education offer in children's centres meets the principles and standards of the Early Years Foundation Stage and with the Inclusion Officers on accessing appropriate services

- Children's centre staff will have a process in place with health visitors that will enable support to be offered at the earliest and most appropriate point and will avoid duplication
- Centres will work with schools and preschools to identify families who have specific needs where early intervention will have a significant impact.

**Lucy-Anne Bryant**  
**Lead Commissioner**  
**July 2019**