

<b>Committee:</b> Community and Children's Services Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 11/01/2019
<b>Subject:</b> Children's Centre Services – Review 2018	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Theresa Shortland, Head of Service, Education & Early Years Services	

### Summary

This report provides a further update on behalf of the Children's Centre Services Review Board (CCSRB) on the progress of the review of the City of London Children's Centre Services.

Children's Centre Services in the City of London are commissioned and delivered by a range of partner organisations. The CCSRB has representation from all relevant partners and a high level of engagement from both a commissioner and provider perspective.

In January 2018, Members received an initial report outlining plans to review the City of London Children's Centre Services. This report also presented the wider context of the review, which is being driven by the work of the Children, Young People and Maternity Services (CYPMS) work stream that is a working group of the City and Hackney Transformation Board. Many of the contracts for health services, including maternity and health visiting, are part of the work stream programme. These will continue to be monitored regularly through the existing health commissioning framework and processes.

In September 2018, Members received a report on the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) of existing childcare provision in the City. This included an analysis of Childcare and Early Education provision, which are core children's centre services. The CSA captured current information on availability of childcare, childcare fees, access to the free universal entitlement for three- and four-year-olds, the extended hours for working parents and the entitlement for two-year-olds in the City of London.

This report provides an update of the progress to date, the reviewed timeline, and information on the next stage of the review.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

# **Main Report**

## **Background and Context**

1. Children's Centres bring together services for young children from birth to five years and their families in a multi-profession way. Children's Centre Services aim to improve outcomes in the early years for young children and their families, with a focus to achieve this for the most disadvantaged children.
2. The overarching aim of the Children's Centre Services Review in the City of London is to assess and evaluate the provision of current services. The CCSRB was established in September 2018. It has representatives from all partner organisations (see Appendix 1: Terms of Reference). In the context of the review, the CCSRB will develop a proposal to optimise and transform the future delivery of the Children's Centre offer across the City of London local area.
3. In January 2018, Members received an initial report outlining plans to review the City of London Children's Centre Services. One of the key drivers behind this review was the work of the CYPMS work stream of the Integrated Commissioning programme which works as a partnership across City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Learning Trust and the City of London. The overarching aim of this work is to co-ordinate, optimise and transform the delivery of the children's health system across City and Hackney.
4. The Cass Child and Family Centre (CCFC) is the one designated Children's Centre in the City of London local authority area. It is located within Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. Current services provided at the CCFC include: early education, childcare, early help, parenting, adult learning, outreach, family support, and support for children with additional needs and special educational needs and disability (SEND).
5. In September 2018, Members received a report on the CSA that included an audit and analysis of existing childcare provision in the City. Childcare and early education are core Children's Centre services. The CSA recorded current information on availability of childcare, childcare fees, access to the free universal entitlement for three- and four-year-olds, the extended hours for working parents, and the entitlement for two-year-olds in the City of London.

## **Current Position**

6. From October to December 2018, the CCSRB reviewed the full range of Children's Centre Services available in the City of London. Information and data on current Children's Centre Services have been collated and considered by the CCSRB. This has provided a comprehensive overview of current services. The board will use this information and data to develop a proposal for taking forward a delivery model across the City local area.
7. The timeline of the review of Children's Centre Services in the City of London was reviewed in September 2018 and re-aligned to the CYPMS work stream. Many of the contracts for health services, including maternity and health visiting, are part of the work stream programme. These will continue to be monitored regularly through the existing health commissioning framework and processes.

8. The next stage of the review is to develop an integrated framework for the delivery of Children's Centre Services in the City local area and develop a proposal for the delivery model going forward. The Healthy Child Programme is an evidence-based framework for the delivery of health services to families with children aged 0 to five years. This programme provides a good structure for the provision and delivery of services. The review will consider how we can use this programme as a central framework to develop the new delivery model for local services commissioned by the City of London. It is envisaged that this proposal will be reported to the Community and Children's Services Committee in June 2019.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. Children's Centre Services are a core part of the Community and Children's Services Early Years Strategy, itself linked to the Children and Young People's Plan and the Corporate Plan.
10. Children's Centre Services also align with the Education, Culture and Skills Strategy.

