



# **Early Years Health and Wellbeing Services Consultation**

Easy Read Consultation Summary

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016



This leaflet is easy to read

November 2015

## Section 1 – What We Want Early Years Services To Do



Birmingham's Early Years Services work with around 100,000 parents and 80,000 children to help them have the best start in life.



We know every child has different needs and abilities.



We know that some children are doing really well but some others are not doing so well. We want to make sure all children do well.



We need to make sure our services are used by the children who need them most. Also we want to support parents who need help. This means our Early Years services may have to change.



We would like you to help us choose what changes we may need to make.



We will tell you more about our ideas and how to let us know what you think.

## Section 2 – How might things change?



Becoming a parent is difficult, parents need to learn how to be good parents who keep their children healthy and help them to learn.



Parents often need childcare to help look after their children while they are at work or doing other things.



We think we could help children and parents more if we joined services together.



We would like to know what you think about our idea (called a proposal) to join Early Years Services together.

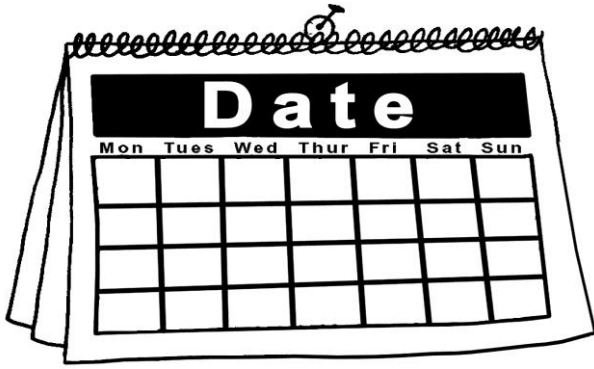


We are calling this a 'Health and Wellbeing Services Offer'.



This would mean changing the way we deliver the following services:

- Services provided by Children's Centres
- Health visiting
- Services that support parents
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding support services

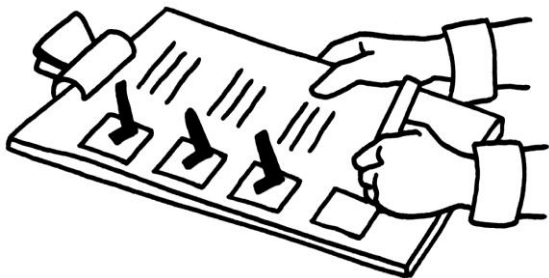


September 2017

We know it will take time to do this properly. We think it will be September 2017 before our work on Health and Wellbeing is finished.



As well as having your say in the consultations, there will be opportunities for you to get more involved in working with us to write new proposals.



Consultation  
Questionnaire

If you would like to get more involved, please tell us on the consultation questionnaire.

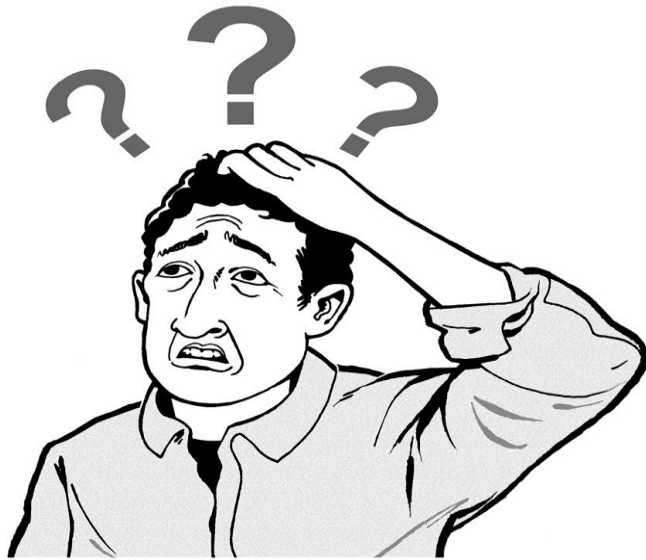
### **Section 3 – Why do we need to change the Early Years Services?**



We want to change our services to help all children and parents do well.

### **Section 4 – Our proposals - We will now tell you about our ideas.**

#### **4a. The Lead Agency proposals – how we think the lead agency would work.**



Families have told us the way services are arranged is confusing at the moment. This means it can be hard to find out about and use services.

**Bad Service. Hate it. Spread it.**



Sometimes children might not get the services they need. In some places there are lots of services all doing the same things; in other places there are not enough services.



In our proposal we think it would be a good idea to have a **lead organization** whose job will be to sort out Early Years services for parents and Childrens.



We think that the Lead Organisation would:

- Help children and families to use Early Years services



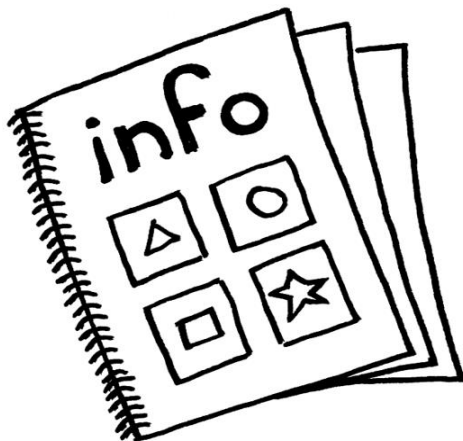
Early  
Years



- Advertise Early Years services close to where people live.



