

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & EARLY HELP SERVICES

TO:	ADULT, CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 DECEMBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	16
TITLE:	PROPOSAL TO REMODEL READING CHILDREN'S CENTRES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr GAVIN	PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN & FAMILIES
SERVICE:	EARLY HELP	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	ANDY FITTON	TEL:	0118 9374688
JOB TITLE:	HEAD OF EARLY HELP SERVICES	E-MAIL:	andy.fitton@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report builds on the recent ACE committee report from July 2016 that outlined the family support and children's centre review.
- 1.2 Cuts in Government funding and increased demands on services mean the Council has already made £65 million of savings since 2011. More than £40 million of savings are still needed by 2020. Different delivery models and service reductions are being considered across all services to achieve the required savings.
- 1.3 In order to save the 32% of funding from the Children's Centre (CC) budget, the report sets out a remodelled Children's Centre service offer which targets resources to meet vulnerable children's needs in the early years as a priority, and focuses on clear early intervention and prevention.
- 1.4 A summary of how the Children's Centre will be remodelled under this proposal is to:
- Establish 4 fully integrated *Children and Family Centre* hubs. These will be in areas of highest need to deliver the core Children's Centre offer and to provide space for the provision of additional family services;
 - Deliver some services or activities from satellite buildings;
 - Full integrate Reading's Health Visiting service within the remodelled offer to ensure all children under 5 have universal contacts and early identification of additional needs;
 - For families in need of support, re-focus the work on targeted support in group and 1:1 sessions for families;
 - Realign the Children's Centre offer to focus on pre-birth to three years old;
 - Reduce the current spend by £400k by start of the financial year 18/19.
- 1.5 The proposals also take into consideration the introduction of 30 hours early education entitlement for 3 year olds from September 2017. This will result in a reduction of

demand from families for universal activities in Children's Centres and more emphasis being placed on pre-birth-2 year age range.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the proposed consultation on the Children's Centre Offer for local children under 5 years and their families be endorsed and the results of the consultation and a set of recommendations be reported back to Policy Committee in May 2017 for a decision.
- 2.2 That the approach and timetable for a 12 week consultation on the Children's Centre offer for local children under 5 and their families, starting on 4th January 2017, be endorsed.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Childcare Act (2006) is the main legislation that continues to direct the Children's Centre programmes across England. A summary of this legislation places these duties on all Local Authorities and key partners:

- To improve the well-being of young children (0 - 5) in their area and reduce inequalities between them;
- To secure that early childhood services in their area are provided in an integrated (particularly with health and Job Centre plus services) manner in order to facilitate access and maximise the benefits of those services to young children and their parents;
- To ensure there are sufficient children's centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need, that includes an advisory board;
- To ensure there is consultation before any significant changes are made to children's centre provision in their area.

- 3.2 More recently an all Party Parliamentary Group on Children's Centres (July 2016) recommends that the government's Life Chances Strategy should be implemented and delivered through Children's Centres. The four pillars of service offer that have been recommended by this parliamentary group should be:

- Health and Development;
- Employment support and childcare;
- Relationship support;
- Supporting Families with Complex Needs

- 3.3 It is recommended by officers that we embrace the All Party Parliamentary group recommendation as the pillars or core outcomes to base the remodelling of the remodelled Children's Centre offer.

- 3.4 The recent Reading Children's Centre review asked families, staff and Children's Centre Advisory Boards as to the desired outcomes for children under 5 years and their families.

These were:

- Health - physical and emotional;
- Being safe inside and outside the home;
- Positive family relationships;

- Having basic needs met i.e. food, shelter;
 - Have opportunities and choices and being able to make their own decisions.
- 3.5 the local views and opinions of families and Children's Centre advisory boards and the proposed changing national positioning of Children's Centres have influenced the development of remodelling the Children's Centre offer for Reading.
- 3.6 Currently the Directorate is seeking to refresh the Early Intervention and Prevention strategy to provide a clear direction and focus of the work of our own and partners Early Help offer in Reading. The new strategy will be building on the work of IMPOWER, whose findings are that going forward the council need to:
- Secure ways to manage demand at all points of contact with families - built on a refreshed systems wide approach to Early Intervention and Prevention (a new model of EI&P integrated delivery);
 - Ensure clarity on all our roles, responsibilities and associated pathways to support Children and families as early as possible, ensuring there is a stronger understanding and application of thresholds;
 - Target resources to be as preventative as possible across the partnerships and agencies;
 - Fully understand the range of partnership offer in place that is preventative in intent.
- 3.7 Therefore the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention offer will continue to provide support to families in Reading, but this needs to be a partnership led model of delivery. In particular working and challenging partners to increase the voluntary sector and health sector input to provision whilst Reading Borough Council moves to targeting its resources to meet vulnerable children's needs in the early years as a priority.
- 3.8 The Council must also ensure that entitled 2 year olds use their education offer and that the town is able to meet the increased 3 year old entitlement for eligible families to assist parents to start to prepare for work.

4. CURRENT OFFER

- 4.1 Reading currently has 13 Children's Centres being led by 5 teams. These teams are based in key locations but deliver in each of the reach areas that are designated to the Children's Centre. Reading has named these as Children's Centre Clusters-North, East, South, West and West Central clusters.
- 4.2 Children's Centres operate under the Ofsted Framework (2012). Two clusters have been inspected to date - East and North - and both were graded as Requires Improvement with elements of good.
- 4.3 Within each of the 13 Children's Centres there is a consistent level of universal and targeted provision. There is some local variation in the programmes based on parental input and identified local needs. The table below describes the current offer.

