

Appendix C – Options Appraisal & Potential Impact Assessment

DCATCH (HBP) Future Service Options Consulted Upon

1. Phased withdrawal of DCATCH (HBP) service, implementation of this option would see the service remain closed to new applicants and withdrawn in its entirety by the end of March 2021, with parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP) via a direct payment having the service withdrawn from the end of March 2020, while parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP) via an NCC commissioned provider service would see their contribution rise from £3.50 to £7.50 per hour from 1 April 2020 until the withdrawal of the service at the end of March 2021.
2. Immediate withdrawal of DCATCH (HBP) service, implementation of this option would see the service withdrawn in its entirety by the end of March 2019, where all packages would end and the service would not be open to new applicants during this time.
3. Immediate increase in parental contributions towards the DCATCH (HBP) service, implementation of this option would see the service withdrawn from parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP) via a direct payment from the end of March 2019, while parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP) via an NCC commissioned provider service would see their contributions rise from £3.50 to £7.50 per hour from 1 April 2019 with the service being maintained and opened to new applicants.

DCATCH (HBP) Future Service Option Analysis and Potential Impact

4. Table 1 provides an assessment of the benefits and potential impact associated with each option consulted upon alongside a quantitative view of the responses received regarding each option.

Benefits	Potential Impact	Consultation Feedback
Phased withdrawal of DCATCH (HBP) Service		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This option would give parents/carers notice to make alternative arrangements. ▪ This option would enable the realisation of savings proposed to address NCC's £54 million shortfall to 2020/21. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Average increase in annual child care costs to parents/carers for Direct Payments of approx. £4,300 per child. (Assuming current package level and provider are not changed.) ▪ Average increase in annual child care costs to parents/carers for Provider Service of approx. £2,380 per child from Apr 2020 and £4,590 per child from Apr 2021. (Assuming current package level and provider are not changed.) ▪ Parents/carers unable to afford childcare or change working hours may be unable to continue accessing the workplace. ▪ Changes may disproportionately impact upon lone parents/carers and families on low incomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 21 responses were from parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP). ▪ 9.6% Agreed or strongly agreed. ▪ 28.6% Neither agreed nor disagreed. ▪ 52.4% Disagreed or strongly disagreed. ▪ 46 responses were from parents/carers not currently accessing DCATCH (HBP). ▪ 23.9% Agreed or strongly agreed. ▪ 17.4% Neither agreed nor disagreed. ▪ 47.8% Disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Immediate DCATCH (HBP) Service Withdrawal		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option would enable the realisation of savings proposed to address NCC's £54 million shortfall to 2020/21. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average increase in annual child care costs to parents/carers of approx. £6,000 per child. (Assuming current package level and provider are not changed.) Parents/carers unable to afford childcare or change working hours may be unable to continue accessing the workplace. Changes may disproportionately impact upon lone parents/carers and families on low incomes. The lack of notice related to potential changes could cause greater numbers of parents/carers to leave the workplace due to a lack of time to implement alternative arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 responses were from parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP). 0% Agreed or strongly agreed. 0% Neither agreed nor disagreed. 100% Disagreed or strongly disagreed. 46 responses were from parents/carers not currently accessing DCATCH (HBP). 10.8% Agreed or strongly agreed. 13.0% Neither agreed nor disagreed. 60.9% Disagreed or strongly disagreed.
Immediate Increase in Parental Contributions towards DCATCH (HBP) service		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option would realise a proportion of the savings proposed to address NCC's £54 million shortfall to 2020/21. This option would maintain the service for parents/carers accessing DCATCH (HBP) through an NCC provider service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average increase in annual child care costs for Direct Payments to parents/carers of approx. £4,300 per child. (Assuming current package level and provider are not changed.) Average increase in annual child care costs for Provider Service to parents/carers of approx. £6,975 per child. (Assuming current package level and provider are not changed.) This option would not enable the entire amount of savings proposed to address NCC's £54 million shortfall to 2020/21. The service would not be withdrawn, and parents/carers could continue to apply for an NCC provider service, so costs would continue to increase over time. Parents/carers unable to afford childcare or change working hours may be unable to continue accessing the workplace. Changes may disproportionately impact upon lone parents/carers and families on low incomes. The lack of notice related to potential changes could cause greater numbers of parents/carers to leave the workplace due to a lack of time to implement alternative arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 responses were from parents/carers in receipt of DCATCH (HBP). 38.0% Agreed or strongly agreed. 0% Neither agreed nor disagreed. 57.1% Disagreed or strongly disagreed. 46 responses were from parents/carers not currently accessing DCATCH (HBP). 37.0% Agreed or strongly agreed. 17.4% Neither agreed nor disagreed. 39.1% Disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Table 1. Representation of the anticipated benefits of each option, potential impacts and the feedback received as part of the consultation.

5. In making an assessment of the potential options for the future of DCATCH (HBP), it should be noted that the potential financial impacts stated within table 1, assume that parents/carers continue with the same provider and same package allocation as is currently the case but pay the cost difference from their own resources, it may be the case that parents/carers are able to make alternative arrangements to lessen the impact and also make use of central government benefits which are available to support with the cost of living.