

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? - Alternative options

A hub in Luton South and North including outreach where needed.

A reduction in services would be a much more constructive way to deal with the problem rather than a total removal. A lot of hard work has gone into all these programs and I believe many many families have benefited from them, access to something is much better than nothing

A voluntary contribution from service users Hiring out FS centres. Streamlining staff - as I understand it there are lots of part time, term time staff. Increasing hours to all full time staff would decrease on-costs.

Again as I haven't had the chance to used it I can't answer sorry

Again it is not so much about the centres as about the access to some universal support at the very earliest stage

Again it's miss management and thoughtless decision making from the senior staff within Luton Borough Council.

All centres are important for the whole community. Keep them open! It will do more harm than good by closing them.

All centres in areas of deprivation must remain open at the very least

All centres in areas of deprivation should remain open. Alternatively Use Tokyo or the Hat Factory. Anywhere that is a safe and useful public space eg Learning Centres.

All centres in deprived areas are required

All centres should be kept open until Covid-19 is no longer a threat to us and society returns to normal as many parents and now children are suffering extreme hardship, severe poverty and acute mental health and physical health conditions in 2020

All centres should be kept so they are in easy reach for all families.

All centres should remain open

All children centres in poor wards eg Dallow should be kept open to help the children out of poverty (every second child lives in poverty in Dallow!)

All children deserve the best start. Children centres are key to building networks and providing families with information that they main not have access to without these centres.

ALL children's centres are a life line to ALL families in Luton. They are affordable and approachable. They create a safe space for children and parents. Throughout my maternity and prior to lockdown I attended sessions at children's centres as they were accessible and affordable - if they close I will not be able to afford to attend private company sessions. The queues and waiting lists at most if not ALL centres prove there is a demand and need. I don't believe the council can lead with motive of having 'every child matters' but then take services away from certain children.

All children's centres are essential but keep the ones that can serve the wider community where there is need.

All of the children's centres are vital. Luton has a young population and the needs of this community are different to many others within the region. Not all families have access to transport and rely on walking to centres for support. All centres should remain open to allow for this even if they operate on a part-time basis.

All of the children's centres need to remain, the council need to find money from elsewhere. Children and parents have suffered enough during lockdown without these vital services being removed

ALL should be closed. A burden on tax payers

All should be kept open, they are all equally important

All the centres and services should remain open to help the community.

All the centres are needed to covers the whole of Luton. They are all very well attended.

All the Children's Centres should be kept open and providing the services they provide now.

All the children's centres should be reopened, where else will families be able to access quality services?

A lot of families will suffer because of this and it was cause a lot more stress and problems

Already answered in previous

Already there are very limited centres/resources and you should be thinking how to open more rather shut any.

Alternative option can be using nursery setting for Universal Activities for at least one a week for few hours.

Another suggestion will be increasing the service fee for families who can afford the services so that the council can reduce the cost of running these services, and at the same time vulnerable families can still enjoy the services at the same cost like before.

Antenatal classes can be offered online.

As a bare minimum all Centres in deprived wards must remain open to serve the most disadvantaged children in Luton

As a first time parent having access to the below services was absolutely vital. Where would weigh clinics go? If the funding is the issue, how can an alternative been sought, it can't. Everything would have to go private and only a limited amount of people would be able to access the services. All of the centres should remain open as Luton is a large area and parents cannot always travel from one side of the town to the other with a child easily. It would not be accessible at all anymore.

As a frequented attendant I would really wish the Bushmead children centre will keep having stay and play. My two daughters have had a great improve in their abilities because of the activities offered.

As a new mum this service was so important to me. As someone who has severe anxiety and suffers from depression, it was comforting to have people who were supportive in a non-medical way. Doctors and therapists are very aggressive with mental health treatment but

the staff at the centres have not only been really kind but they've been able to provide material and emotional support through this testing time.

As above

As above comments but in addition scale down the children centre premises to save money

As above services offered at subsidised cost. Ensuring there are services available in the areas of highest need. Find cost savings within the service itself for example going completely paperless, reducing physical delivery to provide more online programmes or working with partners to use their building (which our service would offer)

As above, you mention flyer start changes but what are you cost saving from early help and the other services included in this review?

As above.

As above. Stop providing or significantly reduce support to adults, who are lazy to work, abuse the system, don't appreciate what they are given and never contribute to the system. If people don't pay tax, they shouldn't be able to claim any support from public funds.

As an example Dallow is one of the poorest wards in Luton, East of England and England. Due to Covid-19 the situation will be a lot worse for the children living in this ward. There needs to be a local presence linking the staff to the communities who will be hardest hit by this situation, to offer local support and local services

As big as Luton is the children's centres are all very much needed and have helped massively personally when I struggled with postnatal depression. I'm having my second and have truly missed being able to attend the centres during Covid

As I mentioned before thanks to attending the groups I found out that my child has autism. Children's centre does so much for parent.

As I said above I believe Children's Centre supposed to stay open and available to parents who are struggling with their day to day life. Children's Centre offer much more than just Stay and Play sessions - they support Health Visitors and Social Workers in working with most vulnerable families, they deliver food parcels from Food Bank to people in need, they support parents suffering from mental health issues, they offer practical support with filling forms, applying for right benefits, they open people's eyes in regards to how much they have to focus on solving their personal problems first to be able to look after their children in a best possible way.

As mentioned above, it would be worth reviewing and overhauling how things are done and where the money is spent. We are una digital age where a lot of savings can be made by simply restructuring and allocating help to services which require it. What is admirable is that despite how difficult this period has been, Luton hasn't slipped in its usual delivery of service to its residents. Which clearly shows that you're on the right path, but just require a bit more direction and to really listen to what your constituents really need rather than what you think they need.

As mentioned previously, the universal service is needed, especially in Luton, to avoid devastating future of Luton's children/families.

As per question 9 Do not take away children's centre services as a whole, but cut back in some areas. Merge the 4 areas into 3 Allow staff to work from home instead of being in the office. Take away some buildings. Allow universal Services to be delivered in community

centres, library's, churches, mosques, parks, pop up stations- this will not require additional buildings for our groups, but will still be able to run these vital universal groups giving families the opportunity to access. I work with a number of families from the Bangladeshi and Pakistani community- who use our services. Who have time and time again informed me of how safe they feel and how the support they have received from us as changed their lives in a positive way. Please don't take this away from our communities.

As previously mentioned, I don't think this is beneficial.

As previously stated. Could these services be delivered through schools instead of private community centres to reduce rent? Train people effectively to cover multiple services so less staff needed. Rather than having the same service in multiple places, centralise the services to one or two places across the town for families to access.

As stated before, families needing help will not necessarily be picked up.

As stated in previous answers, these services are essential to stop people from entering crisis and causing an area-wide increase in mental health issues and other vulnerabilities that will cost much more in the longer term.

As stated previously - WHO IS GOING TO SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES IN LUTON IF WE DON'T AS IT IS SO NEEDED FOR THE FAMILIES IN LUTON OTHERWISE WE WOULDN'T OF BEEN STILL BE AROUND FOR OVER 16 YEARS! We have on a daily basis worked with children at risk, Child abuse/ neglect, Human trafficking, Sexual exploitation, Rogue landlords, Domestic abuse, Homelessness Unemployment, Benefits advice, Mental health, Disabilities, Poverty, Gangs, Gun crime, Drugs, Immigration, Exploitation and so much more. It's only because children's centres have been involved with thousands of families in Luton over the years that things haven't escalated and extra funds/agencies have been sought to help them!!!!

Ask for a voluntary donation(s) to keep the centre's going, or open the centres up for mums to do it themselves without the need to pay

At least consider keeping some of the ones in larger locations like stopsley Baptist church open but renegotiating costs etc, perhaps consider putting entrance prices up and giving a voucher to low income or struggling family's so some services can still be available

Because it'll affect a lot of parents and children they won't get the help or support they need and that won't be very fair

Because people need children's centres and their support.

Because they are needed for better development of our children. Leave alone something that works perfectly fine.

Beech Hill and Bury Park are in great need. Therefore this needs to be open.

Beech Hill children's centre is a place where I can learn English and I don't have to worry about looking after my children because the lovely ladies in crèche look after them. There are no many places where you can learn English and have your children looked after. Also I can see how my daughters changed since we started attending Stay and Play classes. They don't argue so often, they share toys with each other and other children and my daughter's speech improved. And all that thanks to children's centre!

Beech Hill in the heart of town and does amazing work

Beech Hill is in an area with a large South Asian community. It will be great if it can be kept open to best serve and reach that population.

beech hill is not a great children centre due to its stairs, an issue for disabled people and no parking onsite

Beech Hill is not a suitable children's centre for people with disabilities

Before the arrival of Children's Centres, Schools, Community Centres, Churches and Health Teams ran Stay and Play sessions in the local communities. These were well attended and usually run by parents. Since Flying Start CC they have been able to offer families more groups, workshops, trainings etc. The council need to consider keeping a children's centre open in each locality especially the most deprived areas or else children will suffer. As a health worker I cannot possibly run groups as we used to 15 years ago and do not have the resources for this. What will happen to all the equipment CC have???

Big risk the most vulnerable will not be identified causing greater cost to council in adult life. Critical to keep walk in the local centres available and run a core of essential well attended services to develop and educate both children and parents.

Breast feeding classes, most families find it hard to come after having an operation during child birth

Centre and services needs to be in places that are accessible to all. You need to look at the neighbourhoods and what services can be delivered where. Cab school be used as a base to save the running costs of centres Look at an outreach team to go into the community.

Centre stay open

Centres are essential to child development and mental health especially during covid times. Help, advice and support given is essential.

Centres are needed as a minimum in at least the poorer part of Luton. Services they provide in these areas and communities ARE CRITICAL AND LIFELINE TO MANY FAMILIES

Centres should stay in the really poor areas

Certain services can be done online e.g. zoom sessions for bump to babe or sharing slide shows.setting up support groups on what's app e.g for breastfeeding mums

Charge all users a small fee, 50p or £1, to support the services.

Children are the future of the town, cut services for the children and you decline the future of Luton.

Children centres are the hub for parents and children in Luton. What could be an alternative option? We already use children centres for meetings, meeting with families where would this take place with few resources available in Luton this would be zero. Closing centres will have a knock on effect that will affect all areas of "working with families"

Children centres should NOT close down- maybe limit a few sessions or take only one centre away but definitely not all.

Children's centres are key to a child's development and skill learning. Same goes for a first time mother or a young mother they too need to learn and develop new skills in motherhood. Help, support and guidance at first point of call is what will help vulnerable people become less vulnerable. Also as mentioned above the questions on this survey should have been

made a lot simpler to understand as majority of vulnerable people will find it very difficult to understand or in fact not understand some of the questions at all and therefore may not be able to fill in survey.

Children's centres should be accessible to all families across the town, therefore there needs to be a reasonable number of centres open in various areas that people can get to e.g those with good transport links.

Children's centre should be kept, otherwise the most vulnerable will struggle. You shouldn't take anything away from the children as they are the future of this world. Cutting the services is not a solution.

Children's centre is a lovely, helpful place. I am a young parent and they helped me so much.

Children's centre is an institution that provides help, support and good advice when you need it. It's for poor and richer. Children can play. Thanks to that they get ready for school.

Children's centre is needed

Children's centre is not only a place where our children can attend Stay and Play. They provide health visitors, solicitors, IDVA, a lady who can advise everything about benefits. They provide postnatal classes where they can deal with mothers who suffer from depression.

Children's centre not only provides Stay and Play sessions but gives us the opportunity to meet speech and language therapist, a solicitor, a benefit advisor or a health visitor. I know few families who use children's centre help to get a food bank voucher. They help with social isolation, domestic abuse, feeding the new borns. They do so much for people. You can't just shut them or integrate with different agencies. It's not fair for family but also for a lovely staff who will lose their jobs.

Children's centre should be kept. It gives the little ones a proper start to their lives. It aims to improve outcomes for young children. It makes sure that parents and their children are healthy, ready to start school and happy too!

Children's centre should be open

Children's centre supports mums to be

Children's centres a big support to children and their families. They support families with no recourse to public funding, they provide guidance and advice to parents to help them build on their parenting skills they help to parents and children with complex needs, and they also support families with SEN children.

Children's Centres all to be treated together. If no requirement for them over the next 5 - 10 years. This being in part to assist new Activities team cohesion through the changeover. Off load all, should there be no clear purpose or requirement for them established.

Children's centres are a learning hub. Beech Hill and staff are amazing. Must keep minimum one open but surely this will be too busy. How else can we get help or answers?

Children's centres are classified as early year's prevention services. Stay and Play are perfect places to find out lots of issues in families, to make referrals by staff to seek for help and advice. We can meet health visitors there, we can buy healthy start vitamins, we can ask to see solicitor.

Children's centres are friendly places where families can get help and support on daily basis.

Children's Centres are friendly places where we can find help in support. They help a lot for women who experienced domestic abuse.

Children's centres are important because they provide help and support to different kind of parents. They provide this support from the first days of a child's life. Also they provide it not only for families with higher level of needs but also for families from normal (not deprived) homes/areas of Luton who very often seek for an advice. I believe there will have to be put more social care costs if you decide to close children's centres. I would like to add that children's centres are the places where our kids can be prepared for nurseries.

Children's centres are important because we can learn English there.

Children's centres are lovely places where we can seek for support and we can pop in any time during the week. They never refuse help. They organize lovely events for children during half terms.

Children's Centres are lovely places.

Children's centres are needed for the most vulnerable families but also other families need them too.

Children's centres are not only the places where children can play. They support families who are facing different kind of difficulties.

Children's Centres are something that parents in Luton need for their children. Absolutely. Can you not see it?

Children's Centres are teaching centres and community centres. If you must make cuts with no other options, keep two centres in Luton. One near the town e.g. Bury Park and other in another area where the need and usage is high.

Children's centres are the places that help people.

Children's centres are the places that parents with children love. We seek for advice there, when can go there if we need any kind of support.

Children's centres are very important in children's and their family's lives. They provide necessary help and support from early years. They help all the families, not only the most vulnerable ones. I think you don't realize that lots of families will suffer if you cut off these services.

Children's centres are very important places mainly for the most vulnerable ones but also for the rest of the families in Luton. They provide help and support, we can always call them or pop in. They are very friendly and helpful.

Children's centres are vital for families in Luton. They help communities. And they help the poorest.

Children's centres are vital to all the families, not only the most vulnerable ones. They help with school readiness and with parenting skills. They balance the difference between rich and poor families especially during Stay and Play sessions where all the children play with each other and different kind of parents are able to socialise.

Children's centres are vital to community. They teach, give support and advise all in one place and you can drop in any time. With less centres they will be overcrowded, too busy, and the children will suffer.

Children's Centres are vital to keep a sense of community and foster parental relationships with other people in the early years of their children's lives. I'm sad to say I'm not proud to come from this town, it has a town centre I will not go into let alone take my child to, but one thing I have always been proud of is the pregnancy and early years support available compared to neighbouring, more affluent towns such as Hitchin and Harpenden. A blanket closure and stopping of all services seems crazy. They will be needed more than ever once social distancing is no longer in place. Less focus on building awful new blocks of flats and social housing and on every available space and more focus on the people of the town would be great!

Children's centres are well needed and you know it

Children's centres are working across Luton with their partners to make a real difference to children and families. Why do you want to change it? They work perfectly well. They deliver group sessions and 1:1 support. They provide every day support for all the families with children under 5 years old (but not only) across Luton.

Children's Centres could be integrated into existing community assets such as community centres, libraries, and leisure centres, Council buildings that hold staff that can no work remotely and from home, empty shops in the mall and high street because rent is too high.

Children's centres give us support, we can pop in anytime we need. We don't have to book appointments. If there is some more serious case, staff do referrals and they get back to us in a short period of time? Always polite, always helpful. If the service is integrated, we will have to wait longer to contact us and they will be busy.

Children's centres have a really good working relationships with nurseries, schools and other services (eg. health visitors) and there is no reason to change it. People come to their local children's centres and they are can use all the services that they provide, not only Stay and Play. Apart from xxx, their experienced staff is always ready to help and advice.

Children's centres have helped families to access services which are still required

Children's Centres help the children learn more quickly and get ready to begin school. Please keep at least one Centre open in Luton.

Children's centres in Luton improve the wellbeing of young children and their families. They help us to apply for 2 year funding. Family workers from Flying Start Children's Centre provide for us food bank vouchers. We can tell the staff about our problems and they await=ys try to help us.

Children's centres in Luton provide multiple services to vulnerable families that are not delivered by other organisations for free/for a small fee. If these services are removed those people who currently access them may be unable to in the future. Women have been disproportionately affected by COVID (baby and toddler groups, the beauty industry, birth preparation/antenatal classes all unable to run in person for a significant amount of time as well as those women working from home as well as being expected to home-school and care for their children) and this would be yet another blow.

Children's centres need to be in all areas of high need - so you need a central one but also in the Marsh farm area / Lewsey or Hockwell Ring Farley Hill / Whipperley area and also Round Green /Stopsley area

Children's centres offer a service that families are familiar with at places in their community if you need were moved too far from their local area it would be a risk of parents not accessing the support they may need or slipping through the net.

Children's centres play a vital and critical role in Luton family's lives. They help with mental health, social isolation, they help to resolve issues in family, but the most important - they give equal chances to poor and rich new-born's.

Children's centres play a vital role in children's and their parents' lives. Together with my wife we were thinking about a second baby but taking into consideration your proposal, we are not sure now. Without all the services (especially antenatal classes) that Flying Start provides (used to provide before Covid) it may be difficult. We are not a vulnerable family but we used almost all the sessions that children's centre provided. It was a great help for my wife and me. I can't imagine not having Children's centres.

Children's centres provide a personalized support to young children and their families. They help with domestic abuse/violence. They support vulnerable women and their children.

Children's centres provide support for children and parents helping with child health, wellbeing and development from the very beginning. Parents who use children's centres are different kind of parents. Children's centres offer help for all different types of children, parents and families. Issues like isolation, managing behaviour of a child, mental health issues are the problems that can and do affect all types of parents. It doesn't matter if you come from deprived area or rich family - children's centres help everyone.

Children's centres provide the critical services. They are well needed. They provide: - preparation for nursery- preparation for school- speech and language solicitors- benefit advisor- midwife

Children's Centres provide vital needs for local people. Without them who will answer our questions, give us support and be there for us?

Children's centres provide vital services for families. Very often they help not only children under 5 years old but also the older children.

Children's centres provide vital services. What you are planning to do is really bad. It is said that the children are the future. It means that you want to take something vital away from the youngest ones who are our future. What kind of future is that?

Children's Centres provide:- excellent parenting courses- possibility of buying cheap vitamins for children and mums- advice regarding domestic violence/abuse (one to one sessions)- early prevention (Stay and PLAY GROUPS)- help with preparing for nurseries- they run child health clinic with health visitors- help and advice to young parents

Children's centres sessions are particularly valued as key spaces for support and socializing for parents from range of backgrounds, as well as a point of access to other services. It is a very bad idea to close them. Whole community will suffer.

Children's centres should be kept because they are places where we can go with our problems and they always try to help us. My children like going to Stay and Play groups. One of them is autistic but when we are in the group my child is so happy and interacts with

other children so well that you wouldn't say he has autism. Playgroups are very important to us.

Children's Centres should remain how they are. These changes will isolate families who need help. The Centre helped me when I just had my baby and felt depressed. I was able to meet other new mums and make friends.

Children's centres shouldn't be closed. They provide help and support to children and their families whenever they need it, as well as helping to prevent any problems from developing in the future.

Children's centres target is to improve outcomes for young children. They are here to give the children the best possible start in life.

Children's Centres were a really important part of our/my children's lives. My children absolutely loved attending the sessions. Also when I needed some help regarding feeding and sleeping, a referral was done by one of the admin ladies during the sessions and after few days I received a call from a family worker who helped me a lot. The children's centres are so important place. Why would you like to close them? You should consider saving money other ways not taking something away from kids.

Closing centres (as has been done in the past) would be complete disaster in the present climate

Closure of children classes will make and impact on new parents.

Closure should not be an option Children should be No1 not a financial burden to the council

Combine services for neighbouring children services rather than completely scrapping them. You could consider charging a larger fee for attending playgroups etc.

Combine some of the centres and services, thereby reducing rather than abolishing the vital services provided

Consider how well used the centres are and keep a centre open for each day in each area (North, South, East and West) with an activity.

Considering the number of vulnerable chin in Luton, the areas with most parental need must be priority

Coordinate a collective response to picking up the things that are going to be lost, between other local centres and charities etc. This would prevent unnecessary duplication of services/projects and help make sure each service is still provided somewhere in Luton.

Could each area of town keep one centre so one in the east north and central

Could the Council try turning centres into community run groups, use social enterprise model, charities or crowd funding.

Could we see if we could commission schools to deliver some of the support on behalf of the council? Some schools already offer support to families. Perhaps commissioning schools to provide additional support would be cheaper than providing it ourselves.

Could you provide the same services in less places so saving money not paying for as many buildings??

Cut the budget elsewhere, children's centres are essential to Luton families.

Cut the management cost of children centres keep the front line staff and get rid of all the higher costs

Dallow is nice

Definitely need a centre in every area of Luton, that's big enough to help run several activities. Staff stay at that base and build relationships with the parents etc.

Definitely you must have all the attendance record and you can see how popular all Flying Start sessions are. And it's not only about Stay and Play, however Stay and Play is one of the most important groups because the experienced staff can recognize new vulnerable families. If you realized how helpful and supportive Children's centres are, you would never think about closing them.

Different newspapers articles showed that Head teachers of primary schools interviewed during the survey reported that the children from the centres were being better prepared to begin school. They were more confident, with better social, language and communication skills.

Do keep centre open

Do not change Children's Centres - they are needed in Luton

Do not close any of them, less opportunities will be there for the most vulnerable who cannot access sites local to their homes.

Do not close any. Everyone should have one they can walk to. Otherwise it disadvantages the poorest - the people who need it most

Do not close centres

Do not close children's; centres

Do not close children's centres, they are needed and required

Do not close flying start

Do not close the centres.

Do not close the children's centres

Do not close the Children's Centres they are needed.

Do not close the Children's Centres they are needed. You said in meeting nothing has been decided I hope so because we need Children's Centres.

Do not close the Children's Centres they provide vital needs for local people. Without them who will answer our questions?

Do not close the children's centres.

Do not close the flying start children's centres/

Do not close them.

Do not close them.

Do not close.

Do not close children's centre

Don't close

Don't close children's centres

Don't close children's centres.

Don't close Stopsley Centre. You will keep two centres in LU1 which is not fair. Stopsley centre is extremely popular and should be kept. Each area LU1, LU2, LU3, LU4 of Luton should have a centre. Not every parent have a car to travel long distances just for the child to be weight or had a chat with health visitor.

Don't close them

Don't close them completely and keep them open fully or partly

Don't give millions to the airport, and the money saved can be spent on the children

Don't shut children centres.

Due to better access for families with disabled children, without a car,

Early years support needs to have a focus and that there should be at least 2/3 delivery sites not just the one identified in Beech Hill, this doesn't allow for equality and accessibility to those in need.

English classes are well needed and we don't have to pay a horrendous amount of money for this classes. The teacher and the rest of the staff are really helpful and we feel very welcomed.

Essential they are kept in the most disadvantaged areas of the town if Luton is to ensure all children have equal opportunities.

Every time I've used a children's centre it's been full, maybe that's just the ones I use, and perhaps you should only look at changing the ones that weren't in regular use. Please consider keeping the stopsley Baptist church centre. Having recently moved here and having my first child; I started using the classes there for support and development of my child. I think there's going to be long term consequences should you close all these centres to save money.

Everything should be done to save as many of the key centres and as many of the services delivered as possible. Families really rely on these centres/services I'm appalled at the idea that it'll all be shut down.

Families centres have been cut drastically over the last few years, there really aren't enough as it is therefore suggesting closure would have a huge impact on communities

Families will miss the fun groups. A chance for parents and children to make new friends. Perhaps increase charge from £1 per family to £2 per family.

Far too many children's centres across the country have already been closed and the impact on parents and children in areas without sufficient resources had been huge with many people feeling completely unsupported.

Feeling sad to close this service

Find another alternative or at least lessen the suggested closures it's simply too much.

Firs find out what children's centre really do, them make a decision. You probably haven't even researched it but it was the quickest idea to cut children's centres services.

Flying Start centres that reach the most vulnerable families should remain.

Flying Start has been an incredible service from the beginning, although it seems they can struggle in normal circumstances - they would require bigger spaces and more staff, certainly not a downgrade or closures.

Flying Start in Bury Park is a very important place. A lots of parents are on the low poverty line + need the help of the children's centre to access the relevant help.

Flying start provide such an important service, for some families it is the only time they get out all week. There must be a way that you can keep at least some of the universal services

Get rid of the decision makers that have made poor spending decisions, cut their jobs and not the public service that we pay for.

Gill Blowers needs to stay.

Go Google "babies born in lockdown" report!!!

Good for English, families and baby's. Do not please close.

Group children's centres together rather than ending completely. Have less frequent or fewer centres

Harsh as it may be, parents should be responsible for their children. Any service outside of statutory duty should be stopped immediately. Whilst arguably this will cause a greater divide between rich and poor, with rich being able to afford to pay privately for services. We live in tough times, and people have to make changes for a better future

Have less centres and have pre booked sessions this would offer a lifeline for new parents and especially lonely parents

Have you reached out to local faith groups? There is also a huge amount of 'how to' information on social media and You Tube. I suspect that some of these services duplicate what the NHS is also providing, has the CCG been approached?

Hockwell Ring area is a socially deprived area with very few community resources to engage families. There is a need to keep some degree of universal service in place. Where will professionals signpost families who just need a social situation to promote parenting skills in an environment where people are comfortable Health visitors and schools cannot be expected to fill the gaps as their workload is already significant.

I agree with maybe reducing the timetable, as at the moment flying start do offer a lot, or even increasing the price for parents to attend. I know some children's centres charge ridiculous amounts for the same programmes, so increasing the price from £1 to £3 wouldn't be a massive impact on parents.

I am biased towards Stopsley Baptist Church as I use this children's centre the most, but I have also used legrave and the town centre ones. They should all remain as they create a community feeling, there should be one in each area (north, south. East, west) so all have fair access.

I am sure the reduction of sites is an option.

I appreciate this is a sad reality moving forward but by cutting the centres by 50% and preserving half the services would go some way in protecting the most vulnerable in our town. By investing in private nurseries to train and skill up to offer some services in needy

areas may help. Have a central hub in the town centre, maybe at the central library where there's space and owned by the council so no additional rent costs.

I attended various centres throughout Luton but I'm particularly impressed with the Legrave centre as the staff always have time for parents and are extremely helpful. As a new parent they set homework for us to do with our children which helped both parents and children

I believe closing particular children's centres will have a detrimental impact on many families as they serve to network and communicate the great services they provide.

I believe no cuts should be made to the children's services!! It's terrible that you would even consider depriving the youngest of our generation for money cuts.

I believe that children's centres are vital for the health and development of children within Luton. The council should consider the larger impact of closing the children's centres. I understand savings need to be made in the short term, but, the long term impact could be more significant. The impact this will have on other vital services such as social care. The council have also invested in training for staff at flying start. This should not go to waste. I have seen first-hand how brilliant all staff are, from admin, support workers, family workers are.

I believe the council should restructure some of the children services and merge or integrate some together with similar programmes.

I believe you should keep The Manor Centre open in Luton as it honestly has allowed me to develop my own parental skills and I feel very comfortable coming to the Manor Centre to see my child. I am familiar with the route to get there, I feel safe there. As do many other people who use this location to see their children.

I can understand that you need to make cuts but by removing the service so drastically it may cost you in the long run. As I have already stated these services were a life line to me and my daughter you could reduce some of the sessions. Maybe remove the ones which are 'nice to have' - baby massage, sing and sign for example. And charge more to those families who can afford it - if you are on benefit pay the reduced rate but if not charge a little more? Most classes are £3-4 not the 50p-£1 you charge.

I can't imagine closing children's centres. They are so helpful! They helped me when I was scared of my husband and they did so much for my kids and me. How can you close Children's centres? If you never experienced domestic abuse and poverty, you will never know how children's centres supportive are!

I certainly think savings can be made in areas. Reducing the frequency of courses/clubs etc. Maybe holding stay and play for example x1 weekly over more hours in that particular session. This would help so families could come throughout the day, and not confined to 1.5 hrs which it currently is. Staff could be available to help with breast feeding/anti natal etc etc. With also allowing young children to play at the same time

I could add much more. You can invite me in. I'll audit the entire council and show you how to spend money effectively.

I do not have any suggestions about the proposed changes but I know the changes proposed are a false economy and will have a detrimental impact on Luton as a whole due to the elimination of preventative and early intervention work that was being carried out in Luton.

I don't think they need as many children's centres but they should keep some for weigh clinics especially and for the baby groups

I don't have suggestions but I would say, don't just close facilities in areas with less deprivation. Just because someone is considered 'low risk' or well off, doesn't mean they don't rely on your facilities etc in the area they live.

I don't think closing the children centres will benefit children in Luton.

I don't want any children's centres to close but I certainly think the larger venues are a massive plus, or those with real, useable outside space. Not everybody has outside space in their homes, and some don't feel comfortable taking their children to parks or open areas. I think you should talk in depth with all of the staff who actively run the centres and really listen to where they think you could save money within the service, and where is important. We particularly liked going to Leagrave for Stay and Play, Marsh Farm (under the flats) for Messy play - we really liked this but prior to going were a bit nervous due to the reputation of the area... though I think that local residents need these activities. We also went to Pastures Way which was a little small so easy to fill. We went everywhere though, did movement classes at St Augustines, stay and play at Chaul End (another lovely large venue though no outside space) and Pastures Way.

I feel at least two children's centres should stay open. It may be worth looking at the numbers of people who attended each centre to see which ones should remain open. For the children's weigh in sessions maybe propose a small charge to use the service. Maybe introduce a charge for each service used. Do not have any free sessions. I think people would be happy to pay.

I feel I've explained why I feel not all children centres should close and feel it really would cause further issues within Luton for the most vulnerable families and create more vulnerable families in turn would not be savings as there would be higher levels of need and more level of higher intervention required

I feel like it would be such a loss if stay and play was gone.

I feel like the council is removing the support that families not classified as vulnerable can access. Without this access I feel like families with economic resources will be left with nothing.

I feel that the children of Luton will suffer the most from these proposed closures. Is there no other alternative that can be made so this does not impact the children? If closures have to be made, I suggest keeping them open in the most deprived areas of Luton. Having looked on the areas of deprivation in Luton, this includes the south area, town centre, Farley hill, and areas of north, marsh farm.

I feel that the closure of children centres will directly affect the poorer families as higher earners have children in full time childcare and then are able to access other pricey activities e.g swimming/sports/baby gyms etc. Low income families like myself will have nowhere to take children as we can't afford to pay for activities elsewhere.

I feel the flying start service should remain as it is because it is such a valuable source of help to families, many of whom will not cope without it. I am sure the service already has caseloads that are difficult to manage because of the increasing number of families needing help. Reducing it will mean many families will not qualify for help because of lack on manpower.

I feel there's no alternative to closing children centres, there have to be enough centres that can be accessed easy. I don't have a car and can walk with pushchair, bus fares are expensive, so the centres have to be within walking distance. Not everyone can afford a car to travel through the town.

I find stopsley a really useful centre as it means I can take my foster kids away from the areas they are likely to be st risk of bumping into family members...You may be able to combine nurseries and children's centres?

I firmly believe Children's Centres are cost effective and why would you change something that works well - yes financial savings have to be made but putting families at risk is not the answer. Having worked within Early Years in Luton for xxx years I cannot believe the local authority would consider the proposed changes. Having had my first child xxx years ago with very little support on hand and seen what wonderful activities families can access now via FSCC I feel very sad for the future generation. Surestart CC's were developed many years ago and then cutback came in and Luton underwent as massive change. FSCC's emerged and slowly developed into the success story they are today. I don't believe losing children's centres would be a good move for Luton in the longer term. Financial savings I agree should be made but these should be sourced from other areas.

I go Dallow

I go to the West groups

I have no car I can go to dallow or foxdell my family need one of these

I have put comments above. But it is important that there are centres in as many areas as possible as people who don't drive may find it hard. I wouldn't go to a clinic if it wasn't within easy reach. So this would make the HV have to contact us to check on children (more work)

I hope the money can be found so the services can continue to provide an excellent service. Children will thrive and learn and it's a safe space for them to be nurtured! All the centres are well attended and have waiting lists so this speaks volumes.

I learn English and the staff are very friendly, they always help me when I come to the children's centre. They helped me to find a nursery for my son. They are in my local area.

I love learning English at Beech Hill and my son loves coming to Stay and Play classes. Please don't take it away from us.

I need the antenatal help and other services help. Please don't close the children centres down.

I really don't want you to close any children's centres so I can only suggest as I did in the previous question, is more training for volunteers so they can run them.

I really feel that children's centres shouldn't be an area where cuts are made. They are so important to families across the town for a variety of reasons.

I suggest a scoping out of deprivation and accessibility, an example is Farley Hill, although this is a small site it serves a high risk population who do not drive.

I think Children centres in the more deprived parts should remain open and provide services.

I think children's centres are important for early intervention and by getting rid of them you will be removing many families support networks. Is it possible to look at the most deprived areas and maybe still run some form of stay and plays in those settings?

I think Children's Centres have been cut back as far as is safe for the parents they meet and serve. If any further cuts are made to the service then the education of children will be hit harder in later years. I think the council should look at other options rather than always hitting the youngest children, as this will have implications later on (lower levels of resilience, and confidence, unable communicate properly, have a lower level of understanding and be obese)

I think closing all centres is a bad idea. I would prefer to keep Stopsley Baptist Church open

I think council should keep opening of children centres, as pandemic can only be deal by taking precautions not by shutting down centres.

I think cutting the budget from children's services is absolutely absurd. This is a necessity for the future generations of Luton. The centres are a way for new mums to socialise, learn about being a parent, help children's development and can be a real haven for some families. I'm so disappointed in Luton for this. The Stopsley Baptist church centre I attend usually has boards of people queuing to attend which is a sign of how it is very much needed.

I think having multiple location is important - we had the luxury of travelling by car but I always saw a lot of people arriving on foot.

I think I've said it all in the previous comments. Please don't close these programs! This is such a unique offering compared to other countries and I can't express enough how much it did and continues to help me as a mother and help support my child.

I think it is imperative that all children's centre remain open for our local families, if you are considering closing them then you do not understand how important these centres are for all our local families.

I think it is important to have a service available in all parts of the town so I could not comment on keeping one particular centre open just because it is closer to me.

I think it will have a negative impact if their services end.

I think my answers so far explain why the services need to stay open and should be given more budget to reach more people.

I think once a month option should be there for every service at all areas

I think promoting Luton with lovely billboards and lovely benches for the public to use are a luxury not a necessity. Money could be saved by combining offices for LBC. Sell some of the empty buildings they own. Have slightly reduced working hrs instead of axing everything.

I think Redgrave children's centre is a great spot and parking means it is accessible most of the time. I live on the border of north and west areas and Redgrave was always my go to amongst many other parents I know. If some classes are able to be kept, combining them and/or shortening them where possible. Examples. Area set up for messy play/stay and play but no snack provided so session is shorter. A session for under 6m combining baby massage and other classes that are appropriate, only showing some techniques, not the full course. A session that combines stay and play/sing and sign. 20 min play/10 minute sing and sign. Antenatal classes I strongly feel should be kept as I am not aware of any other antenatal courses in Luton that support this!

I think support for new Mums is particularly important especially as there is so little midwife/health visitor input. And support for the most vulnerable families should be a priority

- perhaps keeping a much smaller number of venues open in the more vulnerable areas of Luton.

