

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SERVICE CHANGE

Department	Children's Services Play and Extended Services
Service	Heathbrook Park One O'clock Centre/Children's Centres
People involved	Head of Service and Service Managers, Centre Staff, Service Users (children and young people)

1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?

The service aims to engage families with children aged 0-5 and during pregnancy to provide integrated early childhood services. The aim is to improve outcomes by age 5 and to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged young children and the rest of the child population.

In order to achieve necessary budget reductions within the One O'clock Centre service it is proposed to cease delivery of the existing Wandsworth Council delivered service at Heathbrook Park One O'clock Centre, St Rule Street SW8 3EH from April 2012. This will also have the effect of reducing by one the number of Children's Centres. Currently it offers "Stay and Play" sessions and the service of signposting to other centres and services.

Existing service users will continue to have access equivalent services at both the Yvonne Carr Children's Centres SW8 4EB and Lambeth's Heathbrook Children's Centres also located in St Rule Street, SW8 3EH.

2. What is the rationale behind these changes?

In 2010 the Council set about a number of measures to enable a reduction in spending of £55 million by 2014. Each Department has scrutinised the way its services are organised and has identified ways in which they could be delivered differently

The Heathbrook Park One O'clock Centre and Children's Centres is one of twelve staffed One O'clock centres operating in Wandsworth. Service user volume has been examined to identify impact of any service changes. Over the summer period, May 1st – July 31st Heathbrook Park engaged a total of 76 children and 56 parents/carers. The majority of these users, 61% children and 63% parents/carers are resident in the borough of Lambeth

Lambeth Council's Children's Centres Service maintains a service in the same road.

A full range of Children's Centres services is also available from Wandsworth Council's Yvonne Carr Centre. This facility is 0.6 miles distant from Heathbrook Park

It is felt that the existing service has low service usage and is not achieving value for money. A more efficient service could be provided through signposting existing service users to the adjacent alternative services. This would enable the Heathbrook Park One O'clock Children's Centres to close with minimal impact with existing service users still being able to access similar, local provision. Lambeth has indicated that its usage is such that potentially it might wish to use the Heathbrook Park premises to extend its

delivery, thus ensuring some continuity of service to local residents		
3. What information do you have on the service and the potential impact of your service change in relation to the following?		
	List information you have. Do not put what the information shows you Information includes number of people using the service, customer satisfaction, feedback on service, results of consultation	
Race	Service user snapshot 1 st May-31 st July 2011. Total of 76 children and 56 parents/carers visiting 789 times. <u>Children</u> BAME population 37% <u>Parents/Carers</u> BAME population 28%	
Gender	Service user snapshot 1 st May-31 st July 2011 <u>Children</u> Female 47% Male 29% Unknown 24% <u>Parents/carers</u> Female 94% Male 6%	
Disability	Service user snapshot 1 st May-31 st July 2011 None recorded. Discussion with Contact a Family suggest a very low prevalence of service users with a disability/special need	
Age	The service provides for children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers	
Faith	Not currently collected	
Sexual Orientation	Not currently collected	
4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the service change will have		
	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
Race	37% of children and 28% parents/carers are from the BAME community. This is higher than the borough average of 22.05% and higher than the Queenstown ward average of 20.67%	The residents of the Shaftesbury Ward would have no Wandsworth Children’s Centres directly associated with their ward. To mitigate this those residents would be

	<p>The Yvonne Carr Children's Centres is 0.6 miles away and demonstrates 54% BAME engagement which is considerably higher than BAME engagement at Heathbrook Park</p> <p>It should be noted that Heathbrook Park currently engages 61-63% Lambeth residents</p> <p>It is expected that service users will continue to access services at Lambeth Children Centre located on the same street and/or the Yvonne Carr Children's Centres Both provide a comprehensive programme activities. Currently the Yvonne Carr Centre only engages 18% of Lambeth residents due to it's location deeper within the Queenstown ward</p> <p>Current Heathbrook Park service users will have the opportunity to contribute to the future development of the Yvonne Carr Children Centre to ensure it meet their needs through involvement in the Centre's advisory group meetings</p>	<p>informed of the services available at Brocklebank, Chesterton and Yvonne Carr Children's Centres and of the Lambeth Heathbrook Centre</p>
Gender	<p>The available data suggests that child usage of Heathbrook Park is in line with both borough (52%) and females (48%) 0-5 years and ward (Queenstown) averages males (50%) and females (50%) for children aged 0-5 years.</p>	<p>The service provides disproportionately for female parents/carers (94%). This is typical when comparing this to other early years services; e.g. Yvonne Carr also 94% for female parent/carers</p> <p>This may be as a result of societal roles, service opening times etc.</p>
Disability	<p>There is a very low prevalence of service users with a disability/special need. However comparisons with the Yvonne Carr service user data show 5% of users having a disability/special need. It is probable that service users with additional support needs will better access find the Yvonne Carr Children's Centres easier to access or take up services provided directly in their own homes</p>	<p>Parents/carers may not be accessing the Contact a Family service or declaring the child's/or their disability on the service registration information. To mitigate this services supporting families where children have a disability will signpost to other local Children's Centres</p>

Age	<p>The service provides for children within the range of 0-5 years old, the majority of which are aged 2-5 years</p> <p>Only 2% of parent/carers users are teenagers</p>	
Faith	No information provided	
Sexual orientation	No information provided	
<p>5. Is a full EIA required? No – but as Children’s Centres Services are statutory provision, some consultation with users of the Centre will be required prior to closure being implemented</p>		
<p>Comments - Please give the rationale here for not undertaking a full EIA</p>		
<p>It is not likely that protected groups will be significantly adversely affected by the change being proposed as similar, local services are available and it is anticipated that the majority of existing service users will access services at the Lambeth Children’s Centres and/or Wandsworth’s Yvonne Carr Children’s Centres</p> <p>Residents from the Shaftesbury ward would also be advised of services available in other local Children’s Centres via the Family Information Service (FIS), Health Visitors and home-visiting services</p> <p>Services offered at the Yvonne Carr Children’s Centres are available during the whole day whilst the current Heathbrook Park facility is available weekday afternoons only. The range of available activities at both the Lambeth and Yvonne Carr Centres is wider than that at Heathbrook Park</p> <p>However consultation with users has taken place as the changes will reduce Wandsworth’s total of designated Children’s Centres from 19 to 18</p>		
<p>6. Through the initial EIA have you identified any actions that needed to be implemented to improve access to the service or monitoring of the service? (please list)</p>		
<p>Early signposting of existing service users to both the Lambeth and Yvonne Carr Children’s Centres and the Lambeth Children’s Centres will mean that users are well informed as to alternative provision. Officers from Lambeth Council have also indicated that Lambeth might have an interest in making use of the Heathbrook Park building for aspects of their service delivery</p> <p>Services offered at the Yvonne Carr Children’s Centres are available full time (Heathbrook Park currently operates on weekday afternoons only) and the range of available activities is much enhanced. It will provide service users with a better range of opportunities with more comprehensive service opening making it worth the 0.6 miles walking distance</p> <p>Potential service users from Shaftesbury Ward would be signposted to other Battersea Children’s Centres. Where it is identified that children have additional needs, services would be provided from the preferred Children’s Centres</p>		

Signed

Date: 2nd November 2011

Approved by:

Mary Evans, Deputy Director of Children's Services

Clare Clare O'Connor, Policy Co-ordinator - Equality, Policy Analyst, Administration

