Contents

Q2. Please list any other venues in your local area which you feel Children’s Centre services could be delivered from: ................................................................. 2

Q4. Thinking about future provision of children’s centres, and bearing in mind the reducing budgets available for the service, how do you think children’s centres should be delivered in future? .................................................................................................................. 17

Q5. Do you have any comments to make about our proposal, or about any issues that might arise as a result of it? ................................................................................................................................. 27

Q7 Which of the following are you completing this survey as? .................................................. 99
Q2. Please list any other venues in your local area which you feel Children’s Centre services could be delivered from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already existing children's centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsager Civic Centre, Radway Estate Community House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsager Civic centre, Christ church community hall, Alsager 13 club, Alsager Community church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any building that is available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any village halls/ community centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anywhere where there is a big enough space for the cc staff to lug all the toys/equipment in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anywhere with easy access to parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash fields, the library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashfield primary care centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashfields Health Centre Sandbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashfields doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At our homes. Churches and halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradwall Village Hall St Peter's Church Hall Sandbach Town Hall Union St Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Cross Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Cross Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken cross school- keep it open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedars medical centre Alsager Civic centre Alsager 13 club Alsager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childrens Centres!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childrens centres are a valuable community asset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Hall, village halls, primary schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Halls e.g. Wesley Centre / Elworth (St. Peter's) Hall, Sandbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Halls, e.g. St Peter's Elworth, Wesley Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Halls. Leisure Centre. Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls council offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls, libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls, pre schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church halls, such as St. VINCENTS or St John's in Knutsford or in Knutsford leisure centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic hall Nantwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Hubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community group premises or even church halls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community halls, churches, doctors, playcentre a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community halls, libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community hospital Church halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council office sandbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crewe lifestyle centre?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crewe park cafe, edelston school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current hurstdfield one is great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver them from the Children's centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated council buildings with dedicated staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors surgeries?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't close any down. Simple as that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr/medical centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle bridge Large health centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgeeton sports centre, Knutsford leisure centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elim Church - Regents Theological College Nantwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Children's Centres!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag lane baths Victoria centre Sports halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP surgeries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP surgery health hubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gp surgeries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centre or community hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health visitor area at church view medical centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes chapel Methodist church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I actually struggle to think of anywhere that could be suitable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can't as the service delivered in the centres is unique and should stay as it is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know anywhere else in Middlewich as I do not know the area terribly well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't think any alternative venues will adequately compensate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I think they should stay in the purpose built children's centres.

I would strongly prefer that it stayed in its present location

I wouldn't

I'd like it to stay where it is in central Nantwich

I'm new to the area so don't know of any venues but church halls could also be considered.

Keep broken cross open and as it is

Keep the current broken cross children's ctre

Keep where there already are

Keeping the current centre

Knutsford Childrens Centre is purpose built - why move it??

Knutsford General hospital, one of the churches,

Knutsford Library

Knutsford Sports Club, Knutsford Civic centre

Knutsford Town Council offices

Knutsford civic centre

Knutsford community Hospital

Knutsford library.?

Knutsford library?

Leave it where it is- the building is virtually brand new! Doesn't seem logical

Leisure Centre

Leisure Centre Community hospital

Leisure centre, church hall

Leisure centres

Leisure centres

Leisure centres and local schools

Leisure centres.

Libraries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Outdoor spaces in local parks in summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>Clinics, Doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Church halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>church halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>egg Holmes chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>health centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little   scallywags nursery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor Park Preschool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical centres?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlewich Salinae Clinic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich Elim Church Centre, Regent Park, London Road, Nantwich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich children center! Librarys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich children's centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich childrens centre could be moved to Wybunbury village hall or local church in nantwich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich civic hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich library?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lifestyle centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New life church fuller drive Shavington youth centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue Type</td>
<td>Locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No other venues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None that I am aware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None that are better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None! Should stay where it is!!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None, a dedicated children's centre is the best environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None, broken cross is a perfect location and venue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None. The children's centres should be left as they are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor venues such as Queens Park in the summer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-schools/Nurseries/schools Village halls makes perfect sense in the heart of the community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisons and prison visitor centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajar building, Mobberley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinae, library, Wych Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinae, wych centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach &amp;Middlewich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach Children's Centre alongside Sandbach Primary Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach Primary Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashfields Medical centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach childrens centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach childrens centre which is currently delivering the service effectively</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach library, sandbach leisure centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach primary academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Nursery Church

Schools

Schools, community centres, town halls

Scout hall

Shaw Heath, Knutsford

Should be at the present location at their sites in knutsford

Should keep the venues we already have, what a waste of resources

Social clubs, Local hospitals, Gp surgeries, Civic centre, Knutsford

Somewhere that has parking as well as access on foot.

Sports centres

Sports clubs

Sports halls

Sports halls, church halls

St John's Church Earlsway, or Calvary Church Earlsway, Macclesfield

St Johns Knutsford

St Peters

St Johns community centre

St. Peter’s church

St. Peter’s church, Elworth, Sandbach library

Stapeley Community Hall. Nantwich Methodist Church. St Mary’s Parish Hall, Nantwich.

Stapeley community centre

The Olive Grove, Nantwich. Stapeley Village Hall, Nantwich

The Sandbach centre can stay where it is, as part of the primary school.

The Welcome Church - NOT the Charity

The Wesley centre Sandbach St. Peter’s church hall

The children centre is the best place in my opinion.

The children’s centre!
The children's centre!!!

The childrens centre!

The civic centre Alsager.

The current children centre in Nantwich should remain since very valuable to local families

The existing childrens centres

The existing site is perfect

The local leisure centre

The purpose built centres at Broken Cross and Knutsford.

The purpose built venue in Knutsford

The town hall or already owned council property that isn't being bloody used

The welcome cafe longridge knutsford

There are no other suitable venues, the best place would be the children's centres!

There are no suitable alternative venues

Town hall

Town hall Sandbach Library

Town hall, church halls, boys and girls school hall

Unsure new to area

Village Halls School's Social Clubs

Village halls

Village halls Libraries Function rooms in pubs if appropriate

Village halls

Village halls, Community centres

Village halls, schools, other council owned buildings - leisure centres, libraries?

Water Street Centre, Bollington where Bollington Pre School is located.

Wesley Center/Elworth Church Hall

Wesley Centre

Wesley Centre, Town Hall
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Current Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Centre Sandbach</td>
<td>Sandbach Primary School, St Mary's Church Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westfields Sandbach</td>
<td>Town Halls, Church Halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston Community Centre</td>
<td>Macclesfield Leisure Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston Library on Earlsway</td>
<td>Macclesfield Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where it is now: Wesley Centre Sandbach, Sandbach Primary School, St Mary's Church Hall.

Where they are currently:

- Wych Centre, Middlewich
- Youth Centre and Village Hall

Churches, Clinics and Doctors, Community Centres, Doctor's Surgerys, Health Centre, Library, Primary School.

Personally feel a Children's Centre is the most suitable venue, due to space and viability when other buildings are in purposeful use like nursery/pre-school could already be short on space, same for schools.

Schools would be a good option, though I am not sure how that would work realistically as schools are full to capacity in the Sandbach area.

Local church halls are where a lot of playgroups function from in Alsager and already have good facilities. They are cheap to hire and maybe there could be some agreements about equipment sharing and storing? I like the idea of pre-school at local schools so that children get to connect with future places that they are likely to spend a lot of their time at in the future - it will help them to adjust to going to school.

I don't think there are any other venues in Knutsford that could deliver the services the children Centre delivers.

I personally feel the children's Centre run out of any other location than the multipurpose building currently in Nantwich would not run as effective and be used as much as it currently is.

There are no other venues in Broken Cross that would be suitable. The Children's Centre is very much a community Centre also and is the best place to run children's Centre services.
Any venue which already provides some element of children's service - libraries, church halls, leisure centres.

The Broken Cross Childrens Centre currently operates from modern purpose built premises and all services should continue to do so for the foreseeable future

Keep the one there now, it is a valuable resource for Sandbach and with more houses planned/ being built, will be even more in demand.

Cheshire Academy broad st crewe Barnabas Church west st crewe St Peter"s church hall Minshull vernon crewe

Within Knutsford- St. John's community centre Church halls Manor park school and nursery St Vincent's school

I think the children's centre should remain open in Nantwich. It's disgusting that you're looking to close it especially when there's 3 open in Crewe!


I feel the children's centre is the best place as its in the middle of everywhere and easy to get to. I don't feel it should be moved anywhere!

Use existing (free) child care locations, Young Mums' meetings, etc to access the right people. Watch though for carers who struggle to get out house!

I feel strongly that the Children's Centre in Knutsford is essential for the community, and should not be closed. The Longridge and Shaw Heath areas of the town suffer from considerable deprivation in comparison to other areas of the town and outlying areas, and with poor transport links, need good local support for their Children

The children's centre should stay exactly where it is in sandbach. They offer an invaluable service and to take that away from parents who can't afford to travel is absolutely shocking!

Nantwich Methodist Church St Mary's Church Hall Stapeley Community Hall THE CHILDRENS CENTRE!!!!!!!

Not the health centre, the rooms in there are not comfortable. I wouldn't go if it's there. I don't think many mums would go there either. I hope that you've included in the budget that you will get increased costs dealing with higher levels of postnatal depression as a result

I do not believe question 1 is fair or appropriately worded. I do not agree with de-designation of the children's centres at all, yet the above question forces people to indicate which alternatives they agree with - there is no option to indicate that we disagree with the proposals. This will not provide data that accurately reflects the feelings of the population affected. De-designated services "could" be delivered from any of the above venue(s),
however none would be a suitable replacement for the purpose built facilities (particularly at Broken Cross in Macclesfield) that are currently available. The above options are used for other purposes, and the times they are available to host the services currently available in the Children's Centre may not suit the other needs of the community or those who access them.

None really? KCC is not just about a venue but a lovely welcoming place to go for activities help and advice. The centre has served the community for 8 years and the community has grown via the services it offers. I am devastated that this may close.

Difficult to think of somewhere that would provide the same safe, child friendly environment. with separate rooms for private meetings with health visitors, cherubs breast feeding groups, toilets/kitchen, messy play and safe outside play.

I don't feel that a venue that is not specifically a children's centre would be able to offer the same services

There are no other venues in Knutsford to deliver services from. All the facilities are at or beyond capacity. Or the environment is not of a standard for young families. The community centre in the area was closed by Cheshire East to allow merger into the adjacent school. (St Johns Wood) The Welcome building would not be fit for purpose. Shaw Heath is not fit for purpose. The community hospital site may be useful for the health services but before Surestart is was deemed to be too far away from the people it was helping.

The existing premises are located centrally to the areas they serve and as such are the best place to continue delivering children's services from. Nantwich and Rural South is located on school premises and as it forms part of a live building environment run by the Local Authority, the proposed closure of the Children's Centre would not result in cost savings of any substance and is therefore pointless.

There are no other local venues suitable for delivery in the Knutsford area. Local library delivers a range of services to the whole community but has limited space/availability. Local community centre was closed last year and given to the school.

Why not contact some of the baby groups such as baby Sensory to see whether the facilities could be shared with them during classes.

I don't feel it needs moving but there are multiple venues in the area that could be used. Ie village halls or at a local nursery

We deliver Strong Women workshops at the Children's Centre. We are not aware of any other community venues in the Longridge, Knutsford area that provides such a child friendly environment, with provision to run a creche alongside each workshop.

I believe the Knutsford children’s centre is more than adequate to deliver the services which are currently present

Wistaston Memorial Hall. Wistaston Church Lane Academy. The Brittles, Wistaston. Wells Green Church.
Outreach to children who need it most in their homes or preschool / nursery. We particularly value the support given by children's centre staff to help parents to attend appointments and apply advice given, e.g. by speech and language therapist, paediatrician etc. Having a familiar, supportive person with them who knows the full picture and the current targets for the family e.g. through a CAF / CIN / CP plan.

School, one to ones at parents home instead of centre, village halls, rooms to hire ie. Curzon, tennis club cost dependant

I believe that the current Broken Cross Children's Centre is a vital part of the Broken Cross community and that a new delivery venue is not an option. Looking at Macclesfield on the whole the area which the centre caters to is one of the most deprived areas in the town. A lot of the families rely on public transport and moving this elsewhere is not really an option. None; it needs to be somewhere where people feel able to attend easily and with specialised help for the needs of the community. Definitely not something that volunteers will be able to do, and getting parents into a school situation when they have small children would definitely not be conducive to encouraging attendance.

I don't believe that any of the above options make a difference and feel that as long as the building is suitable then the buildings primary use is of little relevance. For example Acton Village Hall would likely not be suitable as it is old and doesn't have specific baby changing but the new Village Hall off Peter Destapleigh Way would be suitable as it has these facilities.

I don't have specific suggestion but they need to be central so you don't have to drive or you limit their use.

There are no comparable locations in Knutsford. Knutsford struggles for good meeting space let alone purpose built children’s facilities

Nantwich park/lake. - summer months . Church halls/civic hall, school halls, elim church/Regent's Park. Not sure where the 'kit' will be stored.

Possibly church halls but relevant equipment etc would need to be brought in to match the quality of activities provided at the Stay and Play. For example, most play groups in church halls or similar venues avoid doing any messy crafts whereas the Stay and Play always has painting etc.

