

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Children's Services
Service Area	Early Help
Service/policy/function being assessed	Early Years and Intervention Support, Franciscan Children's Centre York Garden's Children's Centre Yvonne Carr Children's Centre
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Wandsworth
Staff involved	Rachel Egan, Paul Martland, Susan Reid, Phil O'Neil, Clare O'Connor
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager	13.06.18

SUMMARY

1. Council services are regularly reviewed and consideration is given to how services fit with our agreed priorities, like being pro-active in reaching families in disadvantaged areas, the shape of services, and how we best make use of the money available to children and families needs.
2. Family and Lifelong Learning activity, child health offer such as a baby clinic and parenting and groups work are commissioned / funded as standalone services but the offer is available in Children's Centres and other community settings. In addition libraries offer a range of early childhood provision including for example Rhythm and Rhyme to promote literacy skills. Wandsworth is a Book Start borough.
3. Consequently the programme of activity and services available in each centre is a mix of activity directly delivered by centre staff, borough-wide commissioned services, and activities funded and delivered by partners including the national health service (NHS) and Lifelong Learning. Currently the programme varies between centres for example and not all offer 15 hours per week of early education for 2 year olds who are entitled to a place on the basis of economic disadvantage.
4. This initial Equalities Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) has been drafted in support of a proposed change in the way in which Franciscan Children's Centre (Tooting), York Gardens Children's Centre (Battersea) and the Yvonne Carr Children's Centre (Battersea) operates. In thinking about this we want to take into consideration all

of our early years offer both statutory and non-statutory that are collectively designed to give children the best start and be ready when they start school to take part in learning and be a full member of their school community. The early years offer or early childhood services include the sufficiency and quality of our Early Education Places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in Wandsworth, the commissioning of the 0-5 year old Health Visiting Service for Wandsworth, supporting our newly developed Early Help Pathway and the provision of a Children's Centre offer across the borough. It is proposed that: -

- **Franciscan** is in close proximity to another Children's Centre, Hillbrook and they both offer universal and targeted services. It would cease to be a standalone full-service Children's Centre and instead becomes an outreach site of the Hillbrook Children's Centre (Tooting). This means that less children will have access to a direct service. Facilities at Franciscan are more suited to targeted early childhood services and early help as the building was formerly a school keepers house. In this context an enhanced offer of universal services alongside targeted services will be provided at Hillbrook and Franciscan will be a targeted offer forming part of our newly established early help pathway from which health, parenting support, group work and family work will be delivered. There would be a focus on providing 'Stay, Play and Learn' for children aged 2 their parent / carer accessible for 15 hours a week as part of the offer of 2-year-old Early Education Places. In addition services available at the Franciscan site would be Health Visitor-led clinics and groups, parenting group work and THRIVE early help activities. The latter would include breastfeeding support, healthy weaning and nutrition, parenting courses such as Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities these would be accessible to all families on the basis of meeting their needs. Provision of universally available stay and play, identified during the 2015 large scale Children's Centre Survey as a popular activity, would be substituted with 'Stay, Play and Learn' for children aged 2 who are eligible for 15 hours a week early education. A universal offer of stay and play would continue to be available at Hillbrook.
- **York Gardens** would cease to be a standalone Children's Centre and instead increase its offer of early education places by allowing the existing third party provider to use more of the building for children aged 2 who are eligible for 15 hours a week early education. As with Franciscan, space would be retained within the building for the provision of health and group work. Some activity would also be delivered from the adjacent York Gardens Library. The provision of universally available Stay and Play, identified during the 2015 large scale Children's Centre Survey as a popular activity would be would be substituted with 'Stay, Play and Learn' for children aged 2 who are eligible for 15 hours a week early education. A

universal offer of stay and play would continue to be available at the adjacent York Gardens Library.