I think that the children's centres aren't publicised enough and parents are not given enough information about the services available which would have been really useful to me as a parent when my son was younger AND could have provided me with help with my wellbeing

I think the centres are all in places where it would and could be awkward for parents to get to if they don't drive. When the clinic was closed at my school site it presented lots of families in the Sundon Park area with problems. The clinic was originally run in Sundon Park near the shops and everybody could get to it easily if they didn't drive. Who wants to walk miles in the pouring rain etc? It was then moved to our local school and that was also closed meaning families had to travel to other sites. This is just an example of what could happen in other areas, it's not easy getting a bus to town and expensive to get a cab. Not everyone drives. There needs to be a local centre in all areas.

I think the centres with least engagement from the public should be closed to save money but majority should remain open as they are there for new mums and babies and it supports their wellbeing and positive mental health as it did for me.

I think the children's centres should be kept open and the support they offer to children and families extended- I think that this will in the long term save money in terms of children and families being empowered and supported.

I think the closure of these services will have a massive impact on the children's futures. I think it needs to be rethought. We're sitting on a council owned airport. Why this was never sold. They'd rather make other people happy than their own residents.

I think the council needs to look at the areas with the most amount of deprivation, reports of vulnerable families etc and consider keeping these children centres open. Most vulnerable families won't have the means to be able to travel to a particular "hub" centre when it is located far away from them.

I think the council should consider keeping the children's centre in the town and park town open. Both good spaces and being in town..... Very accessible by public transport.

I think the council should work hard alongside the Early Years Alliance to support local community groups and organisations in filling the gaps of many of these groups. Well-informed local groups who understand the need in the community, the philosophy of Flying Start and are supported with resources from the council could go some way to providing a response to the worst hit aspects of these changes. I also think this could open up exciting new possibilities for local organisations working together and utilising a parental volunteer network to support other local parents. As a parent, I'd be well up for being involved in that and am already speaking to local groups to try and put something together in the High Town area. Finding other places that could be used as Children's centres (e.g. churches) part time may get rid of some of the major overheads whilst allowing some of the services to take place, supported by local groups. Flying start has been brilliant so thank you for delivering it!

I think the offer should be reduced but not get rid of it completely. So just have five children's centre buildings who do still offer a reduced universal offer as far as the general Luton population are aware (not that they have ever only attracted universal families) and can be satellites to the Family Resource centres for more targeted work when families are identified as having extra needs that cannot be supported by family or community. That way there can be a reduction in costs in terms of venues and staffing but there are still places

families can go and access regular good quality services in the early years liaising closely with early years settings and maintained nurseries. That way you retain further well trained staff in Luton who are skilled to identify those families with emerging needs who can be referred seamlessly to the new resource centre sites. Or consider a reduced number of children's centres renamed as Family Centres for families with 0-11 years again feeding seamlessly into the resource centres when families need more focussed work.

I think there needs to be more feedback gathered from service users, the families.

I think there should at least one children centre which can still offer some of the services

I think this will impact the mental health and wellbeing of parents as the activities offered were either free or very cheap. It may be tougher for parents to now have activities to do during the week, so they may not get an opportunity to meet with other parents or be able to stimulate their children outside of the home.

I think you have already made the decision.

I think you have based your locations in the town centre too much. I would not use any services in the town. There is nothing proposed for the cover of limbury, grasmere etc

I think you need 3 centres (my wife thinks 4) but in any case they need to spread across the town to provide support where it is needed.

I think you should keep the centres at Grasmere nursery and in stopsley as these are the closest to me. If these closed then I would have to travel a long way to seek help

I understand having to make the cuts in the present times but don't shut them all down. There must be some way we can keep some open. Park town centre, whippey ring and mall are all one area. So close 2 and keep 1 open so at least that one section can attend 1 centre. The same for another area of Luton etc. That way you are still making the cuts but also still leaving 1 centre in each area for mothers to get the help and assistance they need.

I understand that cuts need to be made so maybe consider streamlining the service. Offer access online to talk rather than hire settings. Is there a government business scheme that could be offered to people to start a similar service that you are losing?

I understand the need for such services as stay and play to go. Maybe it is possible for Active Luton to provide more under 5s sessions such as mininastics throughout Luton? It is so important for the vulnerable families in Luton that there are programmes such as nurturing, programme, bump to babe and Henry available. I fear that health services will be too stretched to deliver Henry/ bump to babe. Criteria for the family workers needs to allow for those level 2+ cases to come through to ease pressure on Children's social services

I use Blenheim Baptist church. It's easy to access and has good parking. The space is big enough and they have enough resources.

I use Dallow

I use gill blowers and I think it's a deprived area and it would be a shame to deprive it further. Have more groups across one day in same children's centre. Increase family contribution from £1 to £2 which is still affordable. Offer some classes on YouTube which can be streamed to TV, this would help the language skills but not social skills. Recognise that children's brains form most in the early years as some cuts may be false economy.

I used the Stopsley centre a lot it is a wonderful space

I want to say don't leave anything from us

I was glad to see that there will still be a local hub in Leagrave, recognising the huge level of need there and will be supportive of any initiatives in this area.

I will not have a place to learn English

I would like that there is one children centre for each area that is accessible for people. This can be done by the data collected and how much a particular centre has been used. Further they could charge a small fee for services used so it stays accessible. A lot of services have already been cut down in the past by Luton council and this is just not fair.

I would like the centres to remain open as it is a chance for children to engage and meet other people and they can also learn how to share

I would like to add that the children's centres I have used have been invaluable support. If possible the larger ones should stay open like Leagrave and Chaul End to support families and in a less targeted more general way. Closing these centres on mass will spell real disaster for so many families in need. I urge the council to reconsider their plans.

I would like to let you know that it's very big mistake to remove the Children's Centre. Parents need more help and advice from the family workers. Please think about the children from home where domestic violence is. Also for most Parents who went to stay & play groups will be deprived of the possibility. My children loved coming to the groups because they played there, had contact with their friends, and parents could exchange experiences with other parents and specialists.

I would like to request council to please stop this and leave our children centre alone. Please take funding from elsewhere as it's our Luton new generations future and for the sake of their future we need more awareness not more disasters. Please don't close our children centre's 🙏

I would only say that our most deprived wards must be considered a priority. To remove a Children Centre from an already struggling ward would be detrimental to those children and parents. I do understand that people can visit any Children Centre across the town but would not want to see obstacles like travel expense put in the way of already struggling families.

I would recommend reducing rather than cancelling services. Do sessions fortnightly rather than weekly. Do a universal group rather than a themed one. Choose the busiest centres that are easily accessible by public transport and focus groups there. Antenatal classes can be done online or as a video provided to expectant parents. I cannot stress enough how important it is to keep providing at least some of these services to maintain good mental and physical health of families and to help integrate newcomers into the community.

If all these children's centres close how will women attend classes or meet other mums? Not all mums can travel to the 2 remaining centres. Local services are really important for mums to be able to walk to.

If any of you have had children, you would know how vulnerable, and frightened you can be especially with your first child. Removing this service will affect not only mums but the babies themselves. I do not think men or women without children should be able to vote, as they have no idea how stressful this time can be!

If anything the Local Authority need to be spending more money on children centres. These services have made a massive positive impact on me and people that I know. As a professional too, these services can be the bit of support needed, to empower, guide and

improve quality of life of the service users. Moreover these centres are in areas with high numbers of deprivation, poverty, isolation, mental health, addiction (the list goes on) and so the most vulnerable are hit the hardest and this will only impact society harder as those children grow into adults, so you are potentially only going to make our problems worse in the future.

If centres have to close it would make sense to have a centre/hub in each area of the town.

If child learning is not supported, the quality of the next generation will decline. Luton will be a worse off place.

If children's centres physically have to close then please continue to use local community centres and halls to provide the groups.

If cuts are essential I understand reducing services or limiting them to a larger, central children's centre. This would mean the classes were bigger or maybe could run multiple times a day but at least the services would not stop totally.

If fewer buildings were used to deliver children's centre services - but still have at least one in each of their current neighbourhoods, that would obviously save some money but give more people access. Maybe the buildings could all be used for activities and the office staff could largely work from home apart from one on reception? Could the number of children's centre managers, centres and staff be reduced - to still have an offer but a reduced one? Idea: a reduced number of buildings - say three, open only three days a week, maybe even term time only, offering a basic universal offer (so reduced from what there is now).and as the airport dividend returns more services could be added back in as appropriate.

If nothing else please keep a streamlined service, maybe less hubs. But in reality they need to be in all the areas they are already in.

If something provides so much help and support in so many different aspects - it definitely shouldn't be closed. Many families from different backgrounds can confirm how important children's centres are in their lives. They provide help from early years. Thanks to them every mum with her little one feels that she is important, they treat her as an individualist.

If the centre specifically was to shut could some of the services be run from other public locations such as church halls and village halls?

If the children centres are not going to offer family support would the council consider re-instating the SEN portage home visiting service. They supported families with children with disabilities and SEN for many years and were a valuable service which was scrapped in favour of the children centres, which are now not deemed essential enough!

If the council doesn't realize how important children's centres are, maybe they should look for some saving by cutting their wages. The children's centres are so important for our children's and our mental health. They are such a friendly places where we can seek for advice when we have any issues with our children. We can buy cheap vitamins there. Our children can play and develop there, they can make new friends. They can play with so many nice toys and it's only £1! Nowhere else you can play, develop your motorical skill for such an amount of money. There are some people who can't afford going to Fun Factory or Snakes and Ladders and Children Centre's are the perfect places for them.

If the council need to save money they should consider reducing the number of centres to the more popular locations and deliver the classes and groups at these locations.

If the council really has to change the children's centre perhaps close ones that has more than one in close proximity.

If the proposed changes in regard to location are based on data of families who are needing services then it makes sense? But if not then location needs to be where families can access it. Originally the idea was a children's centre within a mile of your home. There needs to be a seamless plan for services to be available if not provided by the council. Notice to support community groups in offering provision to meet local needs has to be timely. Data re % of families who need specific help now and those who are at risk of needing support has to be made available to community groups so they can think through what they be able to offer to those living in their community for free or a small donation. Grants to set up provision may enable communities to provide what the council do not plan to offer in a more efficient and effective way.

If there is a centre or 2 that aren't being g used often then perhaps look at closing those but to close all would be a travesty. Other councils are prioritising baby groups and support to parents. Central beds are fabulous!

If there's nothing in the north of Luton, particularly near Marsh Farm where there is a high degree of poverty, then you are in danger of alienating and abandoning a multitude of families.

If you are going to do less centres it should be one for every area that people do not have to travel to far to get to and more sessions run every day to accommodate everyone.

If you close children's centre I will stop learning English. I have learnt so much. When I started I only was able to say few basic words. Now I am much more confident but I still want to learn a lot. I don't want to my class and my teacher. I don't want to learn English anywhere else. I love Flying Start Central

If you have to reduce centres could you make sure there is some way to support parents to get thete - bus passes, town centre spaces etc

If you take away the local centres many parents in these areas will find it very hard to live. Mental health will be a big risk as strain of daily life is very demanding. I needed this help so much but things are even harder toady. I would love to have another child but without the services I do not think I could manage.

Implement the above changes prior to considering any closures.

In times of financial uncertainty for everyone at the moment, Children's Centres are essential to reach the most vulnerable children and families. Closing all the Centres and stopping universal services would undermine the principle of early intervention, with vulnerable children and families not being spotted early enough, resulting in more costly intervention further down the line. Therefore it would make more sense to keep a few Children's Centres in areas that easily accessible for our families who need our help. However, Children's Centres must be more flexible and innovative in the services they provide, the methods of delivery, and the relationships established with the community and partners, so they can provide support to Luton's most vulnerable children and families.

Is it possible with technology (zoom - for example) to hold interactive sessions; there are many things, with in even the poorest households, that can promote talking, play, nurture and health.

