

# SUTTON'S FUTURE

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## Children's Centre Consultation

Second Phase – Autumn 2015



<https://sutton.gov.uk/suttonsfuture>

## **SUMMARY**

### **Sutton's Children's Centres**

In January to March this year the Council consulted with residents on the future of Children's Centres in Sutton. The consultation looked at a range of options for delivering Children's Centre services differently in the future. Feedback from the consultation was presented to Councillors in June and based on this feedback, a delivery model is now being proposed.

This second consultation is designed to consult on the proposed delivery model for Children's Centres. The proposed model is based upon the feedback we received from residents in phase one of the consultation.

### **What are Children's Centres?**

The 14 Children's Centres in Sutton are part of the Council's Early Help services for children and families. Although the services provided might vary from one centre to another, they are all focused on supporting the early development of young children, assisting parents in giving their child the best possible start in life and on encouraging good physical and mental health for children and families. This means that the centres provide services for a range of residents, all the way from pre-natal, through babies, children and young people, to services for parents and adults. It is however recognised that children's centres main focus is on the under 5 population.

### **What Are The Council Proposing to Change?**

The Council are consulting with residents on a proposal to move from 14 Children's Centres to six Children's Centre Hubs and four Children's Centre Access Points. If agreed this will be implemented between April – June 2016.

### **How You Can Get Involved**

In October and November 2015, the Council will be talking to residents, and especially parents and families who use our Centres, about the proposed options for the future of Children's Centres. The council is keen to hear views about the proposed model including services to be provided and the introduction of charging.

## WHY ARE WE CONSULTING?

Unprecedented cuts to local authority budgets mean we have to save £74m between 2010 and 2019. That's almost half our current annual budget. So far the council has saved £43m from the annual budget, £11m of this has been saved with your help since we launched Sutton's Future in July 2014. We now have £31m more to save between September 2015 and March 2019. The council believes that this cannot be done without looking at other ways to deliver its services, including Children's Centres. Children's Centres currently cost £1.3m to run each year. The council wants to work with parents, families, and other residents to look at how it might change the ways that the council and other partners such as health services and schools, deliver support to children and families through Children's Centres.

### When developing these proposals, we thought about:

- Feedback from phase one of the consultation process
- Needing to make the service more affordable
- Redesigning what we do in our Children's Centres so that we focus on supporting those most in need
- Making sure that any new model of delivery will be compliant with the OfSTED Inspection Framework and the Council's statutory duties
- Balancing what we can afford with ensuring we still have high quality services available to those who need them
- Making sure that the new model of delivery was flexible enough to be delivered in varied ways in both the short and longer term

### Who are we consulting with?

- Parents, carers and other service users of the children's centres
- Sutton's residents
- Children's Centre staff
- Children's Centre Advisory Boards
- Schools
- Partners and commissioned organisations
- Community and voluntary sector service providers
- Councillors
- Staff in other Sutton Council services
- Other local authorities

## WHAT OPTIONS HAVE WE CONSIDERED?

A number of key proposals have been considered:

Option 1:	Three 'hub' Children's Centres and three 'spoke' Children's Centres – located based on need
Option 2:	Three 'hub' Children's Centres and three 'spoke' Children's Centres – located based on geographical spread
Option 3:	Six 'hub' Children's Centres and four 'access points'
Option 4:	Six 'hub' Children's Centres and three 'spokes'

### Key definitions

Term	Definition
Hub	A Children's Centre offering the full core offer of Children's Centre services year round, including nine sessions per week, Free Entitlement Funding, health and information and advice.
Spoke	A Children's Centre offering information and advice, up to four sessions per week and health services.
Access Point	A delivery site for one off or planned sessions only. Open up to twice per week.
Child Development Centre	A site offering focussed health and child development services and support, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapies, community paediatrician appointments and assessments. Information and advice and up to two sessions per week.

