

Warwickshire Children

Putting children at the heart of all we do.

Have your say: Reshaping Services for Children and Families

Warwickshire County Council is proposing new ways to offer services and support to children and their families, and in particular children under 5.

If you use, or have an interest in these services, we want to know what you think of our ideas and invite you to take part in our public consultation.

This leaflet tells you more about the proposals.

From 29 June 2017 – 11 September 2017 share your views online at warwickshire.gov.uk/ask



What is this consultation about?

The council is proposing changes to how services are provided to local children and their families by remodelling its Children's Centres and considering different ways to make sure families who use them get the right support for the right issue at the right time.

Warwickshire County Council puts children at the heart of all we do.

We want to make sure children have the best possible start in life and we are committed to working with families, services and communities, directing people toward easy to access support based on need in order to keep children safe, healthy and happy.

What are Children's Centres?

Children's Centres offer a range of family services to parents, prospective parents and young children (0–5) across Warwickshire. Services include childcare, early years learning and school readiness, parenting support, health and wellbeing advice and employment, finance and adult education support.

Under the 2006 Childcare Act Warwickshire County Council must ensure the sufficient provision of Children's Centres in its area to meet the support needs of all local parents and carers, prospective parents and young children.

There are currently 39 Children's Centres in Warwickshire, which operate in groups to offer a mix of services at different sites.

Proposal for you to consider

Conversion of 12 Children's Centres into Family Hubs.

Of the 39 Children's Centres, it is proposed we will convert 12 into Family Hubs in areas of greatest need and where targeted support would be most beneficial. The Family Hub will be a place where children and families can access a range of services for 0–19 year olds (up to 25 years for children with disabilities). In three of these hubs across the county, we propose exploring whether these services can be delivered alongside wider services to families and adults through proposed Community Hubs.

It is intended that Family Hubs will deliver a wide range of services to children, young people, families and adults. Underpinning the service delivery are the key principles of safeguarding and providing the right support, for the right issue, at the right time.

We will explore any opportunities within the local community and providers to continue to offer services at the remaining 27 centres. In doing this we will have to consider the reduced resources available and the future suitability of each centre based on access, location and whether there are alternative community based venues nearby. The aim is to help communities thrive with services which fit the needs of those living there. We believe that what is of paramount importance is ensuring that all our families in need have access to family support, wherever they live in the county. In places where the Children's Centres may not continue in their current buildings, we remain committed to retaining and building up the family support service.



Where will the Family Hubs be located?

12 Family Hubs in Warwickshire to be located as follows:

North Warwickshire Borough:

Retain Atherstone as Family Hub

Centres subject to reassessment including alternative options and potential closure: Coleshill, Kingsbury, and Polesworth

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough:

Retain Camp Hill, St Michael's, Stockingford, Abbey as Family Hubs

Centres subject to reassessment including alternative options and potential closure: Bulkington, Ladybrook, Park Lane, Rainbow, Riversley

Rugby Borough:

Retain Boughton Leigh, Claremont and Oakfield as Family Hubs

Centres subject to reassessment including alternative options and potential closure: Cawston and Dunchurch, Hillmorton, Long Lawford, Newbold, Wolston

Stratford District:

Retain Alcester as Family Hub

Centres subject to reassessment including alternative options and potential closure: Badger Valley (Shipston), Clopton, Lighthorne Heath, Southam, Stratford, Studley and Wellies (Wellsbourne)

Warwick District:

Retain Lillington, Sydenham and Westgate

Centres subject to reassessment including alternative options and potential closure: Kenilworth, Kingsway, Newburgh, St Johns, Warwick, Whitnash

Proposed Service Offer from family hubs

- Early learning
- Stay and Play
- Library led activities
- Peer support to parents and carers
- School readiness programmes
- Speech, language, and communication advice and support
- Access to family information.

Parental support and education

- Attachment support programmes
- Parenting courses
- Family support and advice
- Mediation/relationship support
- Access to support for families with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND).

Financial Wellbeing

- Understanding finances/access to welfare
- Debt advice
- Income maximisation and budgeting
- Support into employment (including adult education)
- Housing advice.

Health and Wellbeing

- Services delivered by midwifery, health visiting, Family Nurse Partnership, School Health and Wellbeing Service
- Health and wellbeing services for advice on a range of issues such as healthy eating, child development, breastfeeding, oral health, safety, exercise, emotional wellbeing
- Access to speech and language therapy
- Access to brief interventions for low mood/loneliness
- Access to mental health support for children and adults.



Proposed range of service

Services available could include helping children be ready for school, positive parenting and child relationships, family support, speech, language and communication help, advice from health professionals such as midwives and health visitors, emotional health and wellbeing support and financial, education, employment and housing support.

The new hubs need to focus on the effective delivery of services to meet current and future need rather than the physical place those services have historically been delivered from. How services have been delivered in the past does not necessarily suit how people want services delivered in the future. For example, the new offer could make best use of online information and support, to help people find answers and solutions for themselves, reducing the time spent waiting for someone else to provide the information. This is part of a wider plan of changes to help with greater independence and choice of how to access services.

A 'whole family' integrated approach

They will offer a range of multi-agency services offering a 'whole family' view of problem solving so families are able to get all the help they need with a range of issues, rather than visiting lots of different places to tell their story lots of times. The new approach could work closely with proposed Community Hubs whose services may be used by anyone of any age. Locating multiple services in one location reduces this duplication and increases the ability of these services to offer joined up support.

