

Lead Member for Children and Families 7 October 2019

Appendix 5 Children's Services Early Help Strategy Consultation Analysis

Children's Services Early Help Strategy

Consultation Analysis

Contents

1.	Summary.....	3
2.	Introduction	6
2.1	Purpose of this document.....	6
2.2	How we carried out the consultation	6
2.3	Detailed comments and submissions available to Members	7
3.	Results of the public survey.....	8
3.1	Question - How much do you agree or disagree with the plan to focus our limited resources on the following areas of the proposed vision?	8
3.2	Question - How much do you agree that the proposals in the draft Early Help Strategy to target support to the most vulnerable families are the best way to make use of our limited resources.....	9
3.3	Question - Do you agree with the principle in the draft Strategy that it is more important to provide good, accessible services, rather than continue to operate from all existing buildings?.....	9
3.4	Question – In order to reduce the impact of the proposes, how helpful are the following?.....	11
3.5	Comments - what worries you most about the proposals?.....	12
3.6	Comments – is there anything else you think would be useful to reduce the impact of the proposals?	16
3.7	Other comments on the proposals.....	18
3.8	Responses from early years and education providers	20
4.	Consultation Survey Respondents.....	21
4.1	Respondent status regarding this consultation	21
4.2	Respondent gender	22
4.3	Respondent ethnic group	22
4.4	Age of respondents	23
4.5	Disability as disclosed by respondents	23
4.6	Official Respondents	23
5.	Other responses.....	25
6.	Petitions received	28
7.	Findings from the staff survey.....	29
8.	Background - questionnaire.....	30

1. Summary

Between 22 May and 29 July 2019 the County Council consulted with service users, communities, partners, and staff on the draft Early Help Strategy. The draft strategy aimed to support the most vulnerable families within the available resources and reduce child safety concerns. The feedback received has been used to add to and revise the Equality Impact Assessment, Outcomes Analysis and the Early Help Strategy.

The draft Early Help Strategy proposed to prioritise children's safety, target resources, tackle the specific issues that cause people to need help from social workers, build in flexibility to take-up new funding opportunities, work in partnership to ensure the best combined support to vulnerable families, and connect with ongoing projects to develop community resilience. Proposals included the County Council seeking expressions of interest from early years or education providers in relation to 14 children's centres in East Sussex, and Rainbow and Cygnets nurseries in Bexhill.

The consultation sought feedback on the draft strategy, evidence in relation to the underpinning strategic commissioning review, information on potential equality and other impacts of proposed changes to services, and ideas on how to manage those impacts. It also sought expressions of interest from early years and education providers in the 14 children's centres and 2 nurseries.

This report provides an analysis of responses to the survey, and a summary of comments made in the survey, via correspondence and petition. It includes an overview of expressions of interest received from other service providers. It explains the Council's consideration of and response to the feedback which has been provided.

A total of 566 surveys were returned. Of the respondents, 218 or 38.5% identified themselves as users of Early Help services (some service users identified as members of the public and information about which children's centres they use was therefore not collected). Of the 218 Early Help service users, 62.4% indicated that they use one or more children's centres to which changes were proposed. However, many respondents ticked more than one site; the number of respondents who said that they *only* use children's centres which are proposed to close was 29.8% of the total number of service users who responded.

37 correspondents contacted us by letter or email, plus 94 handwritten comments regarding High Weald Centre in Ticehurst. A petition regarding the Bexhill nurseries with 1119 signatures was submitted with supporting information. We also received one Freedom of Information request about the Bexhill nurseries.

Overall, 65.9% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the strategy's priorities, while 15.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed. 37.6% strongly agreed or agreed that targeting support to the most vulnerable families was the best use of limited resources while 42.6% disagreed or strongly disagreed. 28.6% strongly agreed or agreed that it is more important to provide good, accessible services than continue to operate from all existing buildings, while 51.9% disagreed or strongly disagreed. 75.4% considered that proposed steps to reduce the

impact of proposals were helpful or very helpful, while 10.3% considered that the proposed steps were unhelpful or very unhelpful.

Comments most frequently expressed concerns about the local accessibility of early years family support if children's centres closed, in particular High Weald (Ticehurst), Crowborough, Seaford and Newhaven, Ringmer and Egerton Park (Bexhill). Respondents also commented on the need to identify families in need of help as early as possible and prevent vulnerability arising, and about the value of universal family support services in familiar 'safe spaces'. The other main concern expressed was for the availability, affordability and quality of nursery provision in Bexhill if the 2 nurseries were no longer run by the County Council. Expressions of interest were received from 7 early years or education providers and 3 other partners, and discussions opened with schools adjacent to children's centres affected by proposals.

East Sussex County Council response to consultation feedback – changes to proposals

The feedback received has been used to add to and revise the Equality Impact Assessment, Outcomes Analysis and Early Help Strategy. The changes to proposals are:

The Council has agreed to provide the two nurseries in Bexhill until September 2020. It aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill would no longer be operated by the Council, which would 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 providers, but would not incur 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.

Addition that, 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.

Addition of working with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes.

Additional commitment to maximise income from hiring out rooms in children's centres and assess the potential to charge for some activities.

An additional commitment to strengthen still further our approach to working with volunteers.

Response to feedback about children's centres and early years family support

It is our continued goal to find alternative early years or education providers or other partners to take over children's centres wherever possible. The revised strategy sets out our direction of travel for each centre. This includes ongoing and promising discussions regarding options for 10 centres: 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 with new providers to enable an ongoing early years family support offer, e.g. continuing groups run by volunteers at the location. The Bridge in Hastings is not owned

by the County Council and is expected to continue to operate as a community asset, in which we may seek to hire rooms to deliver services, as now. We intend to continue offering services, when needed, on a room-hire basis from The Bridge in Hastings, Heathfield and Newhaven sites. Early years family support in Hampden Park will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre. The revised Early Help Strategy also states that other Council and community buildings will be used to provide early years and family support where it is needed.

The strategy includes a continued though reduced offer of support for early years family support, integrated with universal Health Visiting and Healthy Child Programme services, and operating from a network of 16 children's and youth centres, plus community or other Council buildings where needed. We will work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes. However it is not achievable within the resources available for Early Help without reducing support to vulnerable families, which our detailed research has shown would increase child safety concerns and the need for statutory social care interventions.

Response to feedback about nurseries in Bexhill

The Council has agreed to provide the two nurseries in Bexhill until September 2020. The County Council aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill would no longer be operated by the Council, which would 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 providers, but would not incur 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.

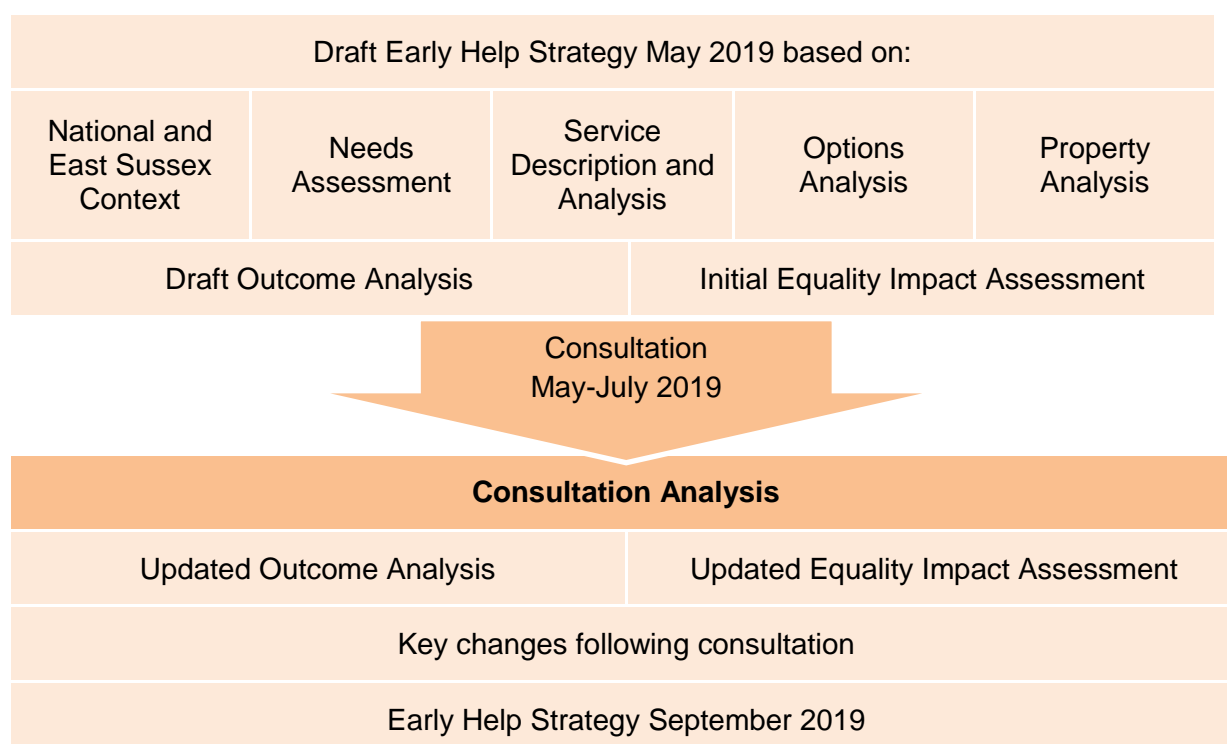
Response to feedback on our approach to consultation

We also received feedback about our approach to the consultation, including the topics and wording of questions, the financial information available and the inclusion of proposals for nurseries with consultation on the wider service. We believe the consultation met our responsibilities and are pleased to say it has provided valuable information that has led to improvements in the strategy, as intended.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this document

This report provides an analysis of responses to the survey and a summary of comments made in the survey, via correspondence and a petition. It includes an overview of expressions of interest received from other service providers. It explains the Council's consideration of and response to the feedback which has been provided. It is one of a suite of analyses provided as supporting information to the revised Children's Services Early Help Strategy, all of which are available [online](#).



