

Children's Centre Consultation event
Cricklade 6 March 2019
Professional's meeting

Present:

Lucy-Anne Bryant, Lead Commissioner
Emily Wood, Children's Commissioning Team member (minutes)
Jacqui Dymel, Health Visitor
Wendy Spence, Outreach worker The Rise
Cathryn Reed, Thames Preschool
Ann Uzzell, Cricklade Preschool
Sue Parsons, The Rise
Lynn Evans, CEO of The Rise
Debbie Skilton, The Rise
Tom Hill, representing Cricklade St Sampsons

LAB_Intro given on consultation to date. Encourage dialogue, hear your voice. Consult has been available online. Background to CC provision 2016 – contract runs from July-June (5 yr contract). £250K savings need to be found.

8% of services of services in Cricklade only happen in the building. 92% happens elsewhere within the community. Frogwell 29 hrs/wk happens out the building. Ridgeway Farm and Purton have greater need than the Cricklade town. Village hall used a lot in Purton.

WP_Struggle in Malmesbury in finding venues,

LE_ Rupert Williams is assisting in finding alternative venues.

LAB_ want to engage with the local town councils and existing childcare provision.

WP_ Ridgeway being on the border is hugely problematic. Public transport is focused on Swindon. A lot of children here have additional needs.

Closed targeting to Wilts parents only – universal events, £5 fee charged to Swindon residents.

Outreach will continue, no building. Base will be in RWB.

Is the library suitable for families for under 5's? Doubtful.

Spurgeons use a sensory tent – portable. Is this something the Rise could benefit from?

Word of mouth and digital means of communication need to be used.

LE_ Lessons learnt from closing Corsham, publicising services is very important. Good team supports Corsham families – want to learn from this. Change of provider also happened then, this is not the case this time.

1 July is 3 weeks before the end of term – lose momentum over the summer, this needs to be avoided.

DS_ Corsham is more compact, maintain presence (footprint), this is more challenging in Cricklade.

LE_ Could the Blue Bus be commissioned over the summer? Charity bus. Arts and Crafts/HVs/Cooking activities. Would be particularly useful in Ridgeway

Smartzone building is not operating during the holidays – could this be used? Mrs Banes is the contact. Side gate available.

There is demand for additional childcare in Cricklade – building has been offered to Thames PS.

The Rise and the pre-school could mutually use the building for first couple of months.

We need to continue to work at identifying those families who most need support. Where do these families go? Coffee shops etc?

HVs are our universal service – they can help in identifying those most needing support. Also childcare providers.

The Rise can look to enhance what already is offered (supporting parent and toddler groups for instance).

DS_ meeting with Ridgeway Farm school on Friday. Forging good contacts with all the housing associations in this area. HA might help to fund the Blue Bus?

The Rise is willing to run sessions in the building plus for other childcare providers.

Purton library might be under 5's friendly. Very small children's area, OK if library is not busy. Might have space for a sensory tent.

CR_ United Church hall is 'nice'

JD_ concerned that the service will diminish further as the costs of renting community venues are considered as 'expensive' in the future. Will the service be constricted further?

LAB_ we understand what the need is. Jane Scott is heading up a project on social mobility, LAB will be feeding into this. Evidence based programme.

LE_ cuts are £60k this year and next, will there be any further after this? Worried that The Rise will be judged on results over 2 years, this is insufficient.

LAB_ use Tracker info to monitor the impact of the funding and CC involvement.

WS_ Wilts Council haven't funded Inclusion Support Funding for out of county settings, this has now changed but still refusing to fund Koalas.

LAB_ If we can gather the evidence and prove the impact of CC services, this will bolster support for continuing the service.

LE_ Need to find venues at very low rent. Thankful that The Rise are not losing any staff.

LAB_ Is speaking with both the head of Libraries and Leisure services. Opportunity to work closer together, servicing the same customer base.

All agree that the CC model is not suitable in a rural setting – fine in an urban situation.

LE_ The Rise use their own staff to clean the building as they can't find a cleaner – 'ridiculous'.

DS_ Other outcomes (apart from increasing GLD) will be seen. Involvement with dom abuse.

JD_ HVs didn't previously get involved. Culture has changed – professional awareness has greatly improved.