

Children's Centre Remodelling

Early Education and Childcare Provision Review

Executive Summary

1.1 Given the prominent role the direct delivery of early education and childcare plays in SBC's Children's Centre model, separate and detailed consideration has been given to this provision in order to inform options for change to the Children's Centre programme whole.

1.2 Consideration has been given to childcare sufficiency data, provision uptake coupled with officer analysis of what the information is telling us about the scope for change to existing arrangements for the provision of directly delivered early education and childcare via SBC's Children's Centres.

1.3 Analysis of the data referenced in this report has resulted in the following summary conclusions being drawn:

- SBC is delivering early education and childcare via its Children's Centres in areas where data suggests there is surplus capacity;
- Data also suggests that SBC's directly delivered offer is being provided in areas with sufficient capacity to meet requirements and need in the absence of directly provided provision; and
- SBC is delivering early education and childcare via its Children's Centres at cost to the Council and that there is scope to reduce this cost by the discontinuation of directly managed provision within the overall context of making changes to its Children's centre delivery model.

1.4 Given the imperative to achieve best value in the provision of the services in question, consideration should be given to the following summary options for discontinuation of directly delivered early education and childcare, within the overall context of wider options for change to the Children's Centre programme. These options agree with the overall options for change presented in the overarching cabinet report.

Early education and childcare delivery options	Potential benefits	Potential constraints
1. To discontinue all directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council through its Children's Centres	Reduces cost and potentially enables the wider economy of providers in the market to expand their provision where demand requires	Full discontinuation would present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met and access for vulnerable children in particular maintained. Family access choices will also be limited. It would be challenging to enable the market to fully address potential gaps in provision in the short to mid-term.

Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 347		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 197 / 347
2. To discontinue directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council from 7 Children's Centres whilst maintaining direct delivery via 3 (Recommended)	Reduces cost and potentially enables the wider economy of providers in the market to expand their provision where demand requires whilst maintaining provision in key areas of need and demand	Discontinuation will present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met although analysis indicates this risk can be addressed through actions to mitigate impact with particular regard to market engagement and the phasing of change to minimise any negative impact. Due consideration needs to be given to the access needs of vulnerable children in particular
Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 176		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 144 / 176
3. To discontinue directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council from 8 Children's Centres whilst maintaining direct delivery via 2	Reduces cost and enables the wider economy of providers in the market to potentially expand their provision where demand requires whilst maintaining provision in key areas of need and demand	Discontinuation will present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met although analysis indicates this risk can be addressed through actions to mitigate impact with particular regard to market engagement and the phasing of change to minimise any negative impact. Due consideration needs to be given to the access needs of vulnerable children in particular
Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 203		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 157 / 203
4. To continue to provide existing childcare arrangements	No changes will be made to existing provision.	<p>The target savings for reducing buildings will not be achieved.</p> <p>The Council will continue to subsidise childcare costs by provision of buildings.</p> <p>The Council will continue to directly provide a significant number of childcare places without a clear rationale as to why this is appropriate, which is contrary to the legislation.</p> <p>The Council continuing to provide a significant number of childcare places has the potential of</p>

		distorting the market and putting other childcare operators out of business or preventing new providers entering the market.
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1.5 It should be noted that the implementation of any of the above options would require carefully consideration in terms of transition. A phased approach would be required so that families affected by any change are supported to make timely, alternative arrangements for childcare should this be necessary. It should also be noted that careful attention would also need to be paid to implementation from the perspective of impact on staff whose employment may be affected by any agreed change. In addition, due time and capacity would also need to be afforded so that work can be undertaken with external providers who may wish to develop or extend their offers in light of any agreed changes should that be necessary.

1.6 The table below provides a 'centre by centre' summary of the bearing these options have on each of the current centres offer of directly delivered early learning and childcare should they be perused.

Current Children's Centre location	Maintained as Council delivered early education and childcare			
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Chalvey Grove	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elliman Avenue	No	No	No	Yes
Monksfield Way	No	No	No	Yes
Orchard Avenue	No	No	No	Yes
Penn Road	No	No	No	Yes
Romsey Close	No	Yes	No	Yes
St Andrew's Way	No	No	No	Yes
Vicarage Way	No	No	No	Yes
Wexham Road	No	No	No	Yes
Yew Tree Road	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Children's Centre Remodelling Early Education and Childcare Provision Review

Purpose of paper

To detail review analysis and findings in relation to the provision of directly delivered early education and childcare services provided by Slough Borough Council (SBC) via its Children's Centres.

1. Summary overview

1.1 The context within which early education and childcare provision is located can fluctuate considerably from year to year. The childcare economy is complex. The offer comprises a range of types of provision to meet different needs ranging from free entitlement education to more generic childcare. Capacity types also vary from setting to setting with providers offering a mixed economy of funded places and paid for childcare, some all year round and others term-time only. It is therefore both difficult and unhelpful to try to determine an absolute position in terms of sufficiency.

1.2 A range of issues impact on the provision economy. Demand for childcare in general and need for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and 30 hours places in particular is variable and likely to fluctuate. There are also local issues to address in relation to 2 year old funded places both in terms of uptake and the provision of places.

