

**Children’s Select Committee**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Executive Response to the Report of the Children’s Centres Consultation**

**Purpose of the report**

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills to the Report of the Children’s Centres Consultation Rapid Scrutiny.

**Background**

2. On 15<sup>th</sup> May the Children’s Select Committee endorsed the Report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise.
3. The Committee resolved to refer the following Task Group’s recommendations to the relevant Cabinet member for response at the Committee’s next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**Executive response to the Task Group’s recommendations**

	<b>Provides reassurance that the current services will, at minimum, continue at the existing levels when moving to the alternative venues and confirms the commitment from Spurgeons and The Rise Trust to offer this level of services.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes		<b>Lead Officer</b> Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	There is full commitment from Spurgeons and the RISE TRUST to continue with the current universal services offer, which will continue to be available in the community as group sessions- Little Learners run by Spurgeons and Stay and Play by The RISE Trust. The families that require additional help will continue to receive one to one support in their home with skilled professionals. Small targeted groups will be provided in the community. There will be more of a focus on those families

			<p>who need additional support to help their children to be prepared for school.</p> <p>Child Health Clinics will run in children's centre buildings and in alternative venues in the community and there will be improved liaison between the two services.</p> <p>See Appendices 1 and 3</p>
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<b>Recommendation No.2</b>	<b>Provides an outline of alternative venues and the approach for delivering alternative provision at the 30<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet meeting.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	Alternative venue list attached Appendix 1

<b>Recommendation No.3</b>	<b>Develop a comprehensive plan, including contract management, to ensure that the families with the greatest need are accessing a service.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	There is a plan in place, see Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

<b>Recommendation No.4</b>	<b>Provides assurance and confirmation when available that the children's centre buildings will be used by alternative providers and will not be left vacant.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricklade has been offered to Thames Preschool. Discussions are underway between the Childcare Sufficiency Team and pre-school committee.</li> <li>• Mere is with Wiltshire Council Property Services who are in discussion with Mere School.</li> <li>• Pewsey has been occupied by Puddleducks Preschool</li> <li>• Salisbury City has been handed back to the Methodist Church</li> <li>• Longfield Trowbridge has been offered to a charity and discussions are underway</li> </ul>

			between the Childcare Sufficiency Team and trustees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Westbury has been offered to the onsite childcare provider who would like the space from September to accommodate growing numbers</li> </ul>
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<b>Recommendation No.5</b>	<b>Develops a comprehensive and evolving list of the community activities available and provide the list to the Community Engagement Managers and Local Area Co-ordinators to raise the visibility of services offered in the community.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The list of activities is shared with local partners and will be shared with Community Engagement Managers and Local Area Co-ordinators. Appendix 1 attached

<b>Recommendation No.6</b>	<b>Undertakes further research into the list of alternative venues and update the list with greater detail, including detail on the venues and the commitment to the services they would host.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The children's centres were already using some alternative venues and will continue to use these. Alternative venues are listed in Appendix 1. Conversations will continue to take place with the owners of other possible venues.

<b>Recommendation No.7</b>	<b>Develops a monitoring framework for the alternative venues starting with the 2018/19 baseline data and report to Children's Select Committee 12 months from the commencement of that provision.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	A list of venues which are currently used is attached, Appendix 1. A Baseline has been created and a monitoring report will be available for Children's Select Committee in July 2020.

4. Please find additional information in the attached appendices:  
Appendix 1: Alternative Venues

Appendix 2: Children's Centre Services Monitoring framework

Appendix 3: Sample contract monitoring agenda

Appendix 4: Implementation of Children's Centre Services changes



Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Appendix 3 -



Appendix 4

Alternative venues.dChildren's Centre Semeeting template.dImplementaion of CI

## Proposal

5. To note the executive response to the Report of the **Children's Centres Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise**.

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**Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills**

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