It affects Luton's new and growing families. People like me who are on their own with no family or friends have a lot to deal with in the first few years of having a baby. Please do not take the chance of being able to have friends like us with same issues and goals

It is always a difficult decision to make when costs have to be cut and inevitably this means losing services and jobs in some way. However keeping children's centres buildings open and continuing their use makes little sense. Delivering from 'hubs' is an option and I do think that bringing back outreach workers that used to be part of the children's centre teams would be a good idea to deliver support directly in the home. The more specialised support such as group work (DV, drug and alcohol, no recourse etc) should be delivered via the hub by specialised practitioners. There will need to be some investment in the way of training to ensure there is a consistent delivery of quality services. Increasing remote and agile working will reduce venue and building costs. More parenting courses can be offered on line rather than face to face.

It is crazy to close children centres, the poorer children will suffer

It is essential people are given opportunities to use these services as it helps them to create stable and varied lifestyles for themselves, and their kids' welfare.

It is essential that these services are kept open for all. Even if the most vulnerable have some access to support, there will be families who are less supported and will increase your costs in the long-term through increased need for social services. Independent of income, all new parents need access to the interactive support service of the children's centres.

It is the worst solution to take something away from the children. Especially from the most vulnerable ones. Children's centres give those children a good start in their lives.

It may have been better to not put all these services together. Perhaps Early Help and FSCC could have been combined as a more streamline offer targeted offer but losing all universal services and early help for emerging needs is a big blow to Luton families. It will be impactful for families, children will have less opportunity to fulfil their early development and later attainment and organisations locally will not be able to pick up all the extra work.

It seems sensible to try and keep the centres with the most options for delivery of services (is location/ size of rooms)

It seems you are closing them all. Why not keep the larger venues so people can travel over from different parts of Luton. To lose everything at all centres is awful

It would be a shame to lose the multiple locations. I think it may be preferable to have fewer/less frequent sessions across multiple locations than cutting them entirely. I believe reducing the locations will result in a false economy of people not using the services because they cannot physically access them. If centres must be closed, how will the council compensate those who now have to pay to travel for access to these resources?

It would be great if they didn't take the services away completely and continued to have a reduced service. I believe the community needs this. Perhaps close the smaller centres with less capacity and focus on particular areas which would cover different neighbourhoods in the area. I personally found Leagrave centre to be one of the best centres in terms of size and resources. Although I have found Pastures Way Health Clinic so useful and conveniently local the centre is smaller and therefore I would happily travel to Leagrave for example, to a bigger centre to access the same activity to save on the costs of running Pastures Way.

It's devastating that these facilities are being reduced/removed. Many families have struggled through lockdown and now to be taking away what could be their only interaction with other children and families is going to have such a negative impact on wellbeing and mental health. I feel it is so incredibly important for all fly start centres to remain and provide the support and programmes offered before Covid

It's not science! Re open them! it doesn't cost shit loads, your xxxx airport does.

Join forces with schools/places of worship etc. Negotiate rates, appeal to peoples better natures, ask for funding from local businesses - we have a football club... speak with them see how they can help. Don't just get rid of something! Speak with other councils, central Bedfordshire run lots of free activities for parents - find out how they do it or join forces!! After all we are in Bedfordshire!

Just keep them all open. It helps the local families.

Just keep them open please

Just keep them open please

Just keep them open please.

Just keep them open please.

Just keep what is already there for the community - they are well attended, loved and appreciated.

Just please do not close them. They are important to all of use.

Just that it's an utter disgrace that you can close the services down to all parents everyone has their own issues and problems and these places are their safe haven when they are worried or scared about what to do. Development checks, weigh ins, breastfeeding help! Health visitors! I have seen one once and my daughter is over 2 now! I got completely forgotten about and suffered because of it!

Keep all services in areas with high deprivation. Combine services in more affluent areas of Luton.

Keep all the centres open - they are a lifeline to many.

Keep at least 1 centre in each section open. It might be harder to travel to but not impossible and at least would be an option.

Keep Beech Hill open

Keep busy ones open.

Keep centres open

Keep centres open please

Keep children centres as urgently needed for children, parents and those with less money. Take away from the rich, not the poor.

Keep children's centres open to provide the help people need. You mention partners but they are ALREADY TO BUSY TO help.

Keep English class

Keep localised centres for invaluable support for local families.

Keep more busy centres open.

Keep one centre open in each area. Esp stopsley. Don't want to go into town centre.

Keep ones in Central places (free parking and on bus routes) so they can be accessible for all

Keep open

Keep open

Keep open

Keep open centres

Keep open they are so valuable help all and help pick up/ help safeguard vulnerable children help tips advice support confidence boost to mums. So many positives can't think of any negatives Luton is a deprived town and will only need MORE help not less

Keep play sessions, keep pregnancy support (even if partly taken over by local NHS), keep family workers for most vulnerable and allow others apply for it if they feel they will need it and significantly benefiting from it.

Keep some Children's Centres they are a valuable service to the community. They help give young children the best start in life and support children's development.

Keep stay and play, messy play and all parenting courses and activities.

Keep Stopsley Baptist church. It is a great site with loads of great facilities. The staff are all amazing.

Keep the centres

Keep the centres as they are. it is generally known that investments in children from birth to adulthood is less onerous on the public finances than having to spend more on the NHS and probation/prison services caused by ill-health and poor upbringing.

Keep the centres close to marsh farm and hock well ring open. These are the most in need areas of child poverty.

Keep the centres open as it is cheaper than social work

Keep the centres open but with part time staff. Children's centres are essential due to Luton being in a high poverty area.

Keep the centres open please

Keep the centres open!

Keep the centres open.

Keep the centres open. They are important for the families in Luton

Keep the children's centres open. If anything, increase classes and invest in the community by providing grass roots services to people to promote their health and wellbeing.

Keep the children's centre!! Get parents and families involved teens if necessary educate and qualify people to keep those services available

Keep the Children's Centre. Do not close Children's Centre easy for me to get there with children.

KEEP THE CHILDREN'S CENTRES! Without them not only will it take longer for children to become socially comfortable & confident in themselves but it will take much longer to get an understanding and a grasp of the different skills they need in life. It will also take away the time that parents have to deal with a number of things during the time that their children are receiving professional help and guidance FOR FREE! Not all parents are able to cater to their child's needs because some just aren't financially able to but the centres provide help with that because once again they are free.

Keep the essentials services but things like baby massage etc are not so important.

Keep the ones in high poverty area open, ones next to schools. Ones that are accessible.

Keep the Redgrave Gardens Children's centre open as it is situated in an area where lots of families benefit from the support they have available there.

Keep them all open! They are valued and needed.

Keep them all!

Keep them open

Keep them open

Keep them open!

Keep them running as usual.

Keeping children centres local to an area gives staff a chance to know the vulnerable families and build relationships. Early intervention could save more in the long run. Is a child's safety or standard of living less important than an airport? LBC needs to consider that.

Keeps children busy Children are happy Parents can have something to do to keep themselves busy

Leave the children's centre alone and try to find another ways of savings - maybe you shouldn't have so many councillors or managers in town hall.

Leave the children's centres alone

Leave the children's centres alone. They provide a big support to people.

Leave them alone, they provide help and support to us.

Like I said in the previous questions. It would definitely be a shame to lose the stay and play sessions. I wouldn't mind paying a little more for the sessions. Also the sessions which the council feel are not being used as much as they would like could be removed. It's difficult in these times, but when there's no choice but for cuts to be made I feel anyone would understand the restricted sessions and that only the absolutely necessary resources will have to be kept open.

Listen to your residents would help

Local people deserve a good service for their council tax. Wiping out children's centres would be the act of an uncaring council.

Local service considerations include: •Consider asking large businesses to make a small contribution to support the community Charge a small fee/donation for some of provisions/sessions•CCS to provide the Universal plus aspects of the HCP i.e. early intervention through a newly commissioned process and service model. This could allow for the retention of Flying start staff and provide an opportunity to develop a co-produced universal services model.

Look at attendance and facilities all offer. I use Redgrave, grasmere and parklea. Do not pull these groups it will have such a bad effect on our babies and families. Inocjdown our babies and toddlers have suffered from not having these experiences, as have our families, and we need them to resume

Look at savings in other areas of the council where this stand does for the future of our children-they are not getting the best chance in life with the experiences they would get whilst attending the CC!!!

Look at the use of each centre. Look at what services were used on a regular basis. Charge a small fee were applicable. Run recycle events for prams, cots and car seats. Have an expert on hand to check car seats for damage if necessary. I have in my possession 5 intact car seats. Pram and cots with mattress with no place to take them but the dump. But a boring and exchange service a bit like a mums car boot sale with a £1 entrance fee. So many mums accumulate kids' stuff with no place to off load them.

Looking at the proposed closures, the area that I live in will have no remaining centres within easy access. You will be isolating an entire community that has a lot of children and young people in it.

Luton is a high poverty area and Flying Start is essential. It should be continued.

Luton is an area of high delinquency of youth. We know these behaviours have their roots in early childhood and by delivering education and advice to parents and working with children and families as a whole, we can manage to avoid potential behavioural problems later in life. No children centre in Luton can be closed without it having a detrimental effect on the life of children. Even the present state is still not enough for Luton needs.

Make some of them run by users or train users - particularly from more vulnerable backgrounds and thus empower them - to run these voluntarily and then employ them to do this when the funds are available again

Make sure you keep central children's centres and ones on very large estates as they are most in demand and the ones that are frequently used. Increase revenue on private hiring if possible but within reason.

Manor centre is a safe place for both the children and parents. It's hard for my children to feel safe but they have a routine and a great relationship with the staff

Many families does not have the mean to travel further away for support. Also children services are vital to flag up vulnerable families for other agencies. Without them these families and children would remain invisible.

May be parents have issue to going in Children centre in mall because of COVID 19

Maybe a few children's centres could be closed and keep only 1 open in each area say 1 in Central, 1 in North, 1 in South etc

Maybe charge a little more for activities?

Maybe don't have something on every day of the week. Maybe have more on certain days. Stopsley Baptise Church is an excellent children's centre with great facilities. You do not have anything in LU2 on the proposal that you are keeping. There should be something in each area code. Do not forget about the average family, we need help and support too.

maybe have a look at the figures to see which ones are popular and closing the quieter ones, keep the ones open in the deprived areas as that is where the most support is ...In the proposal it states you going to work with your partners don't you think their overworked already.....It also states that The proposal is to develop a model of support that encourages families to access and build upon existing family, friends and community networks. That aims to empower people to develop their own solutions and goals wherever possible. What happens if the person is new to the area how are they going to do this they could be moved to the area for emergency accommodation, fleeing domestic violence how can they build on their existing family and community networks as they don't have any?

Maybe look at reducing the amount of venues children's centre's access as I am sure they are not all needed or used to the full capacity, but don't get rid of them completely. Families need somewhere to go.

Maybe only shut the centres that are not being used as much.... again charge parents for using some of its services (I reasonable price)

Maybe plan, structure and run it more like a school system. Those that subscribe to use service are bound to do so and fined if it is not used.

Maybe trying to integrate some of the groups e.g. breastfeeding café, feeding your newborn, baby massage, Take 5 and making them more of a One-Stop Shop

Maybe working with other local charities and churches/mosques to make sure that support is still available somehow.

Maybe you could look at working with the schools and putting the children's services in the schools which are at the heart of the community

Minimal impact to statutory services.

Move some sessions to be run by library staff. Look over numbers of people attending and keep popular sessions running with limited staff.

Must keep some open to teach parents and children, where else could we learn and get help.

My children go to Stay and Play to Beech Hill and Blenheim and they love it there. I go to Beech Hill to learn English. If you close it I don't have where to learn how to speak English. And my children don't play with nice toys.

My family loves Flying Star Central. We can't imagine that you may close it.

My suggestion about the proposed changes is: do not implement them. Value our children, as much as you value the airport.

My understanding is in the past money was given to centres to improve their services. If the centres used the money well they should stay open and provide the services that this community need so much if not then this should be looked at and maybe the centres that money wasn't well spent they could close but closing so many will cause more problems in other areas.

Need children's centres for help

Need groups for send child - do not close children's centre

Needed to help children develop and learn. Keep minimum if two, either side of town

Needed to help children develop and learn; keep minimum of two side of town

No - but please do not close the centres.

No - please do not close them.

No - they all need to be kept open

No all the children's centres in Luton to be kept open. As above for funding.