1.3 The economic climate also has a marked bearing on supply and demand, with both parents and providers having to respond to 'cost of living' difficulties and the associated impact this has on business viability of providers and affordability of access families. These factors, amongst others makes it challenging to carry out exacting analysis of supply, demand and the impact of any change that might be proposed and agreed.

1.4 Birth data used to forecast demand for example, suggests that current supply of places overall doesn't match demand, however consideration at a more locality-based level indicates a more mixed picture.

1.5 Current data and analysis indicates that Monksfield Way Children's Centre for example operates in a catchment area with a significant surplus of places, whereas Chalvey Grove Children's Centre catchment area has a notable deficit of places. It is important to note that this data does not give a definitive position in relation to supply and demand. Local intelligence gathered during the annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is key to building up a more accurate picture of both the supply and the nature of the offer in terms of type and age range and the demand based on a range of data sources including birth rate projections and census data.

1.6 The analysis and review work informing potential options for change to current directly delivered early education and childcare provision via Children's Centres has drawn on a combination of existing data and local intelligence to determine potential options for change. This analysis will be strengthened via both the consultation process and the annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment once complete.

1.7 Local intelligence indicates that there are providers in the market who may be interested in developing their provision in response to changes SBC may make to its directly delivered provision. Further work will be undertaken with the wider economy of provider to explore options fully should agreement to consult be given. This work should be informed by recognition of the challenges faced by the sector which includes recruitment and retention difficulties.

1.8 Content and analysis referenced in this report is based on current available data coupled with a local perspective on what the information is telling us about the scope for change to existing arrangements for the provision of directly delivered early education and childcare via SBC's Children's Centres. Work is currently being progressed to refresh the current CSA.

1.9 The next CSA will focus on the economic factors impacting on settings ability to provide places based on their registration capacity and how this compares to the overall picture of deficit / surplus provision in Slough.

1.10 The outcome of the next CSA, aligned to consultation on options for change will enable a more considered understanding of the impact of any change to inform final recommendations for consideration within the wider context of options for change to the Children's Centre delivery model itself.

2. Background and context

2.1 Work has been progressed over the past year to explore the feasibility of modifying existing arrangements for the provision of Children's Centres in Slough. Central to this work is consideration of the role directly delivered early education and childcare plays in the current children's centre delivery model.

2.2 Slough has 10 Children's Centres. 8 of the 10 centres provide directly delivered early education and childcare.

2.3 Legislation in relation to Children's Centre is contained in The Childcare Act 2006, and underpinned by Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance, which defines a Children's Centre a place or a group of places: which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements with, the local authority with a view to securing that early childhood services in the local authority's area are made available in an integrated way; through which early childhood services are made available (either by providing the services on site, or by providing advice and assistance on gaining access to services elsewhere); and, at which activities for young children are provided.

2.4 The Statutory Guidance states that "Children's Centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as about providing premises in particular geographical areas. A Children's Centre should make available universal and targeted early childhood services either by providing the services at the centre itself or by providing advice and assistance to parents (mothers and fathers) and prospective parents in accessing services provided elsewhere". The guidance defines the core purpose as being to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- child development and school readiness;
- parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and,
- child and family health and life chances.

2.5 The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare, March 2017 requires SBC to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

2.6 The duty is detailed in the following sections of the Acts:

Childcare Act 2006

- Section 1 places a duty on the secretary of state to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children;
- Section 2 allows the secretary of state to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children.
- To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:
 - what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area;
 - the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
 - the state of the labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
 - the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise;
 - what schools in their area are offering or able to offer for out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays;
 - if existing providers are able to expand their provision and what new providers are going to enter the local childcare market; and
 - if providers take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them.

2.7 The Local Authority is responsible producing an annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) which should include specific reference to how it is ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:

- children with special educational needs and disabilities;
- children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit;
- children with parents who work irregular hours;
- children aged two, three and four taking up free places;
- school age children; and
- children needing holiday care.

2.8 Information is also required about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

2.9 In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to maintain a service that provides information, to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, as listed in Schedule 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 and from 1st September publish this information electronically on the local authority website and update it, at a minimum termly on 1st January, 1st April and 1st September, ensuring parents are aware of:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
- The option to continue to take up their child's 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age; and
- How to identify high quality provision in their area.

2.10 There is no requirement placed upon Local Authorities to directly deliver early education and childcare. Some may choose to do so in order, for example, to address a gap in the market or provide specialist services that may not be available via the private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI) or other types of provision such as Nursery Schools.

2.11 Slough directly delivers provision from 8 of its Children's Centre locations and also provides early education via 5 maintained nursery schools. These services are offered alongside a range of other provision provided by PVIs and Schools with nursery classes.

2.12 Consideration is being given to the case for continuing to directly deliver early education and childcare because of:

- The need to secure best value in the use of Council resources and determining the case for continued provision in terms of statutory requirement, need, scale and cost; and
- The need to ensure resources are available for the delivery of core Children's Centre functions.

3. Review objectives

3.1 Given the need to consider the case for continued provision of directly delivered early education and childcare services, the following objective has been set.