Current offer is described as:

Universal - CC Team	Universal - Partnership	Targeted support - CC team
<p>Open access to family activities in any of thirteen children's centres across Reading. These include activities to support children to be ready for school/nursery and are often named; Stay and Play, Messy Play, Story time, Rhyme time, Art and Craft sessions</p> <p>Physical activity groups run by private providers bought in by the clusters</p> <p>New Baby support groups</p>	<p>Midwifery sessions but inconsistent offer across Reading</p> <p>9 month and 2 year old checks by Health Visiting</p> <p>Well Baby Clinics Parents can access services at Children's Centres and other venues across Reading.</p> <p>Benefits/Housing advice</p>	<p>Outreach support to engage vulnerable families to attend the universal and targeted group work and to enable families to access the 2 year old early education offer.</p> <p>Group Parenting support through formal evidence based courses</p> <p>1-1 family support</p> <p>Perinatal mental health group support</p> <p>Special education needs/disability family group support</p> <p>Healthy Lives and keeping healthy</p> <p>Family Learning and Volunteering</p> <p>Crèche provision to support adult education courses</p>
<p>Currently there are 4 key ways that families are identified for targeted support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Centres have established a maternity pathway referral system in partnership with RBH Maternity Services enabling early identification and intervention for vulnerable pregnant women supported by the Children's Centres. • A Pathway to Employment developed in partnership with New Directions facilitates a route to support parents to be ready for work and supported by crèche provision, includes Family Learning, Accredited Basic Skills Courses, Employability support and Volunteering opportunities. • Professionals, e.g. Health Visitors, request support through the Early Help hub. • Children on Child protection and Child in Need plans are shared with Children's Centres on a regular (monthly) basis 		

5. THE PROPOSAL

5.1 It is recommended that a 12-week public consultation is held on the following proposal.

Service Offer - Each of the 4 Children's Centre hubs will operate under a consistent Reading wide model offering a universal health and maternity service and an early intervention support service, mainly a targeted service for families. This model will be based on the four pillars of delivery as noted in the All Party Parliamentary Group on Children's Centres (July 2016) and outlined in paragraph 3.2 of this report.

5.2 The offer is seeking to secure the following outcomes for children under 5 years and their families (working mainly with children under 3 years) across Reading:

- Children have strong social skills;
- Health - child's physical and emotional well-being;
- Parenting support-Keeping children safe and family routines and boundaries;
- Health - parents physical and emotional well-being supports children to cope emotionally;
- Positive family relationships and attachment enable children to become relatively independent in their personal care;
- Housing issues/Money - access to benefits, work to reduce child poverty and prevent homelessness

5.3 These outcomes have significant commonality of purpose to the Health Visiting service. It is proposed that the Health Visiting service will be fully integrated into the Children's Centre offer from October 2017, as it seeks to secure these outcomes:

- Ensuring delivery of the Health Child Programme to all children and families, including fathers, starting in the antenatal period;
- Promoting secure attachment, positive parental and infant mental health and parenting skills using evidence based approaches;
- Promoting breastfeeding, healthy nutrition and healthy lifestyles;
- Promoting 'school readiness' including working in partnership to improve the speech, communication and language of babies and toddlers and working with parents to improve the home learning environment;
- Working with families to support behaviour change leading to positive lifestyle choices;
- Safeguarding babies and children through safe and effective practice in safeguarding and child protection.

5.4 It is proposed to realign the Children's Centre offer to focus on pre-birth to three years old. This aspect of the proposal is:

- Based on the theoretical evidence that the most crucial time of development for a child is from pre-birth to the first three years of life. Reports such as Early Intervention: The Next Steps - An Independent Report to Her Majesty's Government Graham Allen MP highlight that responding to the first signs of risk to healthy child development can provide children with the vital social and emotional foundation which will help to keep them happy, healthy and achieving throughout their lives and equip them to raise children of their own, to enjoy higher levels of well-being.

- The introduction of 30 hours early education entitlement for 3 year olds from September 2017 will result in a reduction of demand from families for universal activities in Children’s Centres and more emphasis being placed on pre-birth -2 year age range.

5.5 The Children’s Centres will provide support for families using a stepped care model utilising three tiers of support tailored to the needs of families and a specialist service including portage and teenage parents. Interventions will occur at the earliest stage possible to identified families to prevent escalation to more intense high cost services. The Children’s Centre service will embed the “Think Family” approach at all tiers of support specifically focusing on the needs of parents which act as an enabler to nurturing children.

5.6 The table below summarises the offer within the proposal stepped care model.

	Step 1 - Universal	Step 2 - Universal Plus (Targeted group support)	Step 3 -Intensive 1:1 support
Ante Natal-Birth	Ante natal care Health checks Online self-service advice	Group support Outreach support	1-1 support Portage Teenage parents Attachment therapy
Birth-2 years	Post natal care Health checks and clinics Integrated 2 year health/education check Low level parenting support activities Online self-service advice	Outreach Group support Parenting courses Training and employment Benefits/Housing advice Access to 2 year old Early education	1-1 support Portage Teenage parents Attachment therapy Parenting courses
3-5 years	Health Clinics Low level parenting support activities Online self-service advice	Parenting courses Training and employment Benefits/Housing advice	1-1 support Portage Parenting courses

5.7 The Children’s Centre offer will aim to target families with clear early intervention and prevention needs to support as early as possible. The families that we will target in the steps 2 and 3 in the model will have these key characteristics:

- Families living in poverty, including ‘in work’ poverty;
- Children identified with early signs of neglect;
- Families that have/ are affected by parental mental health & poor well-being;
- Families that have/ are being affected by Parental substance misuse;
- Families that have/ are experienced domestic abuse;

- Families that have/ are being affected by housing issues including homelessness