No but please don't fail the parents and children of Luton

No thank you. Please be sure to read the comments made already as I have answered most of the question you have asked there.

No, if you can't provide something that meets needs don't provide anything. A little bit of this and that never works.

Not everyone has a car in Luton and rely heavily on public transport - if any of the centres are closed, it makes their journey (and often with children) more difficult to access what services/centres are left.

Not particularly - I suppose if closing centres you should consider closing those with the least potential to offer services/lowest attendance rates - but it sounds like you have already done that.

Nurseries attached to schools should be encouraged to run stay and play sessions, private pre-schools should be encouraged.

Nutrition, feeding, antenatal and post-natal are essential to a mother's mental state as well as the overall wellbeing of the child. Losing these would see an increase bill on the council when things "go wrong"

One children's centre is not to be pushed out in favour of another - they all serve their community and it does not make sense to expect new parents to travel across town to access children's centres this would only lead to less people accessing not more.

Our children are often forgotten about. These children are our future and they deserve the best start in life - these classes could provide that for them & who knows what impact it will have on them taking them away. For the parents, some of these classes provide a lifeline in their moment of need, to think about parents who may already have post-natal depression and are unable to seek the help and support they need is a real shame and it's just really sad.

Our money, our needs, our centres, leave them alone

Part-Time Staff Volunteer Staff

People can come to children's centre if they need help. Children's centre help our children to develop properly.

People need somewhere to go for support with a new born. As children get older perhaps the preschools could offer more stay and play for families with children 1 to 3 years with support of the local council.

Perhaps instead of closing as many as they are they should look at simply reducing the centres. Many mothers don't drive so culling as many as they are is just ridiculous

Perhaps rework the map as my nearest children's centre is Stopsley Baptist Church (I live in Wigmore) yet I come under a different branch and my allocated children's centre is within the town centre. Rework the map and then place one established centre within each location. Perhaps keep the substations that have low running costs open but close everything else.

Please check this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/485346/DFE-

RR495_Evaluation_of_children_s_centres_in_England__the_impact_of_children_s_centres.pdf This is a very good answer for the question why council should keep Children's centre open.

Please consider not closing all but if necessary those that aren't serviced well by public transport if families do not have their own transport could be the ones to think about.

Please continue stay and play for children as it helps babies a lot from early age. We do not have any family nearby so my son did not have any other child to play with apart from stay and play. I only came to know about it when he was about 8-9 months of age and it made a huge impact on his behaviour. It is a platform for children unlike the others in the list which are more of the advices for parents. Please continue stay and play if possible.

Please do a surgery for each children's centre and see how many people are willing to attend the health clinics even with covid.

Please do not children's centre, especially Beech Hill.

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Please do not close children's centres. They are far too important to the community to lose

Please do not close flying start children's centres=s

Please do not close the centres.

Please do not close the centres.

Please do not close the centres.

Please do not close the children's centres. They are so important

Please do not close the groups

Please do not close them

Please do not closed

Please do not cut services for young families, especially when so many people are out of work. The most vulnerable should always be most prioritised in public spending

PLEASE DO NOT GET RID OF THESE VALUABLE SERVICES.

Please don't close them all- even if you amalgamate the centres in each area to 2/3 key centres for the location rather than taking them all

Please don't close them! They are such a life line to low income families, they are there for mental support and genuinely make a difference to people's lives! I can't be without them. Don't make me be without them

Please don't close children's centres

Please don't close children's centres. They are important to us. We need them.

Please keep

Please KEEP

Please keep

Please keep a few children centres as it is a real shame if you close them all just to save money.

Please keep at least one, free, face to face service for families in each area of Luton. Somewhere a family could go for a friendly face, a listening ear and someone who'll notice the additional needs.

Please keep flying start going - they are great.

Please keep open

Please keep open

Please keep the centres

Please keep the centres open.

PLEASE KEEP THE CENTRES OPEN. THEY ARE VITAL TO ME AND MY FRIENDS. THEY ARE GREAT PLACES TO MEET UP AND FOR THE CHILDREN TO GET TOGETHER AND PLAY. GREAT FOR MUMS TO MEET OTHER MUMS. GREAT TO MEET UP WITH FLYING START STAFF AS THEY ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CAN POINT PARENTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Please keep the groups and health clinics. So important to parents.

Please keep the stranger's way centre running - it is a very popular with high footfall- almost always fully booked if you don't go early enough!! It has helped my children develop their confidence, playing skills, conversation skills etc as well as increased creative play.

Please keep them open.

Please look into the centres your looking into closing and the areas that it services. If you take it away where is the next nearest. Some people that use them can only walk making the distance further for them to go to is then isolating people if they are unable to get there. Make sure that you spread the open centres evenly around the town not just all in one area of the town. The centre I used the most is Stopsley Baptist Church and I know many parents that have used this centre. It is highly popular and I think closing this centre would have devastating consequences for this area. I kindly ask you to reconsider your decision.

Please not close

Please don't do it.

Please reconsider keeping open

Please see above.

Please see alternative suggestion as costed in Q9. Services could be reduced but maintain targeted support for vulnerable children cost effectively. Central Neighbourhood has operated for 9 years without expensive buildings by hiring community venues by the hour. The relationships built over time would enable this to be expanded inexpensively, to support greater community involvement in the areas that need the most support. I'm aware that discussions with one of the proposed venues in the model has not yet taken place and am unsure if the shared usage of space has been explored or understood.

Please seriously consider how you will keep services accessible to all, not just the most vulnerable

Poorest housing for people with no support i.e. no extended family so I would keep the one in high rise flats

Pop up services across the centres or local buildings on a rota basis so that some services could be accessed by families across Luton.

Put children first

Rather than closing all of the centres, keep one open in Luton so there is still some options available to people and support on offer

Recognise this town has parents who deserve and need these services, they pay council taxes and work and why should they continually miss out. Everything in Luton is always directed to the bottom denominator, it would be nice, if just for once the hard worker, decent people in this town were looked after too.

Redgrave centre serves some of the most vulnerable families. This should remain open

Reduce the service but do not stop ALL universal groups. We need the parenting programmes. Anti-natal care. Stay and play. Baby massage. Why cut these? Early intervention is needed. Luton will be a bad place to live. It's bad enough here already.

Reducing the Flying start time table

Same as above really but I do think some services could be kept running with volunteers who have been trained.

Save centre

Save the children's centre! These children are the future generation of this country and need to give them the best start in life!

Save the children's centres please

Savings from closing some sites could be made but we still need to Children's Centres accessible for those who don't drive.

Sbc is an important hub for families on this side of town. There is nothing else.

Scale down the amount of "universal services" delivered Reduce the number of delivery sites

School premises could be hired out to private providers, e.g. halls used for exercise classes, fields for football clubs. Staff encouraged to work remotely and utilise existing hubs, rather

than rented office space. Own refreshments to be provided at training sessions. More in house training, less brought in.

See above. Please do not close CCs. It's not only devastating for the local community, but staff too, who have invested blood, sweat and tears to help make a real and positive difference to our local families. Knowing that we may not have a job (or one we are suitable for) in the New Year is not a great prospect, and not one we're looking forward to.

See previous

See previous comments on why I strongly believe all children's centres in Luton should remain open and operating as they do now.

See the above.

SELL REDGRAVE GARDENS! It is costing the Council a significant amount of money every single month and no one seems that worried.

Shouldn't close any so much has already gone. What will be left? This town is turning into an empty shell

Smaller budget Keep more delivery sites open Work in partnership better - currently social services do not utilise children's centres effectively

Some centres are based close together, so picking just a couple that's based around Luton that people are still able to get to instead of closing them all

Some could be collared into one. Umbrella sessions rather than multiple similar activities.

Some people are unable to drive/commute so to close all the local children's centres is really going to cut a lot of people off. This will really affect people suffering from post-natal depression and/or needing to escape their homes to get their kids playing and learning If more things could be put on at the local libraries or community centres for example that could help people and be in a learning environment

Something like Baby massage can be researched online. This group for me was useful but only 2 attendees when I went, so run less courses

Sorry if it is rude but how stupid you have to be to close children's centre?!? Their main aim is to support parents and children. If you close them, it will be a significant loss which will impact the lives of many parents and their children. Stay and play sessions were places where parents from different range of background used to socialise and got access to other services.

Stay and Play is really good for my children

Stay and Play sessions play a pivotal role in Children's Centre services. The purpose of the sessions is to offer a high quality provision within a safe, informative, and stimulating environment which is welcoming and supportive to all. Environment, for example the use of treasure baskets, the making of play dough

Stop all airport spend, make all LLAL staff redundant, save the money to keep these services as they are

Stopsley Baptist Church is an ideally located centre serving round green, wigmore and stopsley (all areas able to walk) it's a safe space for new mums and provides huge support to the community

Stopsley Baptist Church is such a hub in a good location for many in that area it would be a sore loss to those who use it.

Stopsley Baptist church is vital to stay as part of the services. The footfall is massive There is a cafe for mums to meet and have that vital help. It takes a village to raise a baby and that village is Stopsley Baptist church and there many classes and volunteers

Stopsley children's centre is a huge and well used hub, also the limbury and town centre ones are very popular. I write this from my heart - as a mother who has suffered with poor perinatal mental health, the centres and various events were a literal lifeline - on the days when I wasn't sure how I would cope - I would always find a kind person to talk to at the children's centres. This is a vital part of the Luton community and you will be doing a disservice to mothers and babies if you close them.

Stopsley children's centre is located in a lovely building and I know many mums that travel here. This offers lots of choices for families to attend various groups and would be a shame for it to close completely. I know the cafe has closed here but there are local shops and now with Costa coffee opening could be a place mums can go after and get some lunch even.

Street lighting, refuse, roads, grass cutting

Supporting our children and young families will build up our community. Reducing provision will increase isolation for these young families who may not then seek out help until the child is of nursery age. Some centres should be kept open, particularly those on the periphery of Luton where there is no easy access to the more central venues eg. Marsh Farm, Stopsley etc, (Travelling on a bus with one or two under 3 year olds is not easy access).As part of the voluntary sector I see that many will come to us and so we need training/equipping to help them as much as we can.

Supporting parents and children's development in the town is a long term investment that will be paid back as these children grow, learn and become bigger parts of the community as they get older. For some parents these groups and sessions are the only interaction with other parents and children they have each week, and the only break they get. Loosing these vital services will have a huge impact on the mental health of parents and development of children.

Terrible Children's Centres closing, what are we going to do? Been very supportive and helped me and my baby. Please do not close the Centres. The Centre helps me and I know where to go when I need support. If all the Centres close where would we go?

Thanks to children's centres the differences between families are reduced because every new born can similar chances of flying/healthy/proper start. The sessions they provide for children help parents to prepare their little ones to school. The helpful staff always watch the children during the sessions and relevant referrals are made if needed. After that we can expect a support from children's centre.

Thanks to English classes I improved my English. When we arrived in England I only could say: Yes, no, thank you and I don't understand. And now my English is much better. Also my sons English is better thanks to Stay and Play sessions. Thanks to these sessions my son was prepared for his nursery.

The aim is for a better place for children by 2040. You must keep these services if that is your goal.

The airport is not the most important. You should think about people. Soon the airport will be working as normal. And when you shut the children's centres, thousands of children and their parents will lose access to different services, fun days etc. It's disgusting what you are trying to do. Leave them open and stop worrying about the airport too much!

The centre in the mall is always closed and has a high rent. Could these services be run from another setting such as whipperley?

The centres are well spread across Luton. The services and classes available are second to none and friends in other areas are constantly saying how lucky we are to have such a good support network of both staff and other mums.

The centres have been a lifeline to me and my friends. Don't know what we'll do without them. Please don't close them down.

The centres need to be walking distance from families as the most vulnerable cannot afford bus fare etc. Especially post-pandemic, many won't want to take new-born's on public transport.

The children centre in Stopsley Baptist church plays an integral role in the community. Without it many families and children will suffer.

The children centres are in areas local to families, closing them will have an impact on attendance as some families may not be able to get to the centre further away.

The children need the centres....OPEN!