3.2 Assessing the case for continuation of directly delivered provision by determining what is essential to maintain because not doing so would result in:

- Sufficiency levels being critically affected; and
- Access to the offer for vulnerable children being significantly affected.

3.3 Consideration has also been given to whether there are no other means of mitigating the impact of the of potential change outlined above other than maintaining direct delivery and the financial viability of continuing to directly provide the service.

3.4 This assessment has been undertaken within the wider context of associated review work in relation to the provision of Children's Centres. The combined outcomes of this review activity will include the determination of options for change to both the Children's Centre programme and the directly delivered early education and childcare provision offered within it.

3.5 It has focused on supply, demand and sufficiency with a view to determining the scope for making changes to the direct delivery of early education and childcare from Children's Centre.

4. Review methodology and intended outcomes

4.1 **Childcare sufficiency data analysis:** Consideration of the contribution each centre makes to the overall supply of provision across the borough.

- **Intended outcome:** To identified potential efficiencies in the offer from a supply and demand perspective.

4.2 **Provision uptake:** Consideration of participation with particular regard to access for vulnerable children and families including those with SEND.

- **Intended outcome:** To identify the impact of any potential changes on participation and access with particular regard to vulnerable children, including those with SEND.

4.3 **Provision staffing and cost:** Consideration of provision resourcing.

Intended outcome: To identify opportunities to reduce cost and secure savings where feasible to do so.

4.4 **Premises:** Consideration of the suitability of premises used for the direct delivery of early education and childcare and their viability of their ongoing use.

- **Intended outcome:** To ensure the Council assets in question are being used efficiently within the wider context of related asset review work being undertaken by the Council.

4.5 Each Centre has been considered by applying the methodology outlined. Initial conclusions have drawn with potential options for change identified together with associated risks and mitigating actions as required.

5. Centre by Centre Analysis

Centre	Summary analysis of directly delivered early education and childcare								
<p>1.Monksfield Way Children's Centre, Monksfield Way, Slough, SL2 1QX</p>	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>1.1 Located within the ward of Britwell and Northborough adjoining the Farnham ward. The area is also serviced by 3 PVI providers, 7 childminders and nursery provision in 2 primary schools.</p> <p>1.2 Britwell & Northborough has a population of 10.8k and is the most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>1.3 6% of Slough 0-5 population live in the Monksfield Way catchment area.</p> <p>1.4 Early education and childcare provision at the centre offers a flexible childcare model for children 2 years – 7 years 11 months. 6 sessions split over the course of the day, to reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are all year round or term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>1.5 The centre offers 64 PTE. It operates in an area where current data suggests there is a significant surplus of places (215 places in excess of population demand numbers). 145 number of excess places in catchment area would remain without Children's Centre Capacity.</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>1.6 The following information summarises average attendance at Monksfield Children's Centre for early education and childcare, together with comparative information in relation to other centres. There are currently 52 children on roll for early education and childcare provision.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 1435 1449 1621"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="435 1435 687 1585">Termly 3 year average</th> <th data-bbox="687 1435 943 1585">% termly average of children's centres</th> <th data-bbox="943 1435 1198 1585">Highest % of termly average across all settings</th> <th data-bbox="1198 1435 1449 1585">Lowest % of termly average across all settings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="435 1585 687 1621">58</td> <td data-bbox="687 1585 943 1621">10.8%</td> <td data-bbox="943 1585 1198 1621">23.7%</td> <td data-bbox="1198 1585 1449 1621">0.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1.7 Monksfield operates in a catchment area where an average of 346 children access funded provision which is 8.4% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.</p> <p>1.8 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)</p>	Termly 3 year average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings	58	10.8%	23.7%	0.1%
Termly 3 year average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings						
58	10.8%	23.7%	0.1%						

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
24	46.2%	0	0.0%	16	30.8%

Income and expenditure

1.10 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £347,700
- Supplies and services: £16,800
- Premises operating costs: £72,793
- Utilities: £27,790
- Income: £223,400

Net cost: £241,683

Premises

1.11 Two story build located within the curtilage of Claycots Britwell Primary School built in 2006. Top floor is used for family services and partner delivery, lower rooms used for early years provision. Operates for 46 weeks of the year for early years provision. Access without entering through the school. No on-site parking.

Case for change

1.12 Analysis suggests there is a case for change given the provision is operating within an area where data suggests there is significant surplus of places and the provision is being offered at significant cost. Consideration should therefore be given to the potential discontinuation of directly delivered Council provision.

Risks and mitigation

Risk of change

- Discontinuation could impact on support for vulnerable children currently using the provision.
- Associated loss of collaborative work with School in support of vulnerable families.
- Alternative use of premises might present as a challenge, particularly for an alternative provide of childcare given nature of building.

