



## Bloomsbury Children's Centre Advice and Guidance Services Community Consultation

<p>بلومز بری چلڈرنز سینٹر مشورے اور رہنمائی سروس کمیونٹی مشاورت</p>	Urdu
<p>ব্লুমসবেরি শিশুদের সেন্টার পরামর্শ এবং উপদেশ পরিষেবা কমিউনিটি কনসালটেশন</p>	Bengali
<p>مرکز دار بلومز بري للطفولة المشورة والإرشاد الخدمة استشارة المجتمع</p>	Arabic
<p>Bloomsbury ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਟਰ ਸਲਾਹ ਅਤੇ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਮਸ਼ਵਰਾ</p>	Punjabi
<p>Centrum Bloomsbury dzieci Porady i wytyczne usługi Społeczność Konsultacje</p>	Polish
<p>Xarunta Bloomsbury Carruurta Talo iyo hanuun Service Community Consultation</p>	Somali

**If you would like this document translated please speak  
to a member of staff at Bloomsbury Children's Centre**

<p>آپ ترجمہ شدہ یہ دستاویز چاہتے ہیں تو بات کریں بلومز بری چلڈرنز سینٹر میں عملے کے کسی رکن سے</p>	Urdu
<p>আপনি অনুবাদ এই নথিতে চাই বলতে দয়া ব্লুমসবেরি শিশুদের সেন্টারে কর্মীদের একটি সদস্য</p>	Bengali
<p>إذا كنت ترغب هذه الوثيقة المترجمة يرجى التحدث إلى أحد أعضاء هيئة التدريس في مركز دار بلومز بري للطفولة</p>	Arabic
<p>ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹਨ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ Bloomsbury ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਟਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਟਾਫ਼ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਸਦੱਸ ਨੂੰ</p>	Punjabi
<p>Jeśli chcesz tego dokumentu przetłumaczony porozmawiaj do członka personelu Centrum Bloomsbury Dziecka</p>	Polish
<p>Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd dokumentigan turjumay fadlan la hadal xubin ka mid ah shaqaalaha xarunta Bloomsbury Carruurta</p>	Somali

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to consult on proposed changes to the way in which that Advice and Guidance Services are provided through Bloomsbury Children's Centre included services provided by EDAS.

## **What are Children's Centres?**

Children's Centres deliver a range of services that include group activities for children under the age of 5 and their parents/carers. These services focus on learning, health, wellbeing and community engagement, and are delivered in Children's Centre buildings, community venues and family homes.

## **Context of Bloomsbury Children's Centre**

Bloomsbury Children's Centre runs a number of services for children under the age of 5 and their families on behalf of Aston and Nechells Locality. The Centre has a reach area of 1094 children under the age of 5.

**Location: Bloomsbury Children's Centre, Bloomsbury Street, Nechells B7 5BX**

## **Why are we consulting on changes to services?**

The money Children's Centres' receive from the government is being reduced significantly, we have had budget reductions this year and it is anticipated there may be further reductions next year.

Children's Centres' have had to make changes to some Children's Centre commissioned services and this consultation is your opportunity to tell us what you think of our proposals to change the way in which we deliver Advice and Guidance Services including the service commissioned from EDAS.

## **What are the proposed changes?**

For a number of years we have commissioned a 1 -1 Advice and Guidance Service from EDAS organisation for Bloomsbury Children's Centre families (Benefit, Housing, Debt Advice).

Until the end of September 2015, EDAS has provided advice at Bloomsbury Children's Centre for 2 days per week at a cost of: £19,992 per year.

Since October 2015, EDAS provides the service for 1 day per week at a cost of £9,996 per year.

Following a review, we are proposing to deliver this service in a different way as explained below. We are proposing to continue to commission Advice and Guidance Services from EDAS for 1 day per week rather than for 2 days per week as before.

The reason is that the cost for each advice session given by EDAS is relatively high compared to the cost of the proposed alternative which is to provide advice through members of the Family Support team and other organisations offering specialist advice services.

### Continued:

From cost analysis and reviewing cases, it was felt that the Family Support Team and Drop in Sessions, could provide support to families regarding welfare issues.