Sandbach Town Hall - though the upstairs location would not be ideal, somewhere with good parking and accessible by bus

i think the venus needs to have spare rooms, no other children (safeguarding reasons for the children within that venue).

For me they need to be delivered in Nantwich. My baby won't go in the car so driving is awful and I don't have pavements by the house

Knutsford childrens centre is actually by far the most convenient and best location for
myself and the other mums I know- we feel it would be a real shame and inconvenience for it to move. It was a life saver to go to in the first 6 months post birth and provides a fantastic service

In Congleton some of the children's centres facilities such as baby weighing are offered in a local play centre.

Libraries - though I believe my local library has a children's centre but it is very poorly advertised.

Personally I think the children's centre in Knutsford meets a great need. There is a level of ignorance in assuming only children of so called deprived families are in need or at risk.

Sandbach Town Hall  As children's centre activities run into the school holidays, sandbach boys school sports hall and other primary school halls could be utilised

why not work with the partnerships team at CE who are already establishing community hubs across cheshire east and put services into the venues they are supporting? they must be delivered from venues which are accesible for the local community,warm and welcoming.

You need one port of call so to speak, where people know they can go to to get the relevant information, help and advice. This is what the children's centre were made for!

This is a leading question, as is no. 1 and no. 3 - you are skewing the question to make people feel bad about not prioritising vulnerable children

Keep them in the current locations. Just because Crewe is larger and has more families eligible for services, it doesn't mean the children living in other areas don't need equivalent levels of help.

The children’s centres need to remain in the current location as they are proving to be supporting those with the greatest need e.g. The delivery of post natal support groups which function to limit the effects/ development of post-natal depression.

However, in Knutsford the community centre on Longridge has been closed, and the town council review on public space has proven that space is at a premium and is costly. The Children's centre is fit for purpose, is not open access and if Ofsted registered. Equipment is state of the art, the environment is inviting, child friendly and safeguarding is a priority. I struggle to identify another venue suitable for what it delivers - and the centre have already tried to utilise school space but this is also at a premium.

Not schools or pre schools/nurseries the have enough to deal and not online mums need face to face interaction and reassurances!

Local church halls/ community centres such as Wesleyan centre in sandbach and rode Heath village hall

Our local community centre on longridge in knutsford is closing down! I think the childrens centre in knutsford should most definitely stay open
Bollington community centre Bollington library Bollington leisure centre Bollington arts centre

I don't think you can deliver that level of service in any other building other than purpose built. It's clean excellent facilities where you feel safe taking a new born baby

I completely disagree with the de-designation of our Children's Centre based in Sandbach. As a community, we need the Sandbach Children’s Centre to remain the same, in its own building on Middlewich Road.

Please do not close down the existing centres. As austerity continues to bite and housing developments continue to be approved in Sandbach, for example, we will have increasing numbers of families with young children and yet the council is trying to reduce resources. Please do not undo all the great work already done in setting up the centre for the area. I keep getting messages from Cheshire East council about their surpluses and then I get these messages saying Cheshire East can't afford to keep a service open. What's happening with the surpluses? Sandbach needs this service now and will need it in the future.

Hayes Hall, Earlsway Calvery Church, Earlsway Broken Cross Nursery School Upton Priory School, Berwick Close

Any non school venue that is comfortable and economical to hire/run

As it now

Broken cross community hall

Broken cross community hall somewhere on up-ton priory

Church hall + libraries, school hails

Church halls

Church halls + libraries

Church halls - especially in shavington

Costa, town hall, disused retails

Doctors

Haslington doctors surgery

Library, Elim bible college, brookfield council park offices.

Local libraries/ church/ church halls

No other location to attend

None in this area

Oakley centre
St johns church

The centres are perfect where they are

There is very little scope for this within knutsford library

none

There is no or little capacity in knutsford public buildings. where do you expect to hold play groups?

Current children's centre in knutsford has got the best position as it is accessible from all parts of knutsford by week.
Q4. Thinking about future provision of children's centres, and bearing in mind the reducing budgets available for the service, how do you think children's centres should be delivered in future?

“Other” responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change the government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribute resources according to need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage more groups to use/rent rooms at centres when not in use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight to keep the budget! It's imperative!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find the money from somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have 1 in each town. Not 3 in Crewe and non in sandbach and Nantwich. That is very unfair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like the idea of outreach at community venues - this cuts building maintain acne costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think they should continue as they are. They do such a good job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will be a huge loss if any children's Centre services are lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint working with Health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep ALL existing resources and add more staff funding. Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the existing and attract more volunteers to help out?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the existing provision. Increase the precept so that services can be maintained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kept how it currently is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain ALL the existing centres as they are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain all children's centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the existing network of Children's Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the existing network of Children’s Centres, keeping all open as now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make cuts elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce red tape/bureaucracy by funding groups &amp; activities in the areas that need it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce waste without cutting any staff limits or resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retain existing centres and staffing levels, but with greater support from the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should be available in each area so that there is at least one centre in each town</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Simple don’t close any down

Spread the impact across the whole of Children’s Services

The same as they are now

Would the Parish Council’s contribute?

if can do with reduced staffing

keep all of them open and keep all the staff

keep broken cross open with full services as there are two centres in hurdsfield anyway

keep the children centre and staff as they are.

leave them alone take money from elsewhere

leave them as they are. reduce mps wages and pensions to help with funding.

maintain all current childrens centre

no change to staffing just less money spent on other things like pens, posters, food

reduce admin staff

try not to reduce staff, but do it economically!:

using local spaces, as needed

The children’s centres should remain open, with paid staff in place. Without these services many children will not have sociable activities as many play centres and groups are not financially viable for low income families. This connects with isolating children and developmental delay.

Somewhere between the two depending on real local knolwedge. This is rather a biased way of expressing the question lumping all the proposed closures together. There should be scope for flexibility and depending on the quality of the experience and relationships with the local community.

How about keeping the children’s centres in Nantwich and Sandbach etc, but put in place a charge across all groups and courses etc of say £1 per family with a cap of £5 per week.

I think there will be vulnerable children in all areas which need support. I wouldn't be where I am

Preferable to keep a centre in the areas as they are. However one option could be is to have Children's Centre as the umbrella service in a central location and then offer slots to outside resources. This is obviously at a cost but at the moment I get no benefit personally from the Centre in Sandbach. The only suitable event is a stay and play which tends to be too busy.
Maintain the existing network of children's centres, but reorganise the staffing and resources available dependent on local need, seek additional funding or resource input from communities in less deprived areas.

I feel that it is a mistake to de-designate the children's centres in rural areas rather than reducing the number of centres in built up areas in major towns because if the children's centres are taken away from rural areas it reduces the chances of people in those areas having access to any facilities - using Knutsford as an example if the children's centre is taken away local residents would have to travel 6 miles to the nearest centre - as a mum of young twins I have relied on the children's centre and its services over the past 12 months for support not only from the incredible staff working at Knutsford but from other parents that I have met at the centre - I would have found it impossible to travel out of the area with young babies and I fear for expectant mums in the near future who won't have a centre that could facilitate the bringing together of new mums in a supportive environment - I looked online and the 3 children's centres in Macclesfield town centre are all approximately 1 mile from the centre - would it not be better to find 1 or 2 bigger buildings to cover the same services than to take away Knutsford and other rural areas local services and completely isolating local parents in the process - just because bigger towns are perceived to have more vulnerable children doesn't mean that rural areas don't have any vulnerable children and there are nowhere near as many services available to parents in local areas as there are in the bigger towns unless you are willing to pay quite sizeable amounts for a limited service - please don't take away our local service it has been invaluable to me and my children and I'll be incredibly grateful that this service was available to us. Thank you.

keep the existing centres and the ongoing work but possibly get the help and volunteers in. involve parents and the community. who are we to decide who or where is vulnerable. affluent areas often have pockets of depravity which is hidden. for me this adds to the vulnerability of the children in that area. ????

I think it really important to keep as many children centres open and keep as many staff and resources as possible. Especially in knutsford as public transport it terrible and there isn't any other services in knutsford.

let volunteers and local groups make use of the buildings and take over provision of some services

Offer out reach provision to Alsager, as it is done currently from Sandbach children's centre, but from another building, eg Crewe

it is totally unacceptable to cut any current childrens services, there are vulnerable children in all areas, it is totally unacceptable to expect voluntary or community groups to deliver childrens services

De designate the centres that are least used. You will know this by the data collection they do. Having a children's centre in an area with vulnerable children doesn't mean more people will use it, properly less as they are the kind of families who need support but don't seek it. Their needs are best met with visits to their home.
Keep Knutsford Children’s Centre open, considering its location within a Cheshire East priority LSOA, where children live below the poverty line amidst considerable affluence. This doubly disadvantages the vulnerable children as the problem is masked and they are further isolated due to cutbacks ie. no job centre, poor transport links, proposed de-designation of children’s centre, community centre closure. As a partner who understands the barriers families face in the area (the LSOA being in the top 10% for education, skills and employment) they act as progression route for many with adult education offered alongside creche provision, volunteering placements and then employment coaching and job centre links. Remove the holistic view of the family KCC have spent 8 years in developing and we will be back at costly crisis situations rather than early help interventions.

Closing another children's centre not Broken Cross as it supports a huge number of children. Last week the weigh and play session has 47 babies and their parents / guardians attend. I've been to other centres to have my baby weighed and there was a max of 5 parents there.

Just because an area isn't classed as deprived doesn't mean that parents aren't going through a tough time or that they don't need support. We would be classed as a wealthy family however we are really struggling and need the support offered at the childrens centre. Look towards income generation

Consideration to a charged system to try and maintain as much provision as possible. A small charge may help maintain the provision which is hugely valuable to new mums and young families. Without the support of children’s centres and staff I personally would not have gained the confidence with my baby so well!! X

Maintaining current centres and services but raising necessary funds by introducing low charges for parents who can afford to make a contribution.

As someone from an affluent area rather than an area classed as "vulnerable" I found myself extremely vulnerable after the birth of my baby last year. If it wasn't for the children's centre and the courses, support and groups offered I am unsure of how I could've coped and recovered. Fewer resources will put vulnerable and non vulnerable at risk and as a volunteer myself there is only so many resources we have without support from paid staff

Trial a reduction in services at some of the children centres that are under de-designation but offer alternative children's centres that will provide these resources/sessions etc and monitor the uptake. Compare how many people attend the Nantwich children’s centre for example when it runs normally then compare the number of people who go to an alternative centre when Nantwich can't offer one of the sessions in the trial period. Some people may feel that they can't access other centres due to transport etc and there may be a decline in the number of people who use the services altogether - which defeats the object of having such services available.

All Children’s Centre should be kept open, perhaps support groups like school PTA’s could be established to help support the existing centres?

Think more cleverly about how to support the budget provide by local government with
additional revenue from paid events, clothing sales, advertising from local relevant businesses. It seems like the simplest option to close down centres but surely there must be other avenues?

De-designate the buildings but maintain some of the staff within the areas e.g. Knutsford has pockets of extreme deprivation and those families should not be left without support, and not all services could be offered by volunteers.

Maintain the existing network of Childrens centres, keeping all open with a review of operating costs/ resources required and alternative methods of top up funding from other pots of money/ charities/ sponsors/ PHTs etc.

maintain existing network and look for funding in other areas or cost savings. there are other options available.

Could people be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to attend some of the sessions at the Centres?

i think that all the childrens centres should stay open as they are really good and useful for all different parents, maybe devise a plan for each centre so the budget can be divided between them all. i personally took my little boy to the mantwich baby group when he was younger and he loved the sensory experience and the staff were really friendly i would definitely recommend please explore all avenues before closing

I am afraid that whilst it seems accepted that austerity / reduced budgets are here to stay under this present government i feel that continued chipping away / reducing of essential public services such as children’s services / centres and respit care for the ill and elderly is completely unacceptable at all times. Reduce the cost in bureaucracy, reduce the amount of severance pay, remove the pay increases for senior staff, reduce the civic budgt. Some essential services should be ring-fenced and children and elderly care are two of them.

The Childrens Centre initiaive in the last government effectively caused the demise of effective and sustainable support for families - especially those with pre-school aged children. It will be very hard but the re-establishment of organisations like the Pre-School Learning Alliance would provide a sustainable answer to many of the issues you are attempting to address.

Use alternate buildings/spaces to cut costs such as spare classroom in school, village hall or community centre when free.

I agree that there is a need to respond to financial cuts, however, some locations that aren’t in close proximity to others would suffer from closure so alternative venues should be considered.

Undertake an impact appraisal of all the centres looking at alternatives and come back with a plan fo reach - not this kangeroo two option proposal.

They should be staffed as they offer a valuable service and they act as a better point of contact than statutory services.
Concentrate the available resources in the areas of Cheshire East where we think Children's Centre services can make the most difference by de-designating the centres that have the least number of deprived children and are not the busiest.

By keeping the existing centres open and not reducing the services. I feel that under the policy of every child matters cuts should be made elsewhere.

Continue with the current provision and develop a plan to raise funds to work towards covering the costs. Creating a fee for membership. This could be means tested to ensure that only those who can afford it, pay the appropriate amount.

Maintain the existing network - reduce paid staff and replace with more volunteers and look to attract more charity funding to support the work of the centres.

Ensure that even though a building might not be maintained, services by staff who are qualified to provide parenting advice and who have access to signposting and support procedures are kept in all areas.

