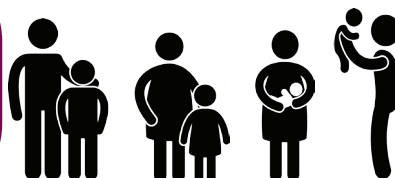


Your Essex  
is changing

let's talk

about it

Have your say...



Shaping Future Services  
from April 2014

## Essex Sure Start Children's Centres

Shaping Future Services from April 2014

**Public Consultation**

17 October 2013 - 5 December 2013

Essex County Council wants your views as it starts a formal public consultation into children's centre service delivery



Essex County Council

# Foreword

Sure Start<sup>1</sup> children's centre services are an important part of delivering early support for children, young people and their families in Essex. Essex County Council is committed to delivering children's centre services at a time when the financial challenges that we face are unprecedented. Reduced funding from central government, together with the impact of inflation and increasing demands for services means Essex County Council needs to save around £215m by 2016-17. This is on top of the £365m already saved over the previous three years. Simply put, we can't afford to deliver everything we want to.

We are therefore consulting on making savings of £2.5m from the children's centre budget between 2014 and 2016 and this can only be achieved by working smarter and focussing use of our resources on actual services for children and less on buildings and other overheads.

We are pleased to be able to announce proposals we believe can achieve these objectives in the most efficient way possible, making maximum use of buildings and the staff delivering services. We propose to extend our current contracts from April 2014 until March 2016 to ensure that children's centre services continue across the county for another two years with no overall reduction in the level of services currently being delivered. These will be provided through a re-structured model of a combination of 37 Main Sites and 37 Delivery Sites. Thirty seven children's centres will be re-designated from a Main Site to a Delivery Site with an overall reduction of 11 premises countywide from the current model. The proposed re-designations and closures have been identified with the aim of delivering services where families most need them across the county. The proposals outlined in this document, if implemented, will enable families to continue to access a range of advice and support services through our extensive children's centre network.

We are working closely with our children's centre service providers (Barnardo's, 4Children, and Spurgeons) to make sure that the impact of these proposals on services is kept to a minimum. By planning at this early stage, and by ensuring that every penny we spend makes a difference, we can protect as much of what we know works as possible. We are focused on the achievement of outcomes for our communities and residents, not wedded to historic ways of doing things.

In the summer we asked you to tell us what you wanted from your children's centre as part of our *Children's Centre Family Survey 2013*. We are building on the results of that survey to now seek your views on the changes being proposed for 2014-2016. We want you to tell us what you think about the proposed changes to children's centre services in your area and the proposed hours of opening for your Main sites and Delivery Sites.

We would encourage you to complete the survey as it is important that we make the right decisions for you.

## **Councillor Dick Madden**

Cabinet Member for Families and Children

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<sup>1</sup> All references to children's centres in this document only concern Sure Start children's centres. The statutory definition of a Sure Start children's centre is set out on page 6 of the *Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance (Dept of Education, April 2013)* which can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00224078/sure-start-statutory-guidance>

## What is a Children's Centre?

Children's centres offer a wide range of services for families and others caring for children under five. Each children's centre is different, offering a variety of services according to the needs of local families. Activities are delivered from a main site, a delivery site, or through a range of outreach venues. All children's centres work closely with health, schools, GPs and other local service providers. Services include:

- information and advice on childcare and early learning provision
- health services including pre- and postnatal support
- parent / carer groups, including dads' and grandparent groups
- access to children's communication and early language support
- links to Jobcentre Plus
- family support services.

There are currently 85 children's centres in Essex, all of which are designated Main Sites. Essex County Council commissions three providers to deliver these services across four areas. These are as follows:

Mid Essex (Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon): **4Children**.

North East Essex (Colchester and Tendring): **Barnardo's**.

South Essex (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point and Rochford): **Barnardo's**, with a number of centres being delivered in partnership with the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PSLA) and Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS).

West Essex (Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford): **Spurgeons**.

## Why are we consulting?

- We need to consult on making savings of £2.5m from the Council's children's centres services budget between 2014 and 2016.
- We want to make sure that any savings we make are made in a way that has least impact on the services which matter most to families.
- We want to save money (where we can) on running buildings and other overhead costs.
- We want to make sure that we continue to meet the needs of children and their families, particularly those who need our support most.

