

Lead Member for Children and Families 7 October 2019

Appendix 1 Children's Services Early Help Strategy Key Changes Following Consultation

Children’s Services Early Help Strategy

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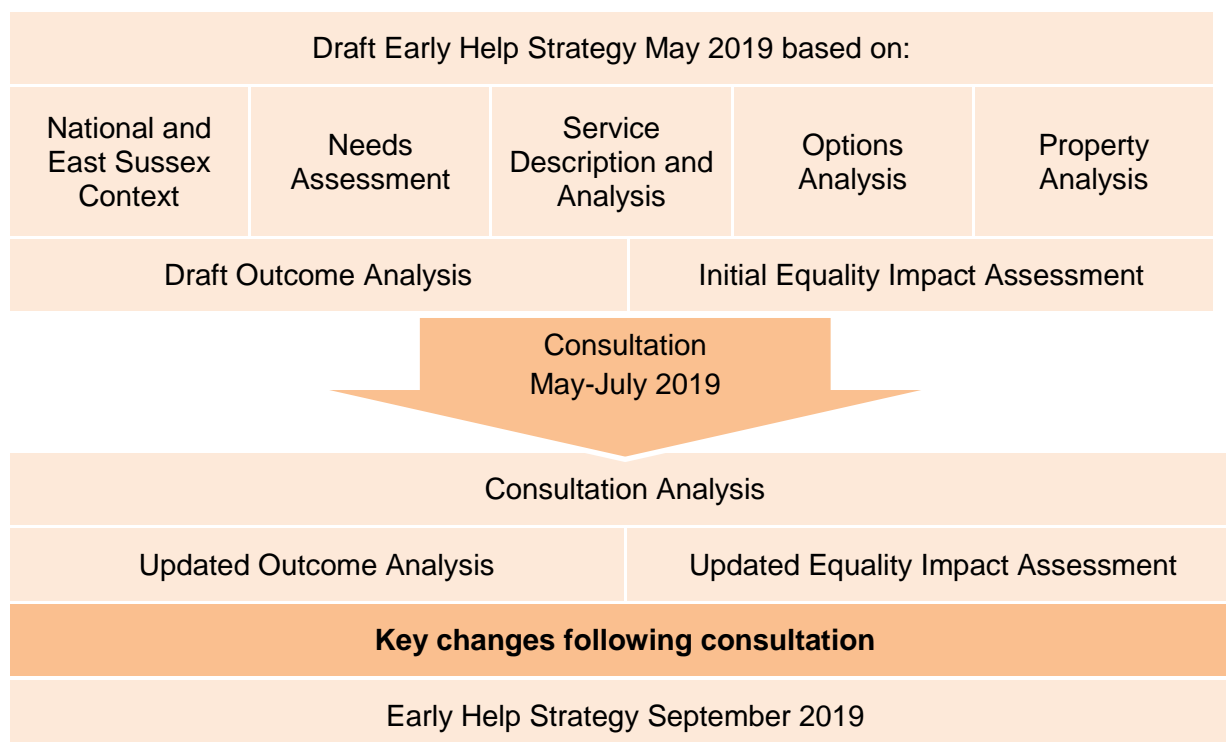
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1. Purpose

This document sets out the **changes made to the draft Early Help Strategy** and supporting documents in response to feedback from communities, service users, partners and staff.

It is one of a suite of analyses provided as supporting information to the proposed Children's Services Early Help Strategy, all of which are available [online](#).



2. Changes to the Strategy (Appendix 2)

Reference	Change
(Throughout)	Replacement of the terms 'short' or 'shorter' interventions with 'focussed' interventions.
1iii Purpose of this document	Update to 'How this document was developed' following completion of the consultation.
3 Results of consultation	A new section reflecting the Consultation Analysis in Appendix 5.
4i Revised strategy: Vision	Rewording what will be delivered to clarify goals for targeted and universal/universal plus services at different levels of need.
4ii Revised strategy: Outcomes	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>The wider offer, funded by Public Health, Troubled Families Programme and external funders, will be part of an integrated approach to public services based within neighbourhoods and local communities responding proactively to identified needs. Our aim is to support families in East Sussex enabling them when possible to improve their own health and wellbeing, educational attendance and outcomes, reducing unemployment and improving financial inclusion, and developing parenting skills and resilience.</p>
4iii Revised strategy: Services which will be available to families from the County Council	Addition of sexual health outreach for young people and open access youth sessions.
4iv Revised strategy: Key Features of Children's Services Early Help	<p>Clarification of fundraising for a wider preventative offer to:</p> <p>We will work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes.</p>
4v Revised strategy: Children's Services Early Help – Targeted Family Group Work	Addition that this will be offered to families where it is appropriate to their needs.
4vii Revised strategy: Children's Services Early Help – Youth Work	Update: We're expecting to be able to offer drop-in or open access youth work, the details of which will be agreed with partners.
4viii Revised strategy: Public Health and externally funded services	Updates to this information.
4ix Revised strategy: Network of children's centres and youth centres	<p>New section listing the network of 16 children's and youth centres.</p> <p>We will continue to offer services from current sites in Newhaven, Heathfield and The Bridge (Hastings) when needed on a room-hire basis.</p>