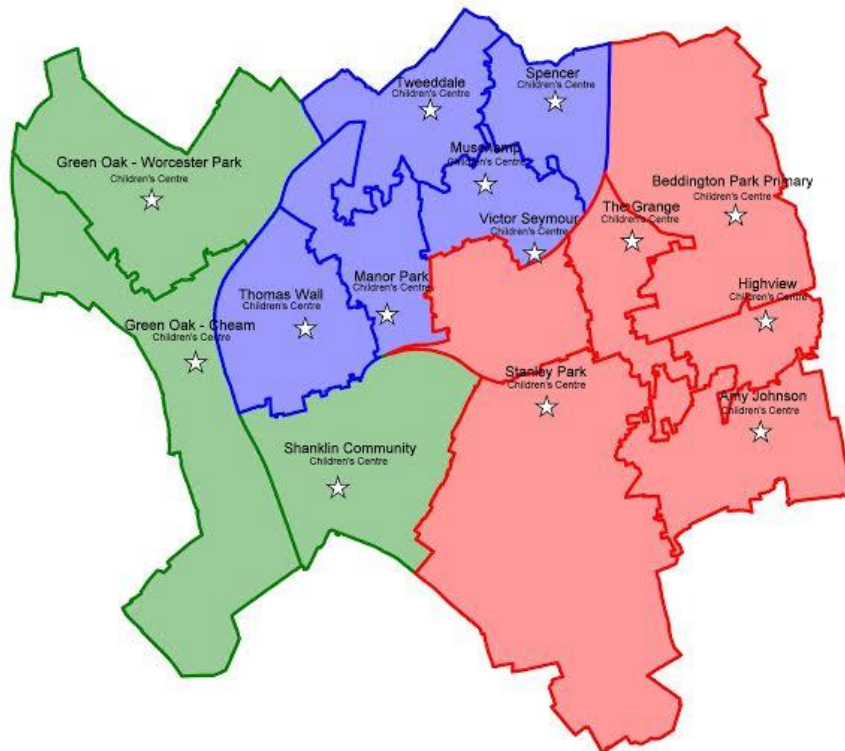
### You Said We Did

The proposed model is based upon the feedback we received from residents and incorporates the following:

You Said	We Did
You did not agree with our proposal to reduce to one Children's Centre in the borough	We are now consulting on an option to retain six Children's Centres and four Access Points
You wanted to be able to access services that were close to where you live	Our proposals include distributing Children's Centres across the borough
You wanted to be sure that there would be a place for you at sessions so that you didn't travel unnecessarily	We are proposing that all sessions will be pre-bookable either online or via an app, so you can see how many spaces are available in advance
You valued being able to meet with others and access support, especially with a new born	Our proposals include a group in every centre focussed on parents with new babies under 6 months
You valued the support and consistency provided by having a children's centre staff team you knew well	We are proposing locality based teams with consistent staff so you will be able to get to know staff in your area well
You would be willing to pay towards some sessions	We are proposing to introduce a small charge for some universal sessions. Those on low incomes would not be required to pay. Targeted sessions would remain free for those who need them

## WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

Currently there are 14 Children's Centres in Sutton.



**The council's preferred option is to move to Option 3: six 'hub' Children's Centres, with four 'access points'. As part of this option we are proposing:**

The following six centres will be a 'hub':

- Amy Johnson
- Green Oak
- Stanley Park
- Thomas Wall
- Tweeddale
- Victor Seymour

The following four centres will be an 'access point':

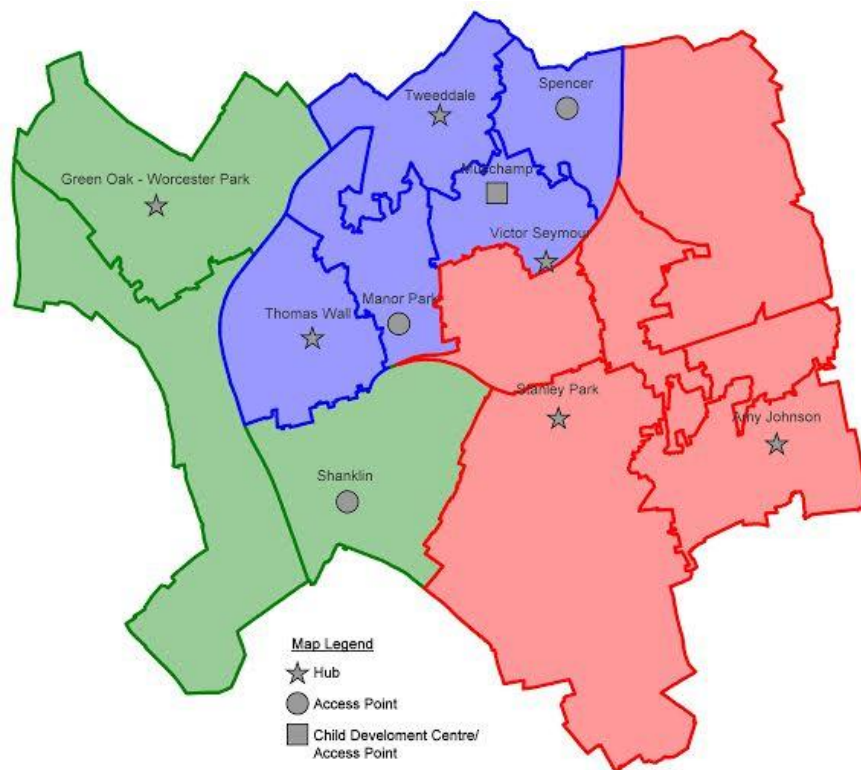
- Manor Park
- Muschamp (also a Child Development Centre)
- Shanklin
- Spencer

The following four centres will close:

- Beddington Park Primary
- Green Oak – Cheam
- High View
- The Grange



The new proposed model will include six Children's Centre Hubs and four Access Points:



## How will the proposals affect you?

There are a number of changes that will apply to any new delivery model:

- You will be able to book sessions in advance so that you can plan ahead and be reassured that you will have a space when you get there.
- A flexible pool of staff will work across each locality to ensure you still get to know staff well.
- Some children's centres will become hubs and offer a full range of services and some children's centres will become access points, offering a smaller number of services.
- Some children's centres will close and families may have to travel further to access some services.
- There will be a range of services that are free to parents, and there will be some services where a small charge will be made. Families on low incomes will not need to pay.
- We will work more closely with our partners, which will mean families get quicker access to the right support, at the right time.

