

Children's Centres redesign consultation

Overview

We have some very difficult decisions to make.

The COVID-19 crisis which has had an impact on the funding available for services across the council means that Children's services have to make £3.2 million of savings to support the emergency budget.

Luton's Children Families and Education Department is committed to working towards Luton 2040. We believe that all children deserve to reach their full potential and have a good quality of life. It is therefore essential that the money we spend and the resources available are used in the most effective way to meet the needs of the most vulnerable within our communities.

Why we are consulting

Our proposal would alter how our children's centres operate and see a change in how services are delivered and from where. These changes are set out in "our proposal" and "what is the impact?" sections of the attached consultation document.

We are particularly keen to hear from those who use our Flying Start Children's Centres and to understand any potential impact of the proposed changes.

We will look again at the needs of our communities to develop a service that meets those needs and to ensure that we have the specialist knowledge and skills required to deliver an outstanding service.

We want to hear your views on our proposals. Please read about the proposals below and complete the online survey before 20 September 2020.

Due to Covid-19 no face to face meetings be made available, however online meetings will take place so that stakeholders can hear about the proposals and ask questions.

These are scheduled to take place via Zoom on:

Thursday, 13 August at 1pm-3pm

Thursday, 13 August at 6.30pm-8.30pm

Monday, 7 September at 2pm-4pm

Tuesday, 8 September 6.30pm-8.30pm

Please send us an email if you wish to register your interest to attend.

We encourage people to respond to this consultation online but you can download a paper copy of the survey from the 'related documents' section online. Alternatively, paper copies will be available from the Luton Central Library or by contacting us using the contact details below.

Introduction

Please be assured that all responses will be kept confidential.

If you have any queries regarding this consultation you can email

PeopleDirectorateSupportUnit@luton.gov.uk or you can leave a voicemail message including your contact details at 01582 546939 and we will get back to you.

If you wish to attend the zoom meeting on 7 September or 8 September, please send us an email.

Please return your completed questionnaire (no stamp is required) to Freepost LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, IFRS consultation before 20 September 2020.

1 Are you responding to this consultation mainly as a...?

Please select only one item

- Parent / carer Young person under 18 Member of the public
 Health representative / GP School representative Trade union representative
 Children's centre member of staff Voluntary and community sector organisation
 Private sector organisation Council member / Member of Parliament Other

Other, please specify

If applicable, please provide the name of your organisation:

2 Do you have a child or children with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities?

Please select only one item

- Yes No

If yes how many children?

Children's Centre services

3 Have you used any of the services stated below in the last two years? If so please tick relevant services

Please select all that apply

- Flying Start Children's Centres Early Help Fresh Start
 Manor Contact Centre

4 How often in normal circumstances (e.g. before the COVID-19 crisis) would you use children's centre services in Luton?

Please select only one item

- 2 or more times a week Once a week A few times a month
 Once a month Less than once a month I do not use any children's centres

About the proposals

5 Do you think the proposed changes will have a positive or negative impact on you, your family and/or others?

Please select only one item

- A positive impact A negative impact No impact Don't know / not sure

Please explain:

Universal services

We are proposing to stop providing universal activities* from 31 March 2021. Instead we will be discussing with our partners how some of these services might be delivered through them.

* Pregnancy Club, Bump to Babe antenatal education, Feeding your New Born, Breast Feeding Café, Take 5 Café, Baby Massage, Baby Talk, Stay and Play, Messy Play, Sing and Sign, Parenting Puzzle courses, Nurturing Programme courses, Henry courses (healthy lifestyle, eating and nutrition), other health related services currently held within Flying Start Children Centre sites.

6 Which universal activities do you feel are essential and should be considered as a priority?

Please explain why

7 If you are a partner agency how do you feel the changes will affect your service and the families you support?

Please explain

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families

8 Do you think that the proposed changes to an Integrated Family Resource Services will meet the needs of Luton's most vulnerable families?

Please select only one item

Yes No Don't know / not sure

Please explain:

Suggestions and comments

9 Do you have any suggestions for alternative ways that the Council can deliver the required savings?

Please write in the box below

10 Do you have any suggestions about the proposed changes to Luton children's centres for example alternative options, why the council should keep or consider closing a particular children's centre or anything else you would like to add?

Please write in the box below

11 Do you have any further comments that the council should consider?

Please write in the box below

About you

The information you provide in the 'about you' section gives the Council additional information about who has responded to the consultation and will help in the analysis of the feedback. Your feedback is always treated confidentially and will not be shared with any third party. We will ensure that it will not be possible to identify individuals when reporting results.

12 What is your home postcode? This question will be used for analysis purposes only

Please enter your postcode

13 What gender do you identify with?

Please select only one item

- Male Female Other

14 Are you currently expecting or have had a baby in the last six months?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Prefer not to say

15 Which age group do you belong to?

Please select only one item

- Under 18 18 - 24 25 - 34 35 - 44 45 - 54 55 - 64
 65 - 74 75 - 84 85 and over Prefer not to say

16 Which of the following groups best describes you?

Please select only one item

- White - British White - Irish White - East European Other White
 Mixed - White and Black Caribbean Mixed - White and Black African
 Mixed - White and Asian Other Mixed Asian/Asian British - Indian
 Asian/Asian British - Kashmiri Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
 Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi Other Asian
 Black/Black British - Caribbean Black/Black British - African Black Other
 Chinese Other

17 Do you have /or are have you been classed as having a disability?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Prefer not to say

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK