



Report Title: The Development of 0-19 Provision (outside Statutory Schooling) for Children, Young People and their Families

Report of: The Director of Children and Young People's Service

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Information

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- outline a model for 0-19 provision (outside statutory schooling) for children, young people and their families within the structure of the Children's Networks which includes a number of changes to the way in which the management of the five council-run children's centres and the council-run play centres operates;
- outline the results of the consultation held on the model for 0-19 provision (outside of statutory schooling).

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

2.1 The model of 0-19 service provision (outside statutory schooling) outlined in this paper should provide better support for children and their families through a child's life stages. The services will be better co-ordinated and this will improve support to working parents, enable parents not currently working to pursue training/employment and strengthen our provision for vulnerable children and their families.

2.2 The outcome of the consultation shows that the majority of parents who responded were in favour of bringing 0-19 services together in the way set out in this report. There are concerns about the financial and staffing implications: these matters will be fully addressed during the implementation phase.

2.3 I ask colleagues to support the recommendations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To support the model for 0-19 provision (outside statutory schooling) outlined in this paper for children, young people and families within each Children's Network.
- 3.2 To agree in principle to the proposal for the management of three of the five Council run children's centres (Stonecroft, Park Lane, Woodside and Noel Park) be delegated to, or delivered via an SLA, from nearby primary schools. In the first instance for formal discussions to take place with Campsbourne, St Paul's and All Hallows and Earham Primary Schools respectively given their locations and relationship with the centres.
- 3.3 To agree in principle to the proposal for the management of Noel Park Children's Centre to be delegated to or delivered via an SLA from Noel Park Primary School and that further discussions take place with the school and local stakeholders on the detail given it operates on a different model to the other children's centres.
- 3.4 To agree to the proposal that further local consultation on the best management model for Triangle Children's Centre be considered in partnership with Urban Environment and the NDC (or its successor body) before any final decision is taken by Cabinet. Two possible management models have been suggested. These being:
- appoint a new head of an integrated Centre who would develop the facility as an intergenerational Centre providing work across the whole community and being accountable as now to the local authority;
 - appoint a third party from the national or local voluntary sector to manage and develop the centre as an integrated service with current staff remaining as Haringey employees but seconded under contract to this organisation for a number of years, working in close partnership with the NDC (its successor body) and the local community;
- 3.5 To agree in principal to the proposal that some or all of the council-run play centres are managed by local schools (as part of their extended schools programme) or children's centres and that formal discussions are held with those schools identified as the 'best fit' given their location and links with existing play centres. See appendix four for a breakdown of these schools.

Report Authorised by:



Sharon Shoemith
Director
The Children and Young People's Service

Contact Officer:

Richard Watson, Strategy and Projects Manager,
The Children and Young People's Service 020 8489 3938

4. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 4.1 The Chief Finance Officer comments that the financial implications of the proposed changes have yet to be identified and therefore the recommendations can only be agreed in principle at this stage.
- 4.2 A large proportion of the funding to implement this proposal is from the Sure Start Grant for which funding confirmation is only to 2010-11. However, indications are that funding for this will still remain a priority in the National Children's Plan. It should be noted that resources delegated to schools through the Individual Schools Budget cannot be used to support children's centres.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The proposals will assist compliance with the duty placed on the Council by virtue of Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to allow parents to work or undertake education or training. In considering this duty the Authority must have regard to the needs of parents for the provision of childcare for which the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit can be claimed, and childcare suitable for disabled children.
- 5.2 Since the proposals involve the reorganisation of the management of current childcare services, the Authority is not restricted in relation to the choice of management arrangements to be applied. For new childcare provision the Authority may not provide that childcare unless it is satisfied that no other person is willing to provide it. In any event the restriction does not affect the provision of childcare by the governing body of a maintained school.
- 5.3 Changes in the staffing requirements for the provision of the childcare services will require consultation with the staff and their representatives and adherence to the Council's procedures regarding organisational change.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 6.1 The Children Act (2004)
- 6.2 Childcare Act (2006)
- 6.3 National Children's Plan (2007)

7. Strategic Implications

7.1 The approach outlined in this paper aims to build upon the early intervention and prevention strategies of the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS). This approach will join up all those services for children and young people outside statutory schooling and focus them in an integrated and co-ordinated way across each Network, thereby providing families with co-ordinated wraparound care. The approach will also enable universal services to provide low and medium targeted intervention across the 0-19s, working with children and families who do not meet the statutory thresholds for specialist services, but need support and intervention which will over time reduce children and families falling into greater degrees of vulnerability.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The revenue and capital funding streams for each aspect of 0-19 services in 2007/8 and 2008/9 are shown in the table below.