2.2 How we carried out the consultation

The consultation was launched on 21 May 2019. Feedback was invited via online survey and/or email. The survey included three free text questions to enable comments on any topic.

The consultation was publicised via the media, social media, and the Council's website. Early Help staff were encouraged to bring the consultation to service users' attention. Paper copies of the survey were available in children's centres and on request. An email address and phone number were available in case of query.

We wrote to parents and carers of children enrolled in the two County Council operated nurseries in Bexhill. We also contacted the externally run nurseries operating in 3 children's centres affected by the proposals.

In addition to the public consultation, a staff consultation was carried out to give colleagues the opportunity to have their say as professionals.

We contacted all members of the Children and Young People's Trust about the consultation. We have discussed the draft Early Help Strategy with partners from public and third sectors in a wide range of forums, along with discussions with service users through the Youth Cabinet and Children in Care Council.

During the consultation period, we invited initial expressions of interest from providers of 0-5 or education services interested in taking over the centres. We've also talked to schools to explore opportunities to take over centres.

2.3 Detailed comments and submissions available to Members

The following have been made available to County Council Members:

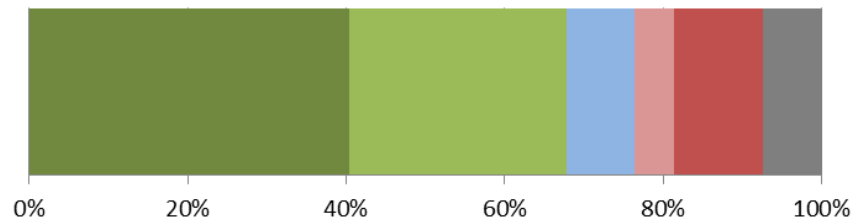
- Public survey comments – verbatim.
- Emailed comments received.
- Ticehurst (High Weald) submission of handwritten comments.
- Petition and supporting papers re Bexhill nurseries as submitted.
- Official responses from partners.

3. Results of the public survey

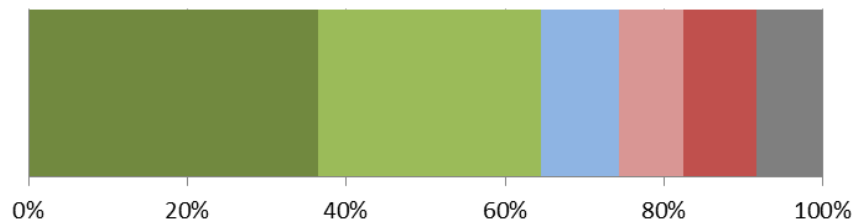
3.1 Question - How much do you agree or disagree with the plan to focus our limited resources on the following areas of the proposed vision?

As shown below, the majority of respondents strongly agree or agree with the proposed priorities for Early Help, with the exception of building in flexibility to take up funding opportunities, on which opinion is more divided.

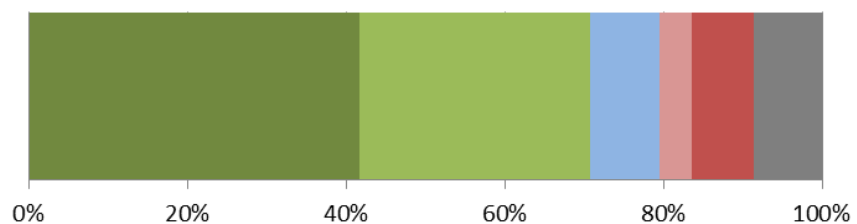
Prioritise children's safety, ensuring child safeguarding systems are resilient and managing the amount of people who need social care involvement.



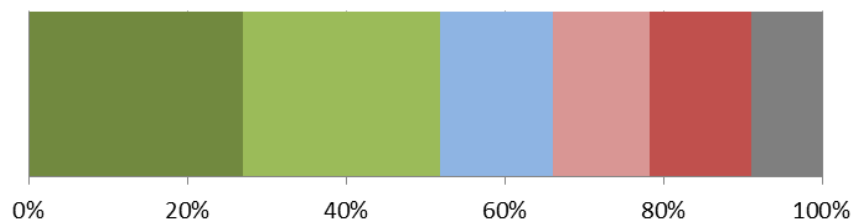
Target the resources we have to make effective early interventions with the right families.



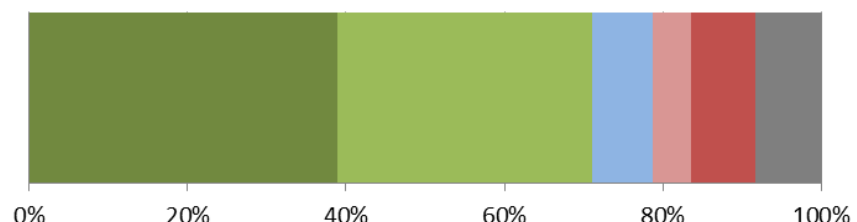
Tackle the specific issues that cause people to need help from social workers, at the right time and for the right duration, building stronger families for the future.



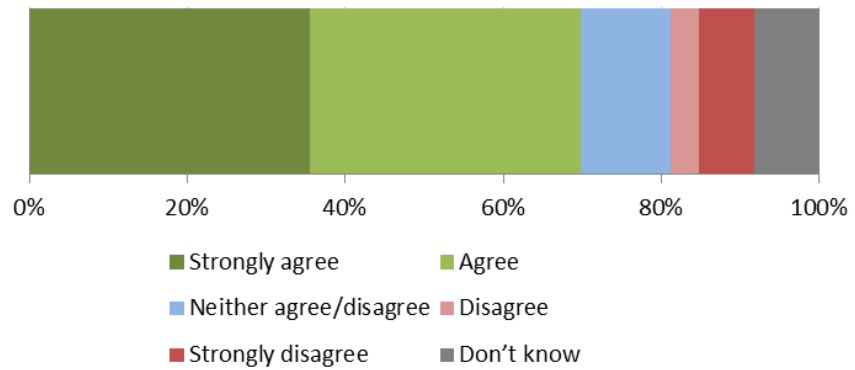
Build in flexibility so that our services can adapt to having less resources and also take-up new funding opportunities.



Work in partnership with other Council services, and partners across public sectors, businesses voluntary organisations and health, to ensure the best combined support to vulnerable families.

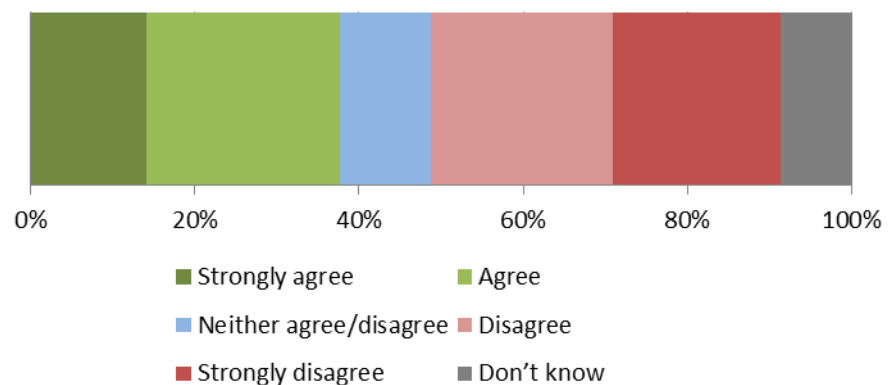


Connect with ongoing projects to develop community resilience.