## Who are we consulting with?

We are seeking the views of key stakeholders which includes, but is not limited to, parents, carers, local communities, children's centre advisory boards, children's centre staff, voluntary and community sector organisations, early years providers, local MPs and local councillors and organisations who share the same site with children's centres eg schools and community centres.

## What information have we used to inform these proposals?

A range of information has been used which includes:

- local knowledge and statistical data which has told us how children's centres are currently accessed and used
- an analysis of children's and families' needs, which provides information that supports decisions made on what services are needed to support families with children aged pre-birth to 11 years living within Essex, including the most vulnerable families
- a countywide family consultation survey and eight targeted family focus groups
- local engagement outcomes workshops with stakeholders
- Equality Impact Analyses.

This information can be viewed in more detail in the *Children's Centre Needs Assessment (July 2013)* document which can be accessed at <http://www.essexinsight.org.uk/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=705>

## What do we know already?

- Some children's centres are used more than others.
- Most families use more than one centre.
- Many families access a range of universal services (available to everybody) as well as targeted services (specialist support).
- Families are prepared to travel to access joint services in one children's centre, but would be willing to spend less than half an hour total time to do so.
- Service users most value:



(taken from *Children's Centre Focus Group Report, QA Research July 2013*)

## How we are proposing to deliver services from April 2014?

We have worked with our children's centre provider partners to develop proposals for the four areas across Essex. These aim to ensure that the money available for children's centres in Essex is spent on:

- direct services which improve the health and well-being of children under five and their families
- children's centre services rather than buildings

- delivering services from buildings that are accessible and convenient to children and families
- enabling parents and expectant parents to have a choice about which centre and services they use.

The proposal is to move to a Main Site and Delivery Site model which will mean:

- a reduction from 85 registered children's centre Main Sites to 37 registered children's centres Main Sites and 37 registered children's centres Delivery Sites
- a closure of 11 buildings from April 2014, merging services with neighbouring children's centres to support families to continue to access children's centre services locally
- outreach services, targeted one to one support in the home and on-site pre-school and nursery provision will continue to be delivered in addition to, and alongside, the proposals in this consultation.

## **What is a Main Site?**

Main sites are buildings which are proposed to be open to the public for drop in visits and service delivery. Services to families will be available through a combination of centre opening hours and telephone service operating times for a minimum of 50 operating hours a week. Operating hours will vary from centre to centre dependent on locally defined needs. Please see individual centres for the proposed allocation of hours per week. It is intended that website information, including the centre's weekly activity timetable will be available twenty four hours a day.

## **What is a Delivery Site?**

These proposed sites will be open for a dedicated number of hours each week, and provide a number of services for the area. This will vary from site to site and will be based on local need. Please view individual centres listed later in this document for the proposed hours of opening. It is intended that website information, including the centre's weekly activity timetable will be available twenty four hours a day.

## **What does merging children's centres mean?**

This proposal will see the closure of some buildings across Essex from April 2014. Services will continue to be provided by merging neighbouring children's centres. Some of these buildings may continue to be used for outreach activities to meet local need.