8.2 Funding streams for 0-19 Services

Service	Revenue 2007/8	Capital 2007/8	Revenue 2008/9	Capital 2008/9
Children's Centres ¹	£10.6m	£3.5m (Phase 2)	£11.5m	£0.357m (Phase 3)
Extended Schools ²	£0.853m	£0.353m	£0.918m	£0.487m
Play Service ³	£0.776m		£0.573m	
Total	£12.229m	£3.853m	£12.991m	£0.844m

8.3 The joining up of the above services will account for efficiency savings some of which are already accounted for in 2008/9 revenue budget figures. The expectation is that the current Play Service will be funded in part through Extended Schools budgets as their activity will fit the criteria for spend. All proposals in this paper can be achieved within the current funding envelope. The benefits of joining services together in the proposed restructuring will provide improved cost benefit, better value and improved services to families.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 These proposals take full account of the local authority's responsibilities in relation to the Children Act (2004) and subsequent guidance and the Childcare Act (2006) and are also in line with the recently released National Children Plan (2007).

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 The 0-19s strategic approach outlined in this report, with its emphasis on reducing inequalities and targeting vulnerable families, will help improve life outcomes for children and families, addressing issues which contribute to social exclusion which in turn will support achieving social cohesion.

11. Background

11.1 Services to children, young people and families focussed on prevention and early intervention have been evolving rapidly in recent years and include children's centres, play or extended schools services and youth services as required by the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda, Childcare Act (2006), Extended Services and Youth Offer. Most, but not all these services are provided by the local authority alongside health

¹ Revenue funding is made up of grant funding through the Sure Start Grant, an allocation from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and fees and income.

² Revenue funding is made up from the Standards Fund Grant (now part of the Area Based Grant) and the Sure Start Grant.

³ This is largely made up of Council revenue funding.

services and the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector as important providers. Most services are centred around the major universal service: schools.

11.2 The CYPS and its partners have been developing the infrastructure for the delivery of multi-agency services to children and young people as part of three Children's Networks (North-East, South-East and South-West), each with two Networked Learning Communities (NLCs) of schools. The approach will enable universal services to provide low and medium targeted intervention across the 0-19s, working with children and families who do not meet the statutory thresholds for specialist services, but need support and intervention which will over time reduce children and families falling into greater degrees of vulnerability. This will yield more positive outcomes for children and better use of resources.

11.3 These local developments reflect the national drive to reshape children's services, putting a stronger emphasis on the extended role of schools with broader 0-19s service partners and putting children's centres and schools as core universal services supporting childhood and family life. These services are part of a range of Council strategies to reduce worklessness and child poverty, drive regeneration and neighbourhood renewal, build community cohesion, reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and add value to community life.

11.4 The National Children's Plan (2007) argues that "services need to be responsive to children, young people and their families, not designed around professional boundaries. By locating services in one place we are more likely to help those in need and provide a more coordinated and joined up approach to working with children and their families."

11.5 In line with the National Children's Plan (2007) the next stage in the development of the Children's Networks is for the realignment of services within the Children's Networks around a 0-19s strategic framework, which requires changes to the way in which the management of current services operates.

11.6 The recommendations in this report differ from the recommendations in the report to the Council's Cabinet in July 2007 entitled 'Children's Centres – Sustaining and Developing the Provision.' In July, the Cabinet agreed the recommendation to commence the procurement process to invite providers to operate the five children's centres managed by the CYPS in line with the expectation in the Childcare Act (2006). However, early on in the process of soft market testing it became apparent that competitively tendering the five children's centres was unlikely to attract enough attention from voluntary and not for profit sector bidders and was unpopular with parents and staff.

11.7 At the same time the delivery of the CYPS increasingly through the Children's Networks and the growing synergy between 0-19 services – children's centres, play, extended schools and youth services – favours a wider 0-19 age range services commissioning model which is outlined in this paper.

12. Consultation

12.1 As part of the development of the model for 0-19 provision (outside statutory schooling) for children, young people and their families and the proposals outlined in this paper a four week consultation was undertaken with all key stakeholders, in line with corporate council guidance.