	<p>Potential mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other providers in the area where required to take up provision and offer alternative places should this be required. • Consider alternative support arrangement with targeted early help and School. • Maintain uses of premises for core Children's Centre services • Secure Property Service advice and input re: alternative use of premises. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential discontinuation of direct council delivery with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible.
Centre	Summary Analysis
2.Chalvey Grove Children's Centre, Chalvey Grove, Slough, SL1 2TE	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>2.1 Located within the ward of Chalvey adjoining the Cippenham Meadows ward. The area is also serviced by 5 PVI providers, a Nursery School, 1 childminder and nursery provision in 1 primary school.</p> <p>2.2 Britwell & Northborough has a population of 13.3K and is the second most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>2.3 15.5% of Slough 0-5 population live in the Chalvey Grove catchment area.</p> <p>2.4 The centre offers a flexible childcare model for children 3 months – 7 years 11months 6 sessions split over the course of the day, to reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are all year round or term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>2.5 The centre offers 70 PTE. Operating in an area where data suggests there is a significant deficit of places. (237 places less than population demand figures indicate are required). This would increase to 398 in the absence of Children's Centre capacity.</p> <p>2.6 Chalvey Nursery School offers 168 PTE which includes 12 'resource' places.</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>2.7 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Chalvey Grove together with comparative information in relation to other centres.</p>

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
77	14.4%	17.8%	0.1%

2.8 Chalvey Grove operates in a catchment area where an average of 537 children accessing funded provision which is 13.1% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

2.9 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
20	23.8%	1	1.2%	15	17.9%

Income and expenditure

2.10 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £401,200
- Supplies and services: £17,100
- Premises operating costs: £74,747
- Utilities: £14,212
- Income: £389,900

Net cost: £117,359

Premises

2.11 Second largest centre built within the curtilage of Montem academy, access through the school. Shared car park. 70% of the centre used for early years, operating 51 weeks of the year. Maintenance and repairs and utilities are budgeted under buildings management.

Case for change

2.12 The centre has a significant waiting list for early education and childcare places. The building has space and opportunity to accommodate collaborative services. Analysis indicates that the provision is key to maintaining sufficiency levels in the area. Given this the only case for change identified relates to the scope and feasibility of the transfer of provision undertaking to an alternative provider to

	<p>maintain sufficiency. There may also be scope for change to current staffing arrangements to secure efficiencies.</p> <p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on demand on funded entitlement demand including 2 year funded entitlement places. • Impact on capacity servicing relatively high population of under 5s. • Impact given other providers in the area offer only term time places. • Impact on partnership link with Montem Academy in terms of provision. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially explore the feasibility of transferring the undertaking of provision to independent provider. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain directly delivered provision by the Council and review staffing establishment.
<p>Centre</p>	<p>Summary Analysis</p>
<p>3.Penn Road, Penn Road, SL2 1PG</p>	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>3.1 Located within the ward of Baylis and Stoke. The area is also serviced by 2 PVI providers, 1 childminder and nursery provision in 2 primary schools.</p> <p>3.2 Baylis and Stoke has a population of 9.5K and is the third most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>3.3 8.5% of Slough 0-5 population live in the Penn Road catchment area.</p> <p>3.4 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 3 months – 7 years 11months 6 sessions split over the day, to reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are all year round or term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>3.5 Centre offers 70 PTE. Operates within a catchment area where data suggests there is a marginal places deficit of 71 places. This would increase to 178 in the absence of Children’s Centre capacity.</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>3.6 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Penn Road together with comparative information in relation to other centres.</p>

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
58	10.8%	26.9%	2.8%

3.7 Penn Road operates in a catchment area where an average of 285 children accessing funded provision which is 6.9% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

3.8 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
17	26.2%	0	0.0%	18	27.7%

Income and expenditure

3.9 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £485,500
- Supplies and services: £16,800
- Premises operating costs: £76,967
- Utilities: £6,202
- Income: £301,800

Net cost: £283,669

Premises

3.10 Large centre built within shared car park located next to Penn Wood School. Shared large car park. 70% of the centre used for early years, operating 51 weeks of the year. Maintenance and repairs and utilities are budgeted under buildings management. Boundaries lines are owned by Pinnacle a private company.

Case for change

3.11 Although there is a relatively small deficit of places in the area, uptake of provision is not considered to be strong at the centre or the adjoining school. This suggests that there is a need for change which could include potential discontinuation of directly managed provision.

	<p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on limited provision for all year round and paid childcare with all settings in the area. • Impact on capacity to address high number of families not accessing free entitlement in area. • Impact on campus approach with Penn Wood School for joint targeted work with families. • Impact on local understanding of mobility issues with families reluctant to cross the Farnham Road. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other providers in the area where required to take up provision and offer alternative places should this be required. • Enhance targeted work with families in the area to access support. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential discontinuation of direct Council delivery with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible.
Centre	Summary Analysis
4.Romsey Close Children's Centre, Romsey Close, SL3 8PE	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>4.1 Located within the ward of Langley Kedermister, adjoining Langley St Mary's and Foxborough wards.</p> <p>4.2 The area is also serviced by 2 PVI providers, 1 childminder and nursery provision in 2 primary schools.</p> <p>4.3 Langley Kedermister has a population of 10.7K and is the ninth most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>4.4 12.6% of Slough 0-5 population live in the Romsey Close catchment area.</p> <p>4.5 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 3 months – 7 years 11months 6 sessions split over the day, to reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are all year round or term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>4.6 Centre offers 84 PTE.</p> <p>4.7 Data suggests the centre is operating in an area with a significant surplus of places (524 places in excess of population demand numbers). 307 number of excess places in catchment area would remain without Children's Centre Capacity although local intelligence suggests there is a high demand for and usage of non-free entitlement</p>

childcare. This intelligence includes the view that the absence of the centre would leave a significant gap in provision that other providers would be unlikely to fill.