As per usual the people who actually pay tax are being penalised. Why should my children have less access to services because we don't live in a deprived area?

Look at combining the first option with using third sector organisations and volunteers to supplement the work done across the board.

Vulnerable children don't just exist on local authority estates. They can live in the richest areas. Closing broken cross down is discriminating against those users in that vast area. So my "other" answer would be for broken cross to stay as it is. The exact same staff, the exact same resources offered.

Get Google, Starbucks, Apple, Facebook to pay their taxes and we wouldn't be having this conversation.

As a single parent in Nantwich at aged 43 when my son was born, I found the centre to be invaluable. What makes my child any less vulnerable from Crewe where there are 3 centres. Without this centre, I would have been isolated and uncertain as a new first time mum. Surely it would be more feasible to close 1 of the Crewe centres and leave the Nantwich site open.

Have at least one children's centre in all of the areas. Nantwich has a huge catchment and for it to close seems ridiculous. I have benefitted greatly and feel it would be a massive loss to the community of it were to close.

In the de-designated areas could there be more paid for classes. If people pay they are more likely to attend.

Only having a small number of Childrens Centres but make sure they are big enough to accommodate big groups when necessary.

Less frequent services - mobile? - in areas with fewer vulnerable families so that vulnerable families in those areas are not abandoned.
Introduce a nominal charge for a play session. Some private church play groups charge up to £2 per child including a snack. This isn't an unreasonable ask given the wonderful facilities and staff at Nantwich Children's Centre.

It concerns me how a vulnerable child/family are being identified and lack of advertising for existing services. Satellite provisions would be viable and welcome if well advertised.

Ensure full utilisation of children’s centres by renting rooms out to groups. I’m not sure if this is already done but if so it hasn’t been widely advertised.

Review the use of the facilities, are they being used efficiently. Could other services be provided there or spaces hired out to groups?

Explore the opportunity of keeping provision in existing areas (ie Sandbach) by embedding within the community and in partnership with existing council provision e.g. children's activities at the library.

Don’t fund vanity projects, increase Council Tax to pay, get MP to raise issue of funding in Parliament. Fight back for the children’s sakes!!

Stop claiming you are keeping council tax flat without reducing services. For key services fund them properly and put up council tax. Also stop wasting money on Corefit.

I think it would be a shame to lose Nantwich as it has such a large catchment due to it being accessed by many rural and often isolated parents.

Rather than eliminate the children centres in the suggested areas - provide a rota basis for each centre to be open - reduce to part time opening which will help resources and also finances.

I would suggest that the centres would stay and the services are expanded to meet the needs of the families in the area and include more support for families with older children 5+ and be open longer ie after school. It would be helpful if the activities/groups/services etc that were going on are publicised in local papers so that people are more aware of what support centres can offer, which is a valuable resource to the community.

The services provided by BROken Cross, Knutsford etc still need to be delivered to the communities there (especially midwifery, health visitors, baby clinics, support groups...) but they could be done from a different venue which should reduce cost / overheads for the Council.

Ideally keep all services open but could introduce a membership fee or fee for certain classes. My Children’s Centre is Nantwich, with a newborn baby I would have been lost without the support of the Centre and its resources. Just because a Family does not come from a vulnerable background does not mean they no longer need support. Classes and groups such as CHERUBS and first aid courses have been essential to mine and my baby’s well being and development.

Keep current ones open but provide transport to them in a similar way to what Homestart.
does. you could charge parents for it and it would still help.

Keep the children's centres open but find ways to generate an income such as hiring out the rooms to non children centre groups and training courses.

There is potential for lots of preventative work in children's centres. It is short sighted to close children's centres.

Keep existing children's center and ask for small donation from families since more likely to be in fam.

maintain services as they are but ask for voluntary contributions, so that people can help fund if they are able to and wish to.

I am sure there are other options available., as for example, reducing the number of chief executives, and directors in Cheshire East Council, their allowances and remuneration.

You have already have plans to increase council tax. Cut other services or benefits. Charge a nominal charge for using the facility.

Look at attendees offering a small donation to attend classes etc or look at areas that have more than children's centre in town. Nantwich is excellent place for new mums to meet its disgusting that you are thinking of closing it.

You need to lobby the children and families minister for resources to support all children and families rather than make it a postcode decision, we are adopting a 2 year old next month and part of our appeal was that we have excellent services available within walking distance for our child who has experienced trauma and neglect.

Using other venues to offer the same services with trained staff. You can't expect local volunteers to run certain groups such as for children with special educational needs or women with post natal depression. How also would vulnerable parents find out about these services?

I think you could review opening times, staffing, the function of each class etc to reduce the cost, you may be able to ask for nominal fees from mothers also to help.

Having more of a 'super centre' in Nantwich/west Crewe as it seems a shame to lose the resource where there are active groups and a 5 day a week presence. The likes of the brooks at shavington site doesn't have any 'people' ie members of staff leading groups, they outsource a mon am a lot to a dance class and that is about it, it seems.

Consolidate the 4 centres in Crewe into a central centre and keep services into 1 or 2 centres and ensure that well used centres stay open.

all sites should be kept open. Money spent on delivering services at an early stage is more likely to result in savings later on as issues are dealt with quickly before they develop.

Ask for a small donations put in bigger buildings so some children's centres can be joined.
Close centre’s that are not as busy.

Keep broken cross as always busy. Lovely staff.

Leave centres where they are+ staff and start a fund raising prixe to make up the short fall

Maintain the status quo. Re-schedule recycling services to make the necessary savings

You should ask for a small donation or have a price on each session.

Maintain all childrens centres open and ask for a small fee to cover cost of things like snacks. Have fund raising days in the community

Keeping all open but maybe rotating some services between the centres- staff rotate with them perhaps? e.g. weigh-ins for babies are at the centre every 2-3 weeks rather than every week.

Both of the above options would reduce services to the most vunerable children within this community

Change a nominal fee (for day to day running costs of each session) show how "de-designating" will achtually save money...i feel this is just moving money between different cost centres (e.g. alca dugquet codes)

Maintain the existing network of the childrens centre keeping all open with the view to either charge a small amount for services offered to cover cost (of e.g. snacks ect.) maybe reduce hours of opening to save money. Have fundraising events in the community.

Maintain the existing network of children’s centre with full complement of staff but find ways to find it through: charge small fee/donation towards snacks/activities visiting guests (e.g. baby massage etc.) using qualified volenteers to deliver some courses reduce hours of opening holding fundraising events.

What provision have you put into areas the broken cross when you vacate the children’s centre for the local populations children to support them ********??

All children should be able to access children’s centres, along with their parents. All children should be valued. If a cc closes in a footprint then anyone should be free to access another one.

Should try and do more fund raising within childrens centres and within community to help fund children centre as its an essential part of the community

Concentrate the available resources in the areas of Cheshire East where children's centre services are most needed, accessed, have the highest number of births within the footprint, and where population of children is growing the fastest. Have centres open based on location, spread access to services out across macclesfield have a 'centre' open on each eastate in macclesfield.

If the budget really cannot afford to pay for a permanent building for the children’s centres
then at least keep the valuable body of staff and either give them a 'hot' desk at various locations or a large children's centre bus which would effectively be a mobile unit, visiting different areas on different days of the week and going into pre-schools/community centres. To meet their audience/clients. KMC community centre would be a good place for knutsford as it is central.

Offer at least one children's centre per town. E.G. Why does Macclesfield have multiple centres. Agree reduce budget but keep knutsford open.

Ask for donations or charge for session that go on. I wouldn't mind paying a few pounds for my child.

Keep it as it is and stop wasting money in other areas. Children are more important than some other areas that councils waste money on.

Many activities could be run by volunteers and other community groups HOWEVER they can often struggle for a location to use. I've volunteered for the LCT for example for several years. Who wanted to run and fund those who suffer still birth or SID's etc but had no venue. Who suffer still birth or SID's etc. but had no venue. Perhaps collaboration with other groups like this could offer greater services AND cost reduction.
Q5. Do you have any comments to make about our proposal, or about any issues that might arise as a result of it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to other children's centres is not sufficient to accommodate all the extra users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's centres are useful for all parents and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not close any of the children centres I enjoy doing my English and maths courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will people access a health visitor if they do not have transport?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't think closing children's centres is a good idea. All children should be cared for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't think resources should be cut from children and families at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I strongly oppose the proposals and believe we should be investing in families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Knutsford centre closes there will be a lot of family who need this suffer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will be a sad loss to Nantwich if it's children's centre closes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will be detrimental to those in Sandbach who cannot afford to go anywhere else.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep Broken Cross Childrens Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the children's centres but maybe add more adult &amp; family advice slots?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep them open. For some people like myself it is the only help we can find.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knutsford centre provides valuable services in a more vulnerable area of the town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sufficient childrens centre network could eventually mean complete closure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please keep all the Children's Centre open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please keep this centre open only support for breastfeeding mums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please see comments in other section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stating the obvious however Children do not have to live in deprived areas to be vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sandbach children's centre closure will leave a huge gap in our community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To keep Knutsford children's centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's centres provide a valuable resource for children and parents from all backgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are quite a few children centres open in areas which don't appear to need them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having recently used a number of services following the birth of my first child (including one of those threatened with closure; Nantwich and Rural Children's Centre) I am concerned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
about the proposals to close a number of centres. These centres are widely used and, in the case of Nantwich, serve an area of deprivation and need. I find it wholly unethical that the vulnerable people in Nantwich, Sandbach, Broken Cross and Knutsford are being pitted against those in other areas of the county purely because there are less of them! As a result of this postcode lottery, a great number of disadvantaged families and more importantly children are going to be put in even greater need simply because they live alongside more affluent families. The support that these centres provide cannot be underestimated. The long term benefits to our local communities through improved mental health for children and families, raising aspirations and the obvious opportunity to improve learning should also be considered.

You currently have a community satellite CC in Alsager which provides a limited selection of services, families need to go to Sandbach to be offered the full range, by closing Sandbach you would be diluting the services even more. When you do not have the "numbers" you are quite happy to take all families, its is wrong to exclude them when they do not suit your purposes. All families have needs and should be offered the same service.

I understand the situation in terms of funding is complex. However from my experience at Sandbach the children's centre is incredibly popular. Is there not an option to maintain the existing centres in all areas but make activities offered chargeable/reduced fee or free for those who fit criteria? This way parents not on support wouldn't miss out entirely & those who were vulnerable but in 'affluent' area could be supported?

I think that it is a bad idea to close Children's Centres that are busy. E.g., Nantwich - ALOT of people access services there.

I had my baby 15 weeks ago and the children's centre has been such a great support, providing a safe place to take my baby to socialise, play and learn. I also attended a first aid course which I am very grateful for. I am not on any benefits but statutory maternity pay due to this I find the service of the children's centre invaluable as I wouldn't be able to afford to pay to go to lots of groups or classes. I really hope the government don't take this away from our community.

There are vulnerable children outside of vulnerable areas - so, as I said on the last page, help organise but not pay for transport. I needed support but couldn't get to centres as rural public transport is rubbish. Checs workers always have to work with me one-to-one which must be costly and prevents me from meeting other mums. I loved homestart taxis and would have been happy to pay for them if something similar was used with children's centres- they were organised for me and drivers were very helpful.

From my experience the children's centre wasn't used by many parents with vulnerable children - myself and I'm sure other parents that used the facilities would of been willing to pay a small amount to attend some sessions, as we paid to go to other playgroups each week, and the small cost didn't put many people off going to those groups.

regardless of wealth, the childrens centres offer parents a necessary facility to help them through the often quite difficult job of raising young children. Even in the private sector, there are not enough local facilities available for parents. I'm certain that by losing this...
facility people will really feel the impact and i cannot stress enough, how much these centres have helped.

I feel Children"s Centres should be accessible to all, however they would be better placed within poorer communities which tend to service more vulnerable families.

I think it would be a terrible act to close down any children's centres. However with a reduce in budgets for them, enlisting volunteers would be a great way to carry on as many services as possible. Maybe opening a constituted group for each local centre could provide an income towards keeping as many open as possible. If children's centres such as my own local one, sandbach, many vulnerable families will suffer from lack of support. If I had not joined a children's centre, neither my children or myself would not have had an opportunity to have a decent standard of life. The services the centres provide offer parents a chance to be the best they can be for their children and a safe, free environment for the children to play.

I don't think it's fair to assume that the Knutsford Childrens Centre doesn't support vulnerable children or families that need additional support, because it is typically a wealthier area of CE. There are a lot of children who are deprived in the area. Also I think all children need investing I. Regardless on their postcode.

I feel that it’s unfair to select based on deprivation when actually there are a lot of users who will miss out significantly due to the de designation. A community hall, church or school hall simply will not provide the same learning environment as a purpose built children's centre. It is potentially putting at risk children from albeit less vulnerable backgrounds not having opportunity to do things. Painting, messy play, sensory experiences, crafts are all things that may prove difficult in community venues. It also reduces opportunity of such children of mixing with others at this incredibly crucial stage of development.

If the children's centres are de-designated, new mothers will not be offered the same level of support. It is not only 'deprived areas' who have children born with disabilities, speech and language difficulties or mums who need support breast feeding. Having the children's centre gives parents a familiar and welcoming place to get advice and support from a team of people with relevant knowledge and experience who they can build trust and familiarity with. If these services are offered from a variety of locations by different teams of volunteers, this support is not offered and the community suffers as a result. The fantastic range of resources offered by the children's centres do need to be better promoted/increase awareness to new parents to increase attendance though.