12.2 A consultation paper was developed and sent out to all schools, children's centres, play centres, chairs of governors, the PCT, Unions and others (see appendix one for a copy of the consultation document and what was proposed). The document was available in hard copy and email format and was also available in an interactive format on the council's website.

12.3 Two consultation sessions were held for parents and staff and children's centre and play centre staff were asked to engage with parents/carers to feedback their views. Meetings were also held with a number of schools to seek their views on the proposals.

12.4 Officers met with all Play Service managers and staff. Children's centre managers have been engaged with discussions as they have progressed and they have held discussions with their staff in their local centres. The unions have been consulted on the proposals early in the process and also at the meeting of the Departmental Consultative Committee on 14 February 2008. Further dialogue will take place as this work progresses.

13. Results of the consultation document

Responses to the consultation

13.1 Appendix two provides an analysis of the responses that we received to the consultation document. We had 185 replies to the consultation document and a further 17 responses which did not directly answer the consultation document). While the responses were varied 104 of the 185 replies agreed that bringing together 0-19 services in the way set out in the consultation document will serve the needs of children and young people and their families better (with 35 disagreeing and 44 not giving a firm opinion either way). Also, 86 of the 185 replies believed these changes would help their families (with 37 disagreeing and 45 not giving a firm opinion either way).⁴

13.2 The main comments were that it will make services more accessible to all and provide a 'one stop shop' for parents and families, making services "well coordinated and cost efficient". As one parent commented, "information and services would be under one roof and more accessible, not having to travel too far to access them."

⁴ Not every respondent answered all questions.

Consultation sessions/meetings with stakeholders

13.3 14 people attended two consultation sessions held on 4 February and included a number of parents, staff, representatives of the voluntary sector and unions and local schools. A number of attendees could see the benefits of joining up services in the way proposed and particularly with schools taking on a lead role, although one parent questioned the capacity of schools to do this. Overall, there was a feeling that more information was needed on the proposals and their benefits, particularly around the future plans for Noel Park and Triangle Children's Centres.

13.4 As part of the consultation meetings were held with a number of primary schools which appeared to be the 'natural fit' for the children's centres and play centres due to their close working and/or proximity to seek their views on the proposals. All schools approached were positive about the proposals and could see the benefits for all concerned in such a change of management. It was felt these changes would open new opportunities for all staff and lead to a more coordinated offer to children and their families.

13.5 Discussions have taken place with the five children's centre's staff through the centre managers and also all play centre managers and play centre staff have been consulted through two meetings. Although staff are naturally concerned about the details of such a change, particularly their own terms and conditions (which will not change) many could see the benefits of such a change.

13.6 Discussions were also held with the NDC in relation to the Triangle Children's Centre and future management options for the centre were explored. The NDC has played an important role in funding the centre's development. The Centre is different to others as it provides wider services for people of all ages in the community, not just children and their families. It was agreed that proposals for two potential management models should be put forward to Cabinet for further consultation - these are set out in the recommendations section of this paper.

13.7 In relation to Noel Park Children's Centre discussions were held with both the Salvation Army and Noel Park Primary School, both of whom work closely with the children's centre. The childcare at Noel Park is offered through a private sector provider and the Centre has strong links with local partners, such as the Salvation Army from whose building some provision is run. Following these discussions it was felt that the school was the most appropriate setting to propose to take on the management of the Centre working closely with the Salvation Army and other local partners.

13.8 In the table below are set out the main comments which came out of the consultation which we felt should be answered.

