



Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 24 January 2013

Subject: Call-In of Cabinet Decision on the Redesign of Early Years Service

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Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	x
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

1. Background

1.1 The Executive Director, Children Young People and Families Service submitted a report to Cabinet on 12th December 2012, setting out in principle the proposals to redesign early years services in Sheffield. The report is attached at appendix A.

1.2 Cabinet approved in principle:

- (a) the proposed redesign and streamlining of the organisational structure in early years services in order to maximise access to high quality learning and health services with the resources available;
- (b) the proposed action plan for a quality improvement programme for all early years settings;
- (c) the proposed reorganization of the management and co-ordination of 36 Children's Centres into 17 Children's Centre Areas;

- (d) the proposal that existing contracts with providers (due to end in March 2013) are not renewed where services are no longer required or funding is not available, while, at the same time, specifications for procurement of new targeted services will be developed
 - (e) the proposed cessation of grants to 16 childcare providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector and 4 in the statutory sector;
 - (f) the proposed reduction and transfer of the maintained childcare provision; and,
 - (g) notes (i) the proposed further communication and consultation to be carried out on the Early Years Review and (ii) that a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in February 2013 on the outcome of the consultation.
- 1.3 As per Part 4, section 16 of Sheffield City Council's Constitution, this decision has been called in, preventing implementation of the decision until it has been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 The Call-In notice is attached at appendix B, and asks the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to consider this issue in further detail for the following specified reasons:
- Concerns about the impact on a wide range of Early Year providers
 - Wide public interest in this issue, and
 - Concerns over the extensiveness of the consultation process
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2 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

As per the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, scrutinise the decision made by Cabinet and take one of the following courses of action:

- (a) refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration in the light of recommendations from the Committee;
- (b) request that the decision be deferred until the Scrutiny Committee has considered relevant issues and made recommendations to Cabinet;
- (c) take no action in relation to the called-in decision but consider whether issues arising from the call-in need to be added to the work programme of an existing Scrutiny Committee;
- (d) if, but only if (having taken the advice of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer), the Committee determines that the decision is wholly or partly outside the Budget and Policy Framework, refer the matter, with any recommendations, to the Council after following the procedures in the Budget and Policy

Background Papers:

Report of the Executive Director, Children Young People and Families Service,
to Cabinet on the 12th December 2012 (attached)

Call-in Notice (attached)

Category of Report: OPEN

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