Reference	Change
	Wherever possible, we will use Council buildings or work with partners to find cost effective venues for relocated services, when needed in locations without children's centres.
5i What will change: Keywork	<p>Additions (mitigations from Outcomes Analysis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support keywork teams with communicating the changes to service users, honouring existing early help plans wherever possible (Unless family needs change). • Keyworkers' workloads will continue to be managed in detail through supervision as now.
5ii What will change: Youth work	Update: We're expecting to be able to offer drop-in or open access youth work, the details of which will be agreed with partners.
5iii What will change: Children's centres	<p>Clarification that 14 centres will be de-designated and that our goal is that early years, family support or education services will continue to be provided from as many of these centres as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are ongoing and promising discussions with schools and other partners regarding options to take over 10 centres: High Weald, Seaford, Chailey, Battle, West St Leonards, Old Town (Eastbourne), Ringmer, Crowborough, Rye and Egerton Park Children's Centres. We will seek to work in partnership with new providers to enable an ongoing early years family support offer e.g. continuing groups run by volunteers at the centre. • We will continue to offer services from current sites in Newhaven, Heathfield and The Bridge (Hastings) when needed on a room-hire basis. <p>Early years services in Hampden Park will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre.</p> <p>An additional commitment to maximise income from hiring out rooms in children's centres and assess the potential to charge for some activities.</p> <p>An additional commitment to strengthen still further our approach to working with volunteers.</p> <p>Addition of impact of fewer crèches: fewer children may have the opportunity to attend.</p>
5iv What will change: Rainbows and Cygnets nurseries in Bexhill	<p>New section:</p> <p>The County Council aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill will no longer be operated by the Council, which will instead work with other providers to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient nursery places in the area, as it does in the rest of the county. This process may include sub-leasing the spaces for Rainbow and Cygnets nurseries to other nursery</p>

Reference	Change
	<p>providers, without ongoing financial or other direct responsibilities for nursery services. If development of sufficient alternative provision in Bexhill proves impossible, it may be necessary to review closure of the nurseries.</p> <p>We have written to parents about proposals and confirmed that no changes will happen until September 2020.</p>
6 Financial results	<p>Updated budget forecast.</p> <p>Updated assumptions about external funding for and levels of keywork.</p>
7 Implementing the proposed changes	Updated for amendments to the timeline.

3. Changes to the Outcomes Assessment (Appendix 3)

Reference	Change
1. Summary	Additional summary of consultation and changes to the Outcome Analysis.
2. Introduction	Updated to reflect completion of the consultation.
3.Children's Services Early Help Strategic Outcomes	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>The wider offer, funded by Public Health, Troubled Families Programme and external funders, will be part of an integrated approach to public services based within neighbourhoods and local communities responding proactively to identified needs. Our aim is to support families in East Sussex enabling them when possible to improve their own health and wellbeing, educational attendance and outcomes, reducing unemployment and improving financial inclusion, and developing parenting skills and resilience.</p>
4. Changes to Children's Services Early Help	<p>Revise the Key Changes diagram on page 6 for revisions to the strategy.</p> <p>Revise the summary of changes to children's centres on page 7 for revisions to the strategy including ongoing discussions with partners about taking over 10 centres, continued services when needed at 3 centres on a room-hire basis, and the relocation of services from 1 centre.</p>
5i. Changes to Keywork	<p>Update summary changes for forecasts of externally funded keywork resources.</p> <p>Additional potential impacts and risks for service users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families who need early help may experience increased waiting times.

Reference	Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter interventions and group work may have less successful outcomes (for families and young people worked with) than a longer period of keywork. • Reducing services may lead to escalating vulnerability in families and poorer outcomes for families and young people, possibly increased demand for social care in the long term. <p>Clarified mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will receive the support that is appropriate to their needs and situation, as now. Group work support may be used to support families waiting for keywork. <p>Updated mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We anticipate that additional keywork will continued to be funded by the Troubled Families Programme and other external funding. <p>Additional mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support keywork teams with communicating the changes to service users, honouring existing early help plans wherever possible (Unless family needs change).
	<p>Additional potential impact or risk for Children's Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With reduced staffing, workloads may increase for individual keyworkers. <p>Additional mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyworkers' workloads will continue to be managed in detail through supervision as now.
	<p>Updated mitigation to potential impact of change on staff morale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review incorporates a staff communication plan which includes a web page, FAQs, regular updates and a route for feedback and queries. Staff have been asked for their views and have been surveyed twice. Staff have been provided with training in preparation for change. The period of uncertainty for staff will be kept to a minimum.
	<p>Updated mitigation to assumptions made by other County Council services about keywork levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will maximise the keywork offer by focussed use of our resources and external fundraising with partners.
	<p>Additional potential impact or risk for stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If family vulnerabilities increase because there is a wait until receiving keywork, or it is not available, there may be increased pressures for other services e.g. family support, education, health, police. <p>Clarified mitigation:</p>