There are parents in all areas that may require a little help that is brought from children's centres and taking nantwichs and the others away will cause problems as they may feel that they don't have the support, when I first had my little boy and my partner went back to work I was lonely and that's when the health visitor suggested the children's centre and yes the first time I was nervous but everyone was lovely if you take this away what will happen? Parents will feel isolated and lonely with out support.

Children and Families in Knutsford will become even more isolated should the children
centre de-designate and only open certain times each week. It has taken a while for families to accept and appreciate the centre and it's staff, thinking this was social services. However, we now have families walking in asking for help and advice before it becomes a bigger issue; this is reflected in the lower numbers of referrals for specialist services as issues are identified sooner since the early intervention pathway has been embedded. We have seen an 20% increase of engagement over the last year (2015) with 93% attending from the 30% LLSOA. KCC is used as a base for social wokers who can hot desk rather than travelling to and from Macclesfield, therefore increasing capacity and reduction in costs. Families who do not have transport would not be able to travel to seek the specialist help available in KCC as the transport links are infrequent and expensive.

Broken cross children centre has been a huge part of my maternity. I can't ever imagine having a baby without such facility. A clean friendly environment with excellent facilities for feeding / changing / consultations the great activities on a weekly basis. I was new to the area and through Broken Cross I have made the best of friends who my baby will grow up with. Promoting things in the community has allowed us to incorporate ourselves and really feel part of something special. Having a baby is a really scary thing to a new mum, and the children's centre staff, health visitors etc I never felt alone. I beg for you to reconsider your proposal, not only for myself and my circle of friends but for all new expecting mothers, wether from vulnerable backgrounds or not, to enjoy this fantastic facility.

The Sandbach Children's Centre is ideally located alongside the Sandbach Primary Academy, close to the Third Avenue estate and not too far from the Palmer Road estate. The options given assume that cuts have to be made, but cuts in this area will cost more in the long run.

There is no proposal here on how vulnerable children will be supported in the location you are removing the children centres from. It is unprofessional and high risk to propose a change without any impact analysis. The simple high level view you take is; areas like Knutsford have less vulnerable children than areas like Macclesfield so close Knustford - it is not okay to claim 'we have hard decisions to make' as cover for making proposals that do not consider the impact properly. The questions you have on this form are biased to giving you the responses you are looking for. The first two are examples.

I am saddened that broken cross children's centre may be closed. They were a total lifeline for me and many new friends that I met there in the initial months after having my baby. The staff were far and away better than other local children's centre. They were always supportive and helpful. The mums groups / massage classes / sensory provisions etc were invaluable. I cannot stress how utterly important this centre is and how much better it is than ash grove / hurdsfield. It is inconceivable that other local mums may never get to use this centre.

I work as a health professional from the childrens centre and value the support it gives to the families in Knutsford. I have worked with many vulnerable families and know that this centre has enabled them to change their lives. It has given them support, knowledge and strength to make crucial decisions. I value the communication between health professionals as it enhances the care we can give to women and saves us time as we can catch up when at the centre. I know that the community love the children centre and
many, many parents are concerned at its threatened closure. I understand why this could happen in other areas that may have a number of children centres, but Knutsford is an isolated area and so its closure would isolate the families.

Can we keep the children centre which are being considered for de designation and reduce staffing, but increase number of parent volunteers - parents who are coming with their children to help with running groups.

The Children’s Centre is an invaluable resource for families with young children. The support that is offered benefits the children immensely and offers activities that families on a budget could not normally access. Children benefit from mixing with other children and the activities offered at the Nantwich Children’s Centre are fantastic in helping the development of young children. It also offers an environment for Mothers to gain support.

For the money that was spent on these centers under the previous government it seems a total shame for all of this investment to just go to waist. It would make so much more sense to use them more wisely, incorporating "paid for" activities and outside agencies to use them. Children's entertainers/ private groups/ local nurseries/ brownies/ library groups / party spaces and local children's events could all go here and pay a competitive rate for it's use. Meanwhile the center could still run for the groups that it already provides for.

I cannot believe that such a well respected community resource is being threatened with such changes. Many people in this community respect the staff and the support, safety, inspiration and care that they give. This cannot be replaced or replicated in this area. I can understand areas that have a number of children centres e.g. Macclesfield as there will be an alternative, but if this closed Knutsford families will struggle.

As a non driver I would find it difficult to access an alternative centre if my local centre (Nantwich & Rural) was to close. I currently attend several sessions a week with my 2yr old who loves the resources, activities and staff there. I do not think that another local venue would be able to provide the same facilities, particularly the sensory room that is great for the babies.

Supporting new and young parents and providing centres that support and help childrens development are both essential in ensuring the children in our communities get the right and best start in life. Cuts in this area will be felt now and in the future - we should be doing everything we can to ensure our children get the right start in life. Childrens Centres are places where parents from all walks of life can seek the support and companionship they need to become confident parents - supporting only vulnerable children is a mistake - a bit like bolting the stable door - support all families and get a better overall success rate and better communities. The numbers of families under this government slipping into deprivation is increasing - this surely is one area where we cannot afford to make cuts. The children in our community are our future - we should be investing more not less in them, Childrens Centres are a great way to bring our communities together - their loss will be far more expensive than a 5 year P & L will show.

A wide geographical spread of children's centres makes a huge difference in reducing isolation for young families in rural areas. Nantwich in particular is a hub for many local
The groups me and my daughter go to are all at broken cross. I can't travel to any other centre in the Macclesfield area. That would mean I'd lose friends and support 3 times a week.

I live in Knutsford and have needed the children's centre for support for myself as a mum and for my baby. My baby has reflux and without the support and resources of the children's centre I would have found things extremely difficult. Baby massage sessions helped my baby with digestive issues, reflux and colic and we still use the massage at 9 months and will continue to do so as without this he is in pain. As a first time mum the staff at the children's centre provided advice for weaning, individual sleep issues, individual problems and support for the parents no matter where they live. I feel there should be this level of support and resources for ALL children and their parents. Losing the children's centre I feel could put pressure on other services e.g doctors as parents feel they have no one to turn too for help.

Do not close children's center in Nantwich. It is beneficial to many families with lots attending more than once a week. It would be a major loss and local families would lack vital support

I would prefer all children's centres to remain open, however, in less deprived areas, I believe parents will make choices to visit other options available to them locally. It is important that they are still available to make a difference to the more vulnerable and deprived of areas.

I think it is important that professionals who are qualified to help families are available or can be accessed easily at centres which are easily accessible to all families.

Rural areas still have levels of child abuse and neglect and I feel that if the rural places are closed down then potentially those children are more at risk as they then encounter even less contact with people

My concern would be for those staff who will be at risk following closure of children's centres within Cheshire East. Whilst I agree it is important to focus resources in areas where they are most needed what will happen to those areas that lose the services/groups? and will it impact on the health of the residents in those areas? The centres were deliberately located in these areas for easy access - residents may not have the ability/funds to travel to other locations so what happens then???

Children's centre services should remain available to all children as part of their early development. They should not be categorised by social standing, it is important that communities grow together and are not separated giving every child and family the same opportunities.

Nantwich children's centre offers a valuable and popular service. I understand the need to concentrate on areas where there may be more vulnerable children, but think it would be a shame to lose a popular and useful local service.
This is absolutely disgusting that these centres providing such good services should go, regardless of social background or class we all pay our taxes and should all be able to have the support of these services. Raising children is hard and whether you are rich or poor we all can suffer from postnatal depression, low confidence, need personal help for our children and families and this is where we get it. It is disgraceful that we are even in this situation.

It is important to also provide services to the families not most vulnerable but who perhaps can't afford to access other services which run at a cost

I have been a user of the Sandbach children's centre and I feel it is a very important place for mums in the community! I know many mums that have forged friendships and also got the help they needed many going to help with making friends which in turn stops depression taking place. Also the children get a stimulating environment and learning from a young age which helps for the future! We need Sandbach children's centre please do not close it. I feel there is so much more that can be done with it.

I'm a young single mum to two children under two from Knutsford and I find the children's centre very useful. I don't drive so can't take my children to many groups apart from what is offered at the children's centre

The children's centres could be "hired out" at weekends for children's parties etc to raise much needed revenue to cover overhead.

I have used the children's centre for different activities and reasons, I find it really helpful welcoming and friendly, I find this with deep sadness that we may be loosing this, I have been using it for 4 years with my little boy and hoped my little girl of 1 year would do the same, with the stay and play groups the weaning talks and the lavender group which was run by the health visitors and other activities that were put on.

It's difficult to say because I live in a community where we have a session that's runs once a week in the civic centre rather than a dedicated centre with lots of sessions. I personally think that 'outreach' places in the community can work if there is a good partnership set up with shared resources etc. However, you are paying staff time in setting up and packing and commuting so it's not perfect on the budget!

I think the childrens centres helps every child and parent no just the vulnerable having been to Sandbach children's centre since my son was born every week I think it's a important place for both Children and mothers

Being a full time mum can be really isolating at times. Having somewhere you can go - just to get out of the house and talk to adults, somewhere that you can go regularly, and it doesn't cost a fortune, is a god send. Not to mention socialising for our children.

If you only place them where families are most vulnerable then others who potentially are vulnerable will fall through the net. Family services in areas like Knutsford are already minimal. The centre is located in an area of vulnerability. Not only that there is a very stark rich/poor gap. The view that Knutsford is an affluent area is largely untrue in areas like Longridge and families there that do not drive will struggle to get help elsewhere. Every
parent I have come across in Knutsford uses the centre in one way or another. I myself will be going there on Wednesday to the baby clinic and really valued the baby massage classes we attended. My friend attended the lavender group for post natal depression there and had that not been available I worry as to what she would have done. I moved into the area just over 2 years ago and when I became pregnant with my second child I was shocked by how little services there are here. I previously lived in Warrington and with my first child I had my own midwife at a clinic close by, the hospital was outstanding and the sure start centres were amazing, I went to prenatal classes, baby massage and the advice at the baby clinic was invaluable with my premature baby. Here I had to go to Wythenshawe for all of my midwife appointments and the only support I have had since has been through the children’s centre. We are not a vulnerable family, or in an economically deprived area but support for all is invaluable to us and many others like myself.

I understand Broken Cross as ther are other in Macclesfield. Maybe Knutsford and Sandbach, could reduce days have an outreach service from it. I have reservations particularly about the Sandbach closure as it covers such a vast area. Maybe some outreach at nurseries/preschools would make more sense than one main centre.

There is a serious lack of Toddler group provision in Sandbach. With most community groups in the Sandbach area already full, I use the stay and play at Sandbach childrens centre as I can't afford to pay £6.50 a session for private activities such as rhythm time etc. I have to arrive early to get in as most parents don't get a chance as the room is small and the full sign goes outside within minutes. The outdoor play area is very good and any change of venue should have this facility and ideally a larger room. I find it offence that it has been suggested in your report that the money spent on Sandbach should go towards more deprived areas. Not everyone in Sandbach can afford private classes!! Any money saved should be spent on provision in Sandbach, as there will be even more under 5’s after the current housing boom.

It would be a shame to close Sandbach Children's Centre when there are a huge amount of young families in Sandbach. There are also many families that move to areas like Sandbach and need a place where they can meet other parents/get support etc. I have really benefited from Sandbach Community Centre as I recently moved into the area and have a 2 year old and new baby. My children and I have not only benefited from the sessions which are always very well attended but it also helped me meet new mums in the area. It is important that all families have the benefits of access to a Children's Centre, not just the most vulnerable.

These children’s centres shouldn't just be for poorer areas. Other families rely on such services too. Especially new parents and those with extra needs such as post natal depression.