- Longer term, the children's centre and early childhood offer will move to a purpose-built facility planned as part of the broader regeneration of the Winstanley estate Battersea. This will provide services for children of all ages and give access to high quality facilities.
 - **Yvonne Carr** – it is proposed the centre will begin a transformation process to establish itself as an THRIVE Wandsworth Hub; a place where children and families can get help, keep in touch, build relationships with professionals and volunteers, find out about the things in Wandsworth to help them be happy, confident and fulfilled. This will include developing further activities to support children, young people and their families beyond the current early years remit. This development will also include provision 'Stay, Play and Learn' for children aged 2 who are eligible for 15 hours a week early education. It will be necessary to review current services and scheduling at Yvonne Carr, which will see an increase in the range and type of activity available from the site through a central team working across different settings and undertaking outreach as part of our early help pathway.
5. It is proposed our Children's Centres would have an increased focus on reaching and supporting disadvantaged families, keeping in touch and helping them to be happy, healthy and confident. The priority would be to focus on and meet the needs of families who live in the Local Super Output Areas that are in the 0-10 % and 10 -20% most deprived areas. There would still be an offer of early childhood services that all children and families could offer like health visiting, baby clinics and stay and play. Stay and Play and other activities that parents / carers bring their baby or child to and stay with them to take part would still be available, this might be at a Children's Center, library, local business like a café or leisure centre or a community space at a Mosque or Church.
 6. All families will be able to continue access services through our newly established Early Help Pathway including keeping in touch, family support, enhanced health visiting, information, advice and guidance and group work.
 7. The family information service which provides access to information online received 343,751 hits from 223,721 users, creating 796,745 page views in 2017. This tells us that this is a popular way for families to access information, advice and guidance, the majority of searches relate to early childhood and children's services so we will be introducing Health Matters will be Wandsworth's virtual offer of information, advice, guidance and support. Currently in development as part of the new contract with health visiting this digital offer contains comprehensive advice and guidance. Accessible to families wherever they live, the content includes information, advice and guidance the first 1001 days of a child's life and from ages 2 – 5 including post-natal depression, breast feeding, sleeping for baby and parents, bathing, weening, child development are covered

on the web-site. This will be directly linked to the THRIVE Online in terms of both early years, children 5 – 19 and young adults with SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES.

8. Parents can self-refer for additional support using the single point of access contact desk or email which they can use to initiate a visit or discuss a concern.

Background

Briefly describe the service/policy or function:

1. The Early Years and Intervention Service provides a number of statutory and non-statutory functions and services on behalf of the Council with the objective of giving children the best start in life. These include the sufficiency and quality of Early Education Places for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds in Wandsworth, the commissioning of the 0-5 year old Health Visiting Service for Richmond and Wandsworth and the provision of Children's Centres in Wandsworth. These services are a key component of the newly developed Early Help Pathway and THRIVE delivery.
2. There are currently 12 Children's Centres, 10 of which are on school sites and managed, under a service level agreement, by schools. These include Franciscan and Hillbrook Children's Centres. The remaining two centres at York Gardens and Yvonne Carr are directly managed by the Early Years Service.
3. The function of a Children's Centre is defined in statutory guidance as a place or a group of places:
 - a) which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements with, the local authority with a view to securing that early childhood services in the local authority's area are made available in an integrated way;
 - b) through which early childhood services are made available (either by providing the services on site, or by providing advice and assistance on gaining access to services elsewhere); and
 - c) at which activities for young children are provided.
4. It follows from the statutory definition of a children's centre that children's centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as it is about providing premises in particular geographical areas.
5. Early childhood - Early childhood services are defined as:
 - a) early years provision (early education and childcare);
 - b) social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;
 - c) health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;

- d) training and employment services to assist parents or prospective parents; and
- e) information and advice services for parents and prospective parents.

6. A children’s centre should make available universal and targeted early childhood services either by providing the services at the centre itself or by providing advice and assistance to parents (mothers and fathers) and prospective parents in accessing services provided elsewhere.
7. Local authorities must ensure that children’s centres provide some activities for young children on site.

Determinant of proposed changes

The core purpose of Children’s Centres is to prepare children to be ready to engage in and learn well when they start school. This includes making the gap smaller between different groups of children in how well they are learning and achieving when they start school. The Department for Education call this a good level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage. To do this, and give all children the best chance to start school with the right skills like reading and writing we need to engage with children who are most at risk of poor outcomes like those living in poverty as identified by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and those who have multiple vulnerabilities such as children in need.

This will ensure that children and families receive support early when they need it. The proposed changes allow the efficient use of budgets to achieve this and enable the effective use of the 15 hours early education entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds.

1. Analysis of need and impact

- The analysis below is taken from the Children’s Centre Information Management System, which compares census results and updates against centre usage.

Protected group	Findings
Age	<p>All Children’s Centres have increasingly worked with children under 3 years old, due to the expansion of the government’s free childcare offer which has resulted in 87% of all 3 and 4 year olds taking up an Early Education place at 3 years. The impact of the proposed changes would affect children under 3 years.</p> <p>Franciscan Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area, the centre works with 633 (79%) This is higher than the average Wandsworth Children’s Centre figure of 68%.</p>