## **What happens to Outreach Services, One to One support and Nursery Provision?**

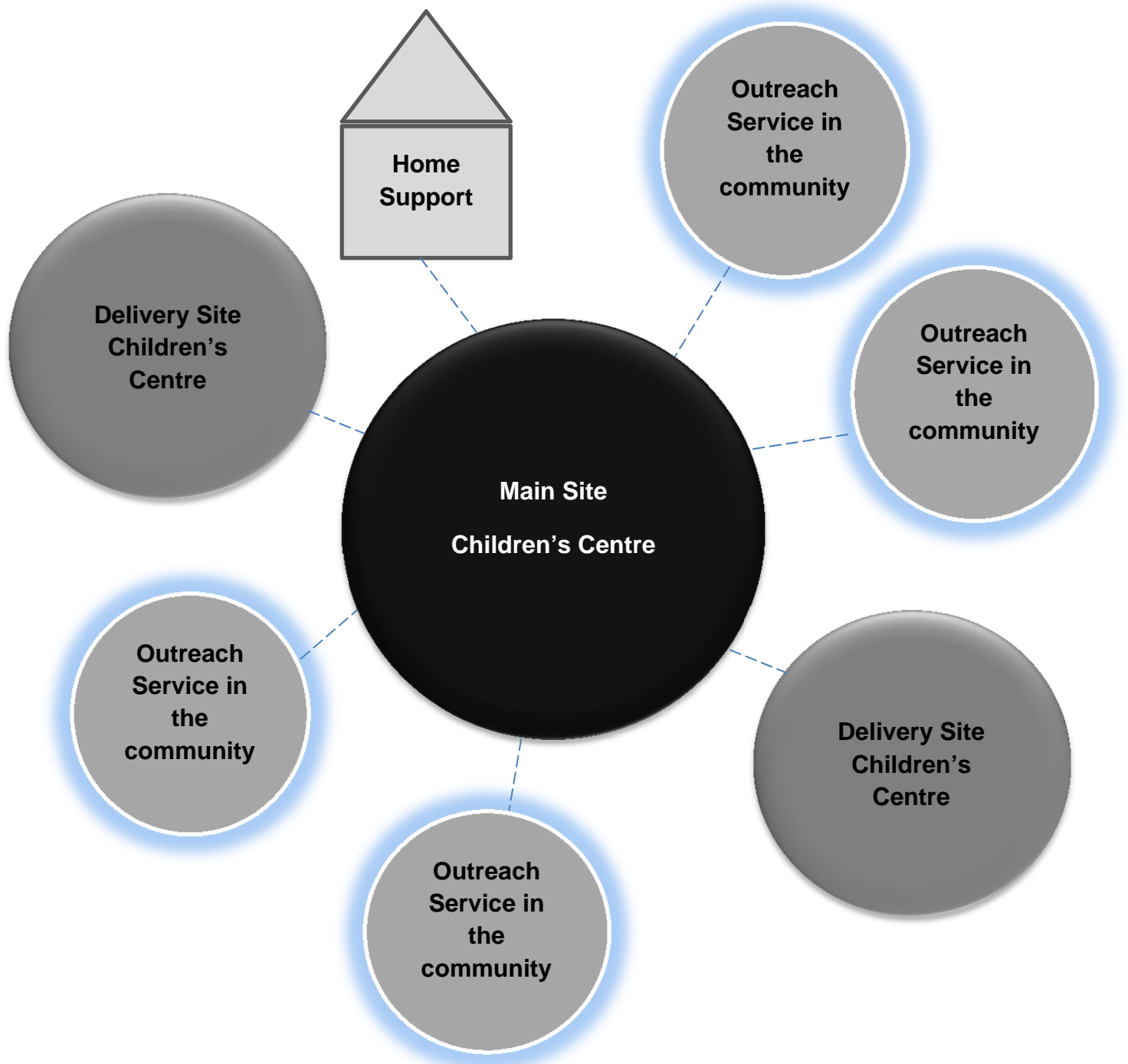
Outreach services are held in community venues such as church halls, village halls, libraries or health centres from which children's centre services are delivered. Services delivered from these venues are often flexible and the sites from which they are offered can change according to local need, therefore they are not included as part of these proposals. This will also apply to targeted one to one support in the home and pre-schools and nurseries on children's centre sites.

## What are we consulting on?

This consultation will ask for your views on:

- the Council's overall proposal to move to a combination of Main Site and Delivery Sites for the county's children's centres
- any proposed changes for individual centres.

This document will explain these proposals and show what they mean both for different areas of Essex and individual children's centres.



## How can I feed in my views?

You can feed in your views during the consultation either by:

- completing a consultation questionnaire online at [www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres)
- completing a paper survey which can be printed off at [www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres) or ask your nearest children's centre for a copy. Please complete it and either post it to Children's Centre Consultation, Early Years and Childcare, Essex County Council, PO Box 47, Chelmsford CM2 6NW or drop it in at your nearest children's centre. To find your nearest centre please go to [www.essex.gov.uk/fis](http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis)

You can also talk to staff at your local children's centre who will explain the consultation in more detail. They will be able to help you complete the questionnaire.

It is entirely your choice whether or not to participate and taking part in the consultation is voluntary. This also means you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to and you can withdraw at any time.

## Further comments

You can feed in your views and preferences during the consultation, however, those who wish to comment further should write to [Haveyoursay@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Haveyoursay@essex.gov.uk), Customer Care Team, Essex County Council, Schools, Children and Families Service, PO Box 297, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1YS or use the online comments form at [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) should then choose the 'get involved, tell us what you think, complaints, comments and compliments' section and follow the instructions. Comments will be taken into account; however it will not be possible to reply to people individually.

Essex County Council would like to thank you for taking the time to read this. We hope you will now take the time to add your views into the survey.

