

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 15 August 2017

**Decision No:** (CAB 17/18 19239)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	EDUCATION AND SKILLS
SUBJECT:	SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS PLACES IN MILLBROOK
AUTHOR:	Sean Holehouse, Hannah Noke

### THE DECISION

- (i) Due to the sufficiency of quality early years places in the locality and to enhance the MRM Children's Centre core offer it is recommended to commence public consultation on a proposal to close the direct Council run Little Pickles Pre-school.
- (ii) To delegate consideration of consultation responses and making a final decision on the potential closure (together with ancillary matters such as the timing of the implementation of the decision) to the Service Director Children and Families Services, so that families can be informed of the outcome and, where necessary, supported with their choices of securing alternative places with a new Early Years provider. Cabinet will note any decision to close provision will be subject to a minimum of a month's notice from the decision date.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. There is sufficient quality early years places in the area provided by the PVI sector as assessed by the Early Years team in line with the Local Authorities Early Years Sufficiency Duty and it is not a mandated requirement of the children's centre to directly deliver a pre-school. To enable delivery of more targeted early childhood and family support by the Children Centre and to develop integrated Family Hub operating capacity at Pickles Coppice with Public Health colleagues, it is therefore recommended that consultation is commenced on a proposal that the Little Pickles pre-school is closed next academic year. Subject to the outcome of the consultation and final decision, the timing of the closure will take into account dialogue with existing parent users, local providers and the early years support team and a minimum of one month's notice of closure of the provision (if agreed) will be provided.
2. The resource capacity created by a change in provision would contribute to the operational development of the new 0-19 Family Hub model by best use of available premise space for key early help activity. To allow the sustainable

growth of the PVI early years sector the MRM Children Centre is withdrawing activity from its current 'satellite' base in the FootSteps venue of Mason Moor Primary School this summer. This requires existing pre-school used space at Pickles Coppice to be made available to sustain core activity such as parenting group work and training. Alternative quality places (minimum 'Good' rated by Ofsted) from local PVI pre-schools are available for existing families in line with Council's Early Years policy and duties. Families could be supported and signposted to alternative local provision by Children Centre staff, including the new YMCA pre-school at the FootSteps venue which starts next term (September). Impacted pre-school staff can be re-deployed within Children's Centres and across the Council's other pre-schools within phase 3 proposed establishment.

#### **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. Do nothing.  
This is not an appropriate option in view of the need to re-configure current Children's Centres core offer activity as part of the re-modelling development of 0-19 Family Hubs.
2. Continue to deliver.  
This would limit the operating capacity of the Family Hub development and formal integration with Public Health activity at Pickles Coppice Centre. The new 30 hour early years entitlement in September 2017 could require the expansion of the pre-school, with associated further limits on operating space for activity and additional management and staff time to deliver.
3. Commission an external provider to deliver.  
This is not required as there is sufficient sustainable and quality early years places provided by the PVI sector and could de-stabilise the local early year's market.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

None

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 15 August 2017

Decision Maker:  
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:  
Claire Heather

**SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*