

Councillors Briefing Note
No. 296

Service: Children's Services

Further Enquiries to: Julia Cramp

Date Prepared: 16 May 2016

Direct Line: 01225 713814

Future of children's centre services announced

The two organisations which will deliver Wiltshire Council's continued £3.5m investment into children's centre services over the next few years have now been announced.

Last autumn Wiltshire Council undertook a wide ranging consultation on proposals for delivering the services which are designed to improve outcomes for young children and their families, and reduce inequalities in children's life chances.

The services aim to support good early child development, raise parenting aspirations and improve parenting skills. There is also support to improve parents' education and learning and improve child and family health and life chances overall.

The widespread public feedback on the consultation last autumn helped shape the proposals for future delivery of the services. From 1 July children's centre services will be delivered in 17 dedicated children's centre buildings in areas of highest need while in other areas the staff will deliver the services from a range of community settings at flexible times to meet local need.

All children's centre services will be linked to one of four geographical clusters with clear ways of accessing help and advice. Spurgeons will deliver children's centre services in the east, west and south of Wiltshire while The RISE Trust will deliver services in the north.

The majority of the vacated children's centre buildings will be used to provide extra childcare facilities to meet the new government policy on extending free entitlement to childcare for three and four year olds.

Below is detail on which children's centre services buildings will remain in each area.

North cluster

Cricklade; Royal Wootton Bassett;
Chippenham (The Rise), Chippenham (Spring Rise), Calne
King's Rise Children's Centre in Chippenham

South Cluster

Salisbury City; Salisbury (Little Folly);
Bulford; Tisbury (Nadder Community
Health & Wellbeing centre), Mere

East cluster

Tidworth (Windmill Hill), Pewsey,
Devizes South

West Cluster

Trowbridge Studley Green
Trowbridge Longfield
Westbury (White Horse)
Melksham (Canberra)