## What happens after the consultation?

The Children's Centre Consultation runs from Thursday 17 October to Thursday 5 December. At the end of this consultation period the Cabinet Member for Families and Children will consider the feedback and views expressed by all interested parties during the consultation and will make a recommendation on the children's centre proposals to be implemented, taking into account the feedback and views expressed. The recommendation will be presented by the Cabinet Member for Families and Children to Essex County Council's Cabinet to consider and approve any recommended proposals in January 2014. If you would like to view the findings from this consultation, please ask your local children's centre who will be able to tell you how to access this; we anticipate this being ready by end of January.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Does this mean you are focusing more on targeted provision rather than the universal offer?**

As we face financial pressures we will have to make decisions that will mean that funding focuses on those that need it most. However, whilst this restructure allows for more targeted outreach work to take place we still recognise the importance of the universal offer and expect this type of service to continue.

### **How did you decide which site should be the Main Site, which should be the Delivery Site and which site to close?**

Essex County Council has worked closely with our providers across the county to plan which sites should become Main Sites, Delivery Sites and which sites are no longer required. We have looked at the sites in terms of demand, location, size, condition, running costs and suitability for delivering children's centre services.

### **What is happening to the 11 sites you are closing? Will services stop?**

Essex County Council currently leases the properties that we are proposing to no longer use. If it is decided that these buildings should no longer open as children's centres we will terminate leases.

In Essex, children's centre provision has always been about services and not buildings. The closure of some sites/buildings does not mean that services will stop – although the building is no longer operational the families still exist and still need to receive a service. Services will be delivered by neighbouring Delivery or Main Sites or will continue as part of the outreach work delivered in the community.

### **Will any particular services no longer be provided?**

Whilst it may be the case that services may be delivered at different times and locations it is our intention that families will not lose services they value.

### **Will the name of my local children's centre change?**

Within the proposed model, all Main and Delivery Site children's centres will keep their current names.

### **Will low income families/those most at risk be supported to travel further to access the service**

If families are unable to access their local children's centre we will review what support can be offered or whether the service can be offered more locally, or take the service to the family.

### **When will changes be made?**

Any approved changes will start being implemented from 1 April 2014.

### **What are the staff implications?**

At this point in time, staff at children's centres have been briefed about the public consultation and we will work with the providers to identify any potential implications arising from these proposals.



# Proposals for Mid Essex

Mid Essex covers: Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon

Provider responsible for children's centre service delivery: 4Children

No. of children under five living in Mid Essex: 21,645 (*based on Child Benefit data 2012*)

Current number of children's centre main sites: 22

Proposed number of closures: 2

Proposed number of Main Sites: 9

Proposed number of Delivery Sites: 11

The tables below set out any proposed changes for each centre in Mid Essex. Each centre will also have its own website enabling families to access information, including each centre's weekly activity timetable.

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
<p><b>Little Lanes Children's Centre</b>                      Black Notley Community Hall                      John Ray Gardens                      Black Notley                      Braintree CM77 8NE</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Seesaw Children's Centre, Lancaster Way, Braintree, CM7 5UL which will continue to be designated a Main Site. You can see where Seesaw Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Little Lanes Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it offers limited available facilities for families. It is also in a rural location where families already access services from neighbouring children's centres which provide better facilities. We may continue to provide some services at the hall to meet local need and to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>
<p><b>Stock Children's Centre</b>                      Stock Village Hall                      Common Road                      Stock                      Ingatestone CM4 9NF</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Chetwood Children's Centre, Shirebourne Vale, Off Gandalf's Ride, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford CM3 5ZX which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Chetwood Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Stock Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it offers limited available facilities for families. It is in a rural location with families already accessing services from neighbouring children's centres which provide better facilities. We may continue to provide some services at the hall to meet local need and to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 14 - 50 hours per week.**