Comment	Response
The difficulty of running services for a large age range and that they should not be combined.	There seems to have been some confusion in that the proposals are not stating that children and young people from 0-19 will be within the same settings.
Not enough detailed information on the proposals has been provided.	The consultation document could have been clearer in what it was asking of stakeholders. The aim was to set out proposals for the strategic direction in joining up 0-19 services rather than a detailed consultation on a centre by centre basis of future intentions.
The consultation should have been longer, ideally three months.	<p>If Cabinet were to approve the recommendations contained within this report then further discussions will be held on a local centre by centre basis with key stakeholders, including staff and their union representatives and parents, as these proposals are taken forward and the detail is worked upon.</p> <p>As the recommendations in this report set out further formal consultation specifically around the future management options for the Triangle Children's Centre would also help to answer concerns raised as will the firmer proposal around Noel Park Children's Centre.</p>
The importance of ensuring that staff are treated fairly throughout the process with training needs met and that ample funding is provided for centres.	These issues will be addressed within any implementation plans and further discussion would be held with staff and unions as part of this. A robust budget formula has been created for 2008/9 for children's centres and work is ongoing to develop a similar one for play centres.
Some concerns about cuts to provision and affordability of services.	The recommendations outlined are not about cutting services but rather enhancing what is already on offer and developing new services for targeted groups and affordability continues to be taken into account in this.
Concerns were raised over the lack of extended after school services for disabled children.	The proposals outlined in this paper will allow us to put more emphasis on developing services to support inclusion, as we know that there is insufficient choice of services for disabled and vulnerable children.
Needs to be more provision during school holidays and that there should be more	Bringing 0-19 services together will allow for the development of a more strategic approach addressing duplication and developing new

access to a choice of services and facilities for children and their families	services. The network and cluster model of service organisation will improve planning, co-ordination and delivery. We recognise that holiday provision needs to be reviewed to address both childcare and play needs. This is currently being addressed.
---	--

14 Proposed Developments

14.1 On the basis of the consultation and the work carried out as part of this there are a number of proposed changes to the management of the five council-run children's centres and council-run play centres.

14.2 The proposals for three of the five Council run children's centres (Stonecroft, Park Lane and Woodside Children's Centres) are that the management of the centres be delegated to or delivered via an SLA from nearby primary schools. In the first instance for formal discussions to take place with Campsbourne, St Paul's and All Hallows and Earlham Primary Schools respectively given their locations and relationship with the centres.

14.3 The proposal for Noel Park Children's Centre is that the management of the centre is delegated to or delivered via an SLA from Noel Park Primary School and that further discussions take place with the school and local stakeholders.

14.4 The proposal for Triangle Children's Centre is for two management models to be subject to further local consultation in partnership with Urban Environment and the NDC (or its successor body) before any final decision is taken by Cabinet – these are set out in the recommendations section of this paper.

14.5 The proposal for the council-run play centres is that some or all of the centres are managed by local schools or children's centres. Formal discussions will be held in the first instance with those schools identified as the 'best fit' given their location and links with existing play centres. See appendix four for a full list of play centres and those schools/children's centres seen as the 'best fit'.

14.6 The proposed developments aim to:

- reduce inequalities;
- support vulnerable children and families;
- improve well-being;
- engage and involve parents, children, young people and local communities;
- enable a view of 0-19 year olds as members of families and communities, as well as being individuals;
- improve connectivity with broader Council policy and priorities, for example, income maximisation, and therefore improve impact;
- address lack of play opportunities for children with disabilities and children aged between 8 and 13.

14.7 These developments will maximise use of people, physical space and financial resources, avoiding duplication, targeting need, providing a more diverse set of services across the Networks, and acknowledging that families use more

than one service. We will continue to build on the work of the Local Partnership Boards to engage with parents and the wider community ensuring that services meet local need.

14.8 Services will be managed and commissioned on a needs led, age and stage of development principle linking together through a child's journey from ante-natal care, into children's centres through to primary and secondary schools, with services being planned and delivered in and around schools under an integrated 0-19's strategic framework and also linked to joint commissioning with the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

14.9 The Council will continue to ensure that good quality services are provided to children and their families. As part of these changes it is planned to develop a number of new roles to both enhance this quality function and to also further develop provision within the borough as part of the development of Extended Services, particularly for the 8-13 age range and children and young people with special needs for whom it has been identified that there is a gap in current provision.

15. Implementation

15.1 If the proposals outlined in this paper are approved by the council's Cabinet, an implementation plan will be put in to place for each of the five council-run children's centre and for each council-run play centre with governance, resource and staffing issues addressed and discussions held with the proposed management settings on the detail of these proposals. If approved implementation will be carried out in a planned and phased way between March 2008 and April 2009.

16. Recommendations

16.1 Please refer to section three on page two of this report for the recommendations.

17. Use of Appendices

17.1 The following appendices set out the position for each service:

1. Developing services for 0-19 year olds consultation document
2. Analysis of the responses to the consultation document
3. Overview of consultation sessions and other meetings with stakeholders
4. Play Centres and school/children's centres seen as the 'best fit'

Appendix One: Developing services for 0-19 year olds consultation document
(see separate attachment)

Appendix Two: Analysis of the responses to the consultation document

An Overview

In brief, we received a total of 202 responses.

