

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PAF/22/15
Committee:	People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 November 2015	
<u>Children's Centres and Healthy Child Programme Consultation</u>		
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Purpose of the Paper:

To advise People and Families Scrutiny Committee of the early engagement activities taking place with families, young people and stakeholders across Essex on the design of an Integrated Pre Birth – 19 Health Wellbeing and Family Support model.

Executive Summary

We are in the process of redesigning the current service offer for Children's Centres and the Healthy Child Programme (0 – 5 and 5 -19) and want to place parents, children and families at the heart of our service re-design. We want to understand how the services we currently have in place work for families and want to ensure any change to our systems is reflective of what families feel/need/want.

We are undertaking further engagement work with families and stakeholders to inform a public consultation scheduled to take place in the New Year. This engagement work will help us develop our proposals which we will officially consult on and will build on the existing engagement work, and the ethnographic research. We will be particularly interested in five key areas:

- Family isolation
- Accessibility of services
- Provision of services
- Whether families feel listened to

An on line survey and face to face engagement activities will run from **5th October 2015 – 28th November 2015.**

Background

The support that families experience from conception through birth and throughout childhood should support ECC's vision that every child in Essex has the best start in life.

In Autumn 2014 Essex undertook an ambitious review of Early Years services across the county. The review purposefully took an innovative approach, bringing together a range of different data including ethnographic insight from families, international horizon scanning, and intelligence about the local Essex context for families with children up to 19 years of age, to generate a Case for Change and identify potentially alternative solutions

The EY review revealed how complex the systems are for children and families to navigate and access support due to the fragmentation of current services. The work developed a new unifying vision, Our New System, a visualisation of the features of an ideal Children's System needed to deliver strengths-based, preventative support that reduces isolation and builds resilience amongst families with children (see System document imbedded below).

During the period October – November 2015 ECC are going to engage with families and stakeholders through a range of face to face sessions including focus groups and interviews. Following the engagement period wider consultation with families and stakeholders will take place on future service models. This consultation will take place between **7th January and 4th March 2016**.

Contracts that service the Early Years system currently are Children's Centres (CC) and 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (HCP). In the new system this will also include 5-19 HCP. These services are currently commissioned independently of each other. This provides Essex County Council with the opportunity to commission an integrated pre-birth – 19 Health Wellbeing and Family Support model from April 2017.

The engagement will consist of:-

- <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/prebirth19> - survey for parents and carers
- <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/prebirth19stake> - survey for stakeholders
- <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/prebirth19cyp> - survey for children and young people
- Focus groups with families, children and young people
- Face to face engagement with families and young people
- Stakeholder engagement sessions

Supporting information

Our New System Flyer attached as Appendix