<b>Centre Name</b>	<b>Proposed operating hours per week</b>	<b>Proposed type of site after April 2014</b>
<b>Acorn Children's Centre</b> The Old School Hall Beridge Road Halstead CO9 1JH	No change – telephone service is in addition to current hours 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Beeches Children's Centre</b> Adult Community College Beeches Close Chelmsford CM1 2SB	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Bumblebee Children's Centre</b> The Old School House Main Road Danbury CM3 4NQ	10 hrs.(centre open)	Delivery
<b>Carousel Children's Centre</b> Chapel Hill Braintree CM7 3QZ	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Chelmsford Central Children's Centre</b> Chelmsford Library Market Road Chelmsford CM1 1LH	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Chelmsford West Children's Centre</b> Dixon Avenue Chelmsford CM1 2AQ	No change – telephone service is in addition to current hours 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Chetwood Children's Centre</b> Shirebourne Vale Off Gandalf's Ride South Woodham Ferrers Chelmsford CM3 5ZX	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Galleywood Children's Centre</b> Galleywood Library Watchhouse Road Galleywood, Chelmsford CM2 8PU	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Harlequin Children's Centre</b> Spa Road Witham CM8 1NA	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Larkrise Children's Centre</b> Larkrise Primary School Dorset Avenue Great Baddow CM2 9UB	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Maldon Children's Centre</b> Maldon Library Carmelite House White Horse Lane Maldon CM9 5FW	2 additional hours, alongside additional telephone service 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 14 - 50 hours per week.**

<b>Centre Name</b>	<b>Proposed operating hours per week</b>	<b>Proposed type of site after April 2014</b>
<b>Perryfields Children's Centre</b> Perryfields Community Centre Lawn Lane Chelmsford CM1 7PP	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Rainbow Children's Centre</b> Hedingham High School Yeldham Rd Sible Hedingham Halstead CO9 3QH	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Roundabout Children's Centre</b> Templars Infant School Cressing Road Witham CM8 2NJ	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Seesaw Children's Centre</b> Lancaster Way Braintree CM7 5UL	40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Silver End Children's Centre</b> Silver End Village Hall Broadway Witham CM8 3RQ	20 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Sunflower Children's Centre</b> Broomfield Library 180 Main Road Broomfield Chelmsford CM1 7AH	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>The Dengie Children's Centre</b> Ormiston Rivers Academy Southminster Rd Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8QB	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Valley Children's Centre</b> Earls Colne Primary School Park Lane Earls Colne Colchester C06 2RH	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Yellow Brick Road Children's Centre</b> Great Totham Primary School Walden House Road Great Totham CM9 8PN	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery

## Proposals for North East Essex

North East Essex quadrant covers: Colchester and Tendring

Provider responsible for children's centre delivery: Barnardo's

No. of children under five living in North East Essex: 17,810 (*based on Child Benefit data 2012*)

Current number of children's centre main sites: 19 (plus one additional delivery site)

Proposed number of closures: 4

Proposed number of Main Sites: 9

Proposed number of Delivery Sites: 7

The tables below set out any proposed changes for each centre in North East Essex. Each centre will also have its own website enabling families to access information, including each centre's weekly activity timetable.

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
<p><b>ABC Together Children's Centre</b> [formerly Willowtree Children's Centre] Chingford Avenue Clacton on Sea, CO15 4US</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Rainbow Children's Centre, 13 Old Pier Street, Walton on the Naze, CO14 8AW which will continue to be designated a Main Site. You can see where Rainbow Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that ABC Together Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is due to limitations on the availability of space within a busy private day nursery, it is not possible to base a staff team on site. Therefore, following consultation with local service users, this centre has already been linked to another neighbouring centre. We may continue to provide services from this site to meet local need and to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>
<p><b>Highwoods Children's Centre</b> The Ark Highwoods Methodist Church 2 Gavin Way Colchester CO4 9FF</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Beehive Children's Centre, Queen Boudica Primary School, Cowper Crescent, Colchester CO4 5XT which will continue to be designated a Main Site. You can see where Beehive Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Highwoods Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that there are limitations on the availability of delivery space. We can continue to provide services from an adjacent health clinic and GP surgery to meet local need to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>
<p><b>Holland Valley Children's Centre</b> Unit 4 30 Oxford Road Clacton-on-Sea CO15 3TB</p>	<p>This centre is already co-located with St James Children's Centre and therefore the two will merge to become one Main Site centre at St James Children's Centre, Unit 4, 30 Oxford Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 3TB</p> <p>It is proposed that Holland Valley Children's Centre will merge with St James Children's Centre as they already share the same site.</p>

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
<b>Manningtree Children's Centre</b> Mistley Health Clinic New Road Mistley Manningtree CO11 1ER	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Windmill Children's Centre, Two Village Primary School, Mayes Lane, Ramsey, CO12 5EO which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Windmill Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Manningtree Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is due to limited available facilities for families, due to space restrictions at the site. It is also a rural site and we may continue to provide services from outreach sites to meet local need.</p> <p>The health activities running at Mistley Clinic will continue, as will children's centre services that are currently delivered at other delivery sites in the Manningtree area.</p>

