

Strengthening our Early Help offer in Milton Keynes

What is the current position?

In Milton Keynes we have a mix of Children's Centres and Family Centres. Family Centres support families with children aged from 0-19, whilst the Children's Centres focus on families with children aged 0-5.

Why make a change?

Our Children's Centres and Family Centres were established over 15 years ago. In that time, the city has grown and changed, and the population now has different needs. Whilst some centre locations are still appropriate, others are not.

In many areas, there is significant growth leading to more requests for services and several new housing developments are some distance from the closest centre, leaving those families without easy access to this support.

Young people and their families are also in more need of early help and as 13 of the 17 centres are only able to support families with children under the age of 5, there are young people and adults with limited access to centre services.

Service users have also told us that they would like services to be more joined up, and that whole family support should be available at all centres.

The current model means that local support varies depending on where families live, with some centres operating all week, and others operating for a few hours.

What is the opportunity?

By moving from 4 to 10 family centres, we can provide a whole family offer across the city, rather than a focus on 0-5 years in some areas.

All centres will provide:

- Support and activities for all ages
- Access to specialist services, including mental health support, and parenting support focused on all children and young people, not just up to the age of 5
- Cost of living support, including access to community larder and food bank
- Expanded holiday offer, to support families with school aged children in the school holiday period
- A full 5 day a week offer, from 8.30am till late

The new offer also proposes to join up library and family centre services, and improve access for families, by providing services from both Newport Pagnell and Wolverton libraries.

By making this change it will provide a whole family approach, offering early help at the right time and in the right place.

Further details about the centers can be found overleaf.

Next steps:

The consultation period will begin on 20 May and will end on 18 June 2024. After this time, we will consider any responses to the proposal and decide whether to proceed. If it is decided that the proposal should go ahead, the new arrangements would start from September 2024.

Proposed family centres:

Centre base	Hedgerows at Netherfield	Moorlands at Beanhill	Saplings at Queensway, Central Bletchley	Rainbow at Pepper Hill School Wolverton library	Rowans at Fullers Slade	Conniburrow at Germander Park School Pebbles at Willows School, Fishermead	Daisychain at Abbeys Primary School, West Bletchley	Hummingbird at Broughton	Newport Pagnell Library	Sunshine at Merebrook, Furzton
Areas covered	Netherfield Tinkers Bridge Eaglestone Peartree Bridge Woughton on the Green Browns Wood Caldecotte Old Farm Park Passmore Simpson Walnut Tree Walton Park Wavendon Gate Walton Woughton Park	Beanhill Coffee Hall Leadenhall Ashland	Lakes estate Central Bletchley Eaton Leys Newton Leys Bow Brickhill Denbigh East Fenny Stratford Little Brickhill	Wolverton New Bradwell Bradville Stantonbury Oakridge Park Neath Hill Wolverton Mill Old Wolverton Blakelands Bolbeck Park Brook Furlong Bancroft Bacroft Park Bluebridge Great Linford Downhead Park Pennyland Willen Park	Fuller Slade Greenleys Hodge Lea Stacey Bushes Galley Hill Stony Stratford Fairfields Calverton	Conniburrow Fishermead CMK Heelands Bradwell Common Oldbrook Springfield Campbell Park Downs Barn Rooksley Bradwell Great Holm Two Mile Ash Newlands	West Bletchley Granby Far Bletchley Brickfields Denbigh North and West Old Bletchley	Broughton Brooklands Atterbury Middleton Oakgrove Monkston Woburn Sands Glebe Farm Eagles Rest Tower Gate Wavendon Broughton Gate Eagle Farm Church Farm Fox Milne MK Village Northfields Woolstone Monkston Park Kingston Kents Hill	Newport Pagnell and Newport expansion Willen Redhouse Park Giffard Park Tongwell All rural villages	Furzton, Grange Farm Oxley Park Whitehouse Crownhill Westcroft Shenley estates Emerson Valley Knowlhill Hazely Loughton Loughton Lodge Medbourne Oakhill Woodhill Kingsmead Tattenhoe Tattenhoe Park

How can I find out more and contribute to this consultation?

This consultation seeks views from parents, carers, and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. Please go online and complete the [MS form here](#).

If you are unable to access the online form, you may respond by email to: Children.centres@milton-keynes.gov.uk