Buildings Proposal

- 5.8 Establish 4 fully integrated Children and Family Centre Hubs in areas of highest need and deprivation to deliver the core Children's Centre offer and to provide space for the provision of additional family services. There would be delivery of some services from satellite buildings.
- 5.9 Under the proposals, the number of designated Children's Centres would be reduced from 13 to 4.
- 5.10 The 4 Children's Centre hubs (South, West 1, West 2, and North/East) would be the key service delivery site and office bases for the integrated Children's Centre services, including maternity services, health visiting service and the RBC offer within the programme. An Adult Education programmes will be available in each hub with a dedicated crèche facility on-site. This will be supported by employment and benefits advice and guidance.
- 5.11 Children's Centres will maintain a whole family approach being welcoming to additional family activities provided by partners/agencies/community focused on supporting local families. The buildings could be available from 3pm each day and some weekend usage e.g. for CAMHS to run local clinics, Contact sessions for Children's Social Care, Portage/Speech and Language to provide weekend clinics or group activities. Parents will be engaged as key partners across the Children's Centre programmes, building on the capacity of communities to develop services to meet needs.
- 5.12 RBC will actively seek opportunities to develop services for families in partnership with the voluntary and faith sector. It will also embed a model that can be expanded in the future, dependant on funding, that could include more specialised provision, for example After School provision for 4 and 5 year old children with special educational needs/disabilities as well as intensive parenting programmes. It is proposed that some of these services could be led by the voluntary/faith sector.
- 5.13 It is important to note that services would be delivered from a variety of service delivery sites across the town and not just from each hub building. Therefore, in addition to hub buildings, it is proposed to have 2 other types of buildings that would support delivery/ accommodate staff:
- 5.14 **Satellite building** - Defined as accommodating a portion of the integrated staff team and delivery of universal health services e.g. maternity appointments. There will be targeted delivery here as well for vulnerable families, particularly in communities that are in areas of deprivation and require greater access due to the transport links into the community. There will be a long term commitment to use these buildings into the near future.
- 5.15 **Community Venues** - Defined as mainly delivering services as programme demand dictates. Often these will be used for a time-limited period and agreements on use will need to be flexible as needs change within the community.

5.16 Summary table of the proposed Four Hubs building model

Geographical Reach areas	East/North/Central	West 1	West 2	South
Hub buildings	Sun Street Youth & Community Building	Southcote Youth & Community Building and Children's Centre	Ranikhet Children's Centre	Whitley Youth Centre
Satellite buildings	Caversham Children's Centres & Nursery School	Coley Children's Centre at St St Mary and All Saints	Battle Library or Civitas School (TBC)	None
Community Venues (examples given and it is not an exhaustive list)	E.g. Emmer Green Community Centre	E.g. Tilehurst Library	E.g. Salvation Army	E.g. Hexham Road Community centre

5.17 Appendix A has an outline of each hub model specifics that provide detail for the building element of the proposal.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

6.1 Readings Children's Centre programme contributes to 3 strategic aims of the Local Authority corporate plan 2016 - 2020. These are:

- Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable;
- Providing the best start on life through education, early help and healthy living;
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities;

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".

7.2 In addition to the informal consultation already undertaken as part of the family support and children's centre offer review a further period of public consultation on proposals for the future of the children's centre offer is now planned.

7.3 This phase of consultation would seek to ensure that all stakeholder groups understand the proposals and can have their say. Key stakeholder groups are parent and families currently using the Children's Centre programme, Voluntary Sector and Health sector partner organisations and local school and pre-school providers.

7.4 The Council would invite and carefully consider any proposals put forward by consultees for achieving the desired level of savings. A consultation document will explain the background to and reasons for the proposals to allow consultees to

suggest alternatives. The consultation would also allow the Council to explore means of reducing the adverse impacts of the proposals, should any of them ultimately be adopted.

7.5 Working with colleagues across the council (Web team, internal and external marketing and Policy) it is proposed that the consultation document will be made available on the Council's website, and in hard copy format at key locations (e.g. Children's Centres, Libraries) and at the Civic Offices.

7.6 Leaflets and posters directing the public to the children's centre offer information RBCs webpage will also be displayed in children's centres and venues and community centres across the Borough.

7.7 It is also proposed that a number of targeted focus groups will be arranged to ensure that the Council has considered impacts on, and sought input from families that may be particularly affected by the proposals.

7.8 Public Consultation will last for a period of 12 weeks.

- January 4th 2017 - Public Consultation opens
- March 29th 2017 - Public Consultation closes

7.9 A report will then be produced to present at the May 17 Policy committee that will outline the consultation responses and a final decision will be taken to implement the changes proposed on the back of consultation. Normally this would be taken back to an Ace committee, however in order to ensure that agreed proposed changes are in place by October 2017. Officers will bring a short update report to an ACE committee meeting as soon after the May 17 Policy committee meeting as possible.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation process.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Depending on which option goes forward, will determine future legal implications.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Since financial year 2010/11 there has been a steady cut in funding in this programme. When the full effect of these funding cuts are in place, at the start of 2018/19, this will represent a 58% cut in the RBC spend on the Children's Centre programme over those 8 years. It is also noted that our current spend on Children's Centre is below our statistical neighbours when measured on expenditure against the total number of 0 - 17 year old population.

10.2 Current RBC expenditure on the five Children's Centre clusters as per budget book 16/17 is £1,268,000.

10.3 This report is seeking to consult on savings £400K from this children's centres budget, representing 32% of the current spend.