The children centre enables families of all status to access support easily and confidently. it is a shame that the money that has been put into the centres is now going to waste and another service being delievered. Many families can not drive or have low income, the children centre enables everyone to access a free group to enhance their child's and parent's well being.
Whilst I appreciate the reducing budgets across health and social care settings, I disagree that centres and provision should be moved away from the areas proposed. Just because there are more deprived families in large towns such as Crewe and Macclesfield should not take away from the fact that there are a great number of families who get a lot out of the children’s centre in Knutsford and who are equally as deprived and in need of the help the children centre provides. These families should not have such a useful resource removed just because bigger towns have a bigger problem. Living in Knutsford we are surrounded by rural communities with great difficulty in travelling elsewhere to access the same provision. There is also a far greater gap between the very affluent and deprived families than you see in most other towns in the area, causing a somewhat skewed picture. A better idea would be to retain the current children centres and resource/ staff them proportionally to the size/ need of the population, so by delivering the service to those who need it most, no matter where they live.

| Whilst it is important that vulnerable children in particular have access to children centre resources, not all parents of such children are likely to make use of them. Has any research been done into which centres are used the most / have most members / have best attendance? Have you analysed which sessions have highest attendance or are deemed most valuable by attendees? If all centres were kept open, these sessions should be the ones retained. |
| children's centre's aren't just about vulnerable children. It's a vital outlet for many parents who feel completely lost and need somewhere they can connect with others. |
| I was helped with possible pnd by sessions run at the children's centre. However I was provided with resources like children's toys that I didn't really need. I have also enjoyed stay and play sessions with my son. Donations could be asked for at these sessions and also people could bring their own snacks |
| Not everyone in Sandbach is middle class, there are low income families that would benefit from support here too. |
| Not enough services currently offered at the centres and now cuts proposed on top seems like going the wrong way! More groups (and wider variety of activities) should be held, parents would be willing to contribute towards things if they are of interest |
| All the children centres are important and should not be close or move. The staff provide an excellent service and brings the towns together. All children have a right to this service not just "deprived children". The proposal isn't fair and would affect the towns socially. |
| As a new parent and Knutsford resident I do not support the case put forward to redesignate the Childrens' Centre. Every time we have visited this resource we have found it to be extremely useful and busy, indicating that it is a well used and appreciated local service by a wide spectrum of the community. The social aspect of a dedicated Childrens' Centre is an invaluable community building resource from both the perspective of the children who attend, and their parents. I am aware of many new parents within the community who have found the support provided by a dedicated local Childrens' Centre hub beneficial to their families, especially if they are new to the area or to parenthood in |
general. This is not something that can be replaced by a 'bus'/mobile service or by the usage of venues that are transient. This is also not something that would be as beneficial if travel to a nearby Childrens' Centre is required. i.e. Wilmslow, as this would defeat the object of meeting local families and reduce the impetus for Knutsford families to attend sessions if travel is required. I personally would not be able to travel to an alternative centre as I do not drive and would not be able to rely on public transport with a newborn baby, therefore myself and my child would miss out on all of the services the centre offers. I also cannot see how it is cost effective to use alternative venues for sessions when a dedicated venue is already set-up, running and established. The cost and time involved to arrange and advertise alternative venues on a regular basis will result in an unreliable service that is unsustainable and unappealing for attendees. I suspect that using venues that are not dedicated will result in a higher cost overall in personnel time and effort in order to provide a sub-standard service. Furthermore, I have declined to answer the questions on the first page of this document as the questions are leading and can only result in one response if the responder is a reasonable person – the implications of closing the centre are wider to the community than just for 'disadvantaged' families in the area and I do not see why the whole community should be disadvantaged due to an unspecified number of people that this proposal claims to be intended to help. There does not seem to be an appropriate or clear alternative provision of services and there has been no quantifiable case put forward for the people that the new plan intends to support. I do not feel that adequate consideration has been given to the implications of the re-designation of the Childrens' Centre and the future provision of services in the area. There does not appear to be a clear plan in place to provide an adequate service to families in the Knutsford area if the centre is re-purposed therefore closing/re-designating the centre is not an option that can or should be supported.

Children's Centres are vital for the communities they support, whether deprived or not. Knutsford has areas of serious deprivation in the Longridge and Shaw Heath areas for example, and need these centres to help support their children. If extra support is needed, perhaps support groups, like school PTA's could be established to help attract funding and additional support. Closure or 'de-designation' is not the answer here. Parents need a dedicated centre they can drop in to, or we'll find other facilities such as doctors surgeries becoming overwhelmed! Cheshire East, is not a poor council, as Cllr Michael Jones has said many times, so we need to continue support for Children's Centres which the government has stated in the past will be protected.

Maternity leave radically reduces your disposable income so paying for alternative baby groups would have meant that I would not have got out the house as often as I managed to, and suffering from post-natal depression unnecessary boundaries such as the economic make it harder to cope- if cherubs hadn't of offered peer support groups where I could get help from the breast feeding consultants and make friends with other new-mothers then I don't think I would have coped as long as I did with depression before I tried to commit suicide. I come from an affluent background and could not ask my family for financial support for fear of their judgements and for my own guilt; spending money to go outside to meet other mothers and building connections with new people needs to remain to be supported regardless of the areas affluence- I hid in plain sight struggling financially and severely emotionally. Having moved to an area that now doesn’t have a children’s centre
and no baby groups in our village I'm concerned that I will fall back into depression; but the range of groups, times schedules and locations of the children's centres ensured that I could and did get out of the house. While I can appreciate the importance of supporting vulnerable children and adults; I was a vulnerable adult and hid the depression until a year later when I ended up in A&E. If I hadn't of had regular daily options for groups to attend I would have gone off the tracks sooner - the support network of building new friends was invaluable. I feel very isolated in my new village and find it difficult to get out and go to the effort of driving miles; having the facilities on your doorstep ensure and enable participation.

Co-locating health and social care already happens in other areas. Perhaps look at providing some services alongside special schools. Closing children's centres will be very unpopular and increase risk to some very vulnerable children and young people. Has an impact assessment been done/commissioned?

Imagine you are a young single mum of 3 kids needing to access a service offered by the children's centre. You're intimidated by 'officials'. Are you really going to scrape together the funds and energy to get you & the kids onto the bus into Crewe to speak to someone you don’t feel comfortable dealing with or will you hide? The purpose of children's centres is to try & offer early intervention to struggling families. How many children will be placed at risk because you don’t have people on the ground, you're not perceived as being part of the community? Saying children's centres need to be in the areas of highest deprivation infers that you believe wealthier families don’t face problems which impact negatively on children. Surely children's centres should offer services on the basis of child need not parental income.

I feel that a better programme of activities could be delivered by using alternative venues in the community. This would reduce costs and perhaps would result in services and groups available to a wider range of pre school children, not just the baby groups which seem to be in abundance for the under 1’s. I have travelled on several occasions to Sandbach Children's centre from another local town which doesn't have a children's centre, and have always been disappointed with the sessions/groups available.

There is a lot of emphasis on childrens centres being aimed at low income families. But what about the families that are not deemed low income enough to claim eg tax credits, but are not "wealthy"? Children's centres are a great way of new parents meeting other new parents. Children socialising with other children. Families new to the area establishing support networks. Children playing with different toys. Doing craft activities they may not do at home. I find Nantwich & Rural Children's Centre an invaluable resource to my family, please please don't take it away.

It would be a shame if Shavington Children's Centre closed as it is extremely convenient for midwifery checkups and appointments. Also, I have very fond memories of the courses and classes which have been run there. I have been on a St Johns Ambulance First Aid course there last year and attended a baby massage course where I met new fellow mums whom I still see regularly now several years on. My son, enjoyed Bluebells dance every Monday for three years, did baby sensory and the Stay and Play sessions. We also like the schemes run
during the holidays and half term. We have been on a gruffalo workshop, junk modelling and really enjoyed Jabberjacks. I felt it was for all mums to get us out of the house, not just the ones with vulnerable children. It certainly helped me bond and do fun things with my child. Having said that though, over the past couple of years the services seem to have been in decline, shutting the centre on a Thursday and Friday seemed to make no sense and at times I felt the staffing levels were far too high and on occasions there were more staff than children. There also seemed to sometimes be no evidence that children even went there as there were no art displays at times on the walls. What I was disappointed in was the 'suggestion' box which was full of suggestions but yet it was their policy to 'only pull one out and read one per week'. Why not pull all the suggestions out all at once and make the place better? For example the sandpit and toys outside need a good clean and the grass needs a good mow and weed. It looks a bit tired and needs a bit of attention. If it does close I will certainly miss the lovely staff and the holiday activities which were right on my doorstep.

Don't close broken cross down. Don't close any centres down. Closing the centres down is discriminating you are saying that the children that live in those areas do not matter. You are portraying that you don't give a damn about those children and vulnerable families. Broken cross centre is the biggest size building in macc out of all the centres. 100s of people use it so how are we all supposed to fit into one of the others that are small buildings. Closing broken cross childrens centre is then saying you don't care about the health, safety and fire safety of all users at the 2 centres you expect us all to go to. Families will get turned away due to over capacity and then if anything bad happens to any of those children or families that have been denied entry because of the over crowding will be the council's fault and whoever decides to close broken cross down. Then imagine the headlines you will face. "child dies because mum/dad got to stressed and depressed because they have no where to go for help."

Why is it necessary to reduce staffing in Children's Centres at all? Research tells us that investment in early years reaps rewards beyond that investment throughout the years. Such investment will eventually reduce the money needed to rehabilitate the youngsters who suffered through a deprived childhood. Our young children are worth the investment.

Please do not decommission the children's centre at Sandbach, there are other options for securing funding. Please consider that all the new housing estates in the area will have families requiring these services and if you decommission now and have to recommission in another few years, the cost will be much higher than any savings achieved in the short term.

There are many families for whom Knutsford Children’s centre has made a huge difference. As well as midwifery, health visiting, support for post-natal depression, family support. Because the Stay & Play sessions, and Breastfeeding sessions are universal, parents in need of support are able to access it, and be offered it, without obviously being singled out. Parenting courses run at KCC help all parents who take part. Parenting and family issues are not restricted to parents living in areas of deprivation. However, for those living in the area of deprivation, it is a real benefit having the children’s centre in walking distance.

The Knutsford children's center has helped me through having my first child. I dont think I'm
in the vulnerable category but I don't know how I would have coped without the support of
the network the children's centre created for me. It would be a shame if it closed.

Keep children's centres where they are with reduced staffing but also supplement that with
volunteers and community groups.

The challenge needs to be put back to the government as to why money for such a valuable
service is being cut in the first place as it will ultimately have an adverse effect on the most
vulnerable.

The proposal is based upon data that is suspected to not take into account that which has
been most recently published, nor does it make any realistic allowance for the projected
increase in the number of 0-4 year olds living within the Broken Cross Childrens Centre
catchment area. The two deprivation 'hotspots' of Upton Priory and the Weston are
experiencing rising levels of poverty and related problems due to the impact of a range of
changes in the welfare, health and education services - these are in turn starting to show
themselves. One option that I urge serious consideration is given to help sustain the
childrens centre would be to place it within the management of the primary school on the
same campus. The primary school is itself part of a wider academy network in the west
Macclesfield locality

The children learn loads from these centres and have at range of activities equipment which
meet all children needs

I found the cc centre services in sandbach useful after suffering with post natel depression. I
probably found it more useful for me than the kids.

The Children's centre offers exceptional support not only for vulnerable children, but also
for families with children that are not vulnerable. I have found it particularly useful,
supportive and informative as this is my first child. It seems unfair to reduce the support
and opportunities for such families. I feel that it significantly helped to educate me on
bringing up my child and gave me the confidence I lacked as a first time mum. I believe
reducing such facilities for 'non vulnerable' families may negatively impact the psychosocial
well being of parents and mums, potentially turning a 'non vulnerable' child into a
vulnerable one! It seems potentially a short sighted decision. I would be more than happy
to offer a voluntary monetary contribution to the activities I attended to support the
running of the centres.

A good start in life is essential for all children, not only for them but for the economic and
social well being of the country. I am not surprised that the local Tory council is doing the
dirty work of this reactionary government.

CC play an invaluable role in the community supporting families, parents and children alike.
Closure of such services would have a massive negative impact on the community

I don't consider myself or my son to be "vulnerable" but without the postnatal classes I
attended I think I would have struggled adjusting to motherhood without any support
during weekdays when everyone else is at work. The network of mums and babies that I
met during my time have become my friends and support now, two and a half years on. Just
because I have money does not mean I don’t require support from time to time, obviously more vulnerable families deserve additional support but I think it is narrow-minded to simply close down the centres without exploring additional options for income in those areas.

If cuts need to be made, look at cheaper buildings. Community centres. Qualified staff plus volunteers. Reducing the hours IF necessary. I cannot see how the Government can allow hundreds of new houses to be built but strip the amenities needed by families?

I understand the pressures arise from central government policy, and so cannot be addressed in this consultation. I am concerned that there are vulnerable children in the areas where children’s centres are at risk, and wonder if some resource could be allocated to taking those families to activities that will now be further away, or to some kind of mobile service that could bring some activities to the areas with less need. A big part of the value of children’s centres to me is that it introduced me and my children to other families in my local area, and that would be lost if they had to go further afield. There are other baby / toddler groups in our area, but the focus is different, and many of the families that went to the children's centre felt excused and little in common with the parents at the other groups - this feeling would be more pronounced in the more well off areas that are facing the closure of their children's centres. If volunteers are to step into the breech it is very important that they receive good training and support.

I believe by de-designating children’s centres in the areas listed many children (vulnerable or not) will miss out on vital services and parents will lose vital support. It will be a real shame and loss for Knutsford if the Childrens centre were to close. The majority of parents would not be able to travel greater distances to access these services, surely that’s the point of a children centre, to be local and accessible to the parents who need it? Please reconsider this proposal and keep the children’s centres open.

Assessment of need should not be only based on the most vulnerable but providing the best start in life to all children regardless of their background. This means providing local opportunities for support networks such as breastfeeding as well as community activities to meet other parents / children.

Very concerned that CEC is looking to close down services when more funding and resources are actually needed. Sandbach in particular has a booming housing plan with more being built every day. MORE resources need to be added with none of the exiting removed.

Contact the PLA as a matter of urgency - the National Organisation (and the North Staffordshire Branch which is well-established) have much experience to offer and would support both the rural and urban administration of Children's Centre functions in new venues (The North Staffs PLA had a double Decker Bus for some years that did much as you are suggesting!) The work is ultimately parent-led and through Council, health and PLA support, is more likely to develop sustainable community-focused solutions. So too, for families with children under 5 with additional needs, the cost and outcome efficiencies of developing an integrated health and children's social care 'PORTAGE' Home Visiting Scheme are worthy of consideration. The PLA did this in partnership with North Staffs Childrens...
services and is wholly community (not building) based.

The children's centre plays a crucial role for children in the area and mothers who connect and need the support. I have sent an email outlining my thoughts.

Nantwich children's centre is a life line to me and my daughter. Not having family in the area, the kindness and education it has bought is invaluable.

