

Birmingham City Council

Run Day Care Nurseries

Public Consultation

Background

- There has been a long history of Birmingham City Council Day Nurseries providing day care that has reflected the diversity of our families:
 - Fee paying places for parents who are in work, education or training;
 - Funded Early Education Entitlement (EEE) places;
 - Corporately funded places for our most vulnerable children.
- Birmingham City Council operates 14 day care nurseries.
- Around 600 children attend across all the 14 day care nurseries each week
- The day care nurseries employ approximately 120 staff or 107.45 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Context

- This consultation is not about the local authorities' 27 Nursery Schools
- A cabinet report was submitted on 12th December 2017
- Cabinet members authorised council officers to carry out a public consultation and will have to approve any proposals, once they have considered the responses to the consultation in June 2018
- The day care nurseries are running at a loss. We need to find a more cost-effective way of delivering these services which is the purpose of this consultation

Day Care Nursery locations

The fourteen day care nurseries below are spread across the city

DAY CARE NURSERY

- Bertram Road Nursery
- Birchfield Nursery
- Cherry Tree Nursery
- Golden Start Nursery
- Kitts Green Nursery
- Ladywood Nursery
- Lime Tree Nursery

WARD

- Nechells
- Lozells & East Handsworth
- Lozells & East Handsworth
- Nechells
- Shard End
- Ladywood
- Lozells & East Handsworth