	<p>Of the 800 children under 3, 90 live in 0-10% local super output area, the Centre works with 73 (81%). This is lower than the average Wandsworth Children's Centre figure of 85%</p> <p>Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area 180 are from the 10-20% most deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area 170 are from the 20- 30% most deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area 360 are from the 70 – 100% least deprived local super output area.</p> <p>York Gardens</p> <p>Of the 1,140 children under 3 living in the reach area the centre works with 720 (65%). This is lower than the average Wandsworth Children's Centre figure of 68%</p> <p>Of the 1,140, children under 3, 370 live in 0-10% local super output area. The Centre works with 325 (88%). This is higher than the average Wandsworth Children's Centre figure of 85%</p> <p>Of the 1,140 children under 3 living in the reach area 0 are from a 10-20% most deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Of the 1,140 children under 3 living in the reach area 110 are from the 20- 30% most deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Of the 1,140 children under 3 living in the reach area 650 are from the 70 – 100% least deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Yvonne Carr</p> <p>Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area the centre works with 459 (92%) This is higher than the average Wandsworth Children's Centre figure of 68%.</p> <p>Of the 500, 190 children under 3 live in 0-10% local super output area. The Centre works with 190 (100). This is higher than the average Wandsworth Children's Centre figure of 85%.</p> <p>Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area, 170 are from the 10-20% most deprived local super output area.</p> <p>Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area, 40 are from the 20- 30% most deprived local super output area.</p>
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	Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area 100 are from the 70 – 100% least deprived local super output area.
Disability	<p>Franciscan Of the 633 children, the centre works with 6 identified as having a disability or an emerging special educational need. These children will continue to receive Early Childhood Services from Health Visiting, speech and language services and child and adolescent mental health services.</p> <p>York Gardens Of the 720 children, the centre works with 6 identified as having a disability or an emerging special educational need. These children will continue to receive Early Childhood Services from Health Visiting, speech and language services and child and adolescent mental health services.</p> <p>Yvonne Carr Of the 459 children, the centre works with 10 identified as having a disability or an emerging special educational need. These children will continue to receive Early Childhood Services from Health Visiting, speech and language services and child and adolescent mental health services.</p>
Gender (sex)	<p>Franciscan Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area, 400 are male and 400 are female. Of those worked with, 50% are male and 50% are female.</p> <p>York Gardens Of the 1,149 children under 3 living in the reach area, 570 are male and 570 are female. Of those worked with, 51% are male and 49% are female</p> <p>Yvonne Carr Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area, 240 are male and 260 are female. Of those worked with, 48% are male and 52% are female.</p>
Gender reassignment/ Gender fluid/variant	N/A to age range
Marriage and civil partnership	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	N/A

<p>Race/ethnicity</p>	<p>Franciscan Of the 800 children under 3 living in the reach area, 530 (66%) are from BAME communities. The centre is working with 349 (66%) of this cohort. This is lower than the average 80% for this cohort across all Children’s Centres in Wandsworth. Of the children under 3 accessing the centre 55% are BME.</p> <p>York Gardens Of the 1140 children under 3 living in the reach area, 590 (52%) are from BAME communities. The centre is working with 472 (80%) of this cohort, which is the average for this cohort across all Children’s Centres in Wandsworth. Of the children under 3 accessing the centre 65% are BME.</p> <p>Yvonne Carr Of the 500 children under 3 living in the reach area, 350 (70%) are from BAME communities. The centre is working with 343 (98%) of this cohort. This is higher than the 80% average for this cohort across all Children’s Centres in Wandsworth. Of the children under 3 accessing the centre 74% are BME.</p>
<p>Religion and belief, including non belief</p>	<p>This information is not collected</p>
<p>Sexual orientation Sexual identity/ gender identity</p>	<p>This information is not collected</p>
<p>Across groups i.e older LGBT service users or bme young men or disabled young people</p>	<p>N/A for this ages group</p>

Data gaps

Data gap(s)	How will this be addressed?
No data gaps relevant to this service have been identified	