If some of the existing centres close, what provision will be made for more vulnerable families to get to the remaining centres? Will they be able to get to them by public transport easily and could low income families get financial assistance towards transport costs to reach the remaining centres.

Don't close Sandbach. I have made friends there and so has my son. If it wasn't in Sandbach, we couldn't have done this. I would have donated for using the baby Sensory class if I'd had the option. People will pay to use children's services if they can donate, even if it's a small amount.

Yes! The children's centres have proven to work and to provide services and support to people who may not have sought it out or would not know where to go for help. They have supported residents through education and fun activities for children and importantly nurtured relationships with schools to ensure that all necessary support is offered. It would be detrimental to local children to lose this/these centres.

I visited my midwife at the centre and whilst on maternity leave with my third child being able to walk to a sure start breastfeeding support group at Nantwich children's centre was the most valuable service I accessed and enabled me to continue feeding with confidence for 7 months. I have worked a professional in Stoke sure start centres and firmly believe all parents benefit from the aspiration of sure start as it was intended - living in a middle class area should not be a barrier to this excellent service. Social isolation in motherhood is a key factor in understanding infants early development whether affluent or poor.

Knutsford children's centre is such a great asset to our community and was a source of invaluable support when my daughter was born and continues to be a well used resource. It's closure would be a great loss. Can it continue to be used if people pay for some of the sessions? And be funded by hiring out the space to those running baby/toddler groups?

There are still parents who need support in seemingly wealthy areas, in fact the pressure to be seen as coping or still providing or having it all, brings with it its own challenges and stresses for a parent, and it can be very lonely. Without the help from the Children's centre team and health visitors, I would be in a very different place emotionally right now and as a result so would my two children.

Childrens Centres provide a lifeline to new parents, single parents, parents who don't know other people with children, parents suffering from postpartum depression and for those who want to do activities and talk generally with qualified social workers. Those parents and their children who attend benefit. Regardless of social status, if they live in a 'nice' area or have 'good' jobs. Childrens centres need to remain open and accessible. They are part of
the community for parents of young children, and for some parents, they are their only community.

The fundamental point of re-designation seems to be that more deprived areas are to receive Children's Centre Services - however the tax payer/middle class also deserve the same services. Parents are parents and all deserve the same level of support. Knutsford for example - the residents of Longridge don't use the Centre as they feel they are looked down on by the Middle Class who do use the Centre = wrong attitude, it's about the child, leave the centre open for those who are using it, which is a lot of people!!

I think you need to look at flexing the current building so that voluntary and community groups use them in conjunction with children's centres staff. I think high level social care should be done in main hub but lower lever support and these community volunteer groups could coordinate to give service to larger volumes using less staff. Engagement of voluntary sector organisations into children's centres to change the focus of centres in areas you want to remove designation from needs to be appropriately managed as a project - it's a cultural change and would need a driving force behind it. It's not just another task that can be piled on top of already increasingly over work staff unfortunately as has been tried in the past.

The activities services and support from the children's centres are vital as a first time mum they have helped and made me feel at ease from pregnancy to having a young baby, with baby courses, weigh and play and the sensory room vital for helping me get out the house and helping overcome post natal depression. My child does not come from an underprivileged vulnerable home but it is as much a vital service for me as it is to these groups.

I really do not want Nantwich children's centre to close I rely on it a lot. I have 3 young children and have suffered with postnatal depression for quite some time. I do not go out of the house much but I go along to the children's centre to get me out and my children love it! Also the family support workers help me a great deal.

I understand the need to reduce costs but I think it is important to keep offering services in all areas even if the centres themselves are closed down. I have made use of a number of services offered by Sandbach children's centre even though I am not from a deprived background. I am soon to have a second baby and hope to be able to continue to use the services offered. They have been an important way for me to meet new people and get out of the house.

I personally feel as a mother and as a childminder that shutting Nantwich Children's centre is a disgrace. This centre is busy on a daily basis. People attend groups with their children; sensory, network meetings, childminder group, stay and play, baby massage, midwife and many many more, not only that they have a waiting list for these groups!...........Can i ask therefore, do the people and children that WANT to use this centre no longer matter ?? To much emphasis is being ploughed into 'deprived children' ignoring the other children who in effect will stand the chance of becoming deprived, you have to find a balance. Why cannot you not put on a support group for these '2 year old children' at the centre maybe 2 or 3 times a week and see what the uptake is? therefore no one loses out! See whether the parents (who in my mind are the one's that need targeting in some cases) make the effort
to bring their children, as without their consent there is no requirement for more money than necessary to be ploughed in to funding them. Please do not ignore the local community, the people you are meant to be there for when they ask for your help and they ask you not to shut the centre, listen that is if you haven't already made the decision!

It is important to safeguard children. Any plan to encourage more voluntary community activity in such centres is good but requires effective co-ordination. Every child matters.

It’s ridiculous to keep open the centres where there are more “deprived” children. What happens to the children in sandbach and Nantwich if their parents can’t drive and can afford the bus to and from the nearest children’s centre in the next town. Why should some children miss out while others gain. All children should be given the same start in life by Cheshire East. Look at the towns that have more than one centre and reduce the opening hours of 1 or 2. Don’t just close centres all together.

As a first time mother, I had never heard of a children’s centre prior to my eight-month old being born in May 2015. But I can honestly say that the Knutsford centre, its staff, resources and activities have been a lifeline to me and my little boy. Through the children’s centre, we have been supported through important issues and milestones like nursing, bottle feeding, weaning and baby sleep habits, have enjoyed some great, free activities and, perhaps most importantly, have been given the opportunity to meet a group of women in the same position, with babies of the same age, who will now hopefully be friends for life. Without the children’s centre, the first year of my little boy’s life would have been a much lonelier, less supported and less well educated time. I tell every mother I know to get involved with their local children’s centre and would be very, very sad to see the Knutsford centre disappear.

I don't think it's a good idea, Nantwich children's centre has been available to me since I've had both of my boys and apart from a short period of time when I couldn't make the regular stay and plays/cherubs group etc I have attended every week and come to multiple sessions in the week. It a valued service and it would be a massive detriment to mums (and dads) of Nantwich if this was shut down. Although the idea to offer some of the sessions in alternative venues is a potential solution, having one venue to go to and the same members of staff etc makes for a more rounded and supportive environment.

Knutsford children's centre has been great for me for the stay and play sessions. Meeting other mums etc when first moving to the area. I have made lifetime friends and would be very sad to see it go

I think it's disgusting that funding has been cut for needed services when mps can get an 11% payrise.

Nantwich is extremely well attended and covers a large catchment area if Nantwich closes it would be difficult to attend the centres in Crewe as their are issues of transport and parking

Children's centres are excellent not only for children but for families. I know of many ladies that have been able to socialise and get out just to children's centres but that was enough to prevent post natal depression. Had the CC not been available those mothers may not of
had the courage to leave home.

Longridge/Shaw Heath in Knutsford is a MAJOR pocket of deprivation. You cannot say Knutsford doesn't need this service unless you exclude this area. I am sure that as a standalone area it would meet your deprivation requirements.

I do not agree with the targeting of vulnerable families. The current public health agenda is to work long term in prevention and it is only when services are universal that people can access them with no stigma. Who wants to go to the place where the problem families go? I am also doubtful as to whether professionals who are all ready working full tilt will have the resources to be able to support the partnership working which you suggest should continue in community buildings.

we attended our local children centre on a weekly basis, we found it an amazing place to meet new mums and help with the process of being a new mum. The members of staff were always helpful and always happy to see you.

I've used two children's centres while in the first year with my first child, Nantwich and rural and brooks. I met the group of mothers that have been my great support through times that could have easily turned in to post natal depression. The children's centres provide services to children - but also make it easy for parents to meet and chat. It isn't just about the children. On my visits to Nantwich and rural free play sessions, the cross section of people is obvious, but also there wasn't space to fit in another child and parent - how is it wise to remove a service that is so heavily used? A review of staffing and costs yes, but closure? Are you mad?

I used Knutsford Childrens centre a lot when I had my baby. Neither myself or my baby are considered as "vulnerable" or "deprived", however after birth I was suffering from postnatal depression and considered myself in need of help. The children's centre was a huge help for me as it got me out of the house when I was scared to go out, I met other mums and could get help from the staff! It will be a travesty if this service is no longer available to others.

It is important to keep links with local clusters of schools as they have good information about need and where to find those families in greatest need. Current links with children's Centre and Sandbach Education Partnership are strong and I think it would be to the detriment of services locally if this strong link was broken. All schools in the footprint have vulnerable families and can identify targeted support easily. It is important to maintain swift and easy access to the services available. There will need to be good communication about what is available and where to find it. If services are using local venues there may some small cost to the utilities used at a cost only. There needs to be a range of venues so that services can continue to be provided and sustained.

I really believe that the Knutsford children's centre which is my nearest centre is extremely valuable in the upbringing of my child. They offer a huge amount of support which is paramount as a parent. The staff are always so friendly, helpful and professional. I don't support the idea of closing it down.
All children deserve the best start possible, and so services should remain in place. There is no need to have a dedicated building, however, and rooms can be used 'as needed' in local venues. This is the case in Middlewich.

As a former employee of Sandbach Primary Academy (where Sandbach children's centre is situated), I find it very worrying that this area (the school serves some big council estates nearby, with many vulnerable children) is at risk of losing its children's centre, which was built at considerable cost and a lot of upheaval for the school, not that long ago. There is also considerable liaison between the centre and the school as many families use both facilities. Sandbach may be seen as "leafy" but there are several areas which certainly can't be compared to Knutsford or rural areas. I hope that some more satisfactory decision can be reached which still uses this new purpose built(or at least adapted) centre, and that it will not just be closed and unused, as probably, for some red tape reason, the school will not be able to reclaim the space!

This survey is a bit of a joke. The term "de-designate" is really unclear. I don't really understand what your plans are. You seem to be implying that you want to keep the staff but close the centre. I don't really think you will end up with that much of a saving from doing that. Once you close the building, letting staff go will follow very quickly. I also don't like the implication that services should be targeted solely at vulnerable children. It's fair enough to make a big effort to ensure that vulnerable parents and children can attend, but everyone who pays their taxes should be able to benefit from the services. Just because Knutsford and Sandbach are reasonably rich towns does not mean their children's centres should be closed.

I am in early stages of pregnancy and i have chosen to have my baby in Crewe. I live in Congleton and due to midwives in Congleton being based in Macclesfield i have been referred to Sandbach Childrens Centre as are many. I have been told if the centre closes i will not be able to see the current midwives and rever to Macclesfield Midwives but i feel that this is wrong. I have a choice where my baby is born and i should therefore be given this choice over my childrens centre facilities, midwives and where i can see them. Closure of Sanbach will affect many children and mothers and support that is provided. The centre is vital part of a only growing town.

Children living in the vicinity of the closed children's centres would possibly miss out on the services offered, which could affect their potential. parents will oft disscuss any concerns they have regirding their children and FSW eithr advise or signpost to the appropriate setting. this could be missed if the centres are shut.

Children's Centres are a lifeline for parents with children, especially new mums like myself. That is the case for all families not just those who are "vulnerable". In fact all new parents could be termed vulnerable and the support and networks provided by Children's Centred are invaluable. It is important to have centres in local areas to put parents in contact with others in the local area as support from other parents is so important. Knutsford (my local centre) also had its share of deprived areas therefore, I think it is unfair for those families to lose this resource as they may be unable to travel further afield.

The children's centres are very valuable to ALL families in each area, especially first time
mums who aren't aware of what they can go out and do with their newborn babies. It is a
total socialising opportunity for both children and parents, even those who aren't
considered to be vulgarable, as maternity pay doesn't go too far either!

I just wanted to tell you my story and how much of a big difference knutsford children
centre and its staff has made to my life. I started using knutsford children centre just over
3 years ago when I was pregnant with my first child. I attended midwife appointments. My
midwife suggested I attend the breast feeding group before I was due to get advice from
other mums. I did and it was a lovely friendly group and the mums gave me lots of tips. I
struggled breastfeeding and they gave me lots of supportive unfortunately I was unable to
breastfeed and felt very guilty that I couldn't feed my baby, the volunteers and other mums
helped my deal with my emotions. New mum group Knutsford children centre ran a six
week course. I attended this group it was great way to meet mums with babies the same
age as my little boy and I'm now close friends with seven of the mums who attended the
group. It was also great with tips and advice on how to get through the first few months, we
learnt lots of safety tips, weaning, fitness, baby message and lots of other things. well baby
clinic. I regularly took my baby to the well baby clinic to get him weighed, it's also great to
be able to speak to the health visitors about any worries I had and to get any advice. Tiny
tots. Tiny tots was a real life saver for me. My little boy suffered with reflux and a cows milk
allergy so was very sick and cried a lot when he was a baby. Tiny tots was the only local
baby group I felt comfortable taking him to. The family service worker who ran the group
was so friendly and welcoming and really supported me through a difficult time. When I
went to other groups I felt people were judging me because my baby was being sick and
crying. The family service worker also arrange extra sessions in the summer holidays for me
and a couple of other mums as she thought we needed a bit of extra support. My little boy
enjoyed going every week, and do messy play which I hated doing at home because of the
mess. I also got lots of tips on how to play with him and how to do a treasure basket. Stay
and play. I started attending stay & play sessions once my little boy was walking and too big
to attend tiny tots. It was a big change from tiny tots as its a lot busier group but again the
family support worker supported me and made me feel welcome. I now volunteer at stay
and play sessions. My little boy loves going to stay and play. Lavender (support group for
mums with low mood and post natal depression) I was diagnosed with post natal
depression just before my little boys first birthday and was in a really bad place. The six
week course really made a difference. For a year I'd been thinking I was so alone with the way
I was thinking and feeling and it was good to meet other mums who had been feeling like
me. It also thought me coping strategies. I have kept in touch with the other women who
attended my group and other lavender groups. I am also in the process of setting up a peer
support group for women how post natal depression with two other mums who have
attended the lavender group. Strong women/stronger women I attended these coarses not
long after I did lavender. It made a massive difference in my life, gave me my confidence
back, thought me coping strategies to deal with life. I gained so much this course. I now
volunteer with strong women and talk to other women about the group and tell them my
story so hopefully they will do the course and benefit. I have also attended lots of other
coarse at the children centre. First aid Speech and language coarse for my toddler
Parenting coarse Baby massage Rhythm & rhyme. Weaning/potty training/dump the
dummy run by the health visiting team. I can't stress enough how much knutsford children
centre and Its staff have helped and continue to help/support me and my son. This is why I volunteer at knutsford children centre because they have given me so much and I think it's a great asset to the local communities. It would be such a shame if it closes. I don't think I would of got on top of my postnatal depression without it.