Over the last year the Children's Centre Family Support Team, have worked closely with partner organisations to enable them to incorporate Advice and Guidance within the Children's Centre services.

Under the proposed arrangements, Family Support Workers would undertake lower level work and signpost families to specialist advice organisations, including those that have already been used to support families in the past, e.g. EDAS, Asian Resource Centre, Aston Centre for the Family (Birmingham Settlement), Shelter, Citizen's Advice, Nishkam, Neighbourhood Office, local Job Centre to use language line for benefit applications

Via these partnerships, we would signpost Parents and Carers who require specialist support on a needs led, case by case, basis. There are many organisations in the area that deliver Advice and Guidance Services including EDAS and referrals would be made by a Family Support Worker to the most appropriate service. (refer to booklet outlining 20+ organisations)

### How would the proposed changes affected me?

Advice and Guidance services would continue to be delivered as part of Children's Centre services but in a different way.

We are now looking to gather your views and opinions on the proposed changes. This will help us to see if any further changes need to be made and from when. This will include reviewing the level of support provided by EDAS (number of days)

#### **Provision of Advice and Guidance Services before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**

- EDAS delivered for Bloomsbury Children's Centre; **2 days per week** where a EDAS worker offered 1-1 appointments for advice and advocacy case work support to parents of children under the age of 5

#### **Provision of Advice and Guidance Services since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015:**

- EDAS now deliver at Bloomsbury: **1 day per week** where a EDAS worker offers 1-1 appointments for advice and advocacy case work support to parents of children under the age of 5 for specialist targeted work.
- An allocated Family Support Worker supports parents / carers as part of their Family Support Plan
- Family Support deliver a drop in session every Thursday afternoon at Bloomsbury every Tuesday morning
- We continue to signpost families to partners agencies to meet the needs of their issues for more specialist needs
- The Centres' devised a booklet which is available for parents / carers to find out where they can go, to get more specialist advice and support in addition to that of the advice they can get from a Family Support Worker.

## **Consultation with the Community**

It is important that we consult and engage with as many service users as possible who could have been affected by these changes. Please could you contribute and give your comments and feedback by completing the questionnaire at the end of this document.

We are looking to gather opinions and views from a range of stakeholders including: Parents, carers, centre users, staff, other centres in the area, health, places of worship, partners, professionals, district committee, Children's Centre Committee, EDAS and other commissioned service providers.

We are using a range of consultation approaches and methods to ensure that the full range of stakeholders who may have been affected by the changes are able to contribute.

**Consultation with the families and the community  
on these changes to services will take place between:**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

## Here are the ways you can get involved:

1. Complete a **Consultation Questionnaire** and return it to:  
**Bloomsbury Children's Centre, Bloomsbury Street, Nechells B7 5BX**
2. Hear more about the changes and share your views at a **Consultation Meeting** on the following dates:

Date	Time	Where?
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 – 10.00	Bloomsbury Children's Centre (as part of Community Café)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	3.00 – 4.00	Bloomsbury Children's Centre

3. Attend a **Parent User Group** during the consultation period that will be facilitated as part of the Stay and Play sessions that are currently delivered at Bloomsbury (**see activity timetable**)
4. **Face to face** within the Centres' throughout the consultation period – please feel free speak to a member of staff and these responses will be documented as part of this consultation
5. **Children's Centre staff will take out the consultation within their outreach role to include Nurseries, Schools, supermarket, Health Centres'**

Translation support will be provided to assist families to complete the questionnaire and to participate in the discussion forums.

## What happens next?

The Aston and Nechells Locality Co-ordinator will collate and analyse the consultation findings and the outcome will be used to support any further decisions that need to be made around the delivery of this service in conjunction with the Bloomsbury Nursery School Headteacher.

The consultation findings will be reported to the Children's Centre Committee (Bloomsbury Governing Body) and Aston and Nechells Strategic Partnership Group.

It will be the role of the Governing Body to make final decisions about this service area.

Responses to the points raised will be collated in a report which will be circulated and made available publicly at the Children's Centres' by the end of January.