### **Financial Implications**

11. While the review is not explicitly seeking to make savings, the financial structuring of these services will be part of the review and the wider integrated commissioning work. This may, in turn, indicate that there is a need to redirect and reprioritise funding to deliver the most effective services going forward. In the meantime, the existing services remain in place and operational.
12. This work will also identify the funding and resources from other partners that benefit children and families in the City local area.

### **Conclusion**

13. The aim of the review is to ensure that Children's Centre Services in the City of London are co-ordinated, relevant and effective in supporting the needs of our residents. Good progress is being made, and feedback from the initial review indicates that these services are good quality and popular with children and families who live and come into the City.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference July 2018, the Children's Centre Services Review Board
- Appendix 2 – Timeline of the review of Children's Centre Services in the City of London

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## Appendix 1

### Terms of reference July 2018 Children's Centre Services Review Board

#### Purpose of the board

- The board is a task and finish group that will meet once a month from October 2018 to April 2019.
- To provide leadership and strategic direction for the review of Children's Centre Services in the City of London, directing the priorities for the project so an Early Years and Childcare strategy can be established for the future.
- To constructively challenge information about Children's Centre Services from a stakeholder perspective, considering their priorities against the City Corporation's services.
- Ensure that the project board has information to take effective decisions to review the current data, finances and the range of Children's Centre Services.
- Be committed to developing the best quality services for young children and families in the City and to ensure that the review actively engages the right people.
- To manage the flow of information and communications relating to the project internally and externally.
- The board will make recommendations for the future development of Children's Centre Services in the City of London and consider the options for the culture commissioning of these services within the budget limitations for the delivery of these services.
- To establish the future governance and partnership arrangements for the Children's Centre Services in the City of London.

**Membership:** Membership of the board consists of the strategic managers and partner representatives for the Children's Centre Services.

Chris Pelham	Assistant Director People – Chair
Alexandra Allen	Head Teacher – Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, & Cass Child and Family Centre
Pauline Frost	Interim Programme Director Women & Children – City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group
Kerry Littleford	Public Health Strategist – London Borough of Hackney
Elizabeth Malton	Performance Analyst
Shaista Afzal	Team Manager, Children's Social Care
Carol Boswarthack	Head of Barbican and Community Libraries
Sarah Townsend	Children's Services Librarian

Anne Bamford	Strategic Director of Education and Culture
Elizabeth Begley	Senior Nurse, Health Visiting and Early Years
Jacqui Frisby	Early Help Co-ordinator
Monica Patel	Senior Commissioning Manager
Jackie Merrifield	Commissioning & Contracts Officer
Ruth Kossoff	Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Joint Head Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Clinical Lead First Steps
Isabelle Britten-Denniee	Lead Early Years Manager
Theresa Shortland	Head of Service – Education & Early Years

### **The primary activities of the project board:**

- The board will meet once a month from 2019.
- Meetings will be held in the Guildhall and will be organised by Theresa Shortland.
- The meetings will be chaired by Chris Pelham.
- Non-members of the board will be invited to meetings as and when any specialist updates are required.
- Board members should give notice if they cannot attend meetings, and should send a representative in their place.
- Information, sensitive and confidential data will be considered by the board, so all data protocols should be followed.

### **The purpose of Children’s Centre Services Review**

The purpose of Children’s Centre Services Review is to improve outcomes in the early years for young children and their families, with a focus on achieving this for the most disadvantaged children.

These services are provided by a range of partners and organisations in the City of London, including:

- Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School
- Cass Child and Family Centre (CCFC)
- City of London Libraries Services
- City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health commissioned services
- Health Visitor Services
- Other locally commissioned services.

The aim of the review is to ensure that Children’s Centre Services in the City of London are co-ordinated and effective in supporting our residents. We need to ensure that services are good quality and accessible to our children and families within their own community.

