

Committee: **Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**  
Date: **13 July 2015**  
Title of Report: **Proposed de-designation of Langney Children's Centre**  
By: **Director of Children's Services**

Purpose of Report: **To seek the Lead Members approval to de-designate Langney Children's Centre in Eastbourne following a consultation with local families about the appropriate relocation of services currently based at the Centre.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the de-designation of Langney Children's Centre to enable Langney school to use the building to accommodate additional nursery provision for two year olds.

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### **1. Background**

1.1 Eastbourne has seen a significant rise in births over the last 10 years rising from 862 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,190 in 2011/12. In addition, the adopted Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan provides for 5,022 new dwellings across the town in the period from 2006 to 2027.

1.2 Rising births and the roll out of the two year old offer have meant that the numbers of funded children in the town have been rising in recent years. It is anticipated that existing Early Years places will be more or less full by 2014/15, with shortfalls likely to arise in the West and East areas in the period to 2017/18. The increase in the 0-5 age group will have on-going implications for primary school places.

### **2. Supporting information**

2.1 This proposal has minimal financial impact. The cost associated with running the Centre at Langney is approximately £8,000pa. These funds will be re-directed to secure space in community venues for the relocated services.

2.2 Langney Children's Centre is one of 5 Centres within the Eastbourne area and is a fairly small Centre situated on the Langney primary school site. Following recent changes to the Children's Centre offer and an increasing focus on targeting services towards the most disadvantaged, particularly those at level 3 on the continuum of need through the home visiting keywork service, the Centre offers a fairly limited number of regular universal activities on site. These are listed below with the number of families who attend.

Twins Club	8 different families accessed this group from January to March
Baby Club	23 different families accessed this group from January to March
Pop in and Play	32 different families accessed this group from January to March

The Centre is also used to provide parenting courses, adult education services and a volunteer preparation course.

Parents who use the services that currently run at the Centre will be consulted on the use of alternative community venues

2.3 "Designation" of Children's Centres is the process used by the Department for Education to certify that a Centre meets the statutory definition of a Children's Centre. De-

designation means that the Centre will be removed from the list of designated Centres held by the Department for Education and will not therefore be subject to inspection by OFSTED.

### **3 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

3.1 Additional early years education places are needed in the Langney area of Eastbourne and releasing the current Children's Centre building to provide these places is in the interests of children in that area. The current, limited, regular services provided from the Centre can be relocated to local community venues, using the small budget currently used for Centre premises costs. To release the building, however, it needs to be formally "de-designated" as a Children's Centre (otherwise it will continue to be subject to the requirement to deliver the broad range of services that are expected in order to meet the statutory definition of a Children's Centre). It is therefore proposed that Langney Children's Centre is "de-designated", the regular services relocated to community venues and the building used to accommodate the Langney Primary School nursery.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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