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 30 – 50 hours per week.**

Centre Name	Proposed operating hours per week	Proposed type of site after April 2014
<b>Beehive Children's Centre</b> Queen Boudica Primary School Cowper Crescent Colchester CO4 5XT	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Berechurch Children's Centre</b> The Ormiston Centre School Road, Monkwick Colchester CO2 8NN	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Birch and Rural Children's Centre</b> Birch C of E Primary School School Hill, Birch Colchester CO2 0LZ	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Colne Children's Centre</b> YMCA Hall 55 High Street Brightlingsea CO7 OAQ	20 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Discovery Children's Centre</b> King George V Pavilion Clairemont Road Colchester CO3 9BE	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Greenstead Children's Centre</b> Greenstead Community Centre Hawthorn Avenue Colchester CO4 3QE	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Harwich Town Children's Centre</b> Noah's Nursery (Administrative site) Barrack Lane Harwich CO12 3NS	20 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 30 – 50 hours per week.**

<b>Centre Name</b>	<b>Proposed operating hours per week</b>	<b>Proposed type of site after April 2014</b>
St Nicholas Hall (Delivery site) Stour Road Harwich CO12 3HS		
<b>Little Hands Children's Centre</b> Stanway Fiveways Primary School Winstree Road Colchester CO3 0QG	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>New Town Children's Centre</b> St Stephen's Church Centre Canterbury Road Colchester CO2 7RY	20 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Rainbow Children's Centre</b> 13 Old Pier Street Frinton-on-Sea CO14 8AW	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Shrub End Children's Centre</b> Shrub End Community Centre Boadicea Way Colchester CO2 9BG	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>St Annes and Castle Children's Centre</b> Harwich Road Colchester CO4 3DH	25 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>St James Children's Centre</b> Unit 4 30 Oxford Road Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 3TB	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Sydney House Children's Centre</b> Sydney House 61a Langham Drive Clacton-on-Sea CO16 7AG	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Windmill Children's Centre</b> Two Village Primary School, Mayes Lane Ramsey Harwich CO12 5EL	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Please note the children's centre listed below is currently a Delivery Site and its opening hours range is currently 10 hours.</b>		
<b>Hemmington House</b> 51-53 Broadway Jaywick CO15 2EX	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery

## Proposals for South Essex

South Essex quadrant covers: Basildon, Brentwood, Rochford, Castle Point.

Provider responsible for children's centre delivery: Barnardo's.

No. of children under five living in South Essex: 24, 075 (based on Child Benefit data 2012).

Current number of children's centres: 27

Proposed number of closures: 2

Proposed number of Main Sites: 10

Proposed number of Delivery Sites: 14 (15 including The Limes which is not yet open)

The tables below set out any proposed changes for each centre in South Essex. Each centre will also have its own website enabling families to access information, including each centre's weekly activity timetable, twenty four hours a day.

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
<p><b>The Ark Children's Centre</b> Becket Keys Church of England Secondary School Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood CM15 9DA</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre, Larchwood Gardens Children's Centre, Larchwood Primary School, Larchwood Gardens, CM15 9NG which will continue to be designated a Main Site. You can see where The Ark Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that The Ark Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it is in an area of lesser deprivation and we are trying to prioritise resources to areas of greater need. The site also offers limited available facilities for families due to space restrictions. We may continue to provide services from outreach sites to meet local need to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>
<p><b>Little Treehouse Children's Centre</b> Richmond Hall Community Centre High Road Benfleet, SS7 5HA</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre, Little Handprints Children's Centre, Thundersley Primary, Dark Lane, SS7 3PT which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Little Treehouse Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Little Treehouse Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that the site offers limited available facilities for families due to space restrictions at the site. We may continue to provide services from outreach sites such as the community centre hall to meet local need to minimise the effects of closing this children's centre.</p>
<p><b>The following two centres will be moving to a new site as detailed below:</b></p>	
<p><b>The Hill's Children's Centre</b> c/o The All About Children's Centre Leinster Road Laindon, SS15 5NX</p>	<p>This children's centre will be moving to a new building at: The Limes Children's Centre, 93 New Century Road, Laindon, SS15 6AQ. However, families can also access other neighbouring children's centres.</p> <p>The Hill's Children's Centre has already transferred to the All About Children's Centre due to limited available space for</p>



Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
	service delivery at the previous site. The Limes will provide dedicated children's centre delivery space for families, and outreach services will continue to be delivered in this area.
<b>Laindon Park Children's Centre</b> c/o The All About Children's Centre Leinster Road Laindon, SS15 5NX	This children's centre will be moving to a new building at: The Limes Children's Centre, 93 New Century Road, Laindon, SS15 6AQ. However, families can also access other neighbouring children's centres.  The Laindon Park Children's Centre has already transferred to the All About Children's Centre due to the previous building being demolished. The Limes will provide dedicated children's centre delivery space for families living in this area

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as main sites and their current opening hours range from 10 – 50 hours per week.**

Centre Name	Proposed operating hours per week	Proposed type of site after April 2014
<b>All About Children's Centre</b> James Hornsby High School Leinster Road Laindon SS15 5NX	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Billericay Children's Centre</b> Billericay Library 143 High Street Billericay CM12 9AB	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Canvey Community Children's Centre</b> Canvey Resource Centre Little Gypps Road Canvey Island SS8 9HG	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Cherry Tree Children's Centre</b> The Knightsway Centre 32 A Knightsway Brentwood CM13 2AZ	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Cherrydown Children's Centre</b> Relate South Essex Building 4 Cherrydown West Basildon SS16 5AT	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Fryerns Farm Children's Centre</b> Greenshoots Adult Community College Ely Way Basildon SS14 2EQ	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Highcliffe Children's Centre</b> Rettendon View Wickford SS11 8JX	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Kaleidoscope Children's Centre</b> 27 Riverview Court Basildon SS16 4NF	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as main sites and their current opening hours range from 10 – 50 hours per week.**

<b>Centre Name</b>	<b>Proposed operating hours per week</b>	<b>Proposed type of site after April 2014</b>
<b>Ladybird Children's Centre</b> The Grange Community Centre Little Wheatley Chase Rayleigh, SS6 9EH	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Larchwood Children's Centre</b> Larchwood Primary School Larchwood Gardens Pilgrims Hatch CM15 9NG	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Little Acorns Children's Centre</b> Westwood Academy Beresford Close Hadleigh Benfleet SS7 2SU	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Little Handprints Children's Centre</b> Thundersley Primary School Dark Lane Thundersley SS7 3PT	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Little Lions Children's Centre</b> Northwick Park Primary School Third Avenue Canvey Island SS8 9SU	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Little Tewkes Children's Centre</b> Dovervelt Rd Canvey Island SS8 8EJ	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Northlands Park Children's Centre</b> Davenants Basildon SS13 1QX	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Sea Shells Children's Centre</b> Great Wakering Primary School High Street Gt. Wakering Southend on Sea SS3 OEJ	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>StartBright Children's Centre</b> Pitsea Library Northlands Pavement Pitsea SS13 3DU	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Sunnyside Children's Centre</b> Rosebay Avenue Billericay CM12 0GH	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>Sunshine Children's Centre</b> Shenfield Library 63 Hutton Road Brentwood, CM15 8NJ	5 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as main sites and their current opening hours range from 10 – 50 hours per week.**

<b>Centre Name</b>	<b>Proposed operating hours per week</b>	<b>Proposed type of site after April 2014</b>
<b>The Limes Children's Centre</b> <i>(currently delivering services from outreach sites in the community until building refurbishment is complete. This is showing as an additional delivery site )</i>	25 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>The Oak Tree Children's Centre</b> Grove Wood Primary School Grove Road Rayleigh SS6 8UA	50 hrs. (centre open)	Main
<b>The Triangle Children's Centre</b> Downtowner Irvon Hill Road Wickford SS12 0AQ	10 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Willows Children's Centre</b> Riverside Primary School Ferry Lane Hullbridge, SS5 6ND	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Wishing Well Children's Centre</b> Waterman Primary School The Boulevard Rochford SS4 1QF	No change 50 hrs. (centre open)	Main

# Proposals for West Essex

West quadrant covers: Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford

Lead body responsible for children's centre delivery: Spurgeons

Current number of children's centres: 17

No. of children under five living in West Essex: 18,550 (*based on Child Benefit data 2012*)

Proposed number of closures: 3

Proposed number of Main Sites: 9

Proposed number of Delivery Sites: 5

The tables below set out any proposed changes for each centre in West Essex. Each centre will also have its own website enabling families to access information, including each centre's weekly activity timetable, twenty four hours a day.