The children's centre at Parklee (formerly Cheynes) is fabulous. xxx is worth her weight in gold!

The children's centre in Stopsley provides a safe space for parents and children to learn, develop and socialise. We need to invest in the next generation. Not everyone can afford to pay for NCT. Decent antenatal care and early learning shouldn't only be available for people who can pay for it.

The children's centre that is based at stopsley Baptist church is my local centre and has been a wonderful support to myself and the families I have got to know in this area. Many people can't travel, especially with a baby, and having somewhere local is such a relief and support. Perhaps the services could be scaled down in each area but not eliminated entirely?

The children's centre gives us help. Don't close them

The children's centres are essential for all the families across Luton, not only the most vulnerable ones. They provide a massive support to everyone who needs it.

The Children's centres are interconnected and work in partnership with so many other services, including Voluntary and Community Sector organisations such as ours, I can only comment on the impact that closing the centres could have on the service we provide for the Luton community. The Children's Centre volunteer roles are very varied and always some of the most popular volunteering opportunities with members of the Luton community who are looking to volunteer. We have seen first-hand the positive impact that these opportunities have on the volunteers, service users, centres and staff is extensive. Many volunteers have progressed into work as a direct result of volunteering, some in the Children's centres and others into Council roles. Involving volunteers in the children centres benefits the Luton community by adding capacity to the service, expanding reach, building key relationships

with hard to reach and vulnerable families and members of the community, making links to VCS organisations, sharing personal experiences, information, key messages, support and empathy, enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the Children centres. Children centres provide such a vital and unique service supporting children and families.

The children's centres do incredibly valuable work with families. Thanks to their groups/classes parents have better understanding of their children development. They are some kind of early intervention.

The children's centres in deprived areas like Dallow, Farley, North well etc must be kept open to serve the community

The council are in a difficult position but the blanket closure policy you seem to be proposing is not acceptable. In a worst case scenario possibly half the centres could close but the most popular and largest ones, like Stopsley, should remain open. The amount of people who utilise the services should justify their survival otherwise you are not acting in the best interests of residents. Review attendance levels to see which of the activities are most popular and therefore deserve to be a priority.

The Council can consider the services are that not constantly used and probably cut those down. The Children Centres should not be closed PLEASE.

The council can maybe make cutbacks elsewhere rather than impact heavily on services for young families.

The council could take over the running of the cafe at Stopsley Baptist Church, which provides job opportunities and provides a safe space for parents to meet with their children. Children meeting at the church make friends at an early stage which they can take through to the schools in the area

The council doesn't really know what exactly Children's Centres do. It's not only delivering parenting programmes and universal services. Its co - operating with doctors, health visitors, Citizen Bureau, solicitors, British Red Cross, women institutions and many more. You plan to close something that is really important for lots of families, especially these vulnerable. Shame!

The council should absolutely keep children's centres open for children's and their parents' good mental health, especially after so many months being closed. Children's centres are the places where parents can get a different kinds of trainings, courses. They can socialize with other parents. They can purchase vitamins that are recommended by health visitors and in addition they are cheap. They are places where our children have fun, they socialise with other children, when we can watch them developing in different aspects. Also they are places where you can get help and support from their helpful and kind staff.

The council should definitely keep the children centre! It helps a lot of people and a lot of women after give birth to baby, have developed depression they don't even know, or don't want to be label or talk about, the children centre is another way out for them Helps a lot of family to cope with the changes of having a baby at home Children centre is in the role of avoiding much bigger problems in the later stages

The council should keep children's centres. This is because closing the children's centres is not the solution. - we are a safe place- we build up trust and relationships with parents- we provide early intervention- we give parents and children the opportunity to play and learn together- we provide 1:1 support- we provide support with housing and finances, immigration status, breastfeeding support- we provide a solicitor- thanks to us parents can watch their

children development- thanks to our sessions children have better preparation for nursery- thanks to our sessions parents can socialise (some of mums can avoid depression or postnatal depression)- we provide speech and language therapist in some of our sessions- we provide different parenting programmes for the most vulnerable families or those who want to gain some more knowledge about parenting/parental problems or those who want to feel more confident as a parent- we are the only places where your child can use different types of toys for just £1- we provide First Aid courses- we provide a very popular Baby Massage course - we organize fun days with barbecue and entertainer during summer and winter holidays and half terms- we work with health visitors/schools/nurseries/solicitor/MASH/social care/women's aid- we translate documents/interpretate into different languages- during covid 19 we helped health visitors to make 6-8 weeks check calls - we help schools to upload EHC plans and Covid 19 risk assessments for Capita system

The council should keep Children's Centres (especially the central one)! We love attending the children's groups (Stay and Play), we love the central staff who is very kind and helpful and always have good advices when we need them.

The Council should keep the Children's Centres they support the community who need help. The proposed service will not do that.

The council should keep the proposed changes because children's centres support community work and education and social work for children and family. Group work can be alternative options and reduces the time and save money.

The council should keep at least one of the central children centres venues, as these were the busiest!

The current service needs to remain in its current form at the very least

The current timetable is brilliant as it offers a variety of sessions and classes. Would you consider continuing the type of classes but on a smaller scale - for example combining Stay and Play with Take 5 Cafe. Or offering less sessions per week or reduce the number of locations. All parents and children still need access to these services a reduction rather than removal would help

The current timetable is varied and extensive which is a luxury in these economic times. You could consider reducing the activities and locations rather than removing all of them. Classes and groups of a similar nature could be combined and the number of sessions reduced for the week. This would reduce costs but allow vital universal services to continue

The long term cost will be immense and we all end up paying in the long run.

The mall one should be kept open that is in the heart of Luton and everyone can get into the centre to use this one.

The Manor centre in the south area is not easily accessed by all in this area. Having somewhere more central such as the Mall will enable all to access. Again, those that need the help most, those in poverty or isolated will be the ones to miss out if unable to access easily.

The money raised from the sale of Luton Airport should be used to fund all of the children's centres.

The people who currently doing these job's, some of these people are going to be losing their job, which they have all worked hard for and they all enjoy their role..

The popularity of centres and courses or facilities run there. Perhaps keeping the centres in the areas where there are the most vulnerable children and families in need of support.

The proposals are short term and do not consider the long term impact of the lack of early intervention in Luton when some areas have 50% of children living in poverty

The stopsley Baptist church is a fantastic venue and resource. Lovely big space and a really social atmosphere. It really helps having the cafe there as it means you can sit with other mums after a class and actually talk and build friendships over a tea and chat, rather than just leaving straight after a class. If you could only save one venue I would choose this one

The suggestion above as there are nurseries attached to a family room that were being used by children centres. I think now if they have family workers attached to these nurseries they can support the most vulnerable families in their own local areas without any unnecessary travel to other. Therefore families are more likely to access these vital services to protect themselves as well as their children.

The support the families receive is vital as these families need to have somewhere to go and be shown how to interact with their children

There are many qualified staff, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience that has been a huge investment for LBC and to let all of those highly professional people go is a waste of resources and personnel utilise what they have to still be able to reach out to the whole of Luton, with less sites and working with community groups and support them with professionals we are within Luton

There are so many children's centres. All are easily accessible by public transport or other means- I would suggest considering reducing to one per area with only one or two activities per week rather than each having a full roster of activities. The activities have been key to my personal support and I know too many others. More should be considered to keep this going.

There are some children centres which are on one road and then the next which could be merged. There is no need to cancel any services.

There is a lot of parents out there who need help or may be struggling, like myself. I went and used these services to help me give a better understanding on how to raise my child being a first time mum and having limited family here. I don't think it's fair that all children services should close there should be another alternative given to us parents and families.

There is no other place where we can learn English with so cheap and only in women classes.

There is no point in suggesting anything as LBC simply want to maintain Directors posts over anything else and keep that airport running at all costs! The way you have treated staff is abhorrent and you should be ashamed of yourselves. You are unprofessional and your lack of empathy leaves me speechless.

There is too many reasons to describe why you should keep Children's Centres. It would have to be an essay. It think you should think twice or even a 100 times before you decide to close children' centre. People love Flying Start!

There needs to be at least one centre open in the town that has a daily drop in clinic as well as breastfeeding/antenatal classes still Running and the option of a stay and play cafe perhaps somewhere else at a cheaper venue (church hall?). Ask for the stay and play to be run by volunteers from the church. Keeping one or two centres open to support parents is

needed rather than taking it all away and only Providing it for vulnerable. Will be the cause of a lot of issues down the line if people are not supported and health issues with children missed. Breastfeeding rates in the town will drop.

There needs to be something for the babies and toddlers.

There needs to be that option for parents with young children/babies, done parents don't drive and having groups nearby are essential.

There seems little understanding of which centres and services are worth keeping, look at the numbers, listen to the parents and keep the main centres open.

There should be at least one children's centre within each area of Luton so people can walk to their local centre.

There was no option at the beginning for if a child was currently under assessment for SEND. Another oversight which could lead to some families being overlooked.

These centres are life savers for many parents taking that away will further damage the social fabric of those coming from underprivileged communities , as they will have no place to go to.

These centres can be accessed by local communities who are not able to travel. Give the centre staff and local business opportunities to put forward alternative ideas.

These children's centres are so important I wouldn't have been able to cope without the advice and friendliness of the staff at these centres. I wouldn't mind paying more money for each session if needed be. The Leagrave children centre and the staff are amazing I would hate to see them close or the sessions not on anymore.

These services which are so vital for families and especially the most vulnerable, people living in multi-generational households who don't always have the freedom and support they need, non-English speakers, people in flats with no outdoor space all winter., people who can't drive

They are a lifeline for new mothers and it would be such a shame to lose this amazing service

They are ALL essential

They are on essential services, needed by public

They are pinnacle point to not only support parents and kids but a point of a better mental health by ridding loneliness and opening fields of exposure for kids and parents of all creeds at early ages.

They are safe, clean spaces for children to socialise learn and grow which new experiences that many parents cannot offer without the support.

They are the places where we can find help. The staff is really kind and helpful. We can do different classes there.

They are very important for children 0-5 and their families. They provide a proper support to families. Beginning with pregnancy classes, midwifery through selling vitamins and parental programmes.

They are vital to support parents, particularly first time ones. All the centres are well placed to target their intended footfall. Keep them open, to continue supporting parents and small

children, so they meet early years learning targets. Also encourages socialising of children and parents. Allows children's centre staff to identify vulnerable families and offer signposts to additional support.

They could cut down some of the clubs, but not all of them!

They have already been cut to a hub and spoke model... could they be reduced further rather than lost?? Could there be a flying start team at one base that could deliver services in an alternative way?

They have been a lifeline for me - so please do not take this opportunity away from vulnerable families.

They need to be more spread out easier to access with bus route (refundable cost to parents)

They should all be closed immediately so that the most disadvantaged are left with no support and no hope. That way their life chances reduce dramatically and they can become poor adults who will stay in poverty their entire life.

They should all stay open so local families can reach them easily. By closing some, it will make it more difficult for people to get there - perhaps more than 1 bus, and if having children with them, it will be off-putting.

They should keep flying start.

They should not close them, may be limit a few sessions but keep them running.

They should not even go there, just give disabled people some dignity

They should stay open - it is something that you take away from vulnerable children and their parents. Children's Centres have experienced staff there that can speak with them and expect help if needed as well as provide the right referral for them.

They should stay open because they help children and families.

They should stay opened. They are important for our little ones.

They shouldn't close any

They shouldn't close children's centre because they are so helpful organisation. I am a young parent and they helped me so much while I was pregnant. They helped me more than my family.

This centre is focal and centre point. So those within 5 miles radius or a little more don't need to remain. Commuting is much simpler now and it will be accessible to all. If it includes all the top facilities then people will. Come from afar without complaining. But it has to be worth it.

This idea punishes the young and vulnerable. They didn't cause these problems. They shouldn't have to suffer. It's a despicable decision made by people who have no idea

This is a short-sighted, knee-jerk reaction from the council. Luton's most vulnerable will suffer most. This will bring future problems with drugs, crime and disintegrating families and the cost to deal with that, will be far more than the savings made.

This is the only place where I can learn English.