Supposedly affluent areas such as Knutsford have vulnerable children who benefit from services offered by the children's centre. Families who benefit most from its services would struggle to visit a centre further away.

I used the children's centre significantly, particularly with my 1st child. I found the services invaluable. However, it appeared in my experience that vulnerable families didn't access the services at the time that I attended. I don't class my family as being vulnerable, however the services that I accessed were invaluable and it would be a huge loss to Cheshire East should these services be reduced.

I would not consider myself vulnerable or deprived in any way. However, when I was on maternity leave I regularly made use of my local children's centre both for routine matters such as weigh-ins and new parent courses but also to gain support when I was struggling with establishing breastfeeding. This was a real help to me when I was very emotional and on the verge of giving up (I didn’t). Although I agree that vulnerable children need to be protected I also feel that the support provided by children's centres should be available to all parents. My local centre also has groups to support vulnerable adults such as those with depression, and groups for dads. It would be a real shame to see these disappear as I suspect they would if the centre was de-designated.

I don't think that you can determine how well families are coping by the post-code that they live in. The children's Centre provided an amazing service to our family and we were really grateful for it. It's also worth noting that it's the taxes generated by working families that pays for the centres in the first place. It's unfair to deny these families just because there is a higher proportion of working families. Much better to put support in upfront than to pay for costly family remedies afterwards.

Broken CrossChildrens Ctre has helped our family when my 2nd child was newborn, helping me meet other parents, advising re childcare,giving me time to do other things whilst professionals cared for my baby (ie a cookery class), encouraging parents from all walks of life to meet and be supportive of each other. These friendships have endured to the school gates and help create and maintain a sense of community.

Childrens Centres were put in place for universal provision, and should stay that way. By cutting them, the danger is that users feel stigmatised by using them, and stop accessing services. By keeping them only in areas of need you exclude those living in areas that are more mixed, where there are hidden pockets of poverty, as has been shown by foodbank use in places such as Alsager which do not have high levels of poverty even at LSOA level in many cases.

Firstly i think the way you have worded question 3's responses is very sly and sinister and you are not fooling me with it. Naturally vulnerable children should have higher attention but 'NOT' at the expense of other children. That is disgusting the way you've framed that
question, you instil a feeling of guilt on every parent answering it and make them feel like their child isn't important. Also leading us into admitting volunteers could take over tasks, is again taking answers out of context. Volunteers can do 'any' job, but the question is, should they? You imply we should all answer, yes of course they could and then will take action on it. In the same regard think about YOUR job.. a volunteer COULD do your job and MY job.. so should we be replaced too? What are you going to do to support YOUR family if a volunteer takes over YOUR job. You disgust me.. taking advantage of people who don't see through the survey you have presented. Absolutely Disgusting!

To leave Middlewich and Sandbach without the support of a children's center is a disgrace! We do not have any resources/facilities available to us at all. To now remove the children's center is diabolical. Just because these areas may not suffer the deprivation and social problems like other areas and inner cities, this does not mean that us residents are without need of help and support! I think Cheshire East Council are using Middlewich as a scapegoat. We have had all our facilities withdrawn but the council are happy to bring unwanted services into the area, such as Ansa waste site and the incinerator! It is not acceptable to remove valuable services from our children and careers!

It is such a shame that there will be reduced funding as very important service for all children, not just vulnerable.

I am a single parent therefore the children centre is a godsend as I don't have to pay, unlike the many expensive groups out there

While Nantwich has areas which are relatively affluent, there are also areas of poverty and deprivation. And neither does physical wealth necessarily lead to children who are well cared for and invulnerable. I believe a children's centre should be maintained in the Town of Nantwich

Children's Centres may offer additional support in high deprivation areas, but don't underestimate the support they offer all parents and carers, whatever the demographics, with regard to loneliness and isolation perhaps of new mums for example. Even experienced mothers need support and reassurance at times and the cost of providing a generalist service may reduce specific interventions in the future for either parents and carers or the children. I used the Children's Centre for baby massage with two of my three children and it was a fantastic service giving networking and socialisation to both mother and child. Perhaps hiring out rooms or expanding services to chargeable events may help supplement funding requirements.

It is a huge shame that children's centres that have built up a strong community base, with excellent links with families, professionals and agencies should be closed. Many children who are not labelled as vulnerable may be in just as much need of the services as those from deprived areas. Surely early intervention, support and access to local facilities is better than interventions that may have to be put in place further down the line for families that may otherwise not have slipped through the net.

I believe that the proposal to de-designate the Children's Centre that so much has supported my family and the community is completely unfair. People from Sandbach in
general, and families in distress in particular, deserve this service to remain intact. The council seems very concerned about reducing costs, but the cuts are being made to the local community, forgetting that people are not just numbers, but real families with genuine needs. On the other hand, it appears (and this is the general public opinion) that there is no concern from the side of the council about the salaries, allowances and benefits of their senior staff, directors and chief executives, who (I believe), if they are not able to provide other better solutions to financial problems rather than the constant reduction and cuts to the people, are not good at doing their job either and therefore should not remain.

The children's centre is a valuable resource that would be sorely missed in the nantwich area. Don't close it please.

I think closing children's centres would further reduce the access to children health centres/groups, especially for the parents who can't drive or do not have the money to be able to pay for activities like stay and play or tiny tots.

As a knutsford GP and mother of 2 young children I am saddened and concerned by the proposals. I have personal and professional experience of how knutsford children's centre has supported local families and specifically helped women facing post natal depression.

I have personally benefitted from my local children's centres in Macclesfield. I met new people and could take my daughter to activities that were free and also fun as I could not afford local classes in baby yoga, swimming etc. I found the baby massage classes to be excellent and they really helped by daughter's problem at the time. The baby weighing service is not as clinical or scary as if it was in a doctors or hospital. I am employed by the SMILE group and I think that we provide an essential service (peer support group for perinatal depression and strong emotions) that links with children's centre activities, ie. in Macclesfield after baby weighing if a mum seems upset or overwhelmed they come straight in to see us and other mums or parents in the same situation. These mums are no longer alone. I feel I would have been a lot more isolated without these centres, I am a sociable person but many others will struggle at home on their own without these opportunities.

To the person or people who have decided this idea of closing broken cross children's centre down. GET A GRIP AND WAKE UP IN THE REAL WORLD. If you for one minute though the public would just roll over and kiss your feet and accept your decision then you are sadly mistaken. How do you no which children are vulnerable what gives you the qualifications to make that judgement? If you close broken cross centre down or any children's centres then you are the lowest of the low. You are then Knowingly and with out any due care discriminating against every single child and family in those affected areas. UN convention of children's rights states that NO child should be discriminated against. However that is exactly what you are doing. Pulling these vital and life saving services out of these affected areas will create so many problems, mental health issues in parents will become so apparent and children will be the ones facing the brunt of it. These issues will end up costing the tax payer and also cheshire east council more money. We have all read the report that the government tried to bury. The report proves that closing children's centres down has nothing but a detrimental effect on women's health therefore has a detrimental effect on children's health and safety. Please have a heart and keep broken cross open.
There is extreme deprivation and vulnerability within many families in Knutsford, concentrated in a very small area of the town. These vulnerable families MUST be able to continue to access support and early intervention services but this does not require the use of the children's centre building, as in my experience the majority of people using the children’s centre are not vulnerable. Services should be targeted to those most in need and could be delivered in other community spaces.

I cannot drive for medical reasons. I have a 3-month-old son. The loss of Broken Cross children’s centre would have a large impact on us. There must be alternatives to closing centres, and not just by slashing services. Can additional revenue not be raised at centres with more affluent users? Mothers of young children can be very isolated and the centres are as beneficial to them as to their children. Cutting off support risks wellbeing and could transfer strain to local health services.

Issues such as special educational needs or PND do not just effect certain parts of the population. For many children’s centres are a lifeline to receive support and advice and to meet other parents in the same circumstances. Some areas such as Knutsford also experience deprivation and there are no decent public transport networks to access services at alternative locations.

Keep the centres open I will be lost without them! I am really looking forward to walking to my local childrens centre here in Middlewich to meet other mums, children and people in general, otherwise there is no where I will be able to walk my baby to! I was so upset when I heard this as I am afraid we will be cut off from society!

Recognise that deprived areas are associated with demand, but watch out for groups that would be missed. Vulnerability is not all about wealth! (not at all about wealth!). Clear simple name and tag line that tells carers how the service can help. I'm took me years to recognise what these children centres offered (too late really). Make it simple to the user.

Less facilities for children. This is not equal opportunities. If areas like Macclesfield & Crewe receive better facilities they should pay higher tax contributions. You are allowing houses to be built all over Sandbach but closing facilities - what is the sense in this?

I do not believe my family would be considered vulnerable using current government parameters but I do not believe that me and my children are not in need of services. We have a low income and can not afford to enrich are children's environment in the way we would like to so have used Sandbach and Nantwich services weekly for the past 4 years to enable us to do so. The social element for me and my children has been really key and so online would worry me. I would be very open to attending satellite services but they would need to be much better advertised than current satellite services in Alsager for example. It took a number of phone calls to establish the venue for the Wednesdays stay and play recently which may account for under use of services. I asked my 4 year old her thoughts and she talked about building a relationship with those delivering services. She commented she wouldn’t like different people delivering weekly services. Can I please add the library as a suggested location. Schools would concern me as schools and nurseries already have to track so many people's movements for safeguarding reasons I would think additional services would prove challenging.
Your questions are slanted towards the responses you want - you do not ask objective choices. There is no option in most questions to give an alternative view. The choice of services for either vulnerable children or all children is unfair and does not allow other choices to be given. It is important to recognise that 'wealthier' areas such as Knutsford have some large pockets of deprivation and need these services for children.

The decision in Macclesfield to close the Broken Cross center appears to be based on outdated information. This should be updated and reviewed before any further action is taken. It is unfair on a vast proportion of the population to assume that only families considered 'vulnerable' should have ready access to services - often (and sadly) these hard-to-reach people are unlikely to attend appointments or access the services available to them irrespective of the location of the services. It also assumes that other families will not experience difficulties of some kind and underestimates the anxiety caused at what is a time of significant change in people’s lives. I work for a charity who supports families of young people with a range of disabilities and difficulties so I am fully aware of the impact the reduction in funding can have on vulnerable people in our communities and we (as a charity) work hard to support them. I do not disagree that these people should be protected, I do however disagree that everyone else’s needs and concerns appear to be invalidated as a result. I would not be considered 'vulnerable' but, being pregnant with my first child, I have significant concerns about how the next few months are going to impact me, my husband and our future as a family. I believe decisions made during this consultation have failed to look at common themes at how expectant and new mothers feel at this time and have focused too much on background, circumstances and perceived deprivation. I do not know how many things will affect us in the coming months, but I do know that I do not have a ready-made support network - my family and friends are not local - and I was initially overjoyed that the Broken Cross center was within walking distance from our house and offered great opportunities to meet new people and access activities for myself and my baby. This joy was short lived as I found out about the potential closure on my first visit. We are located in an area of Macclesfield that is heavily populated, yet under these proposals everyone in our area (and 2 other large estates) will be expected to travel to the other side of Macclesfield (I believe somewhere near Hurdsfield) to access any services. I am not going to be able to afford to run a car while I’m not working, the buses are unlikely to run at times suited to appointments (and are not cheap) and while I’m not adverse to walking anywhere, it would take me at least an hour each way to get to Hurdsfield and that is not taking into account additional needs of a baby. If this is the situation for someone who is not considered 'vulnerable' how will this added distance affect someone also living in my area of Macclesfield who is disabled? I believe that there is a Children’s Centre and a Family Centre within close proximity near or on the Hurdsfield estate. One on Hulley Road (SK10 2LW) and the other on Nicholson Close (SK102BQ) - a total of 0.6 miles. If savings need to be made, why can you not simply merge these 2 venues? It would have far less impact on their existing service users, limit the impact on all those currently providing and accessing the Broken Cross services and represent a better balance across the town & would make services far more accessible to the entire population. It would also limit the impact on staff in terms of being relocated to a different site. Whoever makes these decisions must rethink the plans to close Broken Cross - I am just one person who, according to your data, is not at risk and who's own needs and
concerns clearly aren't a priority to anyone. However, as a tax payer and someone who is trying to access these services for the first time, I feel very let down by the Council that other (more logical) options are not being considered.