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
<p><b>ABC Children's Centre</b> Aneurin Bevin Centre Garden Terrace Road Old Harlow CM17 0AT</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Potter Street Children's Centre, Carters Mead, Harlow CM17 9EU which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Potter Street Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that ABC Children's Centre will be closed. The reason that we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it is in an area of lesser deprivation in Harlow and we are trying to prioritise resources to areas of greater need. Neighbouring centres are purpose built and have the capacity to deliver services to families, some of whom have already been accessing services at such centres.</p>
<p><b>Little Buddies Children's Centre</b> Roding House 2 Victoria Road Buckhurst Hill IG9 5ES</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre Sunrise Children's Centre, Alderton Schools, Alderton Hall Lane, IG10 3HE which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Sunrise Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p> <p>It is proposed that Little Buddies Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it is in an area of lesser deprivation compared to neighbouring Epping children's centres; we are trying to prioritise resources to areas of greater need. The site suffers from accessibility issues as it is on a busy high street with limited parking. Neighbouring centres in Epping Forest are easier and safer to access. Good transport links between Buckhurst Hill and neighbouring centres in Loughton and Debden will also serve to minimise the effects of this closure.</p>
<p><b>Sunflowers Children's Centre</b> Sumners Leisure Centre Broadly Road Harlow CM195RD</p>	<p>It is proposed that this centre will merge with the neighbouring centre The Treehouse Children's Centre, Parnall Road, Harlow, CM18 7NG which will continue to be designated as a Main Site. You can see where Treehouse Children's Centre is located by going to our online children's centre search at <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/fis">www.essex.gov.uk/fis</a></p>

Centre Name	Proposals for Merging Centres from April 2014
	It is proposed that Sunflowers Children's Centre will be closed. The reason we have identified this children's centre for closure is that it is geographically in close proximity to The Treehouse Children's Centre which is a large purpose built site with better facilities for service delivery. Many families within the Sunflower Children's Centre reach area are already accessing services at The Treehouse.

**Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 10 – 50 hours per week.**

Centre Name	Proposed operating hours per week	Proposed type of site after April 2014
<b>Abbeywood Children's Centre</b> Waltham Abbey Library 37 Sun Street Waltham Abbey, EN9 1EL	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Brambles Children's Centre</b> Epping Library St John's Road Epping CM16 5DN	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Burnt Mill Children's Centre</b> Burnt Mill Secondary School First Avenue Harlow CM20 2NR	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Fairycroft Children's Centre</b> 37a Fairycroft Road Saffron Walden CB10 1ND	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Hazelwood Children's Centre</b> Hill House Primary School Ninefields Waltham Abbey, EN9 3EL	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Little Goslings Children's Centre</b> Little Goslings North Street Great Dunmow CM6 1AZ	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Little Oaks Children's Centre</b> Loughton Resource Centre Torrington Drive Loughton IG10 3TD	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Little Star Children's Centre</b> Shelley Primary School Milton Crescent Shelley Chipping Ongar CM5 0FF	15 hrs. (centre open)	Delivery
<b>Potter Street Children's Centre</b> Carters Mead Harlow CM17 9EU	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main

Please note that all the children's centres listed below are currently designated as Main Sites and their current opening hours range from 10 – 50 hours per week.

Centre Name	Proposed operating hours per week	Proposed type of site after April 2014
<b>Spangles Children's Centre</b> Lower Street Off Chapel Hill Mountfitchet Stansted CM24 8LR	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Sunrise Children's Centre</b> Alderton Schools Alderton Hall Lane Loughton IG10 3HE	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Meadows Children's Centre</b> Harberts Road Harlow CM19 4DL	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>Treehouse Children's Centre</b> Parnall Road Harlow CM18 7NG	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main
<b>True Stars Children's Centre</b> The Limes Centre, Limes Farm, Chigwell IG7 5LP	No change 40 hrs. (centre open) 10 hrs. (telephone service)	Main

This publication is issued by  
**Essex County Council, Early Years and Childcare.**

You can contact us in the following ways:

By email:

**[eycomms@essex.gov.uk](mailto:eycomms@essex.gov.uk)**

To complete the online consultation questionnaire please go to:

**[www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.essex.gov.uk/childrenscentres)**

The information contained in this leaflet can be translated, and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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