

Early Years Consultation Leaflet



Help us shape your council's early years services

The Integrated Early Years Service ensures that children and families get the best start in life at an early stage. Helping children early is cheaper and more effective than leaving the problem until later.

The Early Years Service was integrated with the Children's Centre Service in April 2016 following a public consultation that received overwhelming support from residents and staff. It is now called the Integrated Early Years Service.

The next stage in the process is to consolidate this integration through a transformation to fully absorb Children Centres' and the Early Years Service's skills, capabilities and assets into the delivery of an Integrated Early Years Service.

The consultation objectives are:

- To inform families and key stakeholders about the impact of the proposed savings. These are:
 - Reducing staff across the IEYS and
 - Re-shaping services in response to need by re-directing investment to areas of greater need;
- To get feedback on the proposed Early Help model with Children's Centres working much more closely with schools and early years childcare businesses. This may cause changes in other early years areas so we are consulting on the associated potential impact on childcare provision and early years support for schools;
- To generate feedback on the range and location of services offered in the borough's Children's Centres;
- To give opportunity for suggestions for alternative models that can deliver the savings within the required timeframe.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is the council making these changes?

Due to an overall reduction in local authority funding the council has to save £4.3m out of the current £9.2m Early Years Budget.

This consolidation will help the Integrated Early Years Service maximise the resources left through prioritising local delivery and working in collaboration with partners.

The alignment of these services will bring about a service that is ambitious for the children and families of Tower Hamlets and provides career satisfaction to the professionals that work with children and families from birth to eleven.

What does this mean for me?

It means that residents will be able to access a number of services all under one roof, instead of needing to visit different locations to access early years services for children. Some targeted services will be delivered differently.

Some staff may move their work location or decide to accept voluntary redundancy.

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Will the council close my designated Children's Centre?

No. None of the 12 current designated Children's Centre will be closed.

I have a local delivery site where I sometimes attend for some services. Will these still be available?

The council will not be able to afford all the existing delivery sites. Universal and targeted services will be accessible at all Children's Centres. The level of provision of targeted services will be in relation to local need. The public consultation will determine which delivery sites may remain open.

Which services will be affected?

Services in the 12 Children's Centre hubs will be redesigned. Universal services will remain, in a re-shaped form. Targeted services will be delivered in response to need.

Due to the significant reduction in the commissioning budget, it is unlikely that the council can continue to operate the 11 community venues the service currently delivers from. These services will be accessible at Children's Centres.

The local authority day nursery service may be commissioned externally dependent on the outcome of the consultation exercise.

How can I get involved with the process?

You can help shape the Integrated Early Years Service by completing the consultation document. This is available on the council consultation website

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/council_and_democracy/consultations/consultations.aspx and on the IEYS website

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/education_and_learning/childcare_and_early_years_educ/childcare_and_early_years_educ.aspx

The documents will be posted when the consultation is approved and goes live.

How can I get further details or speak to someone?

You can get further details by attending one of our events. Details will be on our website.

You can also speak to staff from the IEYS at your local Children's Centre or on 0207 364 4142 and the team will be happy to answer your questions if they can. If they can't, they will make sure you are put in touch with someone who can help you.