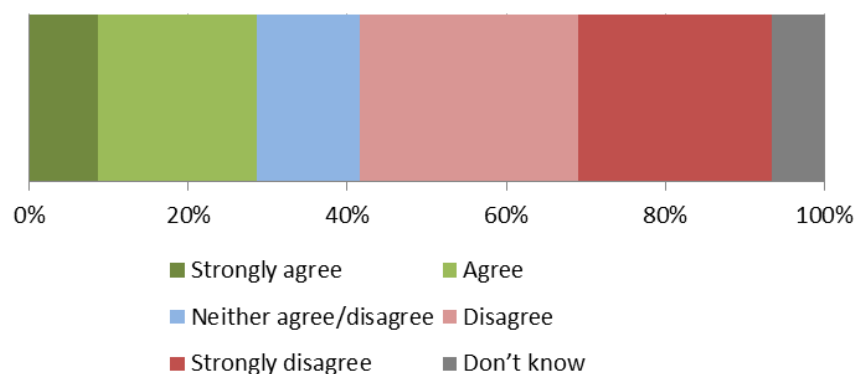


3.2 Question - How much do you agree that the proposals in the draft Early Help Strategy to target support to the most vulnerable families are the best way to make use of our limited resources.

There was a mixed response to the proposal to support to the most vulnerable families, with 37.6% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing, but 42.6% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.



3.3 Question - Do you agree with the principle in the draft Strategy that it is more important to provide good, accessible services, rather than continue to operate from all existing buildings?



28.6% of respondents were in agreement, with 51.9% in disagreement. For the 218 respondents who identified as Early Help service users, this was 22.0% in agreement, with 56.9% in disagreement.

When service users were asked which children's centres they used, 177 of the 218 service users who responded (81.2%) said they used at least one building. 97 said they used one site only, 39 said they used 2 sites, 24 used 3 sites, 9 used 4 sites, 7 used 5 sites, and one respondent said they used 7 of the children's centres.

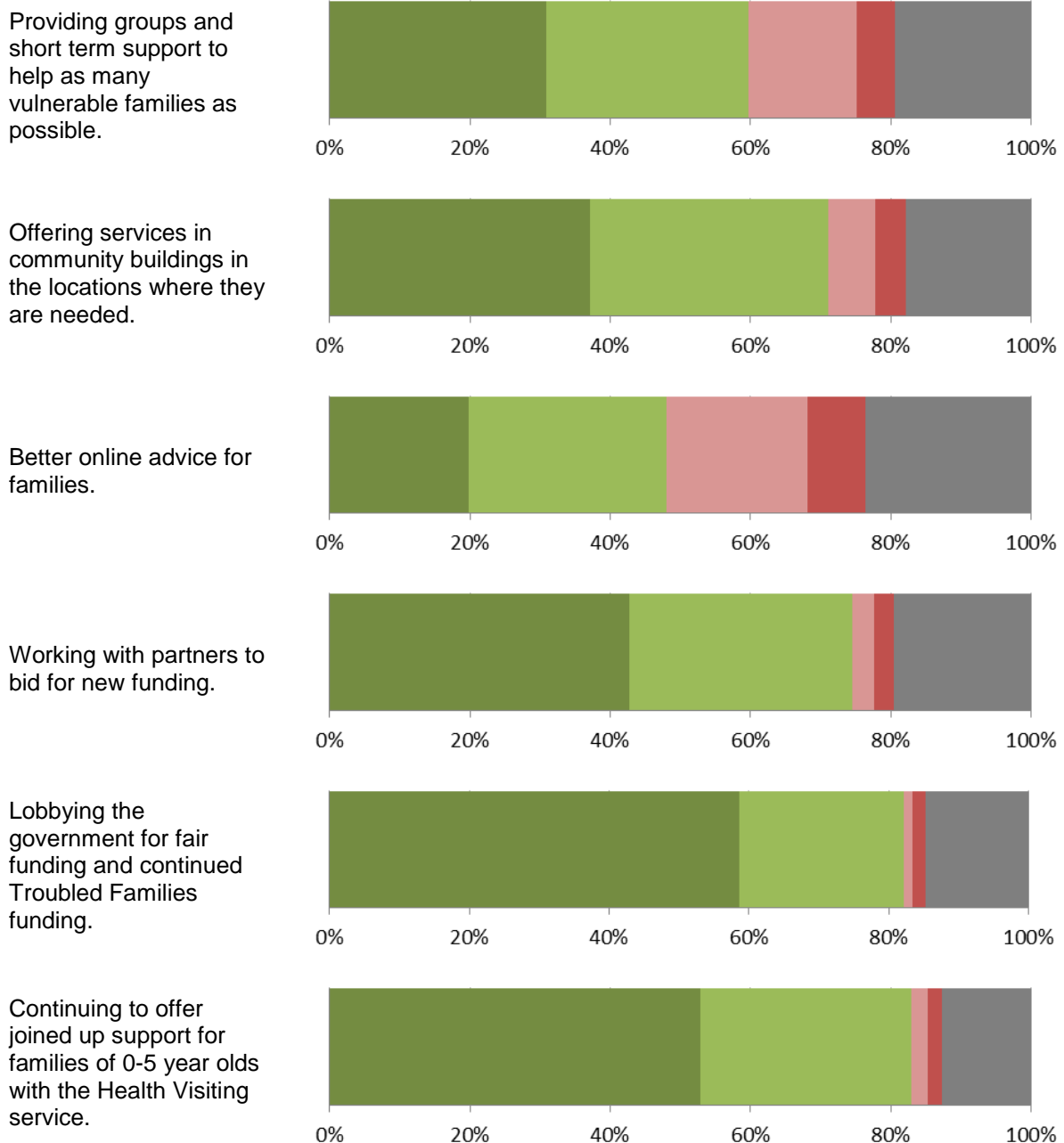
136 respondents (62.4% of the 218 Early Help service users) said they used one or more of the children's centres which are proposed to close. However, of this 136, 71 said that they used a children's centre which will be retained, as well as one or more which is proposed to close. Therefore the number of respondents who said that they only use one or more of the children's centres which are proposed to close is 65, or 29.8% of the total number of service users who responded.

The breakdown by children's centre is below, showing the total tally of positive responses for each of the 26 children's centres, noting that 80 respondents ticked more than one site:

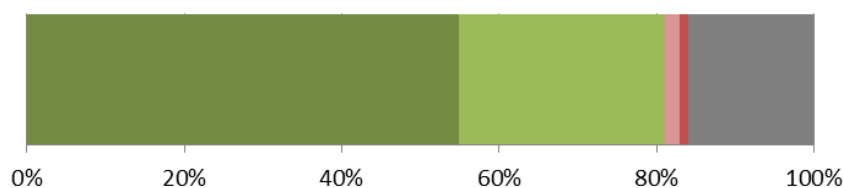
Children's Centre	Number	Children's Centre	Number
Battle Children's Centre	6	Old Town Children's Centre	2
Chailey Children's Centre	1	Peacehaven Children's Centre	48
Crowborough Children's Centre	23	Ringmer Children's Centre	46
Devonshire Children's Centre	5	Robsack Children's Centre	8
East Hastings Children's Centre	9	Rye Children's Centre	0
Egerton Park Children's Centre	21	Saxonwood Children's Centre	0
Hailsham Children's Centre	7	Seaford Children's Centre	18
Hampden Park Children's Centre	3	Shinewater Children's Centre	8
Hastings Town Children's Centre	16	Sidley Children's Centre	24
Heathfield Children's Centre	6	St Leonards Children's Centre	11
High Weald Children's Centre	6	The Bridge Children's Centre	13
Lewes Children's Centre	9	Uckfield Children's Centre	14
Newhaven Children's Centre	19	West St Leonards Children's Centre	2

3.4 Question – In order to reduce the impact of the proposes, how helpful are the following?

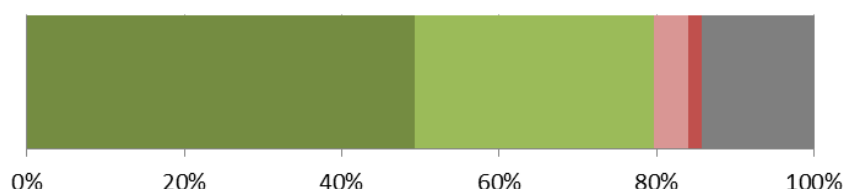
As shown below, the majority of respondents strongly agree or agree with the proposed approaches to mitigate or manage the potential negative impacts of proposals, with the exception of better online advice, on which opinion is more divided. Respondents were also less positive about reducing impact through short term work with vulnerable families.



Joining up support on emotional and mental wellbeing for children and young people – health services and early help.



Helping schools to support children and young people.



■ Very helpful ■ Helpful ■ Unhelpful ■ Very Unhelpful ■ Don't know

3.5 Comments - what worries you most about the proposals?

The online survey required an answer to this question and 535 respondents made 612 comments, which are summarised in the table below. The most frequent areas of comment were children's centres, the importance of early identification and prevention, and nursery provision in Bexhill. There were also a number of comments on County Council priorities and the rationale for making savings from Early Help services.