4.8 Area serviced by 5 large day nurseries inclusive of Romsey Close Children's Centre offering day-care and free entitlement places.

Provision uptake

4.9 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Romsey Close together with comparative information in relation to other centres.

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
69	12.8%	34.3%	0.1%

4.10 Romsey Close operates in a catchment area where an average of 786 children accessing funded provision which is 19.2% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

4.11 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
27	40.9%	0	0.0%	16	24.2%

Income and expenditure

4.12 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £458,300
- Supplies and services: £16,400
- Premises operating costs: £70,830
- Utilities: £7,559
- Income: £387,800

Net cost: £165,289

	<p>Premises 4.12 4th largest centre built in the grounds of Marish Primary school, The school has since become an Academy. The site shares utilities with the school. The Centre has its own car park with separate entrance and exit. 50% of the centre is used for early years provision. It operates for 51 weeks per year and is open 8-6pm, maintenance and repairs and utilities are budgeted in the buildings management team.</p> <p>Case for change 4.13 Romsey Close operates in an area with a significant surplus of places. Despite this, the centre responds to a high level of demand for its services and holds a waiting list. The centre has been extended twice to increase the provision offered and continues to exceed capacity. The overall surplus of places suggests that consideration to discontinuation could be given although local intelligence suggests this would significantly impact on non-FEE provision. Demand for childcare in this regard is high and well used. Analysis also suggests that remodelling of centre staffing could increase income to enable the provision to be cost neutral to the Council.</p> <p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential creation of a gap in provision for paid childcare. • Potential impact on families who appear to favour Romsey Close over other provision. • Potential impact on specific users such as teachers given flexibility and transport links. • Lack of options to accommodate existing children within the area, given the capacity issues at others in the area. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and utilisation of alternative provision in the area. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider maintenance of directly delivered Council provision and review staffing establishment to identify efficiencies.
Centre	Summary Analysis
5. Yew Tree Road Children's Centre, Yew Tree Road, Slough SL1 2AR	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>5.1 Located within the ward of Central, adjoining Upton ward.</p> <p>5.2 The area is also serviced by 3 PVI providers, 2 childminders and nursery provision in 4 primary schools.</p> <p>5.3 Central has a population of 14K and is the seventh most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>5.4 14% of 0-5 year olds live in the Yew Tree catchment area.</p>

5.5 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 2 years – 5 years 2 sessions split over the day, extended childcare 30 hours offered 8.45-4.15 4 days per week. To reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are term time only.

Childcare sufficiency data analysis

5.6 Centre offers 32 PTE.

5.7 Operates within an area where data suggests there is a significant deficit of places. (375 less places than population demand estimates indicate are required for the catchment area). This would rise to 473 places in the absence of Children's Centre capacity.

Provision uptake

5.8 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Yew Tree together with comparative information in relation to other centres.

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
30	5.6%	16.7%	0.1%

5.9 Yew Tree operates in a catchment area where an average of 392 children accessing funded provision which is 9.6% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

5.10 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
12	50.0%	0	0.0%	3	12.5%

Income and expenditure

Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £120,600
- Supplies and services: £5,600
- Premises operating costs: £53,178
- Income: £114,700

	<p style="text-align: center;">Net cost: £64,678</p> <p>Premises 5.11 Children's Centre and St Marys School nursery share the premises with the school managing all aspects of utilities and repairs crossed charged to SBC. The centre is located on St Mary's primary school site. The centre has a purpose-built room for early years.</p> <p>Case for change 5.12 Centre is in an area of high need within walking distance to the town centre. Size of premises presents as a challenge. Given the demand responded to and the overall deficit of places, there is a case to maintain provision. The only case for change identified relates to the scope and feasibility of the transfer of provision undertaking to an alternative provider to maintain sufficiency. Analysis also indicates that remodelling of the current staffing model would enable an increase in income and associated reduction in cost to enable the provision to operate cost neutral to the Council.</p> <p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impact on sufficiency given large deficit of early years places in area. • Negative impact on capacity could be exacerbated given housing developments in the area which will likely increase demand. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of independent provision. • The development of the CCG integrated care hub and the potential to develop provision in partnership as part of this development. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain directly delivered Council provision and review staffing establishment to identify efficiencies.
Centre	Summary Analysis
6.St Andrews Way Children's Centre, St Andrews Way, Slough SL1 5NL	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>6.1 Located within the ward of Cippenham Green.</p> <p>6.2 The area is also serviced by 2 PVI providers, 1 Nursery School and 2 schools with nursery provision.</p> <p>6.3 Cippenham Green has a population of 10K and is the second least most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>6.4 9% of 0 – 5 year olds live in the St Andrew's Way catchment area.</p>

6.5 Currently no early years provision provided via this centre since the Covid pandemic.

Childcare sufficiency data analysis

6.6 Offered 24 PTE.

6.7 Operated in an area where data suggests there is a marginal deficit of 40 places. This would increase to a shortfall of 72 in the absence of Children's Centre capacity.

