

3 December 2012**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, EARLY YEARS AND EARLY
INTERVENTION SERVICE****RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2012****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 20 September 2012.

Information and Advice

2. A petition of 200 signatories was presented to the County Council on 20 September requesting *"the re-instatement of Sure Start Market Place Children's Centre services to the John Godber Centre, Hucknall, providing security and stability to children, parents and staff and also a fixed base from which to access these important services."*
3. The Council currently has a Commissioned Accountable Body (CAB) agreement with County Health Partnerships to deliver Children's Centre services on its behalf in Ashfield. In Hucknall, there are three Children's Centres: Butler's Hill, High Lees and The Market Place.
4. The Market Place Children's Centre currently occupies limited rented space (at a basic rental cost of £27,840 per annum) in the John Godber Community Centre building to deliver some of its programmed work. The Community Centre is also used by a separate pre-school group every morning.
5. Following consultation with staff, families and stakeholders, County Health Partnerships have, in recent months, modified the pattern of delivery from Market Place Children's Centre, both to improve outcomes for children and families, and to reduce premises costs. In consequence, it is intended that use of the John Godber Centre for children's centre provision will cease by April 2013.
6. However, the Market Place Children's Centre is not closing. Set out below are the Centre's new arrangements:
 - staff teams and associated administrative functions have been relocated to existing staff bases in Hucknall (High Lees and Butler's Hill Children's Centres)

- community based Centre activity is being focused more upon delivery from Hucknall Library and the Interchange Young People's Centre, and other settings such as Leen Mills Pre-School.
 - in addition, resources are being more efficiently managed across Hucknall's three Children's Centres to offer more opportunities for children and families to access services at all three Centres, including the purpose built Centre premises at Butler's Hill and High Leys
 - the Interchange Young People's Centre is now regarded as the central hub for Market Place Children's Centre
7. In the period since the relocation of the Centre's provision has taken place, the number of local families registered with the Centre has increased from 66% (586) to 76% (684). In addition, the number of individual children under 5 worked with in the last 12 months has increased from 697 to 812 children.
 8. The latest user satisfaction survey (February 2012) undertaken for children's centre provision across Hucknall shows that 98% of parents surveyed are very satisfied with the service received.
 9. This data indicates that the new service delivery arrangements for the Centre have helped to make access to services for families that need them easier rather than harder.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To inform Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on the 20 September 2012.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1). That the Committee considers the response and the petitioner organiser be informed.

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Constitutional Comments

9. Because the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (NDR 15/11/12)

10. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

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| Hucknall: | Councillor Kevin Rostance |
| | Councillor Mick Murphy |
| | Councillor Rev. Tom Irvine |

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