Topics	Number of comments
Children's centres	
Concern that early years family support and Health Visiting would be less accessible and the safe spaces to seek support and/or meet other professionals will not be available	182
Concern re closure of a children's centre or specific activity	93
Concern re availability of services in rural areas	24
Concern that crèche facilities won't be available meaning families can't attend courses and groups and/or children will miss out on education and development opportunity	7
Concern that community and volunteer activities may be reduced	2
Early identification and prevention	
Concern that family needs will escalate leading to poorer outcomes for families and/or increased spending by the County Council and other services	42

Topics	Number of comments
View that providing universal / open accessible family support is more effective than targeting, particularly in early years	28
Concern that vulnerable families and/or children with special educational needs may not be identified	24
Concerns for child safety due to service reduction	4
Nurseries in Bexhill	
Concern that quality/cost of nursery services may change	40
Concern that nursery places may not be available in Bexhill	34
Concern that children's pre-school education will be interrupted if nurseries close	14
Keyword	
Concern that fewer families receiving keyword support / longer waiting times	21
View that shorter interventions may not be as effective	7
View that group work is not as effective as keyword	3
Youth work and young people	
Concern that open access and drop-in or open access youth clubs may not be available	8
Concern about increase in young people's vulnerability as a result of reduced services	5
Other comments	
General concern about level of County Council funding, decision to make savings from Children's Services and/or County Council priorities	40
Other e.g. staff workloads, job losses, government policy	21
Concerns about approach to consultation e.g. wording of questions, request for more of information about specific changes and/or options considered and offline versions of information.	13

Many comments about children's centres described the value of local services and the family-friendly 'safe space' of a children's centre to new parents and to children. Particular areas of comment were support for new mothers feeling isolated and/or suffering mental ill health, support for children with special education needs, the value of specialist facilities and

equipment including sensory rooms, and the importance of local opportunities for parents and young children to meet others. Concerns were expressed that families may not engage with relocated services as easily as with a permanent building.

Where respondents identified as a member of the public, rather than a service user, information about the specific children's centre or centres they were interested in was not collected, so a full analysis of these comments by centre is not possible. However, 90 respondents named specific centres in their comments, and these are counted below together with themes of specific comments about those centres.

Centre or centres	Count of comments	Topics
High Weald (Ticehurst)	18	Lack of suitable alternative venue, lack of alternative community hub or location for multi-agency working, transport availability and costs, rural isolation, increasing need as families are relocated from Hastings.
Ringmer	21	Greater suitability of building than proposed alternative (Lewes).
Crowborough and/or Heathfield	14	Lack of suitable alternative venue, transport availability and costs, rural isolation.
Seaford and/or Newhaven	14	Difficulty and cost of travel to nearest alternative (Peacehaven).
Egerton Park (Bexhill)	12	Difficulty and cost of travel to nearest alternative (Sidley).
The Bridge	7	High needs area.
Battle	1	Difficulty and cost of travel to other locations.
Hampden Park	1	High needs area.
Old Town (Eastbourne)	1	Difficulty and cost of travel to other locations.
Rye	1	Difficulty and cost of travel to other locations.

Comments were also made about the closure of Hailsham, Uckfield and Shinewater Children's Centres for which no proposals were made (1 comment each).

Response to feedback about children's centres

We understand how valued children's centres are. The revised Early Help Strategy reiterates our continued goal to find alternative early years or education providers to take over children's centres wherever possible, and exploring other partnership options. The revised strategy sets out our direction of travel for each centre. This includes promising discussions regarding options for 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 with new providers to enable an ongoing early years family support offer e.g. continuing groups run by volunteers at the centre. We intend to continue offering services, when needed, on a room-hire basis from The Bridge in Hastings, Heathfield and

Newhaven sites. Early years family support in Hampden Park will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre. The revised Early Help Strategy also states that other Council and community buildings will be used to provide early years and family support where it is needed.

Some respondents commented that closing centres would not make savings if rooms were to be hired to provide services where needed. Wherever possible, we will use Council buildings or work with partners to find cost effective venues. Based on the expected frequency of services at relevant locations, we have allocated a room hire budget much lower than the cost of maintaining centres.

The importance of early identification of family problems and prevention of escalation and vulnerability was also a repeated topic of comment. There were 28 comments concerning the greater effectiveness of broader or universal family support services to build stronger families. The strategy includes a continued though reduced offer of support for early years family support, integrated with universal Health Visiting and Healthy Child Programme services, and operating from a network of 16 children's and youth centres, plus community or other Council buildings where needed. Health Visiting services will continue to complete mandated reviews of all families with children under five. Children's Services is one provider of family support in a wider system which includes, for example, health services, early years providers, schools and colleges, and voluntary sector organisations.

Children's Services will continue to work in partnership with other providers. The strategy has been amended to include a commitment that we will work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes. However, a wider parenting support offer is not achievable within the available resources for Early Help without reducing support to vulnerable families, which detailed research has shown would increase child safety concerns and the need for statutory social care interventions.

Response to feedback about nurseries in Bexhill

The proposal to remove the subsidy from Rainbows and Cygnets nurseries in Bexhill and seek alternative providers were also among those most commented on. Respondents described the affordability and quality of current Council-run nurseries (which Ofsted has rated Outstanding). They expressed concern that this would not be maintained by another provider, and that there are insufficient alternative providers in the area. Rainbow and Cygnets are the only nurseries operated by the County Council; in other areas the market has been developed and supported to meet the need for early years places. The County Council is not responsible for the affordability of nursery places in Bexhill. It has agreed to provide the two nurseries in Bexhill until September 2020. It aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill would no longer be operated by the Council, which would 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 providers, but would not incur 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.

Response to feedback on continuing services without change / with greater investment

Comments on County Council priorities and the rationale for savings from Early Help were also made. The financial challenges faced by the County Council were described in public consultation on Council priorities in 2018 and recently set out in the [State of the County](#) report. Since 2010, the Council has made significant savings by delivering as many efficiencies as possible to make the most of the resources it has. Due to the County Council's funding position, it is necessary to make further significant savings. Adults and Children's Services are by far the largest services in the Council. These budgets are the only budgets large enough to make the savings the Council must achieve. In Children's Services, a large proportion of the budget is committed and fixed for years ahead, e.g. placements for looked after children or support to children with special educational needs and disabilities. The County Council continues to lobby the government for fair funding. The revised Early Help Strategy states our commitment to work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes.

3.6 Comments – is there anything else you think would be useful to reduce the impact of the proposals?

This was an optional question and 250 respondents made 274 comments, which are summarised in the table below. The most frequent suggestions related to not making the changes, or the diversification of activities in children's centres.

Suggestions	Number of times suggested
County Council should not reduce funding / no change	66
Increase and/or diversify activities/providers in centres	26
Nurseries continue to be provided by the County Council	22
Management savings, process and organisational improvements and better use of tech	23
Impacts of the proposals can't be managed / impacts on other service providers described	21
More / better partnership working	18
Other suggestions e.g. government policy, implementation approach	16

Suggestions	Number of times suggested
Fund and/or support other services e.g. schools, mental health	15
Fundraising and/or lobby government for increased funding	13
More / better use of volunteers	12
Better consultation / service user and community led service design	11
Close fewer / different children's centres	8
Improved communication and signposting for families	8
Longer implementation period	4
Charges for some services	3
Reduced children's centre hours or relocated groups and support	3
Raise local taxes	2
Help families with transport costs	2
Introduce mobile services	1

Response to suggestions on making no change or alternative savings

Making no change is not feasible within the constraints of the County Council's medium term financial plan. The County Council has made and will continue to seek savings through management changes (such as the integration of 0-5 and 5-19 services), organisational and process improvements and better use of technology. It continues to lobby the government for additional funding. The revised Early Help Strategy states our commitment to work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes.

We have added maximising income from hiring out rooms in children's centres and assess the potential to charge for some activities. Ongoing discussions with early years providers, schools and other partners about the continued operation of 9 children's centres will also explore these options. Our children's centres already operate on a needs basis, i.e. staffed and open when an activity or service is available. It is our continued intention to provide services where they are needed, using Council and community buildings, i.e. as a relocated service. Early Help services already work with volunteers and as part of the revised strategy we will strengthen still further our approach to working with volunteers. 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.

Response to suggestions to continue nursery provision

The County Council is not responsible for the affordability of nursery places in Bexhill. It has agreed to provide the two nurseries in Bexhill until September 2020. It aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill would no longer be operated by the Council, which would 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 providers, but would not incur 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.

Response to suggestions about fundraising

In line with the suggestions received, the revised Strategy includes a commitment to work with partners to maximise external funding to increase the availability of parenting support or parent peer mentoring groups and schemes, which we hope would also enable shared funding and increased support for other organisations.