6.8 The area also includes Cippenham Nursery School which has a capacity of 156 places.

Provision uptake

6.9 The following information summarises previous average attendance for early education and childcare at St Andrew's Way together with comparative information in relation to other centres.

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
19	3.6%	42.9%	0.1%

6.10 St Andrew's Way operates in a catchment area where an average of 372 children accessing funded provision which is 9.1% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

Income and expenditure

6.11 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £94,700
- Supplies and services: £4,600
- Premises operating costs: £40,637
- Income: £81,200

Net cost: £58,737

6.12 No staff currently working from this centre. General Support Assistant and cleaning support provided from Monksfield Way when needed for services.

Premises

6.13 Shared building with Cippenham Maintained Nursery School, located in the grounds of Cippenham Primary School. Shared utilities. No parking allocated.

	<p>Case for change</p> <p>6.14 Early years provision is not being delivered via this centre currently with the local Maintained Nursery School offering term time only places for 3,4-year-olds with extended offer. Although there is no 2-year provision currently offered in the area there is a case for change given the cessation of provision doesn't appear to have had an adverse impact on the local offer.</p> <p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact on sufficiency levels given the marginal deficit places. • Potential impact on capacity during holiday periods. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative impact hasn't been experienced since cessation of provision • Large percentage of childminders in this area. • Maintained Nursery School could potentially address any shortfall in capacity. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue directly delivered Council provision with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible.
<p>Centre</p> <p>7.Orchard Avenue Children's Centre, Orchard Avenue, Slough, SL1 6HE</p>	<p>Summary Analysis</p> <p>Service delivery context</p> <p>7.1 Located within the ward of Haymill and Lynch Hill.</p> <p>7.2 The area is also serviced by 3 PVI providers, 2 schools with nursery provision and 2 child-minders.</p> <p>7.3 Haymill and Lynch Hill has a population of 9K and is ranked twelfth on the ward level index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>7.4 9% of 0 – 5 year olds live in the Orchard Avenue catchment area.</p> <p>7.5 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 2 years – 5 years 2 sessions split over the day, extended childcare 30 hours offered 8.45-4.15 4 days per week. To reduce costs to families, only paying for the sessions used. Places are term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>7.6 Offers 24 PTE.</p> <p>7.7 Operates in a catchment area where data suggests there is a marginal surplus of 54 places. This would increase to 30 in the absence of Children's Centre capacity.</p>

7.8 Area also serviced by 2 large day nurseries providing childcare and FEE.

Provision uptake

7.9 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Orchard Avenue together with comparative information in relation to other centres.

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
27	5.0%	38.2%	0.1%

Orchard Avenue operates in a catchment area where an average of 320 children access funded provision which is 7.8% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

7.10 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
6	28.6%	0	0.0%	9	42.9%

Income and expenditure

7.11 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £96,000
- Supplies and services: £5,500
- Premises operating costs: £68,363
- Utilities: £6,507
- Income: £93,800

Net cost: £82,570

Premises

7.12 Centre is based on the Priory School site, without SLA agreement, the centre is standalone but requires access via the school grounds. SLA Under corporate landlord model.

	<p>Case for change 7.13 Given the surplus of places in the area and the larger centres in the catchment area, there is a case for change which includes potential discontinuation.</p> <p>Risks and mitigation</p> <p>Risk of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No alternative early years provision within close proximity. • Scope for alternative usage limited without consent of School • Potential impact on 2 year offer capacity. <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The centre is small in so early years offer could be accommodated by a larger centre. <p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinuation of directly delivered Council provision.
<p>Centre</p>	<p>Analysis</p>
<p>8.Elliman Avenue Children's Centre, Slough, SL2 5BA</p>	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>8.1 Located within the ward of Elliman.</p> <p>8.2 The area is also serviced by 1 PVI providers, 2 Maintained Nursery School, 1 school with nursery provision and 2 child-minders.</p> <p>8.3 Elliman has a population of 9K and is ranked eighth on the ward level index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>8.4 10% of 0 – 5 year olds live in the Elliman Avenue catchment area.</p> <p>8.5 Currently no early years provision provided from the Centre.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>8.6 Offered 24 PTE. Operated in an area where data suggests there is a marginal 64 place deficit. This would increase to 123 in the absence of Elliman Avenue capacity.</p> <p>8.7 The area is also serviced by Baylis Court (140 PTE with 6 Resource places) and Slough Centre Nursery School (174 PTE with 12 Resource places).</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>8.8 The following information summarises previous average attendance for early education and childcare at Elliman Avenue Children's Centre together with comparative information in relation to other centres.</p>

Termly average	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings
14	2.7%	30.9%	0.2%

8.9 Elliman Avenue operates in a catchment area where an average of 419 children access funded provision which is 10.2% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.