- 10.4 After the £400k savings taken out of the budget, the total Reading Borough Council spends on Children's Centres will be £868,000.
- 10.5 Reduction in budget will result in a restructuring of the Children's Centre staff and an overall reduction in the workforce. This will be achieved in two phases based on financial years.
- 10.6 Phase 1, next financial year, will be to remove £100k from the budget that will be achieved by not replacing one of the cluster managers and deleting the qualified teacher posts. All of these posts are currently vacant and the qualified teacher posts have been vacant for over a year and the overall programme continues to provide good quality activities.
- 10.7 It is proposed that managers in the future must have either a qualified teacher's status or an equivalent educational qualification specialising in early years to ensure that the educational input is of the highest standard. In addition the programme will seek the support of Reading local maintained nursery schools to support the Children's Centre workforce with advice, training and development. There will also be continued strong links with Educational Psychology team to support special educational needs and disability service provided for families.
- 10.8 In Phase 2, by start of financial year 2017 - 2018, a further 300K will be removed from the budget. This will be achieved on the back of proposed consultation with the public and a re-structuring of the budgets from 5 cluster teams to 4 hubs. It is expected that there will be a loss of management and front line staff and reduction of cost on buildings and activities that are currently being paid for.

11. CAPITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.2 Consolidation of the staff into fewer children's centre clusters will rationalise the use of RBC buildings and support the council's asset realisation project. Therefore some RBC buildings could be sold and other building such as Katesgrove Children's Centre (also known as Waterloo Meadows) the council will seek alternative purpose, but related to family service provision.
- 11.3 On the back of consultation there is the possibility that officers may require further capital spending on the building's retained to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Any future capital requirements will be outlined in the next report on Children's Centres, planned for May 2017.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Appendix A - Detail on the building proposal per Hub.
- 12.2 Appendix B - Reading Children's Centre Cluster Demographic profile October 2016

Appendix A - Detail on the building proposal per Hub.

South Reading- Hub summary:

- The hub will be located in Whitley Youth Centre with the majority of the team working from that site. The building will be renamed South Children's Centre hub;
- All adult education and crèche will be delivered from this site;
- Maternity services to deliver ante natal appointments (not currently in place);
- Integrated workforce will be sited in the Youth & Community Centre buildings;
- The team will deliver services across the South of Reading utilising community buildings- Hexham Road Community Centre, Blagdon Nursery, Kennet Island, and Whitley Wood Community Centre to deliver both universal health clinics and checks with some wrap around targeted activities.

Building Changes required are:

- Additional work would need to be completed to convert the entrance space of the Youth Centre to office use to accommodate the South CC team;
- Some of the team could be located in the reception area of the Community Centre supporting delivery of the relocated library service;
- This will free up the space currently used in the Community Centre and the Health and Social Care building.

Closure of Children's Centres - Blagdon Nursery and Children's Centre: Children's Centre services would no longer operate from this building, but it would remain as a vital Nursery School and childcare facility for local families.

North/East Reading Hub summary:

- The hub will be located in Sun Street Youth and Community Centre;
- Maternity Services to deliver ante natal appointments at Sun Street and Caversham Children's Centre and Nursery school;
- Health Visiting staff to be located in the front office at Sun Street;
- Integrated CC/Health team will be sited Sun Street, as the Hub and Caversham Children's Centre and Nursery school, as the satellite building;
- The team will deliver services across East and North Reading utilising community venues- The Warehouse, Emmer Green Youth & Community Centre, Katesgrove Children's Centre (also known as Waterloo Meadows) and possibly some local primary schools.

Building Changes required are:

- Additional room to be made available at Sun Street;
- Exclusive use of front office at Sun Street;
- Reduce space required at Emmer Green Youth & Community building- one crèche room to be used for health clinics and wrap around targeted activity;
- No access at Hamilton Road building will be required;
- Reduced use of Katesgrove Children's Centre (as known as Waterloo Meadows);
- Reduced use of Caversham Children's Centre

Closure of Children's Centres - North Reading Children's Centre, Caversham Children's Centre and Nursery School, Hamilton Road Children's Centre and Katesgrove Children's Centre: Children's Centre services would no longer operate from these buildings. It is

important to note Caversham Children's Centre and Nursery School would remain as a vital Nursery School and childcare facility for local families, and become a satellite site.

West Reading Hub 1 summary:

- The hub will be located in Southcote Youth and Community & Children's Centre;
- Maternity Services to deliver ante natal and post natal appointments at ante natal appointments at Coley CC;
- All adult education and crèche will be delivered at Southcote;
- Integrated CC/Health team will be sited at Southcote Children's Centres;
- The team will deliver services across the West of Reading utilising community buildings Coley Children's Centre and Tilehurst Library.

Building Changes required are:

- Changes at Southcote Youth and Community & Children's Centre have been agreed already through the Library's remodelling proposal. There are no further changes required in this proposal. The current Community Centre will be extended to deliver co-located services including a library, children's centre and adult education.

Closure of Children's Centres - Blagrove Children's Centre and Coley Children's Centre: Children's Centre services would no longer operate from these buildings. It is important to note Blagrove Nursery school is un-affected by this proposal and will remain as a vital Nursery School for local families.

West Reading Hub 2 summary:

- The hub will be located in Ranikhet Children's Centre;
- Maternity Services to deliver ante natal and post natal appointments at Ranikhet ante- natal appointments at Coley CC;
- All adult education and crèche will be delivered at Ranikhet;
- Integrated CC/Health team will be sited at Ranikhet and Southcote Children's Centres;
- The team will deliver services across the West of Reading utilising community buildings -Tilehurst Library, Battle Library (focusing on main bus routes).

Building Changes required are:

- No immediate changes required at Ranikhet Children's Centre;
- No access at Norcot Youth & Community Centre;
- No access at Fairview Youth & Community Centre;
- Access space at Civitas academy for Health Clinics, checks and targeted activities.

Closure of Children's Centres - At Norcot Children's Centre & Oxford Road Children's Centre: Children's Centre services would no longer operate from these buildings. It is important to note Norcot Early Years Centre is un-affected by this proposal would remain as a vital Nursery School and childcare provision for local families.