3.7 Other comments on the proposals

This was an optional question and 99 respondents made 174 comments, which are summarised in the table below.

As in section 3.5, the most frequent areas of comment were children's centres, the importance of early identification and prevention, nursery provision in Bexhill and the rationale for making savings from Early Help services.

Topics	Number of comments
Children's centres	
Concern that early years family support and Health Visiting would be less accessible and the safe spaces to seek support and/or meet other professionals will not be available	35
Concern re closure of a children's centre or specific activity	16
Concern re availability of services in rural areas	3
Concern that community and volunteer activities may be reduced	1
Concern that crèche facilities won't be available meaning families can't attend courses and groups and/or children will miss out on education and development opportunity	1

Topics	Number of comments
Early identification and prevention	
Concern that family needs will escalate leading to poorer outcomes for families and/or increased spending by the County Council and other services	13
View that providing universal / open accessible family support is more effective than targeting, particularly in early years.	10
Concerns for child safety due to service reduction	4
Concern that vulnerable families and/or children with special educational needs may not be identified	2
Nurseries in Bexhill	
Concern that nursery places may not be available in Bexhill	13
Concern that quality/cost of nursery services may change	6
Concern that children's pre-school education will be interrupted if nurseries close	1
Keywork	
Concern that fewer families receiving keywork support / longer waiting times	6
View that shorter interventions may not be as effective	2
Youth work and young people	
Concern that open access and drop-in or open access youth clubs may not be available	1
Concern about an increase in young people's vulnerability if services are reduced	1
Other comments	
General concern about level of County Council funding, decision to make savings from Children's Services and/or County Council priorities	34
Other e.g. staff workloads, job losses, government policy, implementation approach	17
Concerns about approach to consultation e.g. wording of questions, request for more information about specific changes and/or options considered and offline versions of information.	8

3.8 Responses from early years and education providers

We were contacted by seven early years and education providers and three other partners expressing initial interest in taking over children's centres or nurseries. We also began discussions with schools adjacent to children's centres, and are entering discussions with other interested partners.

Discussions continue about the future of 10 of the centres, in line with the County Council's aim to ensure an ongoing early years or education offer from most of the sites, the exceptions are:

The Bridge, Newhaven and Heathfield Children's Centres are not owned by the County Council and are expected to continue as a community asset, in which we will seek to hire rooms in, as now, if needed.

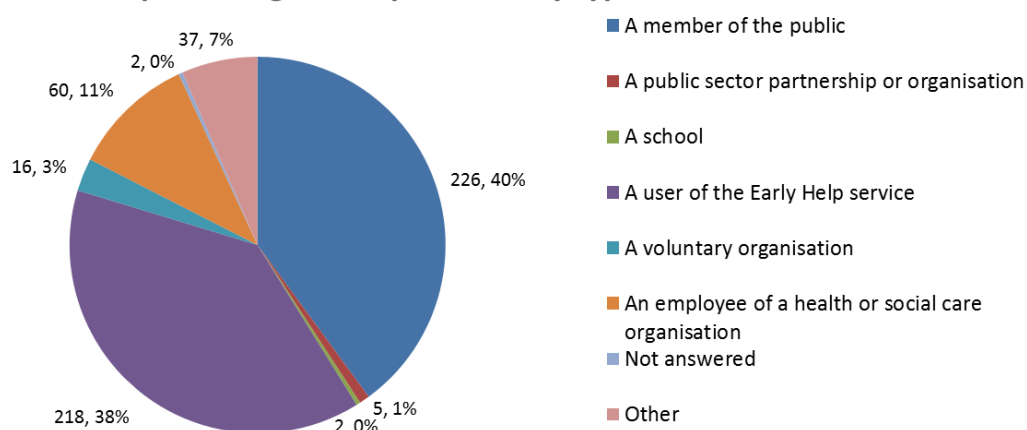
No expressions of interest have been received regarding Hampden Park Children's Centre, which is located within a Health Service building. Early years family support will be relocated to Shinewater Children's Centre.

4. Consultation Survey Respondents

4.1 Respondent status regarding this consultation

Are you completing the survey as...	Number
A member of the public	226
A public sector partnership or organisation	5
A school	2
A user of the Early Help service	218
A voluntary organisation	16
An employee of a health or social care organisation	60
Not answered	2
Other	37
Total	566

Number and percentage of respondents by type



Note: 'Other' was clarified by respondents as parent of Cygnets/Rainbow nursery (10), Parent (3), Teacher /Inclusion Leader (2), previous EH service user (2), employee of a 16-19 education programme provider (1), previous employee (3), volunteer /Volunteer Support Service (4), local councillor (2), Kids project Hailsham supporter (1), foster carer (1), child minder (1), resident (1), no further description (3).

4.2 Respondent gender

Gender category	Number
Female	443
Male	58
Not Answered	22
Prefer not to say	43
Total	566

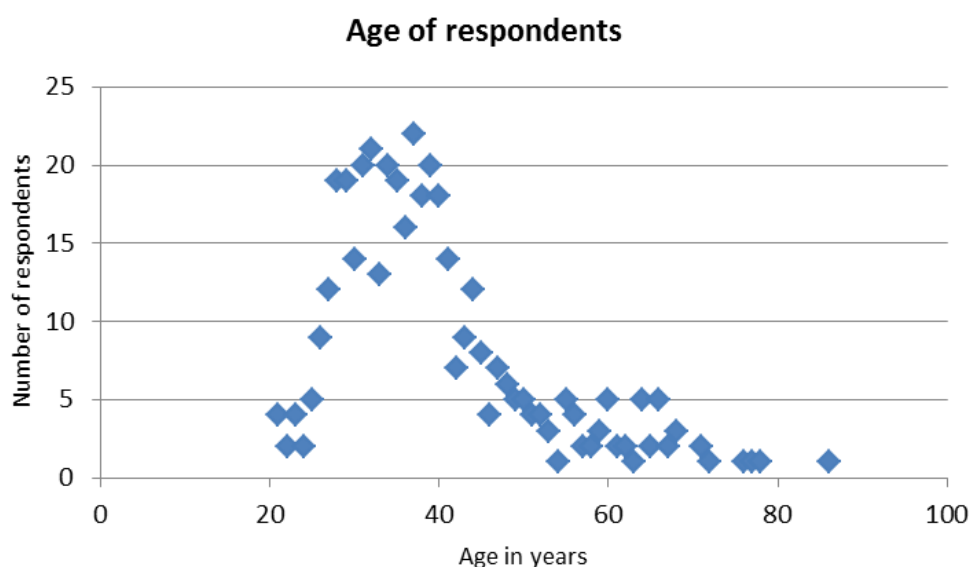
The ratio of male to female responses was 1 : 8, with 78.3% identifying as female, 10.2% as male, and 11.5% choosing not to identify as either gender for this consultation. In the subsequent question, 1 person stated they were transgender, with 65 declining to state yes or no for this question.

4.3 Respondent ethnic group

Ethnic Group category	Number
Blanks (no response)	36
Asian or Asian British Indian	2
Asian or Asian British other*	1
Black or Black British African	1
Black or Black British other*	1
Chinese	2
Mixed other*	3
Mixed White and Asian	7
Mixed White and Black African	2
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	6
Prefer not to say	41
White British	440
White Irish	3
White other*	21
Total	566
Total excluding blanks and prefer not to say	489

Of those who responded with an ethnic group entry (489) 90% identified as White British, and 10% as non-White British.

4.4 Age of respondents



The majority of respondents were working age or potentially the age of parents with young children.

4.5 Disability as disclosed by respondents

Of the 566 respondents, 38 or 6.7% considered themselves to have a disability as set out in the Equality Act 2010. 78.6% stated that they did not have a disability, while the remaining 14.7% chose not to answer this question.

Of the 38 respondents with a disability, 19 stated that they preferred not to disclose the nature of their disability. Of the remaining 19, 17 stated this was due to a physical disability, 17 due to a mental health condition, 8 a long standing illness, 3 a sensory impairment, and 3 a learning disability (with most respondents identifying more than one type of impairment).