185 respondents either answered some or all of the questions posed in the consultation document: of these 140 were from parents/grandparents/guardians/members of the public and 26 were from staff members (that is children centre staff, play centre staff and voluntary sector staff). 18 respondents did not indicate whether they were a parent or staff member. There was also an additional 17 responses which did not directly answer the questions posed.

General Observations

There were a number of responses that were written in the same handwriting and/or stated the exact same answers (word-for-word).

- 9 responses were in the same hand writing
- 12 were in different handwriting but the exact same wording

These have been included within the main body of the analysis. However, the above point should be noted.

Responses

Question 1: Do you think that bringing together services (children centres, before and after school clubs, play and youth services) in this way will serve the needs of children and young people and their families better?

Positive number of responses:	104
Negative number of responses:	35
Mixed/neutral number of responses:	44

Comments/answers to this question included the following:

- There is a need to have reliable childcare all year round

“Close links of before and after school clubs with local primary school will be of benefit to children and parents...”

- Closer links between extended services will benefit the children
- It will increase/enhance the social skills of the children
- The quality of care must remain high

“ On paper, I understand the reasoning, in practice, I would expect to see extreme competition for an already limited budget and the limited resources being unfairly focussed, to the detriment of some areas (typically play and youth services)”

"I think that the schools are already overburdened and this additional responsibility will not improve the situation"

- It is very difficult to run services for a large age range

"..The caring aspect and the emotional needs of the youngest are in danger of being over looked when one service covers such a large range. Children could also loose the natural progression from one setting to the next. When it comes to leisure time, we as adults don't spend it at the workplace, why should we expect children to do so?"

- There needs to be a network approach to 0-19 services, similar to that employed in Tower Hamlets Council

"A network approach would be more beneficial i.e. an Extended Schools/Children Centre Co-ordinator in each network to deliver/support services on a local level..."

- Extended services for children should be kept separate

"I do not think all services should be combined. Children need variety... This may suit parents but any good parent wants what is best for their children not what is convenient"

"Children need a 'different' environment to school"

- Not enough information on these proposals have been provided (18 responses)
- There is no mention/consideration of how the services will include disabled children

"As a working parent with a disabled child I do not feel supported... most after school clubs are for mainstream children. I feel that the Council does not want parents with disabled children to work: we are to stay at home and look after our disabled children"

- The staff must be treated fairly throughout the whole process
- This will provide a 'one-stop shop' for parents and families (3 responses)

"Information and services would be under one roof and more accessible, not having to travel too far to access them. A better service could be offered for all ranges"

- It will be good for working people/parents (6 responses)

“It...would hopefully enable greater and easier access to the full range of childcare provision for both working and non working parents.”

- This will make services more accessible to everyone (5 responses)

“Children should have access to same quality services. I really feel the best services available now in some children’s centres should be spread across the whole borough.”

- This will decrease the amount of travelling time parents/carers need to pick up their children from different settings (4 responses)
- It will provide familiar surroundings to parents and children alike
- It needs to be affordable
- It will give better information to people about services from pre-school to higher education
- There must be adequate funding to support services and these proposals
- The services should then be better for all ages

“This will provide well co-ordinated and cost efficient services...”

- Staff must have training

“...It will provide continuity and help to confirm a good quality staff team whose needs for training are met”.

- There should be extended services over the weekend
- It will provide a safe environment

Question 2: Tell us how these changes would or would not help you and your family?

Positive number of responses: 86
Negative number of responses: 37
Mixed/neutral number of responses: 45

Comments/answers to this question included the following:

- Extend the hours of provision for working parents (12 responses)

“I am a single parent working full time... It would help me if the school nursery would provide additional hours even if I had to pay for it. 12.5 hours a week are not enough!”

- It would provide a ‘one-stop shop’ of services for children (6 responses)

“You need to have disabled and deaf children in mind from the start, not as an add on later...”

- The children will be in a safe place (3 responses)
- It will be good to have services for children integrated (17 responses)

“A voluntary sector staff member stated “...if services are joined up, decisions will be made with all ages in mind. We just have to hope that communication between service providers and service users (children and their families) will improve...”

- Children with special needs should be included

“I would hope it enables better inclusion of children with special needs and allow them full access to the full range of activities.”