- Make sure there are services to meet the needs of children near to where they live.



- Provide very good advice and information to children and families.



- Help set up new local self-help services run by families for families.



- Make sure local services work together to support children and families. And could help prevent parents from having to tell their story more than once.



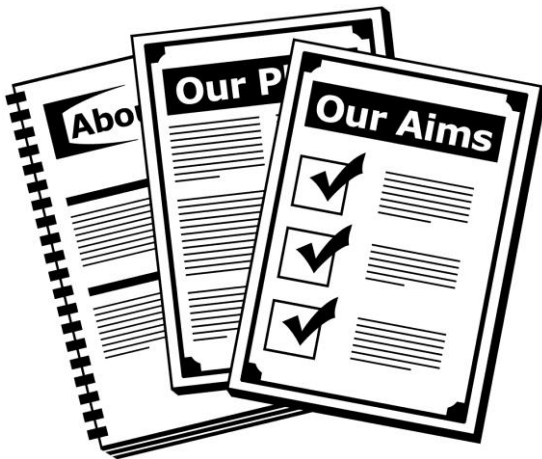
- Listen to the views of local children and families and act on what they tell them. And refer children and families to other services when they need them.



We think the proposal is a good idea because the Lead Organisation could:

- Help refer parents to services that could help them.

### **Section – 4b – The right amount of support for each family (Targeted Approach Proposals)**

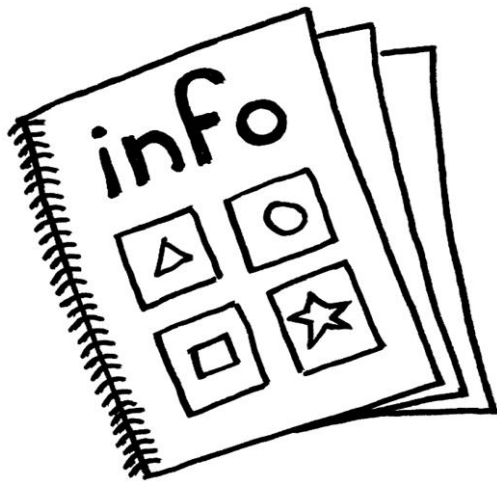


To help every child to have the Early Years support they need, we need a new way of planning services, so that a family has the right amount of support for their needs.



We believe that all parents benefit from a little help and support (reassurance) during their child's early years. This new proposal would mean that every child would carry on getting a basic level of service.

**We call this our 'universal offer', which would be:**



Advice and information



Health and development checks.  
We think that the health and development checks would enable us to see how well children and their parents are doing and to spot any problems early so that extra support can be put in place.



Free early education for 3 and 4 year olds

We call services that can provide this extra support '*universal plus*' services.

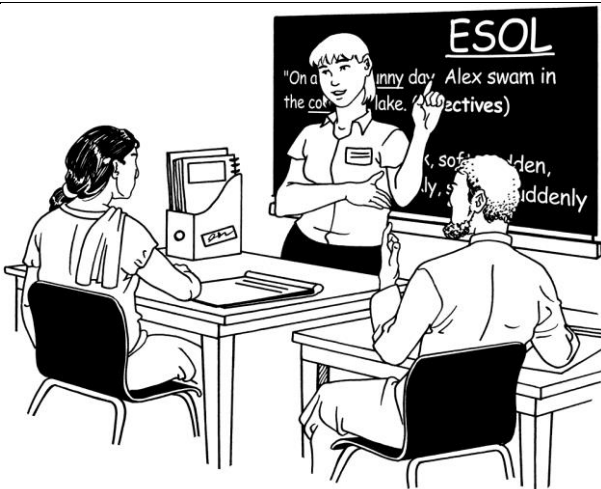


We think that extra support could include:

- Skills for being a good parent



- Support in pregnancy or with breastfeeding



- Help with speech and communication



- Free education for 2 year olds that need it

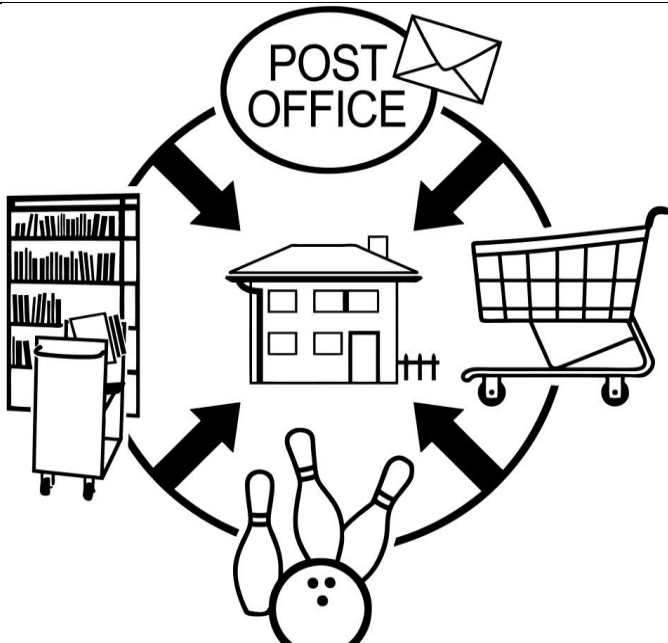


The extra support that an individual child or parent would get would depend on what they needed. We would help local families support each other.