## Booking and Charging

The Council is considering introducing a charging system for certain children's centre services. There would be a pay as you go charge, and it would be cheaper to pay for sessions in advance. Families on low income would not be required to pay.

We consider low income as those with a household income of less than £16,190 or those in receipt of the following benefits; Income Support, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit and have an annual income under £16,190.

We are proposing that services will be split into three groups:

- Universal – Free Services
- Universal – Charged Services
- Targeted Services – for those with an identified need

Details of which services will be free and charged for are outlined in the next section.

### What to expect at your Children’s Centre

We are proposing that families will be able to access the following from a children’s centre hub or access point:

Service	Children’s Centre	Charging Policy
New Parents Group	Hub	Universal – Free Service
Information and Advice	Hub and/or some Access Points	Universal – Free Service
Health – Well Child Clinic, Health promotion programme, breastfeeding support groups, health child programme (6-12 month reviews, 2 year checks)	Hub and/or some Access Points	Universal – Free Service
Housing and Benefits Advice	Hub	Universal – Free Service
Baby massage (5 week course)	Access Points	Universal – Charged Service
Messy Play	Hub	Universal – Charged Service
Music and Rhyme (ongoing)	Access Points	Universal – Charged Service
Play and learning (ongoing)	Access Points	Universal – Charged Service
Play and Stay	Hub	Universal – Charged Service
Domestic Violence Support Groups	Hub	Targeted Service
Family Support Groups	Hub	Targeted Service
Job Club	Hub	Targeted Service
Play and Stay for children with emerging or undiagnosed SEND	Hub	Targeted Service
Speech and Language course	Hub	Targeted Service
Speech and Language Play and Stay	Hub	Targeted Service
Support group for parents experiencing mental health	Hub	Targeted Service

### What happens next?

No decisions have been taken yet. We are keen to hear your views in order to assist us in shaping future delivery. The results of this consultation will be presented back to the Council's Children Family and Education Committee in February 2016. At this stage the Council is aiming to complete the process and implement any changes by mid 2016.

## SUMMARY OF CENTRE PROPOSALS

Children's Centre	Proposal	How does this effect access to children's centres?
Amy Johnson	Children's Centre Hub	
Beddington Park Primary	Closure	The nearest centre hub would be Victor Seymour
Green Oak – Cheam	Closure	The nearest centre hub would be Green Oak – Worcester Park
Green Oak – Worcester Park	Children's Centre Hub	
High View	Closure	The nearest centre hub would be Amy Johnson
Manor Park	Children's Centre Access Point	The nearest centre hub would be Thomas Wall
Muschamp	Child Development Centre and Access Point	The nearest centre hub would be Tweeddale or Victor Seymour
Shanklin	Children's Centre Access Point	The nearest centre hub would be Thomas Wall
Spencer	Children's Centre Access Point	The nearest centre hub would be Tweeddale
Stanley Park	Children's Centre Hub	
The Grange	Closure	The nearest centre hub would be Victor Seymour
Thomas Wall	Children's Centre Hub	
Tweeddale	Children's Centre Hub	
Victor Seymour	Children's Centre Hub	



## HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

We will be talking to residents and Children's Centre users from Monday 5th October 2015 through to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. There are many ways you can give us your views:

- Complete our online survey.
- Fill in a paper copy of the survey, available at all of our Children's Centres
- Drop in to one of our 'Have Your Say' engagement workshops. We will run one of these workshops in each of our 14 Children's Centres during the consultation. The dates and times are set out below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Centre</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Muschamp</b>	Muschamp Road, Carshalton, SM5 2SE
13 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Victor Seymour</b>	Denmark Road, Carshalton, SM5 2JE
14 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Green Oak Cheam</b>	Cheam Library,
15 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Amy Johnson</b>	Brabazon Avenue, Wallington, SM6 9ET
15 <sup>th</sup> October, 13:30-15:30	<b>The Grange</b>	Beddington Park, London Road, Wallington, SM6 7BT
16 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Green Oak Worcester Park</b>	671 London Road, North Cheam, SM3 9DL
16 <sup>th</sup> October, 13:30-15:30	<b>Stanley Park</b>	Stanley Park Road, Carshalton, SM5 3JL
19 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Spencer</b>	Spencer Road, Mitcham, CR4 4JP
20 <sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Manor Park</b>	Myrtle Road, Sutton, SM1 4AW
20 <sup>th</sup> October, 13:30-15:30	<b>Beddington</b>	Mallinson Road, Beddington, CR0 4UL
21 <sup>st</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Highview</b>	The Chase, Wallington, SM6 8JT
21 <sup>st</sup> October, 13:30-15:30	<b>Shanklin</b>	25 Rookley Close, Sutton, SM2 6TT
22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 9:30-11:30	<b>Thomas Wall</b>	69 Western Road, Sutton, SM1 2TF
22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 13:30-15:30	<b>Tweeddale</b>	Tweeddale Road, Carshalton, SM5 1SW

**Consultation closes on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Please direct any queries to [suttonsfuture@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:suttonsfuture@sutton.gov.uk)