Income and expenditure

8.10 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £100,100
- Supplies and services: £13,700
- Premises operating costs: £57,105
- Income: £83,800

Net cost: £87,105

8.11 No staff currently allocated to the centre.

Premises

8.12 Elliman Avenue Children's Centre is located in James Elliman Academy School. The building has shared plant room and access with the schools out building. The centre has large rooms and parking.

Case for change

8.13 Due to staffing issues pre Covid and a drop in early years attendance families were offered and accepted alternative early years provision. Given the absence of provision and what appears to be negligible impact over time, there is a case to discontinue this provision on an ongoing basis.

Risks and mitigation

Risk of change

- None identified

Option for consideration

- Discontinue directly delivered council provision with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible.

Centre	Summary Analysis												
<p>9.Wexham Road Children's Centre, Slough, SL2 5JW</p>	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>9.1 Located within the ward of Elliman, adjoining Wexham Lea and Central wards.</p> <p>9.2 The area is also serviced by 1 PVI providers, 2 Maintained Nursery School, 1 school with nursery provision and 2 child-minders.</p> <p>9.3 Elliman has a population of 9K and is ranked fourth on the ward level index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>9.4 10% of 0 – 5 year olds live in the Wexham Road catchment area.</p> <p>9.5 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 2 years – 5 years 2 sessions offered am only, extended childcare 30 hours offered 8.45-12.30pm, 4days per week. Places are term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>9.6 Offers 24 PTE. Operates in an area where data suggests there is a marginal surplus of 38 places. This would increase to a deficit of 84 in the absence of the Children's Centre capacity.</p> <p>9.7 The area is also serviced by Lea Nursery School with a capacity of 106 PTE.</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>9.8 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Wexham Road Children's Centre together with comparative information in relation to other centres.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 1294 1449 1480"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>% termly average of children's centres</th> <th>Highest % of termly average across all settings</th> <th>Lowest % of termly average across all settings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Termly average</td> <td>20</td> <td>3.8%</td> <td>24.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>0.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>9.9 Wexham Road operates in a catchment area where an average of 526 children access funded provision which is 12.8% of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.</p> <p>9.10 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)</p>		% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings	Termly average	20	3.8%	24.1%				0.1%
	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings										
Termly average	20	3.8%	24.1%										
			0.1%										

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
2	28.6%	0	0.0%	2	28.6%

Income and expenditure

9.11 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £102,400
- Supplies and services: £8,500
- Premises operating costs: £123,172
- Utilities: £5,318
- Income: £80,400

Net cost: £158,990

Premises

9.12 The centre is located within the shared grounds of Iqra and Willow Primary Schools. The building is shared with Lea Nursery School and Mighty Acorns Day Nursery. Utilities are managed by corporate landlord and shared with all providers. Mighty Acorns pay a lease charge to buildings management.

Case for change

9.13 Reduction in the demand needed for all three providers to provide early years on the shared site suggests there is a need for change including the discontinuation of provision.

Risks and mitigation

Risk of change

- Potential challenges in determining viable, alternative use of space would not be an option financially for the existing providers and therefore under used and still a cost.

Mitigation

- Consideration of option for alternative use with providers and property services
- Given alternative provision in close proximity, sufficiency issues not anticipated.

	<p>Option for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue directly delivered Council provision with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible. 												
Centre	Summary Analysis												
10.Vicarage Way Children's Centre, Slough, SL3 0JY	<p>Service delivery context</p> <p>10.1 Located within the ward of Colnbrook and Poyle.</p> <p>10.2 The area is also serviced by 1 PVI providers and 2 schools with nursery provision.</p> <p>10.3 Colnbrook and Poyle has a population of 6.5K and is ranked eighth on the ward level index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>10. 4. 4% of 0 – 5 year olds live in the Vicarage Way catchment area.</p> <p>10.5 Offers a flexible childcare model for children 2 years - 5years 2 sessions offered am only, extended childcare 30hours offered 8.45-4.15pm, 4days per week. Places are term time only.</p> <p>Childcare sufficiency data analysis</p> <p>10.6 Offers 24 PTE.</p> <p>10.7 Operates in an area where data suggests there is a marginal deficit of 92 places that would increase to 133 in the absence of the Children's Centre capacity.</p> <p>Provision uptake</p> <p>10.8 The following information summarises average attendance for early education and childcare at Vicarage Way Children's Centre together with comparative information in relation to other centres.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1368 1449 1556"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>% termly average of children's centres</th> <th>Highest % of termly average across all settings</th> <th>Lowest % of termly average across all settings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Termly average</td> <td>22</td> <td>4.2%</td> <td>11.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>0.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>10.9 Vicarage Way operates in a catchment area where an average of 119 children access funded provision which is 2.9 % of the total number of 4,102 accessing funded places.</p> <p>10.10 Operating at a 92% occupancy average based on a termly 3 year average.</p> <p>10.11 The following information provides data in relation to vulnerable children currently on role for early education and childcare (Autumn 2022 data)</p>		% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings	Termly average	22	4.2%	11.6%				0.1%
	% termly average of children's centres	Highest % of termly average across all settings	Lowest % of termly average across all settings										
Termly average	22	4.2%	11.6%										
			0.1%										

Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who could be identified as having an additional need / SEND	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Children in attendance who are currently under statutory assessment	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable	Number of families supported who are classified as vulnerable
12	54.5%	0	0.0%	8	36.4%

Income and expenditure
10.12 Cost per annum analysis (figures based on 2022-2023 budget and corporately provided premises cost estimates)

- Staffing: £100,900
- Supplies and services: £5,600
- Premises operating costs: £50,075
- Utilities: £6,547
- Income: £82,500

Net cost: £80,622

Premises
10.13 Vicarage Way is a standalone centre. It's the only centre that operates outside of school grounds. The centre was created by refurbishing an existing building. The centre offers a satellite library service.