Appendix B - Reading Children's Centre Cluster Demographic profile October 2016

This demographic profile of Reading Children's Centre areas provides data on the differing levels of need of children under 5 years and their families in local communities of Reading giving a clear understanding of areas of higher need, helping us to better position the future Children's Centre hubs and shape the new delivery model in the context of the current economic position.

Demographic data has been sourced from the Department for Communities and Local Government (Indices of Deprivation), the 2011 Census and the Department for Education.

The most comprehensive and widely adopted overall measure of deprivation is the Department for Communities and Local Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation affecting children (IDACI). This was updated in 2015 (previously published in 2010 and 2007) and reflects information at a Local Super Output Area Level (LSOA)

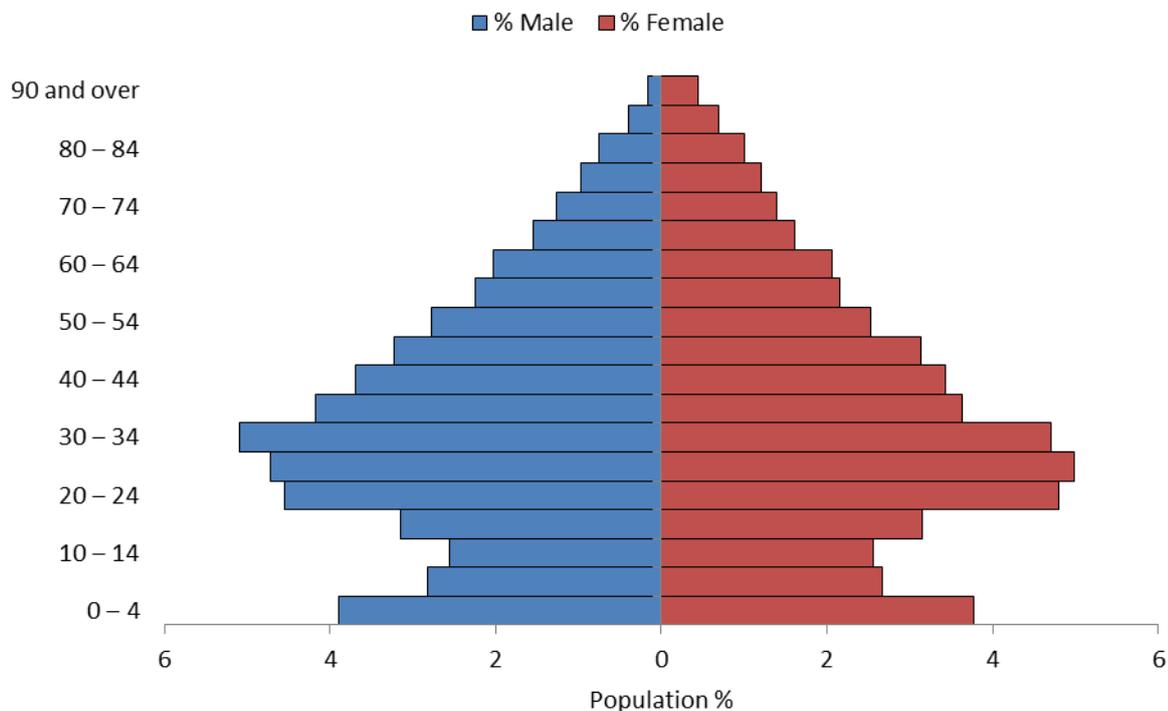
Population

The population of Reading continues to increase and the needs of our families and communities are placing increasing demands which impacts on the services we provide in an environment of cuts to funding for Local Authorities. The next few years will see significant changes as we plan and cater for increasing demands for some services, whilst other services will need to continue to change in order to remain financially viable despite significantly less funding for local government.

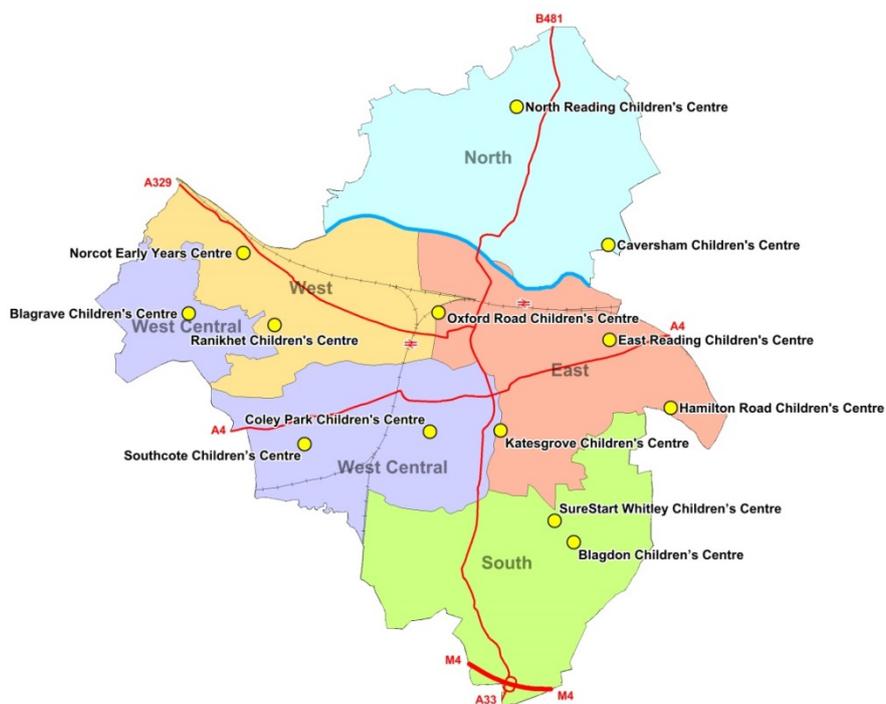
An integral part of reviewing and reshaping the service provided for children under five years and their families is to consider various indicators that combine to provide a local picture of need and vulnerabilities in our communities that will inform future direction of the Children's Centre service.