The redesign of 0-5 services provides an opportunity to create an integrated Family Support Worker service. This service would provide intensive support to families in a way that means they receive joined up help more quickly to help prevent issues from getting more serious. There would be a focus on the 0-2 year olds, because the first 1001 days are an important time to receive early help and make the most difference, whilst understanding that 0-5s are part of wider families who may be in need of support and who would like to access services which are located all in the same place

Accessibility of venues

Increasingly, across the country, services are being delivered in different and more flexible ways through the use of 'hub and spoke' models. This is where some services are delivered from a central 'hub' with mobile outreach services delivered from 'spokes', such as community buildings where activities for children and families are already being delivered. People want services delivered from places which are more readily accessible to fit in with their busy lives. The new way focuses on services, not buildings. This means more resources can be spent on the actual people helping families, rather than the buildings where they have previously been based.

Community based

The creation of 12 Family Hubs may mean the remaining 27 Children's Centres become 'spokes' or outreach sites. This consultation aims to understand which services are most valued by children and families and how they want to access these services. This may mean the existing Children's Centres do not meet current and future needs and those which don't will cease to be funded by the Council so the money can be better spent on alternative provision which is able to meet children and families' needs. With less money it is so important we target our remaining resources where they are most needed.

Where the existing Children's Centres may work as outreach sites, there will need to be conversations with the community based on the available funding and an understanding of whether there is capacity from the community (or an alternative provider) to take responsibility for the buildings and deliver the services that are wanted by children and families in the area. The proposed delivery model aims to provide a 'universal offer', where people could access information, advice and also where certain universal services are available. This could be delivered from a number of sites such as libraries or other community buildings. The services will promote self-help, independence and resilience, with assistance for those who may be in need of greater support. This means fewer buildings, better quality services, and a broader range of services.

Why are changes being proposed?

The county council has a challenging savings target because of the national finance settlement and must further reduce its budget by £67million by 2020. This requires looking carefully at the way we do things now, reviewing how effective this is, and finding innovative and more efficient ways to get results and keep people safe, healthy and independent.

It is not about stopping services; it is about changing the way we do things, working more closely with communities and protecting those who are in greatest need of support. Our proposal to remodel Children's Centres will save £1.12million but will also allow us to deliver services which reach a wider group of people, as we want to put our overall family support services on a sustainable footing.

We are also bringing our family support services, including Children's Centres, more closely integrated with the rest of our Children's Services.

In balancing the issues faced during the early years of a child's life, with those of the whole family, we will be delivering more effective and better coordinated services. Now is the best time to change the way we do things to give the right support, for the right issue, at the right time with flexibility to adapt into the future.

The Council could keep the current number of Children's Centres across Warwickshire, with an even split of budget reductions across all centres. However, this option has been rejected as it would not take account of the different levels of needs of those using the centres and overlooks the opportunity to adapt the service to make the centres fit for purpose.

We have looked to how other areas are successfully managing these challenges and want to ask you if you think a similar solution could work in Warwickshire.

Who can respond to the consultation?

Anyone, but in particular we want to hear from local families, staff, Children's Centre advisory boards, service providers and local residents. Taking part will give people an opportunity to comment on the proposals and put forward any alternative suggestions they may have.



What do you think?

Get involved.

The consultation period is 11 weeks from Thursday 29 June until midday on Monday 11 September 2017.

You can submit your views in one of the following ways:

Online at:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask
or www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FamilyHubs

Attend a public meeting:

Brownsover, Rugby Borough

Thursday 20 July, 9.30am to 11.00am
Christ Church, Brownsover, 43 Bow Fell, Rugby
CV21 1JF

Coleshill, North Warwickshire Borough

Thursday 20 July, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street,
Coleshill B46 3BG

Warwick, Warwick District

TBC
TBC

Stratford, Stratford District

Monday 24 July, 2.30pm to 4.00pm
Holy Trinity Parish Church, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG

Leamington Spa, Warwick District

Tuesday 25 July, 9.30am to 11.00am
Town Hall, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire, CV32 4AT

Rugby, Rugby Borough

Wednesday 26 July, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Benn Hall, Newbold Rd, Rugby, CV21 2LN

Southam, Stratford District

Thursday 27 July, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Graham Adams Centre, St James Road, Southam,
CV47 0LY

Bedworth, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Tuesday 1 August, 10.00am to 11.30pm
Bedworth Life Church,
17 Bulkington Rd, Bedworth CV12 9DG

Kenilworth, Warwick District

Tuesday 1 August, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
St John's Church, Warwick Road, Kenilworth,
CV8 1HY

Alcester, Stratford District

Wednesday 2 August, 11.30am to 1.00pm
Jubilee Centre, Jubilee Fields, St Faith's Road,
Alcester, B49 6AG

Nuneaton, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Wednesday 2nd August, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Our Lady of the Angels Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton,
CV11 5UA

Atherstone, North Warwickshire Borough

Thursday 3 August, 7.30pm to 9:00pm
Atherstone Leisure Complex, Long Street, Atherstone,
CV9 1AX

Email general consultation questions to
familyhubs@warwickshire.gov.uk

Paper questionnaires:

To request a paper version call 01926 742350

Paper questionnaires can be returned via
Warwickshire County Council libraries or in the reply
envelope that will be supplied with the questionnaire.

For further information go to
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/familyhubsconsultation

**All consultation responses will be analysed
and a report will be published and presented
to the County Council for a final decision in
Autumn 2017.**