One of the key drivers behind this review is the work of the Children, Young People and Maternity Services work stream of the Integrated Commissioning programme which works as a partnership across City

and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Learning Trust and the City of London. The overarching aim is to co-ordinate, optimise and transform the delivery of the children's health system across City and Hackney.

It is recognised that the representatives of the board may, at times, have a conflict of interest as all partner organisations are engaged in the review. All board members are requested to declare their interests and will not partake in any decision-making processes to award contracts and funding to their advantage.

A proposal will be developed with a clear vision of how the City of London will provide Children's Centre Services in the future. This will consider the governance, commissioning arrangements, performance management and budgets required to develop co-ordinated services locally and an integrated commissioning framework aligned to the proposals of the Children's, Young People and Maternity Services work stream of the wider joint commissioning work stream.

The scope of the review is City-wide and is initially to undertake an assessment of the impact and quality of current Children's Centre Services for City residents. A paper was brought to the Community and Children's Services Committee in January 2018 with outline proposals for the review and development of future services. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was completed between April and July 2018.

A further paper will be presented to the Committee with a proposal for the future delivery model with the view to fully implementing the outcomes from the review by September 2019.

The scope of the review will consider the current commissioning and delivery model of Children's Centre Services across the whole of the City of London. In this respect, CCFC will not be the only provider to be in the scope of the review. While the review is not explicitly seeking to make savings, the financial structuring of these services will be part of the review. This may, in turn, indicate that there is a need to redirect and reprioritise funding to deliver the most effective services going forward.

In the meantime, the existing services will remain in place and operational.

## Appendix 2

### Timeline of the review of Children’s Centre Services in the City of London

January 2018	Purpose and review outline report to Community and Children’s Services (C&CS) Committee	Reported to January 2018 C&CS Committee
February – April 2018	Consultation on the quality of the current offer undertaken with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Early Years providers</li> </ul>	
April – June 2018	Childcare sufficiency Assessment	Reported to C&CS Committee September 2018
August – September 2018	Recruitment of interim Children’s Centre Manager	Two advertisements and interview boards – unable to appoint
July – September 2018	Establish Children’s Centre Review Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference (ToR) approved</li> <li>• Monthly meetings scheduled from October to April 2019</li> </ul>	July – initial meeting to plan and agree ToR  First meeting October 2018
September – November 2018	Consultation on the quality of the current offer undertaken with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cass Child and Family Centre (CCFC) – staff</li> <li>• Parents</li> </ul>	Includes parents at CCFC and all library sessions
October 2018	Children’s Centre Services Review Board (CCSRB) October meeting – Updates on current provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• First Steps</li> <li>• CCFC</li> <li>• Early Years Foundation Stage Profile</li> <li>• Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library</li> </ul>	
November 2018	CCSRB November meeting – Updates on current provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help</li> <li>• Childcare Affordability Scheme</li> <li>• CCFC</li> <li>• Admissions and Fees Policy</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCFC Service Level Agreement</li> <li>• IT – Data Performance &amp; Recording System</li> <li>• Children’s Centre Advisory Board</li> <li>• Commissioning options</li> </ul>	
December 2018	<p>CCSRB December meeting – Updates on current provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) &amp; Public Health contracts</li> <li>• Culture</li> </ul>	
January 2019	<p>Commissioning options appraisal with City of London, CCG and Public Health commissioners.</p> <p>Commissioning priorities and considerations</p> <p>Finance and performance management</p>	Update report to C&CS Committee
February – March 2019	First draft of the proposed model for commissioning Children’s Centre Services drafted	Proposed model to be signed off by the CCSRB
April – May 2019	Formal consultation on the commissioning model for both universal and targeted services with stakeholders	
May 2019	Review consultation and draft final proposed model	Final draft to be signed off by CCSRB; Children’s Partnership Board
June 2019	Proposed model presented to C&CS Committee	
June – September 2019	Transformation plan Implementation of proposed model	