



Financial Year	2017/18
Proposal no.	CS-2017-304
Directorate	Children's Services

Savings Programme Pre-consultation Report

Subject:	Proposed cessation of Mobile Play Team
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1 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the following proposal:

- 1.1 That the Mobile Play Team cease to operate generating a saving of £44k.

Reason for recommendation

- 1.2 The Mobile Play Team, whilst valuable and well received by the community, is not a statutory service the local authority must provide.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Mobile Play Team was established following closure of the Falinge Park Play Centre and former Doorstep Play vehicle in the savings of 2016 /17. The Mobile Play team visits locations across the borough, in each of the four townships, at differing locations, on a revolving six week basis. Over the last 2 months the Mobile Play Team has delivered 36 individual sessions across venues in all of the borough's townships engaging with a total of 352 individual children. The team provides a range of outdoor activities to children aged 4 – 11 years.

2.2 However this service is the whole of the local authority's delivery of children's play provision in the borough.

3 Financial Implications

The saving proposal is 100% of the Council's direct budget for the area of service affected.

3.1 Table 1 provides details of the proposed cessation of Mobile Play Team

	Savings 2017/18		Savings 2018/19		Total savings	
	£k		£k		£k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees	52				52	
Other Costs	39				39	
Income lost	(47)				(47)	
Net savings	44				44	
Additional income generated						
Total savings	44				44	
Implementation costs						
Total savings less implementation costs	44				44	

4 Asset implications

4.1 There are no asset implications arising from this proposal, although there is a range of play equipment and associated resources that could be re-distributed to any voluntary or other play providers

5 Voluntary Sector impact

5.1 There are no voluntary sector implications arising from this proposal.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 General Public are consulted as part of this consultation.
- 6.2 The key stakeholders for this proposal have been identified as:
- Children and Young People
 - Community members
 - Parents
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- 6.3 The Council must ensure that it remains open-minded throughout the consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.

7 Alternatives considered

- 7.1 Members could decide not to take the proposal forward and identify alternative saving proposals.

8 Risk Assessment Implications

- 8.1. There may be an increase in perceived anti-social behavior by children should there be no play provision available to them.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this proposal.

10 Personnel Implications

- 10.1 Subject to any final decisions on the service delivery element of the proposals outlined within this report there may be personnel implications for the council's workforce and this consultation with the workforce will be undertaken in accordance with council's Personnel Policy Framework.

11 Equalities Impacts

Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

- 11.1 The Council will undertake a Corporate Workforce Equality Impact Assessment based on those employees identified at risk of redundancy at the start of formal consultation which will commence in November 2016 and this will be reviewed against the current workforce profile.

Equality/Community Impact Assessments

- 11.2 There are equality/community issues arising from this report. More detail can be found in the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 1.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

1. Please state the name of the officers leading the EIA
XXX XXXXX/XXXX XXXXX
2. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment?
Officers within Early help and Schools
3. What is the scope of this assessment?
The proposal is to cease funding and delivery of the council's current Mobile Play Team
4 a). What does the function currently do?
b). Describe the needs which this service meets?
The Mobile Play Team visits locations across the borough, in each of the four townships on a revolving six week basis. The service is offered on an open access basis to children between the ages of 4 years and 11 years (younger children do attend accompanied by parents and young people above 11 years also attend although they are not the target audience). This is the only Mobile Play Team offered by the Council to children in out of school and holiday periods.
5. What proposed changes do you wish to make?
The proposal is to cease funding and delivery of the council's current Mobile Play Team.
6. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed changes?
Children and Young people Community members Parents
7. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups?
Race Equality
n/a

Disabled People
Children with additional needs can and do attend play sessions offered by the Mobile Team in their communities
Carers
n/a
Gender
n/a
Age
The service affected is specifically aimed at children aged 4 to 11 years. Children are an under represented group
Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel
n/a
Religion or Belief
n/a
Sexual Orientation
n/a
Gender Reassignment
n/a
Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks
n/a
Marriage or Civil Partnership
n/a

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

What are the main conclusions and recommendations from this analysis?

The withdrawal of the Mobile Play Team will impact on the provision available for children aged 4 – 11 years old in the borough particularly those with limited family income as this provision is free and delivered within neighbourhoods.

9. In the box below please provide details of who you will consult with on the proposals, when you consult, and the methods which you will use to consult. In the box below

The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used

- The Early Help and Schools Service Consultative Group
- The Mobile Play Team
- General Public via the consultation hub

Consultation letters will be prepared and sent to all affected individuals, these will include;

- Local Authority staff who may be affected by this proposal

The letter will outline the proposal and arrange dates, times and venues for face to face consultation meetings. The letter will ask that groups direct/signpost their service users and other interested parties to the location of information (e.g. council web pages) relating to the proposal so that they may comment also.

We will arrange opportunities for children to make their thoughts and opinions known through comments books etc. to be available alongside age appropriate written information for children.

10. Produce an action plan detailing the mitigation measures that you propose to put in place to address any adverse impacts.

Mitigation Measure	Action	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date	Review Date	Evaluation Measure
Ensure children are able to understand and comment on the proposal	Ensure information provided to children is age appropriate or explained to them in means they can understand	Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff	September to October	October	Responses made
Ensure parents are made aware of the proposal and know where and how they might comment.	Ensure posters are displayed detailing where information can be accessed	Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff	September to October	October	Responses made