



## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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**Report of:** Children, Young People and Family Support  
Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

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**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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**Subject:** Early Years Redesign Call-In

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### Summary:

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Cabinet considered a report on the redesign of the Early Years Service. This decision was called-in, and the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee considered it at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

This paper summarises the process and sets out the recommendations of the Committee.

### Recommendations:

The Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet:

- i) considers what transitional arrangements are needed to be put in place to ensure that good quality early years provision is able to be sustained; and
- ii) provides further detail of provision within the 17 areas, and gives assurances that a comprehensive communications plan is developed to inform parents of the locations of support, and the type of support available, in the 17 areas.

The Scrutiny Committee intends to give further consideration to these proposals when they are developed further and will scrutinise the operation of the new system when it is in place.

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**Background Papers:**

Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, Early Years Redesign, Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

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**Category of Report:** OPEN

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## Early Years Redesign – Call-in

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Cabinet considered a report on the redesign of the Early Years Service. This decision was called-in, and the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee considered it at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

This paper summarises the process and sets out the recommendations of the Committee.

### 2. THE PROCESS

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families on the Early Years Redesign. The minutes are extracted below:

That Cabinet (a) approves in principle:-

- i) the proposed redesign and streamlining of the organisational structure in early years services in order to maximise access to high quality early learning and health services with the resources available;
- ii) the proposed action plan for a quality improvement programme for all early years settings;
- iii) the proposed reorganisation of the management and co-ordination of 36 Children's Centres into 17 Children's Centre Areas;
- iv) 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;
- v) the proposed cessation of grants to 16 childcare providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector and 4 in the statutory sector; and;
- vi) the proposed reduction and transfer of the maintained childcare provision

and (b) 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.

2.2 As per part 4 section 16 of the Council's Constitution, this decision was called-in, preventing its implementation until the relevant Scrutiny Committee considered it further. The Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee held a meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 to look in detail at the decision.

2.3 At the meeting, Committee Members heard from Cabinet Members, Council Officers and members of the public. After lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to make recommendations to Cabinet.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet:

- i) considers what transitional arrangements are needed to be put in place to ensure that good quality early years provision is able to be sustained; and
- ii) provides further detail of provision within the 17 areas, and gives assurances that a comprehensive communications plan is developed to inform parents of the locations of support, and the type of support available, in the 17 areas.

The Scrutiny Committee intends to give further consideration to these proposals when they are developed further and will scrutinise the operation of the new system when it is in place.