This is what children's centres gave me:- antenatal checks with midwife/pregnancy clubs- breast feeding support- safe at home - installing a free equipment to avoid accidents at home- baby massage- baby friendly environment- starting solids workshop- book starts for my little one- healthy vitamins (CHEAP!!!)- Opportunity to see a health visitor- managing stress- information about healthy food/living- housing advice and support and many more! People who decided to make changes don't realise how important the children's centre are. When they say children's centre or Flying Start, they only think about Stay and Play (which in fact is one of the most attended groups). Children's centre work close with health visitors, speech therapists, Citizen Advice, schools, nurseries, midwives, firemen, English teachers, music teachers, idva, MASH, wome's aid, Luton Foodbank.

This will be taking away opportunities for young or unprepared parents trying to get support to look after their children the best they can. Some families rely on these services to survive.

Those children's centres serving the most deprived areas of Luton should remain, those parents may not be able to travel to other services and need something local where they can seek support.

Those in impoverished areas should remain open and where Luton is concerned that's probably the vast majority of them.

Three centres are needed, one near the town centre and other two across town in the most needy areas.

To reiterate what I've already said, children's centres that operate efficiently - such as the Beech Hill Centre, must be allowed to continue their vital work in the Bury Park community. This might mean reducing headcount to focus in essential staff and essential services. Central control by the council has meant that sensible staff numbers and appropriate cost allocations have hampered the good work of the centre and made it appear to be more costly than necessary.

Try and keep as much of the children's centres as you can please. So kids have somewhere they can play and interact with other children. If all the park playgrounds, play areas and baby groups are closed. What is going to happen to our kid's development?!

Use facilities that are already open and cheaper to hire in the community

Use the schools during term time. They're already open, have halls etc that could be used whilst children and I'm. Classrooms. . Use churches

Want Children's Centre because it helps with isolation and children who are suppressed. Do not get rid of Children's Centres they help families, they are absolutely necessary to the families.

We can find support every day. Our children can play with other children and we can observe their development and physical skills. A speech and language therapist helped my son during one of the Stay and Play sessions.

We have a place where we can learn English and we can leave our children with Children's Centre staff.

We love children's centre. We learn English here. They help us when we have problems.

We need children's centres, we get so much support from them

We need children's centres. Families can receive help while their needs are still low, not have to wait until they have a greater need, making children suffer unnecessarily.

We need children's centres. They are welcome places that catch problems from birth.

We need our local children's centres, please don't close them! They always help us when we need any help or support. We don't want to travel far away to get the support we need.

We should consider keeping at least one FSCC building in each of the five neighbourhoods in Luton. The current proposal offers no access to venues for families who live in the North and East of Luton. Building to be considered for keeping open in addition to those in the consultation - Limbury, Dallow, The Mall (which is heavily used and very accessible in the town centre)

We think that reduced numbers of centres might work UT they need to keep running the activities. These are vital to community.

We want council staff to provide playgroups, not the community. Children's centres have fully qualified and experience staff who we know.

We want to learn English at Beech Hill Children's Centre. We have a nice teacher and we don't have to pay a lot. Children's centre always help us.

We want to learn English with xxxx at Beech Hill

We won't have possibility to buy a cheap Healthy Start vitamins. Our children will lose access to all the Stay and Play groups and lovely fun days organised by Children's Centre during winter or summer holidays. Parents will lose access to plenty service.

Well they are a lot of kids in Luton specially ob dsllow area. If council will rent a big room. Office as in dalow community centre and organise something for the kids will be grate also buy a trampoline for in or outdoor to keep the kids enttrateined..Another idea is to find volunteer on learning kids every day different language ex Monday French tue Latin...etc also

Well, actually I don't understand why you want to close children's centres. According to your consultation document/leaflet the changes you proposed will not change anything apart from losing jobs by children's centre staff. The children's centre do absolutely everything the same/ provide the same services as the proposed changes. So what's the difference? Why do you want to change something that is working well? There is no difference between what you propose and what the children's centres are doing now (before Covid 19). The only change is, as I mentioned before, losing jobs by hundreds of experienced, friendly staff that some of the parents built relationships with.

What else is there for children in this town? Children deserve more from birth. Parents deserve the opportunity to spend time with people qualified to teach them about things like healthy eating and breast feeding. These services offer early intervention in many situations.

What other cuts are being made across the council or are only women and children's facilities being affected? I see this approach usually happens as women's services are considered less important, is our council sexist? Should women be paying less taxes? Asking us which children's centre should close is ridiculous, any facility I don't use would surely benefit others. Perhaps monitoring which sites are busiest compared to others and speaking to the users of those facilities should give you better insight.

What will you do when there is a serious safeguarding issue/review that the council allowed a child to suffer because of cuts?

When I moved to Luton from London I don't know anyone, I didn't have any friends. I had a 3 years old son and I was pregnant. My midwife told me about pregnancy classes/antenatal classes which I started to join. It was the best time in my life. I met new mums/friends, shared my issues with lovely children's centre staff. I started to take my son to Stay and Play groups and I noticed that my son became happier, he became slimmer as well (we had problems with his weight) because he was more physically active since we started attending Stay and Play. I could watch how his motor skills developing. I truly can say that Children's Centre changed my life. And I believe there are many more parents like me, who feel socially isolated and they and their children would benefit so much from children's centres.

When you say children's centre, most people think about Stay and Play sessions which they can attend. In fact children's centre is an institution that help parents with mental health issues, children living in poor housing, families struggling with money or parents whose own childhood experiences affect their parenting. For me Children's centre means:- referrals to different institutions,- meeting a solicitor- meeting a benefit advisor- purchasing Healthy Start vitamins- attending Stay and Play session where I can meet speech and language therapist- voucher for Food Bank- attending Freedom Programme (domestic abuse programme)

Why close vital services that educate parents and enable good parenting skills. These can help prevent further resources being used when the children enter the education system. Early years is where resources should be focussed on to ensure children are given every opportunity to have an equal start to their peers. Not all parents are equipped or able to adapt to the impending arrival/arrival of a child. These individuals need all the support at this vulnerable time to build good foundations for early year's development. This will make huge savings in the long run.

Why it should keep them? Because it's children service and children shouldn't be involved in this whole situation. There are many other ways to save money without reducing or closing children services.

Why not have a central location for a children's centre to run from with the same services and support on offer to all parents not just vulnerable parents. We all need help and support at times.

Why you are taking something important from poor children?

Without the children's centre we will find the preschool won't be as important and parents may not want to register with us, thus we will struggle.....

Without the help of The Children Centres, I would not have been able to overcome my depression. Families that go through different types of problems: a divorce, a health or specific economic problem. These families depend on these centres.

Would it be possible to keep some of the groups going but on a smaller scale, perhaps with a booking system? They are one of the only ways for new mums to meet each other. As groups have been cancelled over the last few months due to covid-19 I have found my first couple of months as a new mum quite isolating and challenging. Although there are still phone help lines available, it is not the same as sitting down with someone and talking about things casually over a cup of tea. This low key support is exactly what you find at all of the flying start groups because you're with other people in the same situation as you, as well as staff members who have seen it all before. Whilst they may not be lucrative, they are

invaluable for supporting parental mental health. As a first time mum I am desperate for these groups to restart post Covid, and the thought of them closing permanently if partner organisations cannot facilitate them is heart-breaking. I am lucky to have a large support network around me but for many parents these activities are their only support networks.

Would like to see a minimum of four sites left open to cover central, south, west and north Luton so families are able to access support, information and collect eg Healthy Start vitamins

Yes - I'm begging you to keep the centres open. They are vital to the community.

YES, do not close them completely down- they exist for a reason. These families will be overlooked. Merge services but not completely cease them. Where's the sensibility in that? Surely you can foresee the problems that will rise from such decisions? Honestly, revisit the proposal again and listen to the voices of Luton. The local residents know Luton more than any one that sits in an office and lives elsewhere.

Yes, it is crazy to close centres because it means the most vulnerable will suffer and the damage felt for the next generation. Remember, the first 2-3 years of a child's life are the most important for their development and Adverse Childhood Experiences will increase for under 3's if centres close. In 20 years' time when we want to have no-one in poverty in Luton, these under 3's will be adults. If they are denied crucial support in their first 3 most important years, how able and skilled will these future adults be in Luton? Also, all centres in deprived wards MUST remain open for these under 3's to have any chance in life

Yes, use cash reserves to keep all centres open as post covid there will be a tsunami of vulnerable children to help

Yes, use more of the cash reserves, stop giving money to an airport that does not need to expand as fast as the council wants and sell a share in the airport or use it to raise cash

Yes. Dallow Children's Centre is proposed to close which is madness as it sits in one of the poorest boroughs in Luton, East of England and indeed England. Our staff see every day what poverty looks like and we work tirelessly to combat it whilst supporting the parents. Also, Beech Hill is a proposed site but it is not suitable for people with disabilities?

Yes: Both the council and the airport have huge cash reserves for a rainy day. Well, it isn't raining, it is a monsoon right now! Closing Children's Centres in Luton during a global pandemic which will affect the most disadvantaged is both immoral and idiotic. Any councillor who truly believes this decision will help the children of Luton, help vulnerable families, help reduce costs to the council long term or help us eradicate poverty in Luton by 2040 should resign with immediate effect! And if you don't believe that then why have you proposed this when there are other options available?

You are literally robbing the next generation of opportunities and a wonderful network of support. Clearly prioritising the airport over our children. It's an absolute disgrace. The directors at LBC should be sacked for their sheer incompetence. Putting all our funding eggs, into one basket eg airport. So the airport is going to be bailed out but our Under5s are being robbed.

You are taking away children's childhood and a normal start to life.

You are taking away from me and my daughter the best we can have was so happy when we attended Stay and Play and my daughter was even happier

You have an established system in Luton which has served the population well. I do not envy your choices as resources shrink. Based on past experience, I would strongly urge you to keep as much as you can, in terms of experienced staff, fully equipped and functioning settings at local level, so that families can access whatever services remain. If reductions require a complete re-think and effectively a re-designing of services, then try to use the partner agencies with good quality contact with communities to see what can be provided, where, and by whom. Keeping communication open between all agencies involved will be challenging but vital. Local communities are also key: they can help in identifying their own needs.

You have put us in this mess - just a pity you can't get us out of it.

You have to ensure that all areas of Luton have accessible children's centres and that there is representation.

You made a commitment to end childhood poverty - you cannot u turn on this commitment as a labour council you should be ashamed you are proposing these cuts and hiding behind fighting for what is right!

You need to keep services or children will suffer, town will suffer, families will suffer

You need universal services to identify the needs?

You really need four centres across town to provide the level of support needed. The teaching and support currently available is very important to families to help continued development of the children.

You said you believe that all children deserve to reach their full potential and have a good quality of life. Well, this won't be possible if you close children's centre. They focus on the youngest children (0-5) but they also help families with the older children too. I believe we need them. The integrated service will have so many families to support that it won't be able to focus on the little ones. Besides we have known children's centre for such a long time so that we used to know them and we are not anonymous for them. They treat as individually.

You should definitely keep the baby clinic in the mall as that is where most people go to get their child weighed and do activities with their child and meet new friends

You should keep the centres because without them the disadvantaged children will be worse off. Closures will lead to increased mental health issues, entrenched poverty, rise in serious cases and more costs to the council long term

You should not be closing any centres .ask for additional funding from central government

You shouldn't close any of them.

You shouldn't close institution that we can attend not only to have fun with our little ones and that offer such a huge support for families from Luton (and not only from Luton)!

You shouldn't close services which are well needed, especially in Luton, when we have so many deprived areas. Integrated services will not be able to help and support to such a number of families that children's centre help to.

You will be creating a rod for your own back by closing these centres & therefore creating a worse inter community harmony

You will be making families more vulnerable by making cut backs and causing huger issues for these families in the future

Your Luton 2040 is about the children. Does it really have anything to do with children if you want to close children's centres? On the other hand why would you like to close them if you put so much money and effort into them? That is something I can't understand.

Your proposal is very bad for the families and their children. It will never work proper. There will be more and more vulnerable families and you will not know about them. Thanks to children's centres we find out about them very early.