4.6 Official Respondents

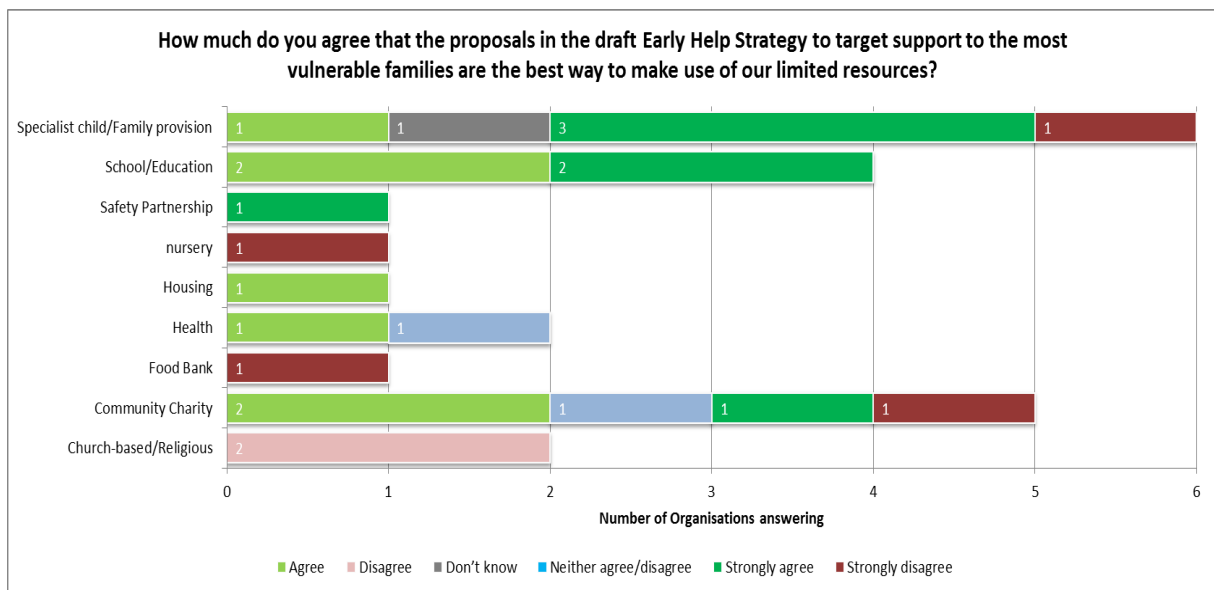
The Early Help public consultation survey received official responses from 23 organisations, including education providers, community charities, church/religious groups, health providers, and a housing provider. All official responses have been made available to Members.

Most frequently expressed concerns about the proposals were around risks to vulnerable families who may become more isolated (especially in rural areas) and pressure on community groups to match the reduction in provision from the County Council. Some felt that children centres were essential hubs for families. Concerns were also expressed about the timing of the restructure and budget reduction in relation to the ending in 2020 of the Hastings Opportunity Area Programme.

Suggestions for reducing the impact of the proposals fell into three categories:

- Don't pursue the changes/look elsewhere for savings.
- Improve access for rural residents (and other hard to reach groups) to transport and community and voluntary sector led community groups.
- Foster strong multiagency partnerships to ensure proper responses at universal and universal plus levels of need and including community and voluntary sector organisations in plans for the future.

There was broad agreement that the proposals were right to target the most vulnerable families, with 14 agreeing or strongly agreeing and 6 disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.



5. Other responses

37 correspondents contacted us by email or letter to comment of the draft Early Help Strategy. We also received 94 handwritten comments from individual service users and other members of the community regarding High Weald Children's Centre (Ticehurst).

Correspondents included:

- Rother District Council submitted a formal response to the consultation objecting to the proposals for Rainbow and Cygnets nurseries and relocating services from Egerton Park Children's Centre to Sidley Children's Centre (following a meeting of Rother District Council on 8 July).
- 3 Rother District Councillors submitted a letter objecting to proposals for Cygnets Nursery and Egerton Park Children's Centre and also to the consultation process.
- A County Councillor raising concerns regarding High Weald Children's Centre.
- A Member of Parliament submitting concerns regarding family support availability and nursery affordability in the Bexhill constituency, and the value of Egerton Park and High Weald Children's Centres to those communities.
- The Youth Infrastructure Forum commented on the need to take the ongoing Sussex-wide mental health review into account.
- Hastings Community Network submitted a formal response highlighting the role of the voluntary sector in supporting families and young people, along with the potential impact of services reductions on both service users and voluntary sector providers.

In total, we received 222 feedback comments on the following topics:

Topic of comments	Number of comments on this topic
Concerns about proposals for a specific children's centre: High Weald (Ticehurst) Ringmer Egerton Park	110
Concerns about proposals for nurseries	50
Concerns about the consultation process	40
Concerns about the County Council's priorities and/or savings from Early Help	13
General concerns about proposals for children's centres and the availability of family support	6

Topic of comments	Number of comments on this topic
Concerns about reductions in keywork	3
Grand Total	222

There was also one request through the County Council's Freedom of Information Process for more information about Bexhill nurseries.

Response to consultation feedback about children's centres

There are ongoing and promising discussions with partners about taking over 10 centres, including Ringmer High Weald 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.

Response to feedback about nurseries

Rainbow and Cygnets are the only nurseries operated by the County Council; in other areas the market has been developed and supported to meet the need for early years places. The County Council is not responsible to ensure the affordability of nursery places in Bexhill. The Council has agreed to provide the two nurseries in Bexhill until September 2020. It aims to secure sufficient availability, as far as is reasonably practicable, of nursery provision in Bexhill. Nurseries in Bexhill would no longer be operated by the Council, which would 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 providers, but would not incur 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.

Response to feedback about consultation

Concerns about the consultation process related to:

- Whether local communities would be aware of the proposals for children's centres.
- The wording of questions e.g. considered leading or closed.
- Bexhill nurseries: the lack of a specific question in the survey, disagreement with the sufficiency of published financial and impact analyses, requests for additional information, a view that the consultation should halt and there should be a separate consultation on proposals for the nurseries.

The draft Early Help Strategy was published together with detailed reporting of the strategic commissioning review which underpinned it. The consultation ran for 10 weeks and was publicised via the media, social media, and the Council's website. Early Help staff were encouraged to bring the consultation to service users' attention and posters were provided. Paper copies of the survey were available in children's centres and on request. The survey included three open free text questions enabling respondents to comment as they chose. An

email address for comments and queries was also provided. Valuable information has been gathered about children's centres and the Bexhill nurseries, which has been used to update the Equality Impact Analysis, Outcome Analysis and to revise the Early Help Strategy. A further financial analysis has been completed for the Bexhill nurseries using 2018/2019 data which confirms our expectation that Council subsidies would be needed in future, unless the nursery service offer changes and/or fees increase. This detailed information is commercially sensitive and has not therefore been published.

6. Petitions received

A petition 'Stop the privatisation of Cygnets and Rainbows Nurseries', with 1119 signatories, was presented by Councillors Bayliss, Coleman and Courtel of Rother District Council.

The petition reads:

'Stop the privatisation of Cygnets and Rainbows Nurseries

We are extremely disappointed to discover the latest round of cuts from East Sussex County Council includes the loss of subsidies to two popular and successful nurseries in Bexhill on Sea.

Rainbow Nursery in Sidley and Cygnets Nursery in Bexhill Central are both rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and have a dedicated and talented team of staff. These nurseries are both situated in wards with high levels of child poverty, and the loss of subsidised spaces will either cut the number of hours that vulnerable children receive or force them to leave the nursery altogether.

We therefore call on ESCC to find alternatives to cutting the nursery subsidy and thereby ensure that this excellent, vital service continues to be provided to the families that rely on it.'

7. Findings from the staff survey

Staff in Early Help services were surveyed in May and June 2019, seeking their views on the proposals as professionals. Staff offered detailed suggestions which we've responded to, and which have informed the response to the public consultation analysis and revisions to the strategy.

36% of staff responded to the survey. 58% of responses came from 0-5 front line workers including Health Visitors (compares 35% of April headcount in these roles), 25% came from 5-19 front line workers (compares 52% headcount) and 17% came from managers and support roles (compares 13% headcount).

Most respondents recognised the need to focus resources, though only 42% strongly agreed or agreed with targeting vulnerable families and 36% disagreed or strongly disagreed with doing so. A majority of staff strongly agreed that providing good, accessible services was more important than retaining current keeping buildings, although 18% strongly disagreed. This reflects the high response rate from staff working in existing universal services.

49% of staff comments expressed their main worry about the proposals as the reduction in the number of families who would receive support from keyworkers or group work each year. The revised Early Help strategy focusses our limited resources on keywork and states that we will seek external funding to maximise the future offer. Based on forecast external funding, we expect to maintain keywork resources above 75% of the current level.

Other frequent topics of comment by staff were consistent with the public feedback addressed in section 3:

- Concerns about the accessibility of early years family support, with particular concerns about family isolation in rural areas, and parental mental ill health.
- The importance of children's centre services to provide a safe community space, to identify family problems and prevent their escalation and rising vulnerability.
- Maintaining nursery place availability, affordability and quality in Bexhill.

Comments on the selection of children's centres to change or retain were also made, often referring to the activities currently provided. Our aim is to secure ongoing early years and education activity by other providers and partners wherever possible, to work in partnership with partners taking over centres to ensure family support continues e.g. groups run by volunteers, and to continue our own provision wherever it is needed using other County Council and community buildings. The centres which it is proposed to retain are those which are best suited to accommodate staff and offer services in future.