2. Impact

3. Protected group	Positive	Negative

<p>Age</p>	<p>Evidence shows that early education does make a difference to school readiness and subsequent attainment, particularly the 2 year old offer for children from vulnerable families. In Wandsworth whilst the take-up of 2 year old places is comparatively good, there are 36% of vulnerable children that do not access this entitlement; this is one reason for the attainment gap for children at early years foundation stage.</p> <p>Being more pro-active and focused on spending time and building trusted relationships with those families and children who are vulnerable and who live in areas where there is a lot of poverty will mean that they get a great start and are able to start school happy, confident and with the skills both educational and social that will help them enjoy school and take part in learning. The proposed changes help children and families who are disadvantaged have better prospects in the short and long term – this includes better health, social skills, attainment which will all contribute to them being able to achieve their aspirations and thrive. All children starting school from a more equitable place means that everyone in the class will do better and the teachers and staff will have</p>	<p>Any changes will impact on children and young people. The proposed changes mean that approximately 1,161 children who currently access these centres (those outside the 0 - 20% local super output area will be able to access these sites only on a more limited basis through the universal early childhood services; Health Visiting and early education places. Foundation Stage Profile results show that this group perform better than their disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact of change on this group any child or family needing additional support or services will be able to access them through the Early Help Pathway team who will broker engagement with relevant provision or through other nearby centres.</p> <p>The department will ensure it clearly communicates the changes (if agreed) to parents and is pro-active in keeping in touch with parents / carers who access services through our early help pathway.</p> <p>The proposed changes are subject to consultation.</p>
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	<p>more time to spend with those children who might need extra help and support.</p> <p>A pro-active approach will mean that we reach out to engage children and families who live in a local super output area, who are eligible for a 2 year old place, who have an identified vulnerability by a professional like a health visitor or GP who has got consent from the family to share this information and connect them to early help services in Wandsworth. Being pro-active means reaching families through going to their home, phoning them, texting them, being available in other places they might go like their GP surgery. This means working in partnership for example with the Health Visiting Service. This will ensure that the children and families who want and need support, who are currently connected to it, get it.</p> <p>There will be an increase in the number of 2-year old places available and we will also be offering children the chance to take part with their parent of carer in 'Stay, Play and Learn'. This will benefit children by helping them be more confident, develop their social skills, able to make choices and understand more about what they like and build their resilience – the opportunity</p>	
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	<p>to do this alongside their parent or carer will help them continue their learning at home with consistent messages and activities that re-inforce their learning.</p> <p>An increased focus on early help will be supported by screening tools such as the validated 'Ages and Stages' questionnaire. This will ensure that there is a better understanding of attainment of developmental milestones for children who are vulnerable or who aren't meeting the learning and developmental milestones for their age. Where key milestones are not met targeted interventions will be offered to support them so that when they start school they are showing a good level of development for their age.</p> <p>Children of all ages will benefit from the development of a new purpose built centre.</p> <p>Providing more opportunities for vulnerable 2 year olds at Yvonne Carr and York Gardens will allow us to bring the children's centre staff into one team and this will increase the flexibility and ability of staff to be responsive to local needs and develop a wider range of services including taking a whole family approach.</p>	
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<p>Disability</p>	<p>22 children identified as having disabilities currently access service at Franciscan, York Gardens and Yvonne Carr. They will continue to be able to access receive Early Childhood Services from Health Visiting, Speech and language services and child and adolescent mental health services. If needed they will be able to access support from our early years services that provide a range of provision for children based on individual needs.</p>	<p>As set out in age, however it should be noted that irrespective of where they live children who have a special educational need will remain a priority for early help and support.</p>
<p>Gender (sex)</p>	<p>The gender split currently is largely equitable, circa 50/50 with some minor variation.</p> <p>The gender split is reliant on the demographic of the centres' designated reach areas and is therefore not anticipated to change with the proposed change in focus.</p> <p>Boys living in areas of deprivation have lower attainment than girls in the same group. Being more pro-active and focused on spending time and building trusted relationships with those families and children who are vulnerable and who live in areas where there is a lot of poverty will mean that they get a great start and are able to start school happy, confident and with the skills both educational and social that will help them enjoy school and take part in</p>	<p>The changes proposed are not expected to unduly impact on girls more than boys.</p>

	<p>learning. This is particularly important for boys. These changes will allow for bespoke work with boys that reflects the way they learn. The proposed changes help boys who are disadvantaged have better prospects in the short and long term – this includes better health, social skills, attainment which will all contribute to them being able to achieve their aspirations and thrive. All children starting school from a more equitable place means that everyone in the class will do better and the teachers and staff will have more time to spend with those children who might need extra help and support; this might include adapting teaching to reflect boys learning styles.</p>	
Gender reassignment/ Gender fluid/variant	n/a	n/a
Marriage and civil partnership	n/a	n/a
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Pregnant women in the Children’s Centre areas receive support through their local GPs, maternity and midwifery services. Health Visiting works these services to ensure that pregnant mothers receive an ante- natal visit and mandated post-partum visits.</p> <p>Services to pregnant mothers will not be affected by the proposed changes.</p>	

Race/ethnicity	An assertive outreach policy will be adopted to ensure equitable use of services by all communities represented in the local super output area target areas. The areas where there are proposed changes to the centres have a higher % of children from black, minority and ethnic communities living there and therefore the proposed changes will ensure these children will have access to services when they need them and the positive impact identified in the age and gender section will also have a positive impact on them.	66% of children using the Children's Centre Services are from black, minority and ethnic communities. Any changes will therefore have the potential to impact more on children from black, minority and ethnic communities. Impact as set out in age section
Religion and belief, including non belief	Impact as set out in age section	Impact as set out in age section
Sexual orientation	n/a	n/a

4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Consult on proposals - there is a statutory duty to consult on any change to the delivery of Children's Centres that has the potential to impact on children and families using and eligible to use them and to consider the result of that consultation before implementation of any changes.	PM	End September 2018
Work with Health Visiting Service and other partners to ensure that processes to identify and target families living in the 0-10% and 0-20% local super output areas are effective and that early childhood services are an embedded and integral part of our early help pathway.	PM	September 2018