Reshaping services to

children and families

Frequent Queries Answered

1. As you’ve already put forward creating

12 hubs are you really prepared to

listen to new ideas and comments made

through the consultation process?

At this stage we are simply making

proposals. We’ve identified 12 family hubs

based on our research into the areas of the

county which have the greatest need and

the places where we think most people will

use them and get the greatest benefit. But

we are hoping this consultation will give us

a clearer idea about where people think the

hubs would work best before we make a

final decision.

2. Does that mean those centres which do

not become hubs will close?

Any centres which do not become hubs -

and we have not made any final decisions

on where these will be yet - could carry

on if schools, communities and early years

providers want to step in and get involved.

While we can no longer afford to fund and

maintain buildings, we welcome any

good ideas that could see these buildings

used to provide services in different

ways. But this depend on communities

and organisations stepping into help- as

they did with our libraries in some places

across the county.

3. How will you ensure that safeguarding

will not be compromised through

multi use of the building of people

of different ages and a reliance on

volunteers?

Safeguarding will always be front and

centre of the decisions we make about

our services for children and families and

we will never compromise on this priority.

We will ensure that services are delivered

in a safe way, wherever they are based. In

terms of volunteers we want to build

on the work that is already being done

by children’s centres but we will ensure

that arrangements are in place to ensure

that quality recruitment, supervision and

support is provided. We will also make

sure that volunteering is appropriate. This

approach will not replace services that

require professionals.

4. Can you assure me that facilities for

early years will not be lost through

dilution?

We are absolutely committed to giving

children the best start in life. Our

proposals seek to enhance and build

on the solid foundation of early years

provision whilst recognising that the

majority of our families who need help

also have children who are over five years

old so by providing services to the entire

family we can offer support that works

better for families and the professionals

who support them.

5. The restructure is taking place in order

to save money, what will be done with

the money that is being saved?

This money will no longer be available

to us due to reductions in government

grant funding which affects all councils.

Warwickshire County Council has to make

savings of £67 million by 2020. Children

and Families has to find £10millon to

contribute to this overall saving. Of this,

the children’s centres budget has to be

cut by £1.12 million, reducing the overall

budget for children’s centres to £3.7

million a year. As we will be operating with

less resource we need consider how this

budget is best invested.

6. I rely on support from the perinatal

mental health services provided by

the facility, how will this be affected?

The new model will seek to strengthen

our links with health professionals and

partners and we will ensure that services

are enhanced through health services

that extend beyond the current 0 to 5

age range to include emotional wellbeing

support for families as a whole.

7. Is it the case that when the pilot

community hubs begin in September,

family support workers based in

children’s centres will move into family

hubs and that everyone in centres that

might close will lose their jobs?

Community hubs will piloted for at least

six months between September and

March 2018. No decisions have yet been

taken about staff and services and where

people might be based at this stage.

8. Can you give a clearer outline of the

services that will be delivered through

the hubs or satellite sites so we can

understand this model better?

We don’t know exactly what this will look

like as we haven’t finalised our proposals

yet. This is why we need your feedback

and views before we move to final plans

and make decisions. We need you to help

shape the proposals so we understand

more about the services you want and

need in your area. The consultation

gives you the opportunity to shape the

future of children services so it is really

important you have your say.