In 2011, the resident population of Reading was recorded as 155,700. This is a 9% increase on the 2001 census figure of 143,096, and 2% more than the population increase between 1991 and 2001. The population of Reading is expected to increase by a further 24% by 2050, to 193,065.

Figure 1a below shows the age structure of Reading's population in 2011:



The mean age of residents in Reading is 35 years. Reading has a higher percentage of the population aged 0-4 years and 20-39 years than the England average, and a lower than average population aged 10-14 years and 45+ years.

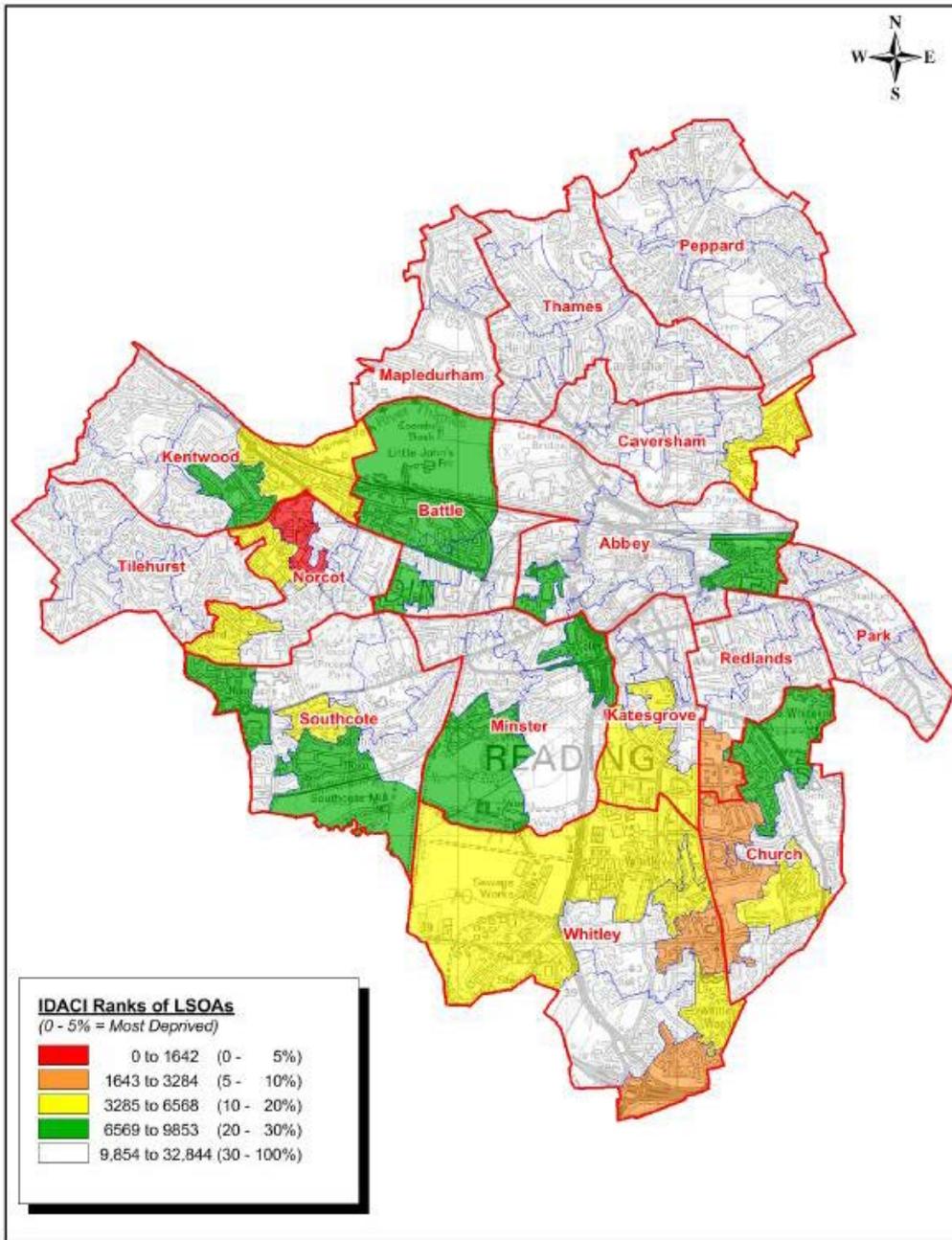


Reading Children's Centre Cluster Reach Areas

Registration and Attendance data for Children's Centre Clusters

	North	East	South	West	West Central	Reading
2014-2015						
0-4 population	2349	2553	1944	2660	2431	11937
0-4 registered	1631	2134	1469	2439	1880	9553
%	69	84	76	92	77	80
0-4 attendance	1190	1294	881	1875	1203	6443
%	51	51	45	70	49	67
2015-2016						
0-4 population	2315	2782	1984	2791	2528	12400
0-4 registered	1679	2215	1441	2508	1923	10789
%	73	80	73	90	76	87
0-4 attendance	1335	1793	956	1724	1505	7795
%	58	64	48	62	60	63

- The largest population of children 0-4 years (23%) are living in the West Cluster reach area which also has the highest number of 0-2 year olds (24%);
- The lowest population of children aged 0-4 years is in South Cluster with 15% of children 0-4 year old and 19% of the 0-2 year olds;
- Registration figures have shown some variation across the five clusters however has been maintained over the Ofsted target of 70% for the last two years;
- Attendance has fluctuated since 2014 with the introduction of free early education entitlement for the most vulnerable 2 year olds. This has been most evident in West Reading where the highest number of entitled children reside.



Title: **IDACI**
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Date: 14/01/2016 Scale at A4: 1:46000

Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\IMD Maps 2015\IDACI.wor

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100019672.
Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2015.