Staff commented on the importance of crèche provision in children's centres to enable parents to attend courses and groups, and in supporting child development. We will seek to offer crèches where they are most needed.

8. Background - questionnaire



Children's Services Early Help Public Consultation

Contact:

01273 336626

earlyhelp.consultation@eastsussex.gov.uk

Closing date for receipt of paper copies: 22 July 2019

Online survey closing date 29 July:

[consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/
public-early-help-survey](https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/public-early-help-survey)

Children's Services Early Help Public Consultation

Overview

The draft *Early Help Strategy Building Stronger Families* sets out East Sussex County Council Children's Services proposal to invest in Early Help from 2020-2023, and the proposed changes to current services.

Our proposal is to fund and provide Children's Services Early Help that supports the most vulnerable families and reduces child safety concerns, within available resources.

We will:

Prioritise children's safety, ensuring child safeguarding systems are resilient and managing the amount of people who need social care involvement.

Target the resources we have to make effective early interventions with the right families.

Tackle the specific issues that cause people to need help from social workers, at the right time and for the right duration, building stronger families for the future.

Build in flexibility so that our services can adapt to having less resources and also take-up new funding opportunities.

Work in partnership with other Council services, and partners across public sectors, businesses voluntary organisations and health, to ensure the best combined support to vulnerable families.

Connect with ongoing projects to develop community resilience.

We will offer:

- Family keywork with families at risk of needing social care intervention, offering short term help where that is appropriate to maximise the number of supported vulnerable families.
- Evidence-based and targeted family group work to support keywork and maximise the number of vulnerable families we work with.
- Evidence-based youth work with young people at risk of needing social care intervention, in support of keywork.

We will continue to deliver additional early help services on behalf of East Sussex County Council Public Health team and external partners. Our services for families of 0-5 year olds will continue to be integrated with Health Visiting services.

We will deliver these services in family homes, through a network of 16 children's centres, plus accessible county venues, other council buildings and in schools. We will continue to provide information and advice, including better digital family support information.

We think these proposals are the best way to meet vulnerable families' needs in East Sussex and spend the available resources in the best way possible. The proposals involve some changes from current services. Through this public consultation, we are seeking your views about the proposed Strategy, the potential impact and your ideas about future working.

Once the consultation is complete and the results have been analysed, the draft Strategy will be amended and final proposals will be presented for decision by our elected members in October 2019. Children's Services will implement the new draft Strategy from **1 April 2020**.

Are you completing the survey as:

Are you completing the survey as:

- ☐ A user of the Early Help service
- ☐ An employee of a health or social care organisation
- ☐ A member of the public
- ☐ A voluntary organisation *(providing an official response – state name)*
- ☐ A public sector partnership or organisation *(providing an official response – state name)*
- ☐ A school *(providing an official response – state name)*
- ☐ Other (please explain)

User of the Early Help Service

How do you use the Early Help service? Please select only one item.

- ☐ A parent/carer user of health visiting and children's centres
- ☐ A parent/carer whose young person uses youth work sessions
- ☐ A parent/carer using family keywork
- ☐ A young person using youth work sessions
- ☐ A young person using family keywork

Children's Centres

Which Children's Centres do you use?
(Select one or more centres)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Battle Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Old Town Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chailey Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Peacehaven Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crowborough Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Ringmer Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Devonshire Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Robsack Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| East Hastings Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Rye Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Egerton Park Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Saxonwood Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hailsham Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Seaford Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hampden Park Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Shinewater Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hastings Town Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Sidley Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heathfield Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | St Leonards Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High Weald Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | The Bridge Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lewes Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | Uckfield Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Newhaven Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> | West St Leonards Children's Centre <input type="checkbox"/> |

About the child/young person in your care

You don't have to answer the questions in this section, but it will help us understand if different groups of people have different experiences and responses. We will keep your individual information for a period of up to five years and we won't keep it any longer than is necessary. Please get in touch with the named contact for this activity if you would like more information. Read the full privacy notice here: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/privacy/about-you-survey/

Is the child/young person in your care...?

Please select only one item

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

Do they identify as a transgender person?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

How old are they?

Please select only one item

☐ Pre-reception ☐ Reception/Year 1 ☐ Year 2- Year 6
☐ Year 7 - Year 11 ☐ Year 12+

To which of these ethnic groups do they feel they belong?

Please select all that apply

☐ White British ☐ White Irish ☐ White Gypsy/Roma
☐ White Irish Traveller ☐ White other*
☐ Mixed White and Black Caribbean ☐ Mixed White and Black African
☐ Mixed White and Asian ☐ Mixed other* ☐ Asian or Asian British Indian
☐ Asian or Asian British Pakistani ☐ Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
☐ Asian or Asian British other* ☐ Black or Black British Caribbean
☐ Black or Black British African ☐ Black or Black British other* ☐ Arab
☐ Chinese ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other ethnic group*

Other, please specify:

Do they consider themselves to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

If you answered yes, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to them.

Please select all that apply

☐ Physical impairment ☐ Mental health condition
☐ Sensory impairment (hearing and sight) ☐ Learning disability
☐

Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy

☐ Prefer not to say

Other, please specify:

Do they regard themselves as belonging to any particular religion or belief?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

If you answered yes, which one(s)?

Please select all that apply

☐ Christian ☐ Buddhist ☐ Hindu ☐ Jewish ☐ Muslim ☐ Sikh

Other, please specify:

What is their sexual orientation?

Please select only one item

☐ Heterosexual/Straight ☐ Bisexual ☐ Lesbian/Gay
☐ Prefer not to say

They identify themselves as:

If 16 or over, are they married or in a civil partnership?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

Official responses

Please put the name of your voluntary organisation/public sector partnership or organisation/school here if you are providing an official response

Your views about the proposed Early Help Service's new vision

The draft Strategy sets out that we will fund and provide Children's Services Early Help that supports the most vulnerable families and reduces child safety concerns.

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/keypolicies/early-help-review/strategy

1 How much do you agree or disagree with the plan to focus our limited resources on the following areas in the proposed new vision?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Prioritise children's safety , ensuring child safeguarding systems are resilient and managing the amount of people who need social care involvement. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						
Target the resources we have to make effective early interventions with the right families. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						
Tackle the specific issues that cause people to need help from social workers, at the right time and for the right duration, building stronger families for the future. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						
Build in flexibility so that our services can adapt to having less resources and also take-up new funding opportunities. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						
Work in partnership with other Council services, and partners across public sectors, businesses voluntary organisations and health, to ensure the best combined support to vulnerable families. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						
Connect with ongoing projects to develop community resilience. <i>Please select only one item.</i>						

Your views about the impact of the proposals

Key Proposals

Keywork

We propose to invest in Early Help keywork to at least 71% of current levels rising to 78% if Troubled Families Programme funding continues. We'll focus our teams on issues that can lead to children being unsafe, such as parent mental ill health, substance misuse and domestic abuse, to prevent the need for social work teams to get involved. The number of families we work with is expected to reduce, but we'll use shorter interventions and targeted group work whenever appropriate to support as many families as possible.

The families no longer offered keywork or group work services will be those assessed as less likely to need social care intervention. Every family's vulnerabilities are unique and individually assessed. Examples of circumstances where keywork service might not be provided include advice and support to new teenage parents, interventions with children and young people with emotional wellbeing issues, support to parents struggling to manage family conflict, preventative work on young people's emerging substance misuse issues. However, those not offered keywork or group services will be signposted to other sources of information, advice and support e.g. our externally funded parenting programmes and youth projects, health visitors and school nurses, improved online advice from Children's Services or support available from other organisations such as online and social media safety advice, family legal services, child bereavement support, housing advice.

Youth Work

The youth work we invest in will support keywork with young people at risk of needing social care intervention. We hope to reach about 200 vulnerable young people per year more than currently. We propose that we won't part-fund drop-in or open access youth sessions located as follows:

Eastbourne	3
Hastings	1
Lewes	3
Rother	2
Wealden	4

Around 1700 young people in East Sussex use our open access youth sessions a year. These drop-in and open access youth sessions will continue to be provided whenever partners fully fund them.

We will target our activity to where it is most needed, using improved information from Children's Services Early Help and social care systems.

Children 0-5 Years

The Impact of the changes will be as follows:

There would be a reduction in administrative support for the services.

We would no longer subsidise and provide the Cygnets (Egerton Park) and Rainbow (Sidley) nurseries in Bexhill – though we are seeking expressions of interest from other nursery providers who would like to operate in these children's centres.

For activities that will continue: we will seek to relocate them to council and community buildings, as shown in the table below. These are the centres which are in areas of less need, and/or are currently lightly used by Children's Services and Health Visitors, and/or which do not provide the accommodation needed for future services, and/or which are nearby another centre. The activities needed in those local areas will continue in other council and community buildings. Through this consultation, we aim to transfer the centres to other providers of services for 0-5 years.

