**Children’s Centre Services consultation**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q1: Does this mean you are focusing more on families in need rather than on all families?**

A: 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 means that funding will be targeted at outreach work and some parenting programmes, we still recognise the importance of the universal offer and expect this to continue through health visiting services, nurseries, childminders and volunteers running groups in their own communities. Anyone who requires additional support can be referred where they need more targeted work.

**Q2: How did you decide which centres should be the four Main Children’s Centres?**

A: We looked at which buildings were best placed to be main sites that could house a number of staff from Children’s Centres, health and partner agencies, as well as looking at which were easy to get to and had a large number of families visiting regularly.

**Q3: Will any particular services no longer be provided in Children’s Centres?**

A: It is proposed that Children’s Centres will not be funded to run groups that are universally available to all families in the area in the future. It may be that Children’s Centres fundraise separately, or train local volunteers to run these.

**Q4: Will the name of my local Children’s Centre change?**

A: Within the proposed model, all Children’s Centres will keep their current names.

**Q5: When will I be able to use my nearest Children’s Centre?**

A: Your nearest Children’s Centre will still be available at certain times during the week (see table on page 8.) There will be clear information on the Council and Children’s Centre websites and the 1 big database calendar.

**Q6: What are the staff implications?**

A: At this point in time, staff in the Council and voluntary sector services are aware of the proposals to reduce funding to services. There are likely to be staffing reductions from these proposals and staff and Unions will be fully involved as the year goes on.

**Q7: I run a group in my local Children’s Centre. Will there be any change for me?**

A: If your group takes place in Parkside, Twerton, Radstock or Keynsham or during the opening hours of other centres, there should be no change. If your group takes place when the centre is shut under the new proposals, access will need to be arranged.

**Q8: When will any changes be made?**

A: Any approved changes will start being implemented from the 1st April 2015.

**Q9: Does this model allow the Local Authority to meet the needs of families and children in greatest need, including those who live in more rural areas?**

A: Yes, by focusing available funding on staffing to deliver groups and outreach work. This will be carried out through a combination of work in the centres and in other community venues and in family homes. This will help those families in more rural areas access services.

**Q10: Has the decision to pass the proposals already been made?**A: A decision on the proposals for Children’s Centres has not been made.  It will be made at the Council’s Cabinet meeting in July, after the consultation about the changes has been completed, so it can be taken into account.