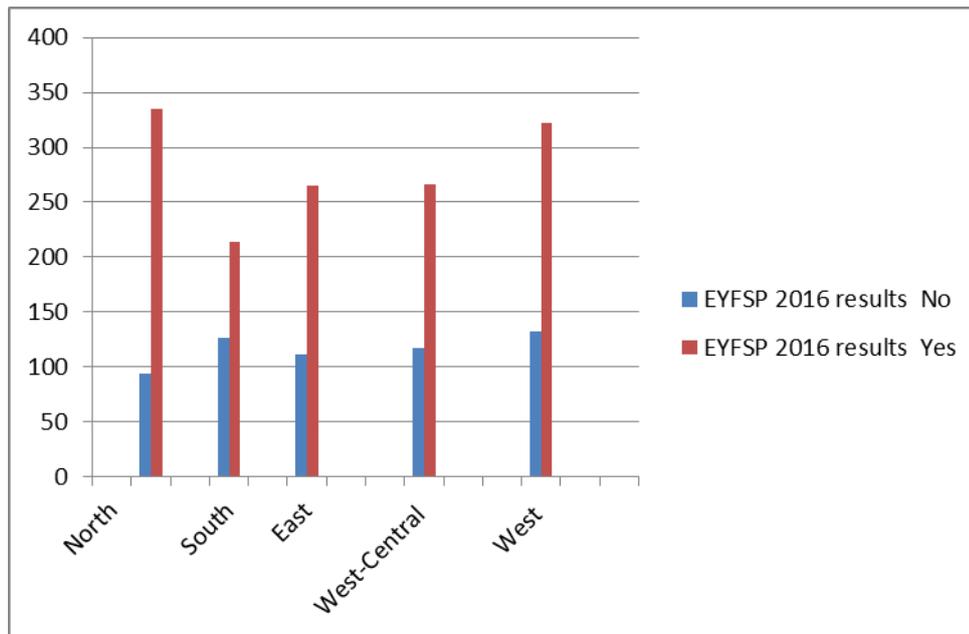
Cluster	Level of deprivation			
	0-5 %	5-10%	10-20%	20-30%
North			1	
East			2	1
West	1		3	5
West Central				5
South		5	4	1

Overall level of deprivation of LSOAs in Children's Centre reach areas (2015)

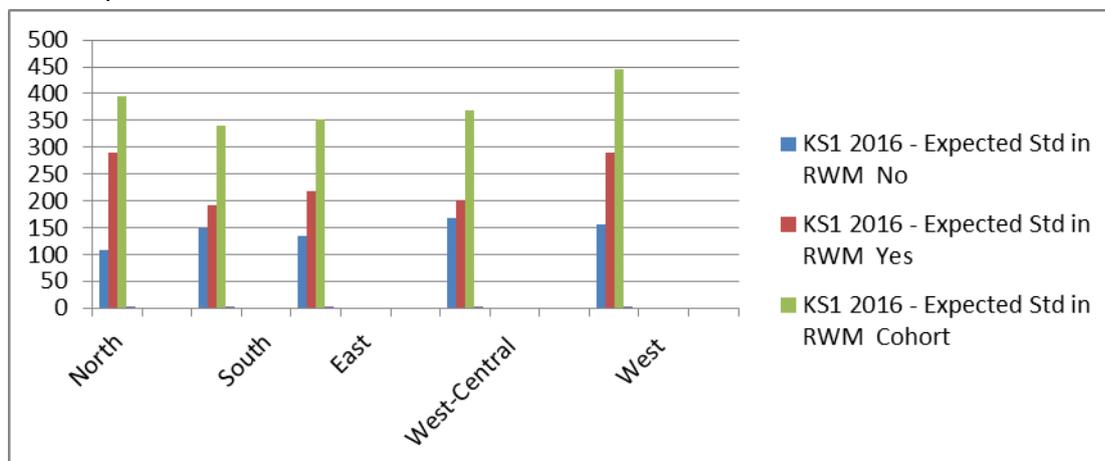
- There are 28 LSOAs across Reading in the 30% most deprived in the Country. There are areas of deprivation located in each of the current Children’s Centre Cluster areas;
- 10 of the most deprived LSOAs are situated within the South Cluster;
- The most deprived LSOA is located in West Cluster (5% most deprived);