We also propose a reduction in crèches in children's centres which help parents attend sessions and meetings. It may not be possible to offer crèche facilities for parents attending all activities, especially those taking place away from children's centres in community buildings.

The private nurseries in High Weald Children's Centre (Ticehurst), Crowborough Children's Centre and Seaford Children's Centre are affected by the proposals for these Centres. However, we are seeking expressions of interest from providers of services in a position to take over the sites.

Centre	Proposal for relocation of current services (early years, community development, volunteering and integrated health visiting)
Hampden Park	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Old Town, Eastbourne	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
The Bridge, Hastings	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
West St Leonards	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Challey	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Newhaven	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Ringmer	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Seaford	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Battle	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Egerton Park, Bexhill	Relocate activities to Sidley Children's and Youth Centre
Rye	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Crowborough	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings
Heathfield	Relocate activities to Heathfield Youth Centre
High Weald, Ticehurst	Seek to relocate activities to community buildings

2 How much do you agree that the proposals in the draft Early Help Strategy to target support to the most vulnerable families are the best way to make use of our limited resources?

Please select only one item.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

3 Do you agree with the principle in the Strategy that it is more important to provide good, accessible services, rather than continue to operate from all existing buildings?

Please select only one item.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

4 What worries you most about the proposals?

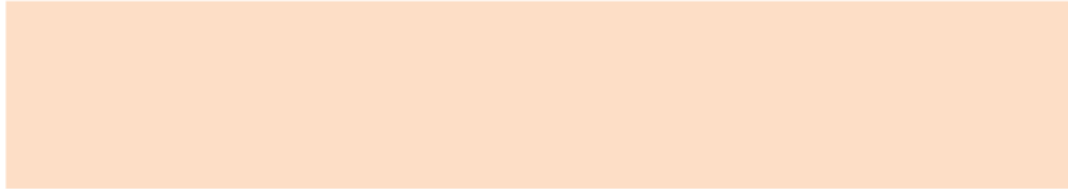
Please explain.

5 In order to reduce the impact of the proposals, how helpful are the following?

	Very helpful	Helpful	Don't know	Unhelpful	Very Unhelpful
Providing groups and short term support to help as many vulnerable families as possible. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Offering services in community buildings in the locations where they are needed. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Better online advice for families. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Working with partners to bid for new funding. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Lobbying the government for fair funding and continued Troubled Families funding. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Continuing to offer joined up support for families of 0-5 year olds with the Health Visiting service. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Joining up support on emotional and mental wellbeing for children and young people – health services and early help. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					
Helping schools to support children and young people. <i>Please select only one item.</i>					

6 Is there anything else you think would be helpful to reduce the impact of the proposals?

Please explain.

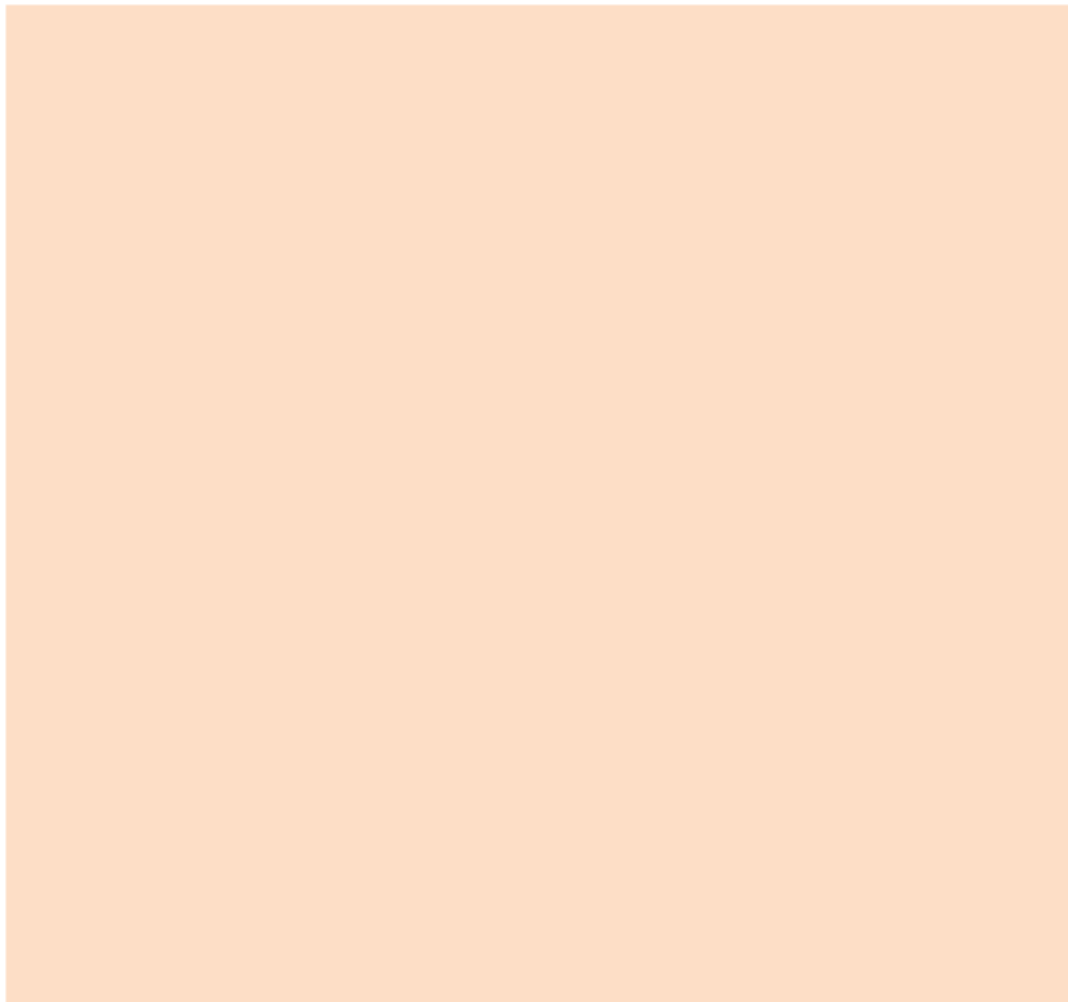


7 Are you are a public, private or voluntary organisation providing education services and/or services for 0-5 years old with a potential interest in any of the children's centres proposed for closure or relocation? Please select only one item.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please contact: earlyhelp.consultation@eastsussex.gov.uk

8 Please give us any other comments about the proposals for the new Early Help service



About you – helping us to analyse your responses

You don't have to answer the questions in this section, but it will help us understand if different groups of people have different experiences and responses. We will keep your individual information for a period of up to five years and we won't keep it any longer than is necessary. Please get in touch with the named contact for this activity if you would like more information. Read the full privacy notice here: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/privacy/about-you-survey For information about why

9 Are you.....?

Please select only one item

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

10 Do you identify as a transgender person?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

11 How old are you?

Please select only one item

☐ Select here if you prefer not to say

12 To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong ? (Source 2011 census)

To which ethnicity do you feel you belong?

Please select only one item

☐ White British ☐ White Irish ☐ White Gypsy/Roma
☐ White Irish Traveller ☐ White other*
☐ Mixed White and Black Caribbean ☐ Mixed White and Black African
☐ Mixed White and Asian ☐ Mixed other* ☐ Asian or Asian British Indian
☐ Asian or Asian British Pakistani ☐ Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
☐ Asian or Asian British other* ☐ Black or Black British Caribbean
☐ Black or Black British African ☐ Black or Black British other* ☐ Arab
☐ Chinese ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other ethnic group*

If your ethnic group was not specified in the list please describe your ethnic group:

13a Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

13b If you answered yes to Q13a, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.

You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these apply to you please select other and write in the type of impairment you have.

Please select all that apply

☐ Physical impairment ☐ Mental health condition
☐ Sensory impairment (hearing and sight) ☐ Learning disability
☐

Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy

☐ Prefer not to say

Other, please specify

14a Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

14b If you answered yes to Q14a, which one(s)?

Please select all that apply

☐ Christian ☐ Hindu ☐ Muslim ☐ Buddhist ☐ Jewish ☐ Sikh

Any other religion, please specify

15 What is your sexual orientation?

Please select only one item

☐ Heterosexual/Straight ☐ Lesbian/Gay ☐ Bisexual
☐ Prefer not to say

I identify myself as

16 Are you married or in a civil partnership?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you for providing this information. Your response helps us understand the experience of everyone.



For further information contact:

01273 336626

earlyhelp.consultation@eastsussex.gov.uk

Closing date for receipt of paper copies: 22 July 2019

Online survey closing date 29 July:

**[consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/
public-early-help-survey](https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/public-early-help-survey)**

May 2019



Children's Services
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes BN7 1UE
Website: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/earlyhelp
E-mail: earlyhelp.consultation@eastsussex.gov.uk
Phone: 01273 336626

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