- Increasing extended services in certain schools limits the services to children not attending those schools
- Do not cut the level of service provision (2 responses)

“We need to ensure they (the services) are of a consistent high quality.”

- Services need to be affordable (4 responses)
- This should increase the amount of information to parents about the different services available (2 responses)
- Children need different environments
- There should be an adequate level of financial support available for these services
- There is not enough information regarding the proposals for Triangle Children’s Centre
- There needs to be better co-ordination of services for children over seven years of age
- There may be a detrimental impact of long days on young children
- Children will be bored in same environment (2 responses)
- Services should be improved individually not at the same time
- There should be reliable after school and holiday childcare to enable parents to work full time (4 responses)
- Mixing children of different ages will be good
- There should be after school clubs for older children too
- There must be access to extended services for children under five years of age
- Some groups may have to close as a result of the services coming together
- This will enable better management of the services

Question 3: Having looked at our proposals, are there other ways 0-19 services could help you and your family?

Comments/answers to this question included the following:

- The services should be affordable to everyone (4 responses)
- The consultation document does not provide enough information for an informed judgement to be made (11 responses).
- The services should be free
- There should be more services for children over twelve years of age
- There should be more pre-school facilities for children with special needs
- Open more children's centres and youth clubs
- There isn't any job security for the staff currently employed
- It will create limited choice
- There is a need for more services

"We are Polish and we don't speak English very well. I think additional services for people with children like us could be a good idea"

"More services are needed in the north of Haringey for the 12-14 age groups because when they finish at the play centre there is nothing for them after school and holidays".

- There should be earlier opening times
- Childcare should open 50 weeks for working parents (3 responses)

"Ensure there are enough facilities of wrap around care for all children with working parents."

- There should be an increase in the number of support groups
- There should be more access to different provisions and facilities for children and parents (12 responses)

"It would be nice if colleges/universities will help out with these services and help with study."

Services should include "mental health support service, social services facilities, therapeutic services and fathers groups".

- There needs to be more holiday and after school provision (3 responses)
- Indoor play for young children should be increased to ensure that they have access to services even in bad weather

Question 4: Do you have other comments about our proposals?

Comments/answers to this question included the following:

“Ensure that all those involved with children’s centres and pre-school provisions liaise with Haringey PCT and inclusion services to ensure full support for children with special needs.”

“I don’t feel that young children should be formally educated before and after school hours. This time should be used creatively and social respect and personal development encouraged.”

- The consultation paper does not provide enough information (6 responses)

“The proposals are excellent and I hope to see more centres opening in the near future. Summer holidays 2007 my children and I used the free service in Bruce Castle Park which was really good.”

“This feels like the agenda was already there, the decision is already made and this so called consultation document has been drafted to pacify everyone involved. I am open to change, however, I resent things not being transparent, it feels dishonest and makes me question the Council’s motives...There’s just more pressure on an already overstretched service.”

- Extended services and holiday play schemes need to be increased

It’s a great idea to have more youth centres – there is a distinct lack of activities for older children who end up bored and up to mischief on our street. A central meeting place, a boys and girls, club would be great”.

“The needs of disabled children should be explored before your proposal is submitted”.

- The offer of free activities should be maintained or even extended (2 responses)

“If possible keep the services open and...free.”

- The jobs of people working in extended services and schools are very different. This should be closely considered
- The strategy for Triangle Children’s Centre is very unclear: more information should be provided

“Please let us know the proposals before the councillors make decisions on them. Please let us know the implications of the decisions as early as possible – informing parents, who are dependent on childcare provision, of change at short notice can be disastrous”.

- The services should be provided at the times when they are most needed (2 responses)
- All new parents should be informed about the services available

There should be a “‘children’s centre pack’ that is given to new mums by the midwives or the health visitors once the baby is born, with information and schedules of ‘what’s on’ in each centre in Haringey”.

- It is good to have separate services for 0-19 services
- These proposals could alienate some parents

“...I currently use SureStart services at a variety of children’s centres and would be concerned if I could only go to my ‘local’...”

“Schools becoming the main providers of services may alienate parents who have had unpleasant experiences during their own school lives”

“Schools could have too big a say on who their users will be”

- The management of children’s centres should not be compromised at the expense of the services they provide

“Fairness means all services should be accessible to all regardless of area. The whole borough is concerned. No child should skip through the net because the lack of facilities where he lies.”