Day Care Nursery locations

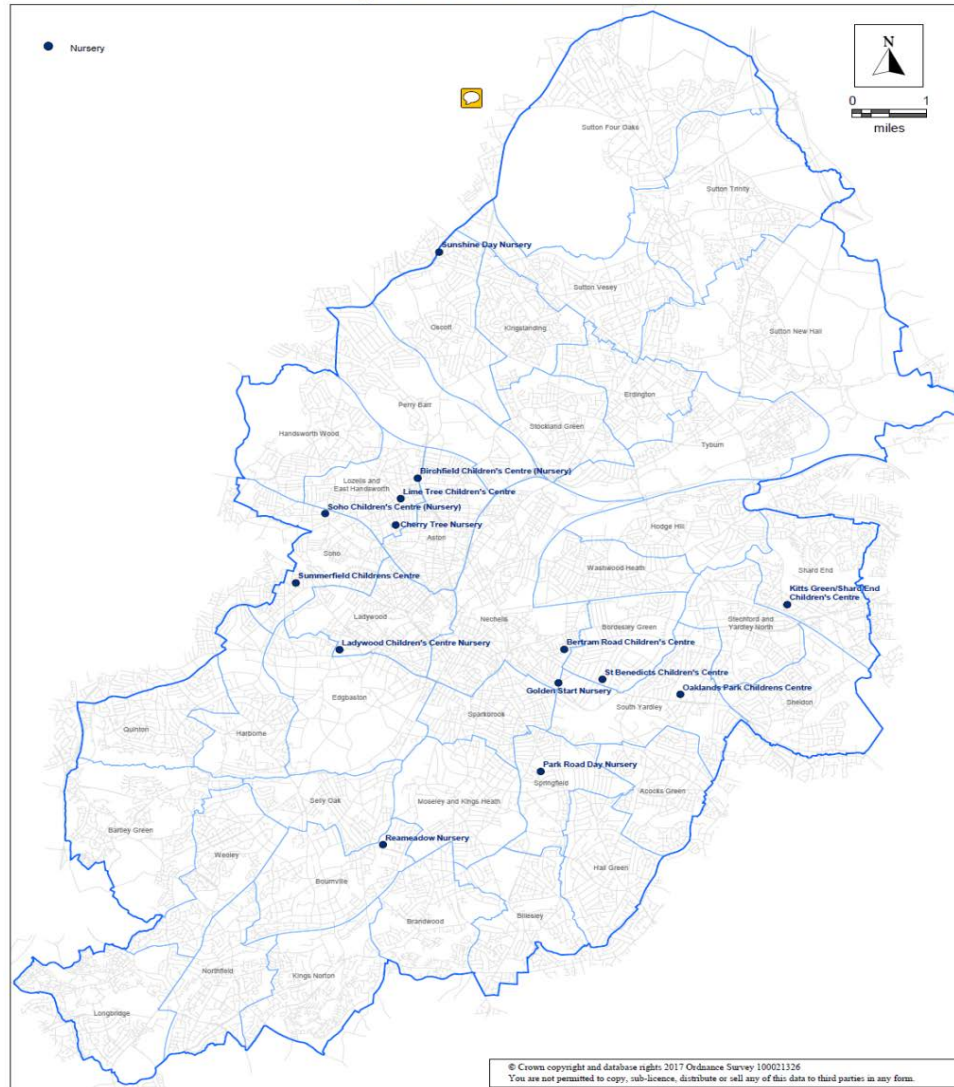
DAY CARE NURSERY

WARD

- Oaklands Park Nursery
- Park Road Nursery
- Reameadow Nursery
- Soho Nursery
- St Benedicts Nursery
- Summerfield Nursery
- Sunshine Nursery
- South Yardley
- Springfield
- Bournville
- Soho
- Bordesley Green
- Soho
- Washwood Heath

(See map on next slide)

Citywide Map of the Day Care Nurseries



November 2017

Contact details for Day Care Nurseries

| Setting name | Address | Phone number | Manager |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Bertram Rd Nursery | 6 Bertram Rd, Small Heath, B1 9QP | 0121 675 5259 | Nicola Catlow |
| Birchfield Nursery | 1 Houghton Rd, Birchfield, B20 3LE | 0121 675 0967 | Lynn Willis |
| Cherry Tree Nursery | Graham St, Lozells, B19 1QY | 0121 675 5865 | Dawn Clifford |
| Golden Start Nursery | Golden Hillock Rd, Small Heath, B10 0DP | 0121 675 0095/0081 | Celia Rivers |
| Kitts Green Nursery | 45 Ridpool Rd, Kitts Green, B33 9RB | 0121 675 7575 | Vicki Thane |
| Ladywood Nursery | 9 Plough & Harrow Rd, Ladywood, B16 8UR | 0121 675 6788 | Julie Trueman |
| Lime Tree Nursery | Heathfield Rd, Handsworth, B19 1HJ | 0121 675 2530/2536 | Andrea Nelson |
| Oakland's Park Nursery | 10 Boughton Rd, Yardley, B25 8AJ | 0121 675 0126 | June Humphreys |
| Park Rd Nursery | 57 Park Rd, Sparkhill, B11 4HB | 0121 675 8953 | Jenny Perkins |
| Reameadow Nursery | 5 Riverbrook Drive, Stirchley, B30 2SH | 0121 675 8465 | Susan Flash |
| Soho Nursery | Louise Rd, Handsworth, B21 0RY | 0121 675 81890 | Baksho Kaur |
| Summerfield Nursery | 42 Cape St, Winson Green, B18 4LE | 0121 675 6401 | Sandi Thandi |
| Sunshine Nursery | Centre 80, Anthony Rd, Saltley, B8 3AA | 0121 675 7266 | Julie Hammond |
| St Benedicts Nursery | St Benedicts Infant School, St Benedicts rd. Small Heath, B10 9DP | 0121 675 6730 | Sarah Mullis |

Financial challenges

- The day care nurseries have been operating at a loss for some years now and this cannot continue
 - The deficit figures for the last three years are:
 - 2014/15 = £744,989
 - 2015/16 = £578,813
 - 2016/17 = £638,719
 - The forecast deficit for 2017/18 is approximately £750k
 - Birmingham City Council is facing significant budget challenges in the current climate and as such this deficit position must be resolved
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Areas of work undertaken so far (1)