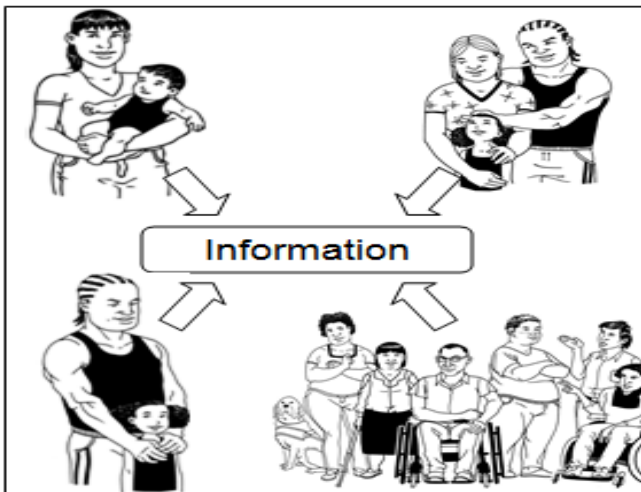


Some children who need extra support would be likely to get more, whilst others who are doing really well may find services they previously used like 'stay and play' services are no longer available to them unless they paid for the service.

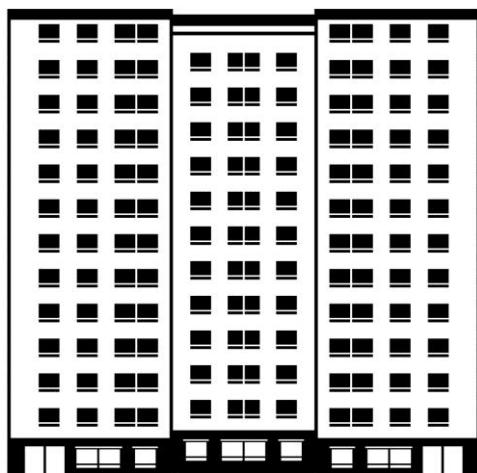
## Section 4c – Local services for children and families



We want to provide information for children and families in familiar places.



We think it would be better to have one place where children and parents can get a range of help.



We would use a wider range of places rather than working out of a set number of buildings.



If our proposals were to end in Children's Centres closing we would need to consult further to check we were doing the right thing.

### **Section 4d – Proposals about the quality of services**

In Section 3 – 'Why do we need to change the Early Years services?' we set out the results that we want to achieve for children and parents. These were about:



- A smaller number of children becoming obese (overweight)





- Reducing tooth decay amongst under 5's



- Lower numbers of children going to hospital because they have an injury



- More mothers breastfeeding when the baby is born and until the baby is 6 months old



- More parents saying their wellbeing is good



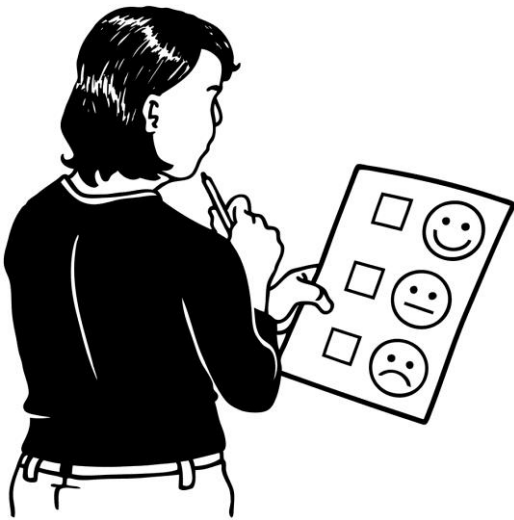
- Reducing smoking during pregnancy and parenthood



- Improving children's communication skills



Increasing the number of parents in work or training. To deliver these outcomes we will need high quality services.



We plan to measure how well the services we commission are doing by measuring how well our children are doing on these outcomes.

## How can you take part in the consultation?

We want to know what you think of these Early Years proposals. Your views are very important to us.

You can have your say in the following ways:

Filling in a questionnaire online at:

[www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/](http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/)

By Email: [earlyyearsreview@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearsreview@birmingham.gov.uk)



**Write to:**

**Early Years Health & Wellbeing Consultation  
Joint Commissioning Team  
P.O. Box 16467  
Birmingham  
B2 2DR**

**Please note you will need to use a stamp.**