- The public sector does not have the skills to run after-school and holiday schemes
- Training of staff is important to help them through the transition/process
- The consultation is not available in other languages

“This consultation is not available in other languages as our clientele are from a diverse minority background. How are you making sure that you are involving the majority in Haringey rather than the minority?”

- Not enough time was given for the consultation. It should be at least three months (10 responses)

“We would like to be consulted more and would like to know that our views really do matter.”

- The form is poorly designed
- Open more children’s centres and youth clubs

Other responses

There were a number of comments received regarding the proposals that did not directly answer the consultation questions. The total number of these respondents was 17 ranging from parents to school head teachers. There were a total 6 positive responses, 3 negative responses, and 8 neutral/mixed responses.

Comments included the following:

“The document does not contain enough information to answer the questions properly. The information is very general and lacks the necessary detail. The consultation period was too short and we get the feeling that this whole process is being rushed. A 12 week period is standard in central government. Was the consultation made available in other languages... Further consultation is required. We as parents and as Parents’ Forums need more time and detail to give a considered response...”

..We ask for a further consultation discussion specific to each centre. These meeting should be held at times to engage with the widest variety of parents”.

Having read through [the consultation document] the aims of your proposals sound laudable however, the document is vague... you give little detail, particularly regarding the nuts and bolts of how your proposals will be implemented”.

One Headteacher stated that they “feel very positive about the possibility of a partnership”

Another Headteacher stated “.. the direction towards bringing together services such as children’ centre, play and youth services under the management of school makes absolute sense in securing co-ordinated and integrated provision.. We welcome the opportunity to discuss...the role our schools can fulfil in delivering integrated and co-ordinated services across the borough for our young people.”

A Chair of Governors for a school stated “we support the proposals. In principle, we share your view that schools are in the right place to run after school clubs...”

“I think it would help to ensure equal opportunities in terms of provision across all school. Also, many parents/carers are not confident about seeking support. Having co-ordinated services makes much more sense...”

These decisions will have a long term effect on our neighbourhood and I believe that the council are pushing the decisions through far too quickly – it feels like they are trying to wash their hands of children’s centres. The council needs to work harder to hear the voice of the community – not everyone is able to go onto the website and find this consultation!”

- There is a lack of information in the consultation document (4 responses)

“I feel this consultation does not contain enough information to answer...and explain why the council wants to outsource my local children’s centre.”

“This consultation has not allowed any time at all and has completely disregarded the huge amount of work over three years which has taken place to develop the first phase of children’s centres... No one disagrees with better collaboration between services and cohesive provision for all children: services which provide for different age groups and do not communicate are hugely problematic for families. However, decisions have to be local and parents need to be heard... Further and thorough consultation with all concerned is needed before any decisions are taken.”

- There is some concern about whether the children attending faith schools will have access to the services too
- There are some questions around how partnership between the school and children centres would function day-to-day

“I am particularly concerned about the support that families are given when there are children with disabilities... Teachers and their administrative staff are already busy doing what they do. It would be important not to take staff resources from schools. And some vulnerable families may find it hard to seek help from an institution which they simply feel is an extension of school.”

- A new provider may charge for the services or reduce the services available

Staff from one children’s centre stated “...Some of it [joined up services] could be made to work well while, at least, some parts could be a complete disaster...A key factor in all this is need to reduce the budget and the need to ‘streamline’ or ‘get better value for money, so any information about the possible success of any future arrangements must include budget information”

Official Responses

UNISON:

“The consultation document does not ask for an address or postcode from the person who is responding, so how can it be determined what parts of Haringey’s diverse communities have been reached and responded?....

We acknowledge that the joining up of play and children’s centres with school could, in some cases, be very positive and productive, but we are more fearful that in some centres the experience for the staff and the delivery of service could be a very negative experience.....

The consultation documents states “any changes to the children’ centres and play centres will be discussed in detail with those affected and with the trade unions”. How and when would this happen?”

TPCT:

“....The TPCT supports the proposals outlined in the consultation document and we look forward to working with you on this exciting agenda in the future.”

Appendix Three: Overview of consultation sessions and other meetings with stakeholders

Consultation sessions

1.1 14 people attended two consultation sessions held on 4 February and included a number of parents, staff, representatives of the voluntary sector and unions and local schools. Concerns were expressed about the consultation document not being specific enough about what was being proposed and also the length of the consultation being too short. Questions were raised with respect of the future financing and staffing of the centres if the proposals were to be put in place as well as querying why youth provision had not been included given the consultation is entitled 0-19 services.