- Increased the fee rates to support income generation.
- Reviewed current staffing levels and vacancies to ensure staff are deployed effectively and to reduce agency costs
- Developed a new Grade 2 Nursery Officer post to support future restructuring the services

Areas of work undertaken so far (2)

- Gained an understanding of numbers of children attending each day care nursery (occupancy levels)
- Developed new financial models that could lead to the day care nurseries becoming sustainable
- Reviewed Ofsted arrangements and looked at quality and impact of current services

Additional work that is underway

- Continuing to ensure staff are deployed correctly
- Reviewing existing service contracts (e.g. cleaning) to ensure that we are getting value for money and where possible renegotiate these contracts
- Increasing places (occupancy levels) to ensure that places are filled and income is maximised
- Continue to make ongoing financial savings and revising remodelling information to look at ongoing sustainability

What we are consulting about

As part of the public consultation, we are focusing on the following ideas:

- To continue to run any day care nurseries that are financially self-sustaining and close the remaining day care nurseries;
- To close all the day care nurseries and offer the buildings to other childcare providers to continue providing a service;
- To continue to operate any day care nursery that is situated within an area where there is a childcare gap and where an alternative provider to the Council cannot be identified

First Idea - To continue to run any day care nurseries that are financially self-sustaining and close the remaining day care nurseries

- *Considerable work has been done to make the day care nurseries self-sustainable going forward, prior to us consulting with you*
- *Whilst sustainability has not been achieved, the public consultation process will provide you the opportunity to help us to see if this possible in any other ways*
- *Based on remodelling work we have undertaken we predict that only one day care nursery is financially sustainable which is Sunshine Nursery*

Second Idea - To close all the day care nurseries and offer the buildings out to other childcare providers to continue providing a day care service

- *We will be holding market-shaping events with a view to getting to understand whether there is an appetite from the childcare market to deliver these services from these premises*
- *The full closure of the nursery buildings could lead to staff redundancies*
- *It may be an possible to commission the service to a new provider and to transfer the staff to a new employer*

Third Idea - To continue to operate any day care nursery that is situated within an area where there is a childcare gap and where an alternative provider to the Council cannot be identified

- *If any day care nursery is deemed as being required to meet the Sufficiency Duty, but the consultation shows that another childcare provider cannot be found, the Council would have to provide the service as the 'provider of last resort' (see next slide)*
- *This would mean a possible reduction of funding elsewhere and potentially effect other council services*
- *Funding would have to be allocated in to the Early Years budget to cover this shortfall, as the day care nurseries are not financially self-sustaining*

Sufficiency Duty

- The Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities refers to a Sufficiency Duty. This guidance relates to the Childcare Act 2006 – Section 6)
- This places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents
- This means that the local authority will ensure that there are enough Early Education Entitlement (EEE) and childcare places available across Birmingham

Market Shaping

- The local authority will work closely with other relevant and interested partners, including carers and families, to facilitate the whole childcare market in its area for childcare services
- We will approach the childcare market to find out if there is sufficient interest from alternative providers to run the day care nurseries
- Events will be held where potential interest can be expressed in running any of the day care nurseries. We will then follow this up as necessary with specific market-shaping events
- If you are interested in our future market-shaping events please ensure you leave us your details at the end of the session

Consultation

- We are carrying out this consultation to gather the views and suggestions of anyone with an interest in the Council Run Day Care Nurseries
 - No decisions have as yet been made.
 - Your feedback will directly impact on the final recommendations to cabinet in June 2018
 - The consultation will be run over 60 days
 - The consultation begins on 18th January 2018
 - The closing date will be 23rd March 2018
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Consultation sessions