Education /qualification data

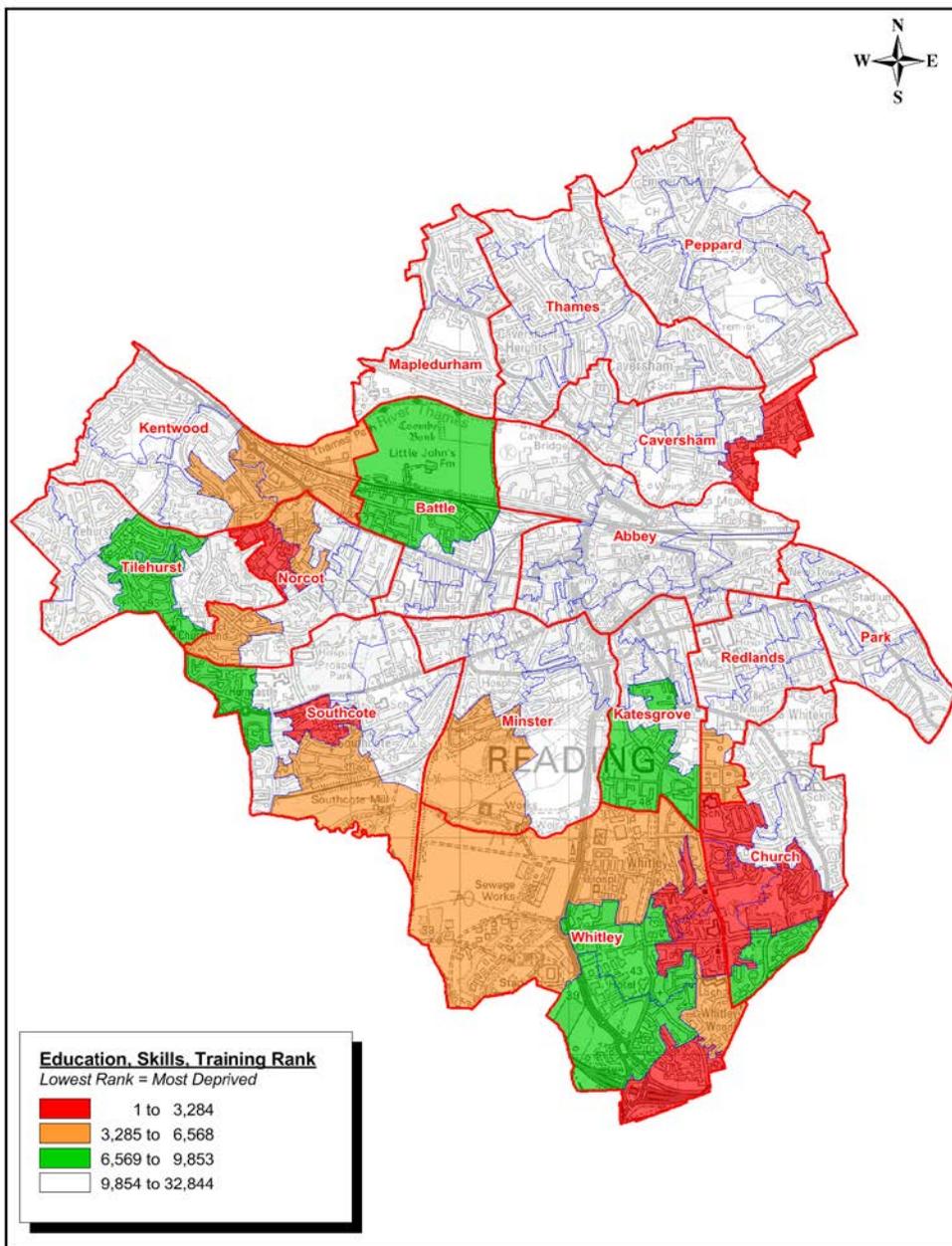
Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2016



- In 2015 at Early Years Foundation Stage, 71% of Reading pupils were working at or above the expected level. This was above the national average of 70%;
- 78% of children living in the North Cluster achieved the Early Years Foundation Stage profile in 2016;
- 62% of children living in the South Cluster achieved the Early Years Foundation Stage profile in 2016.



- The highest % of children achieving the expected standard at KS1 live in North Reading Cluster (73%) whereas only 55 % of children living in West Central Cluster reached the KS1 standard and 56% of children in South Cluster.
- In 2011, the percentage of Reading residents with no qualifications had decreased by 5.4% on 2001 (22.8% to 17.4%), in line with the national picture. However, this picture varies noticeably across Children's Centre Cluster areas, with the greatest proportion of residents with no qualifications living in West Central, followed by South Cluster and then West Cluster.



Title: **Education, Skills and Training**
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Date: 17/11/2015 Scale at A4: 1:46,000

Ref: G:\MID\CD\CE\Mosaic IMD - Jill Marston\2015_IMD_Data\MD Maps\Education skills and training\education_skills_training.wor



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100019672.
Department for Communities and Local Government. Indices of Deprivation 2013.

Referrals to Children's Social Care for year 1/4/2015-31/3/2016

	Referrals to CSC for children 0-4 years	% of referrals	Referrals to CSC for children 0-4 years Domestic Violence	% of total referrals for the cluster
North	803	13	266	33
East	925	15	248	27
West Central	1357	22	365	27
West	1534	25	459	30
South	1472	24	417	28
Total	6091	100	1755	

- There are a high number of referrals across Reading for children under 5 years with the highest number and % in West Cluster followed by South Cluster. This is notable for South cluster as it has the lowest reach population in Reading;
- The highest number of referrals for domestic violence relate to families in West Cluster (459). However, the highest proportion (33%) of referrals for a Cluster involving domestic violence come from North Cluster.

Children 0-4 years known to CSC 31/3/2016

	Children 0-4 subject to a CP Plan	% of total subject to a CP Plan	Children 0-4 Child in Need Plan	% of total with Child in Need Plan	Maternity Pathway referrals	% of total Maternity Pathway referrals
North	36	15	24	11	32	14
East	40	17	36	16	43	19
West Central	41	17	64	29	57	26
West	47	20	45	20	54	25
South	71	30	53	24	34	15
Total	235		222		220	

- The highest number of children subject to a Child protection Plan live in South Reading cluster and comprise 30% of the Reading total. This is notable for South cluster as it has the lowest reach population in Reading;
- The highest number of children with a CiN plan live in West Central -64 children and 29% of all Reading children on a Child in Need Plan. The second highest number live in South Cluster;
- North Cluster has the least number of children known and being supported by CSC.

Cluster	No of children
South Cluster	48
North Cluster	24
West Central Cluster	54
East Cluster	40
West Cluster	58
Reading	224

Home address of children 0-4 home before becoming Looked After 31/3/2016

- The highest number of children to be removed lived in the West Cluster (58) followed by West Central Cluster (54). This totals half of all children who became looked after in 2015-2016.

Demographic Summary:

- Whilst the South Cluster has the smallest population it consistently shows the highest level of needs in almost all indicators;
- West Cluster and West Central Cluster also indicate high levels of needs in the majority of areas;
- The most deprived LSOA is located in the West Cluster (5%) but overall South Cluster has 5 LSOAs in the 5-10% most deprived in the Country.