Reference	Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes.
5ii. Changes to youth work	<p>Updated mitigation re externally funded sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're expecting to be able to offer drop-in or open access youth work, the details of which will be agreed with partners.
5iii. Changes to the nurseries in Bexhill	<p>Revise the summary of changes for revisions to the strategy.</p> <p>Removal of potential impacts and risks relating to insufficiency of available nursery places in Bexhill.</p>
	<p>Additional potential risks or impacts for service users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If another provider operates Cygnets and Rainbows, the sufficiency, affordability and quality of nursery provision in Bexhill may reduce. If nursery places in Bexhill become less affordable, children may not attend nurseries for as many hours or at all. This would reduce their educational opportunities, as well as potentially affecting parent employment and family financial welfare in a relatively deprived area.
	<p>Additional mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will work with other providers to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient nursery places in the area. This process may include sub-leasing the spaces for Rainbow and Cygnets nurseries to other nursery providers, but would not incur ongoing financial or other direct responsibilities for nursery services. If development of sufficient alternative provision in Bexhill proves impossible, we may review closure of the nurseries. We have written to parents about proposals and confirmed that no changes will happen until September 2020.
	<p>Additional potential impact or risk for Children's Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to uncertainty about the future of Rainbows and Cygnets nurseries, fewer places may be taken up, leading to the need for a larger subsidy by the County Council. <p>Additional mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have written to parents about proposals and confirmed that no changes will take place until September 2020.
5iv. Changes to children's centres	<p>Revise the summary of changes for revisions to the strategy.</p>
	<p>Clarification of potential impacts and risks should service users experience a reduction in the accessibility of early years family support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a particular issue for families reliant on public transport, those living in rural areas and regarding the proposal to relocate Egerton Park services to Sidley.

Reference	Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some valued activities and groups may no longer be offered. Where children's centres close, this will remove the local 'safe space' and drop-in offer, and trusted location to meet with and talk to professionals. This may make families less likely to engage with services. Vulnerable families or children with special educational needs may not be identified. Parents with mental ill health may not access support. Children may not have the opportunity for socialisation and support to development. Children's readiness for school may be affected. <p>Updated mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are ongoing and promising discussions with schools and other partners about taking over and continued operation of High Weald, Crowborough, Seaford, Chailey, Battle, West St Leonards, Old Town (Eastbourne), Ringmer, Rye and Egerton Park Children's Centres. We will seek to work in partnership with new providers to enable an ongoing early years family support offer e.g. continuing groups run by volunteers at the centre. We will continue to provide services when needed on a room-hire basis from sites in Newhaven, Heathfield and The Bridge (Hastings). Early years family support in Hampden Park will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre. <p>Additional mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will seek to maximise income from hiring out rooms in children's centres and assess the potential to charge for some activities. We already work with volunteers – and we will strengthen still further our approach to working with volunteers. <p>Removal of superseded mitigation: We will provide community organisations with information about possible new locations.</p> <p>Additional potential impacts and risks for Children's Services and stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If families do not or cannot engage with relocated services (where a children centre is no longer available) this may cause an escalation of need and pressure on other services in the public and voluntary sectors e.g. family support, education, health, police. With fewer children centres locations, there will be less opportunity for Early Help services to work jointly with other providers from the private, public and voluntary sectors. <p>Updated mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are ongoing and promising discussions with schools and other partners about taking over and continued operation of High Weald, Crowborough, Seaford, Chailey, Battle, West St Leonards, Old Town (Eastbourne), Rye, Ringmer, and Egerton Park Children's Centres. We will seek to work in partnership

Reference	Change
	<p>with new providers to enable an ongoing early years family support offer e.g. continuing groups run by volunteers at the centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to provide services when needed on a room-hire basis from sites in Newhaven, Heathfield and The Bridge (Hastings). • Early years family support in Hampden Park will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre. <p>Addition to mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rooms will continue to be available for hire by partners and the community in retained children's centres – <i>addition of</i> - and we will seek to ensure this continues in those taken over. <p>Updated mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to talk to private nurseries in Seaford, Ticehurst and Crowborough as we explore options for these sites to be taken over by schools or other partners. <p>Additional to potential impacts and risks for service users of reduction to the availability of crèches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer children may have this educational opportunity.
5v. Changes within children's centres	Updated for latest information.
6. Wider Early Help System and Potential Changes	Updated for latest information.

4. Changes to the Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 4)

The final equality impact assessment has been amended to add reference to the consultation findings and the subsequent revised Early Help Strategy. The outcome of the impact assessment has not however changed.



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