| Venue | Date | Time |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Council House RM 1 | Tuesday 16 th January 2018 | 4-7pm |
| Birchfield | Thursday 18 th January 2018 | 3-5pm |
| Golden Hillock | Monday 22 nd January 2018 | 6-8pm |
| Cherry Tree | Tuesday 23 rd January 2018 | 3-5pm |
| Kitts Green | Wednesday 24 th January 2018 | 4:30-6:30pm |
| Lime Tree | Thursday 25 th January 2018 | 5-7pm |
| Oaklands | Tuesday 30 th January 2018 | 6-8pm |
| Park Road | Wednesday 31 st January 2018 | 6-8pm |
| Reameadow | Thursday 1 st February 2018 | 6-8pm |
| Soho | Monday 5 th February 2018 | 3-5pm |
| St Benedicts | Tuesday 6 th February 2018 | 3-5pm |
| Summerfield | Wednesday 7 th February 2018 | 3-5pm |
| Sunshine | Thursday 8 th February 2018 | 5-7pm |
| Ladywood | Monday 12 th February 2018 | 9:30-11:30am |
| Bertram | Tuesday 13 th February 2018 | 5-7pm |

Consultation – next steps (1)

- We value your opinions and need these to help us shape the recommendations we make to cabinet in June 2018
- We would like any ideas or suggestions you may have which you think would enable the day care nurseries to operate in a financially sustainable way
- You can complete the questionnaire using the link to [BeHeard](#), via paper copy or at one of our upcoming sessions where we will be on hand to help you fill in your questionnaire

BeHeard website view (1)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the BeHeard website. The address bar shows the URL <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/++preview++>. The page title is "A bit about you and the ser...". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system tray with the date 17/01/2018 and time 15:43.

The website header includes the "Be Heard" logo and "Birmingham City Council". A search bar for consultations is present. Navigation links include "Consultation Hub", "Find Consultations", "We Asked, You Said, We Did", "Mailing List Signup", and "About". A decorative banner features colorful icons of buildings, trees, and people. Below this is a purple banner with the text "Council Run Day Nurseries".

The main content area shows "Page 1 of 5" with a progress indicator. The title of the section is "A bit about you and the services you use." Below the title, it states: "The questions within this section are for us to find out more about you and your current use of the council run day nurseries in Birmingham. Full details about our proposals and consultation is included in the [Day Nurseries Cabinet Report 12.12.2017](#) (item 13)".

The first question is: "1. Of the descriptions below, which best describes you (Tick all that apply):"

- Parent, or guardian, of a child aged 0-5 years
- Friend or relative of a nursery user
- Nursery staff member
- A member of the general public
- Local ward councillor/MP
- Representative of an organisation (please specify below)

BeHeard website view (2)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a preview of a page on the BeHeard website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/+preview++>. The page title is "The three ideas we are proposing". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons including Internet Explorer, File Explorer, Notepad, Word, PowerPoint, Skype, OneDrive, and Photoshop. The system tray in the bottom right corner shows the date and time as 15:44 on 17/01/2018.

Preview Page: The three ideas we are proposing Go Leave Preview

Council Run Day Nurseries

Page 2 of 5

Closes 23 Mar 2018

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The three ideas we are proposing

There are 14 Council run day nurseries across Birmingham. All of the nurseries combined cater for approximately 600 children each week and employ one hundred and twenty staff.

Deficits have been on average approximately £600,000 per year and a similar amount is forecast for this year despite efforts to reduce this.

Over recent years, much work has been undertaken to improve the current business model. Some of what has already taken place includes the increasing of fee rates to support income generation and a review of staff deployment. Extensive reviews of each nursery have also been carried out to establish where any other savings could be made.

10. The first idea that we are consulting on is to continue to run any nurseries that are financially self-sustaining and close the remaining nurseries. Do you agree this is an idea we should be considering?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons for this answer

Consultation – next steps (2)

- You can use our email box if you have any other suggestions or queries. The address is on the final slide
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet will be compiled following each consultation session and available for circulation
- Once the public consultation has ended the responses will be analysed and form the basis of the report back to cabinet in June 2018

Questions?



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birmingham.gov.uk