1.2 A number of attendees could see the benefits of joining up services in the way proposed and particularly with schools taking on a lead role, although one parent questioned the capacity of schools to do this. A head teacher present expressed the view that the proposals presented an exciting opportunity for both schools, children's and play centres to learn from one another and presented huge possibilities to improve services for children and their families. Overall, there was a feeling that more information was needed on the proposals and their benefits, particularly around the future plans for Noel Park and Triangle Children's Centres.

Consultation meetings with stakeholders

1.3 As part of the consultation meetings were held with a number of primary schools which appeared to be the 'natural fit' for the children's centres and play centres due to their close working and/or proximity to seek their views on the proposals. See appendix three for further details.

1.4 In relation to the play centres, those schools approached were positive about the proposals and could see the benefits for all concerned in such a change of management. All heads consulted felt there was real potential in joining together their own before and after school activities with the play centres in a coordinated way, utilising the skill set of both play staff and their own staff. It was felt these changes would open new opportunities for all staff and lead to a more coordinated offer to children and their families. Schools in particular felt great benefit could be gained in helping to improve parental engagement as well as in improving the play opportunities offered in school.

1.5 Those heads approached in relation to the children's centres could also see benefits of managing a children's centre in the same way that 10 of our current and soon to be completed children's centres are. More than one felt that it would create huge opportunities for both the school and children's centre to learn from one another and provide not only a joined up 0-13 approach to the provision of service to children and the families but professional opportunities for both school and children's centre staff. As one head said "we can do far more for children and their families together than apart". Heads favoured a campus model in which schools and children's centres (and where relevant after school and holiday services) would work in partnership under the management of the school.

1.6 Schools did have questions relating to the future funding of children's centres and play centres as well as staffing arrangements were these proposals to be agreed. A funding formula for all children's centres has been agreed for 2008/9 and a meeting has been held with all centre heads to finalise this. This funding settlement would form part of any SLA agreed with a school. Work is currently underway to develop a similar funding formula for the play centres whether or not the management of the centres change. This would provide a school with a fair and transparent funding model for a centre. As part of the development of a funding formula, current staffing arrangements for play centres are being reviewed. However, it is envisaged that current play centre and children's centre staff would be transferred to the management of a school with staff terms and conditions remaining the same.

1.7 Discussions have taken place within the five children's centres with staff through the centre managers. Although staff are naturally concerned about the details of such a change, particularly their own terms and conditions (which will not change) many could see the benefits of such a change. Schools and children's centres working closely together under a line management arrangement opens up professional development opportunities to work across the two settings.

1.8 Discussions were held with both a meeting of all play centre managers and also a meeting of all play centre staff at which the majority of staff were present. The main points raised were staff's terms and conditions and wanting to know about the details of the proposals. It was made clear that terms and conditions would remain the same and that detailed discussions involving schools and play centre managers and staff would take place on a local level were the recommendations to be agreed by Cabinet.

1.9 Meetings with the NDC and also Noel Park Primary School and the Salvation Army are dealt with in paragraphs 13.6 and 13.7 of the main report.

Appendix Four: Play Centres and school/children's centres seen as the 'best fit'

Play Centre	School(s)/Children's Centre
Alexandra Play Centre	Alexandra Primary School
Broadwater Farm Play Centre	Broadwater Farm Children's Centre and Primary School
Campsbourne Play Centre	Campsbourne Primary School
Chestnuts Play Centre	Chestnuts Primary School
Crowland Play Centre	Crowland Primary School
Falkland Play Centre	North Harringay Primary School
Hornsey Ridge Play Centre	Weston Park and Rokesly Infant and Junior Primary Schools
Mulberry Play Centre	Mulberry Primary School
Muswell Hill Play Centre	Muswell Hill Primary School
Noel Park Play Centre	Noel Park Primary School
Rhodes Avenue Play Centre	Rhodes Avenue Primary School
Stroud Green Play Centre	Stroud Green Primary School and Children's Centre
Tower Gardens Play Centre	Risley and Lancasterian Primary Schools
Triangle Play Centre	Triangle Children's Centre
Welbourne Play Centre	Welbourne Primary School and Children's Centre