

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO INFORM DECISION MAKING

1. Content

A consultation on the future of the Compass House Crèche service was launched on 22 June 2016 and ran until 13 July 2016. The consultation was available on the DCC 'Have your say' webpages and paper copies available at the site itself.

- 25 responses received on-line
- 15 written responses received
- 2 emails received on Friday 12 August 2016

An Equalities Impact Assessment was also available as part of the consultation.

2. Key feedback messages from consultation

The overall balance of responses was against the proposal to close the crèche service, but many respondents (but not all) also recognised that the current services was under-used and represented poor value for money. A number offered alternative suggestions for consideration. There were three broad themes from the consultation presented below:-

(a) Concern over impact on vulnerable people without access to on-site childcare

- 1.1 Many respondents felt that without the crèche some who needed support would not attend the sessions they needed including:-

Consultation Feedback	Response
Parents with small children would rather leave them in a crèche on site	There is no clinical reason for an on-site facility. In <u>exceptional</u> circumstances special arrangements could be arranged (see mitigation below)
Not having to worry to arrange childcare	Support is available from the Early Years service
This may act as a barrier to therapy	There is no clinical reason for an on-site facility. In <u>exceptional</u> circumstances special arrangements could be arranged (see mitigation below).

1.2 Considerations

- 1.2.1 The balance of opinion was clearly in favour of retaining an on-site service from respondents.

1.2.2 Senior Clinicians at Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) advise that there is no clinical reason or need for an on-site facility.

1.3 Mitigation

1.3.1. DCC will establish links between the Depression and Anxiety Service (DAS) at Compass House and DCC (operated and contracted) childrens centres. To mitigate for exceptional and unforeseen circumstances and where there is an assessment agreed by a mental health service practitioner that an individual can only be supported with an on-site child care arrangement then the DAS service may arrange directly to support that individual at a different site (with childcare available on site). This will only be in exceptional circumstances as defined by a clinician in the DAS.

(b) Improve attendance levels and income to make the crèche financially sustainable

2.1 There were numerous comments around this theme such as:-

Consultation Feedback	Response
Increase charges	To be comparable with local childminding rates the crèche might charge £6 per hour. This would require 9.7 children per hour to attend. This is considered unlikely.
Offer the crèche to a wider group	This is a possibility but cannot be considered in isolation from any charge given this is likely to impact on demand. This would probably require reregistration with OFSTED to allow parents to leave the site. There is the potential to impact on other providers of childcare in the area detrimentally
Re-register with OFSTED	See above ... this cannot be considered in isolation from other factors
Publicise the service	This is also a possibility to attract a wider group (see above)
Seek alternative funding	This is unlikely to come from other statutory agencies given the pressure on health, care and other statutory budgets and the alternatives available for parents. Funding from non-statutory sources would need to be secured and a case made to potential sources of finance.

2.2 Considerations

- 2.2.1 The cost per child hour stated in the consultation was £81.91, with parents contributing £1.50 per session attended.
- 2.2.2 The estimated cost of childminding is expected to be around £6 per hour locally.
- 2.2.3 Based on no increase in income from increased charges there would need to be an average 37.7 children per planned session for the crèche to be financially self-sufficient.
- 2.2.4 Assuming charges were also increased to £6 per hour (then this would require an average of 9.7 children to attend to make the crèche financially self sufficient.
- 2.2.5 It is also possible to have some combination of increased attendance (as per 2.2.3) and increased charges (as per 2.2.4)

2.3 Mitigation

- 2.3.1 DCC can signpost to other child care support and has negotiated an exceptional arrangement to mitigate against an unforeseen case.
- 2.3.2 There is no clinical reason to have an on-site crèche

(c) Revisit the Impact Assessment

- 3.1 A number of comments were made around inaccuracies in the content or not addressing the likely disproportionate impact on some groups such as women, single parents or those on low incomes.
- 3.2. The Impact Assessment has been redrafted to reflect these issues and concerns and will be considered by the decision maker as part of their responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty in coming to any decision.

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