Case for change
10.134 Colnbrook has a very low under 5 population, there are two schools in the village both offering funding early years provision. There is therefore a case for change and the discontinuation of Council delivered provision.

Risks and mitigation

Risk of change

- No council provision or facilities within a reasonable travelling distance by public transport.

Mitigation

- Maintaining strong links with existing providers in the area to enable access.

Option for consideration

- Discontinuation of directly delivered Council provision with consideration given to potential PVI assumption of undertaking and or future use of centre should this be feasible.

5. Options for change summary

5.1 Analysis of the data referenced in this report has resulted in the following summary conclusions being drawn:

- SBC is delivering early education and childcare via its Children's Centres in areas where data suggests there is surplus capacity.
- Data also suggests that SBC's directly delivered offer is being provided in areas with sufficient capacity to meet requirements and need in the absence of directly provided provision.
- SBC is delivering early education and childcare via its Children's Centres at cost to the Council and that there is scope to reduce this cost by the discontinuation of directly managed provision within the overall context of making changes to its Children's centre delivery model.

5.2 Given the imperative to secure best value in use of SB resources, consideration should be given to the following summary options for discontinuation of directly delivered early education and childcare.

5.3 The following information serves as summary of identified options in relation to the direct delivery of early education and childcare via SBC's Children's Centre.

Early education and childcare delivery options	Potential benefits	Potential constraints
1. To discontinue all directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council through its Children's Centres	Reduces cost and potentially enables the wider economy of providers in the market to expand their provision where demand requires	Full discontinuation would present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met and access for vulnerable children in particular maintained. Family access choices will also be limited. It would be challenging to enable the market to fully address potential gaps in provision in the short to mid-term.
Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 347		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 197 / 347
2. To discontinue directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council from 7 Children's Centres whilst maintaining direct delivery via 3 (Recommended)	Reduces cost and potentially enables the wider economy of providers in the market to expand their provision where demand requires whilst maintaining provision in key areas of need and demand	Discontinuation will present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met although analysis indicates this risk can be addressed through actions to mitigate impact with particular regard to market engagement and the phasing of change to minimise any negative impact. Due consideration needs to be given to

		the access needs of vulnerable children in particular
Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 176		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 144 / 176
3. To discontinue directly delivered early education and childcare provision provided by the Council from 8 Children's Centres whilst maintaining direct delivery via 2	Reduces cost and enables the wider economy of providers in the market to potentially expand their provision where demand requires whilst maintaining provision in key areas of need and demand	Discontinuation will present challenges in ensuring sufficiency requirements are met although analysis indicates this risk can be addressed through actions to mitigate impact with particular regard to market engagement and the phasing of change to minimise any negative impact. Due consideration needs to be given to the access needs of vulnerable children in particular
Total number of children attending provision as of Sept 2022 potentially affected by option for change: 203		Total number of vulnerable children potentially affect by option for change: 157 / 203
4. To continue to provide existing childcare arrangements	No changes will be made to existing provision.	<p>The target savings for reducing buildings will not be achieved.</p> <p>The Council will continue to subsidise childcare costs by provision of buildings.</p> <p>The Council will continue to directly provide a significant number of childcare places without a clear rationale as to why this is appropriate, which is contrary to the legislation.</p> <p>The Council continuing to provide a significant number of childcare places has the potential of distorting the market and putting other childcare operators out of business or preventing new providers entering the market.</p>

It should be noted that the implementation of any of the above options would require carefully consideration in terms of transition. A phased approach would be required so that families affected by any change are supported to make timely, alternative arrangements for childcare should this be necessary. It should also be noted that careful attention would also need to be paid to implementation from the perspective of impact on staff whose employment may be affected by any agreed change. In addition, due time and capacity would also need to be afforded so that work can be undertaken with external providers who may wish to develop or extend their offers in light of any agreed changes should that be necessary.

5.5 The table below provides a 'centre by centre' summary of the bearing these options have on each of the current centres offer of directly delivered early learning and childcare should they be pursued.

Current Children's Centre location	Maintained as Council delivered early education and childcare			
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Chalvey Grove	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elliman Avenue	No	No	No	Yes
Monksfield Way	No	No	No	Yes
Orchard Avenue	No	No	No	Yes
Penn Road	No	No	No	Yes
Romsey Close	No	Yes	No	Yes
St Andrew's Way	No	No	No	Yes
Vicarage Way	No	No	No	Yes
Wexham Road	No	No	No	Yes
Yew Tree Road	No	Yes	Yes	Yes