The Knutsford children's service provides a fantastic and valuable service to many women at a time which can be very stressful and full of anxiety. With very limited funds when on maternity leave I fear the only other option in these areas is very expensive baby classes- although I do not consider myself to be from a deprived area I could not afford the other baby classes on offer and I would have felt quite isolated and struggled to cope without the children centre services. My daughter had horrendous colic crying for 8 hours a day for the first 3 months; other women experience other challenging situations even though they may not be in the deprived areas they are still deserving of free support at a location close to home.

Groups held at the Childrens centre in Nantwich were an absolute God send when my first child was born. Though not in a deprived area, the groups such as Cherubs provided support and guidance for me as a breast feeding first time mum. The many groups I have attended have both aided my little ones development and social skills and provided help and support for myself.

Broken Cross children's centre is definitely the busiest childrens centre and I would like to see the information or data that says the weston/upton priory has the powest levels of poverty because I do not agree. It is very sad that any childrens centre's have to be closed but I would like to say that there are two childrens /family centres in hurdsfield so on eoption would be to save on services/buildings there instead. In my view cutting early intervention services to save money is false economy. I have witnessed the exceptional services offered at Broken Cross and the vital role of early Intervention reaching those who need it and preventing problems later on . This will put even more pressure on statutory social care services that are already stretched. I understand the local authority is in the difficult position of having save substantial amounts of money but I beleive there are alternatives to closing such as the model of a multi-professional Hub as outlined in the following, 'A national overview of Children's Centres in 2015.' [www.4Children.org.uk](http://www.4Children.org.uk), 2015.

Yes. People from deprived areas have more opportunities than people in non deprived areas in terms of their access to public resources. People who don't work get their rent paid, council tax paid, free dental care, free nursery care (£50 a day for me per child though!) and the work of social workers and health visitors is very centric on these areas. Those of us who work and pay taxes are yet again being penalised. Why would my children have to travel to a children's centre just because I my husband and I work and made a decision not have children until we could afford it? I appreciate not all circumstances are the same, are the same and it's not black and white, but for once our children should suffer for the sake of the needs of other children some of whose parents won't even engage with children's centres because they can't be bothered taking their children to them? Also the questions on this questionnaire are geared in a way which doesn't give much scope for an accurate answer. Yes volunteers could organise groups but do they? It depends where you live. Why can't they organise the groups in deprived areas? It's not just the children either. Women from deprived and non deprived areas need advice on how to look after their
babies, how to breastfeed, how to wean and can equally suffer from post natal depression and need the assistance of the staff from the children's centre. Sadly because apparently we’re not in a deprived area our needs aren't taken into account. Maybe a better way forward would be to assess how many people use each centre and close those which are not used as frequently, no matter where they are and perhaps compensate by holding a weekly drop in session in those areas for those who do access the services.

The childrens’ centres you are proposing to "de-designate" - i.e. close - serve families who are very vulnerable, even though they may be in areas of relative affluence/good fortune. It is unrealistic to expect these families to travel further to access services, as they may not have the physical means or money to do so. It can take a long time for some parents to build up the confidence to go to any provision, and expecting them to travel further or go to more expensive/different alternatives is likely to result in some families not accessing any service at all. Also, these questions are clearly worded with the assumption that the decision has already been made and the answers will be used to show public support, when this doesn’t exist. That is why I have not answered question 1.

I have found the local childrens centres a must. I have been visiting since my little girl was 3 months old and still attend at 17months. It helps her to learn and be creative with other children.

Karen Ames (Open Doors2 Ltd) and Helen Tyler (Occupusive) have been delivering the Strong Women project in Knutsford since 2011. The project developed from a need identified by the community partners to support women in the Longridge and surrounding areas. The Children Centre Manager and team are a crucial element of this partnership. Our concern about the de-designation of the centre, is the significant loss of support, not only to the project, but to the women who find the centre a valuable resource. On the Strong Women Facebook page, one of the women who uses the Knutsford Children's Centre stated, "I've had tons of support of the staff which has been a great help raising two under two as a single mum I can't imagine what I would have done without the childrens centre and the staff support I've received." We feel that she speaks for so many of the strong women who use the centre.

Knutsford childrens centre is an integral part of our community and should not be de-designated. Our children would suffer if the centre was closed.

I think it’s extremely sad the effects that the cuts are having on people. For many childrens centres are a life line and enable parents and carers to stay in touch and gives children more opportunities. I feel there will be more children put at risk and will create more families breaking down, this will result in more cost or social worker involvement and the cost of foster care.

I moved to knutsford from Chester and the children's centre in knutsford has been a life saver the courses that have been offered including - lavender group by health visitor team, strong women and the webster-Stratton have been fantastic opportunities and just because an area does not appear to have high levels of deprivation this does not mean there are not vulnerable children or parents that need the support from the children's centre if the knutsford centre was to close then the nearest access is at least 30 mins drive for people
who have a car what about those that don’t there are many people that use the children's
centre and it's always busy whenever I attend. I think it would be a shame to de-designate
this centre thus taking opportunities away from knutsford when it doesn't get a lot within
cheshire east anyway as a lot if focus us in the bigger towns such as crewe and macclesfield.

My local children's centre in Sandbach was a much needed resource for both myself & my
husband who is the primary career for my daughter, his role would have been much harder
without the activities & support which the centre was able to offer.

My daughter and myself look forward to our stay and play group on a Friday every week at
our Sandbach childrens centre! I am currently expecting another child and cannot wait to
take the both of them together! The staff are brilliant and activities are fantastic! Would be
such a shame for it to be removed

I think it’s all well and good saying that focus should be given to areas with a higher
percentage of "vulnerable" children but do those families actually use the services on offer?
In my last pregnancy in 2012 I was allocated hurdsfield as my children's centre. I only used
it for the midwife appointments and HV weighing clinic as it was too far from my house
(Edge of the Weston/Thornton Square) to be able to walk there or pop along for any of the
other groups that ran. This time I have been allocated Broken Cross as my centre and it's so
much more convenient. I can walk to my appointments with the MW, am planning to walk
to the HV clinics and plan to make use of the stay and play groups that run there as well,
now I've visited the centre and know about it. I may not be classed as "vulnerable" but that
centre will be a lifeline to me when on mat leave. Surely if the services are being used,
regardless of who is using them then they should continue? And as for suggesting that
services could be run by volunteers out of a school hall or community centre, great, but
you'll still have to pay room hire, and good luck finding a dedicated bunch of volunteers
who will turn up week in week out, what ever the weather and whatever problems they
have in their own life. I work with volunteers in a number of different ways and getting
them to commit in any sort of way that actually benefits people in the longer term (ie they
will turn up for a shift on time every time for the next year) is extremely difficult to do.
Volunteers if not in the right frame of mind can stay at home and read the paper or watch
telly if they don't feel up to working that day, and some have no sense of guilt for the
people they are letting down in this case mums stood outside a community hall with babies
and toddlers in buggies in the pouring rain waiting for someone to come and open the hall
for a session. I'm not blaming the volunteer as such, but it's the nature of the beast. Plus
I think broken cross, being on the edge of the Weston, is probably in the middle of a
"vulnerable" area. There are a lot of poorer families on that estate, which is why I presume
the school there was made a community school?

Broken Cross Children’s Centre is in an area where there is a lot of need. There is a bit of a
baby boom happening this year and the GP services are struggling to keep on top of the
vaccinations due to this increase in numbers. This means there are more people who will be
wanting to access the children's centre. Without this centre I wouldn't have met the mums
that I've made friends with as I met them all though the centre so it has been invaluable. It
is also within walking distance for me, the only place where I can walk to for an activity,
which is good for myself and my baby. For all the other activities we do i have to drive to
attend. As I have mentioned before at the last weighing session there were 47 babies and their guardians / parents who attended. It regularly attracts over 30 every week, where as I have attended other weighing sessions at other centres and there were maybe 5 babies and their guardians / parents when i was there mid way during the session. People weren’t staying it seems where as at Broken Cross parents stay for the whole time to catch up, children play, give advice to others and it is a really lovely experience. The staff are wonderful too. I’ve enjoyed all my sessions at the centre as has my baby. My husband is to be a house husband when I return to work and Broken Cross is the only place I've seen other Dad's attend so it will be really crucial for my husband to meet other fathers as there are not many places that accommodate them.

The children's centre is a valuable service that supports families. If you remove a service from an area it will be difficult for people to access the fantastic support and services. There is not enough investment in public transport in the north so it will be very difficult to travel to another centre.

remember that disadvantaged children are found everywhere, and by mixing with more advantaged children it can provide support and help to struggling parents

I used the Nantwich children centre regularly while on maternity leave. It is convenient for many and if we hadn’t had this facility I know i wouldn’t have been successful in breastfeeding my daughter. Vulnerable areas do need support but all mothers need access to this facility

I have used Knutsford center for the past 6 years and would be extremely saddened if it goes. I have seen how it can develop a person and a family. There is a lot of people who it has helped and are helping, I strongly believe it has its importance to the people of Knutsford and think it is a fabulous place for all

I am shocked and saddened to hear about the proposals, especially considering how they will affect my local centre, Sandbach. It's no just those with vulnerable children that benefit from the resources Sandbach Children's Centre provides. Whilst I have been on maternity leave (only receiving Maternity Allowance), the children's centre has offered me and my children a wealth of activities that I can 'afford' to take them to (most being free of charge) as other private paid for activities have been too expensive. This is something with needs to be considered. Childrens' centres help an array of families - not just vulnerable children. I do think further study needs to be considered into how Cheshire East centres engage with vulnerable children as they may not be targeted and included in such activities and this would then render the whole thing pointless! If these plans do go ahead I would encourage provision to remind in Sandbach in some form. You mention a bus in the 'more rural areas' - I think it should be wider than this and include all those areas which will no longer have provision.

I completely appreciate the difficult decisions that have to be made. And I understand that potentially vulnerable children need to have access to the children's centres. However I feel that every parent is in need of accessing help when they have a baby, it's such a big change and can be overwhelming for anyone. The children's centres have been and continue to be an amazing resource that me and my child can access. I'd be willing to pay for activities like
the Stay and Play so people who can't afford to could access them for free.

I found Knutsford children center very useful when I first had my baby to connect with other new mums

Children in the areas classed as "well off" have a greater disadvantage especially as the schools are not adequately set up to help the struggling children. The undiagnosed Dyslexic and Autistic Spectrum children have virtually no support from the schools. The schools in the villages do not put in the targeted support or the interventions that the towns eg, Crewe, Winsford and Stokes schools do. More help needs going to the learning difficulties children and the support/training for parents and teachers.

Nantwich may be perceived as a wealthy area where there are no vulnerable children, but I can assure you from personal experience that there are vulnerable children and, just as important vulnerable parents, who would more than likely find it hard to access the support they require elsewhere in Nantwich because they often feel cut off from the rest of the town because they feel different.

Broken Cross Children's Centre is well used and valued by parents. It would be a great loss if it were closed.

children at broken cross could be more vulnerable if site closes. Surely council can find money to get rid of pen pushers who generally on high wages, and leave frontline staff alone.

The age of children centers seems very limited to younger children in under 5 need to concentrate on provision for our older children

The Nantwich children's centre has been a god send to me. I may not be in a deprived or vulnerable area, but following the birth of my first baby, I was vulnerable due to my baby's severe reflux. I moved to the area four years ago, and had no family or friends on my doorstep to turn to. The children's centre offered me a lifeline to eventually break the miserable cycle I was in, get out and meet other mums, one of which is now my closest friend. Closing this centre will have such a negative effect on the community, it is needed! I think it is unfair to make the judgement that just because an area is not deprived, it does not depend on such a valuable and well loved service.

As a regular user of the Nantwich children's centre I cannot emphasise enough the benefits it has given to my daughter, I fully understand that vulnerable children need this service, however I feel that all children should have access to this fantastic service.

I think this proposal is outrageous. We have used the centre since my little girl has been born and we are not from a vulnerable family. I would say all mothers and their children are vulnerable when entering into a new world of motherhood and the groups, staff and social aspects are desperately needed going forward for everyone. If these activities would be offered by volunteers etc then this would already be happening and it isn't. In macc o think the 3 children's centres are perfectly positioned for all residents to access in their communities. I do believe that by closing this children's centre you could have more cases of post natal depression as women struggle with a reason to get out of the house with their
new babies. This is something which the children's centre does!

Closing Childrens centres will add ectra strain on other services in areas where vulnerable children are, such as Healthcare trusts, schools, police etc. They are a vital first line defence and closure is a false economy - Improve use - get other services to share the facilities

I believe that all Children Centres provide an invaluable service to parents and families and to move these services from areas where those who use them will struggle to travel to just silly. It is the Government going back on their Every Child Matters Manifesto which is at the heart of all centres. I very strongly disagree with any proposals being suggested.

I think that every child matters, where ever they live. Just because the town or village looks well off does'nt mean that there is'n't any vunerable children there.I think there is a need for a children's centre's. The services they provide are invaluable, especially to new young mum's. I feel that if you de -designate the proposed children centre's the problem of vunrerable children In those areas will increase and won't go away. LEAVE OUR CHILDREN CENTRE'S ALONE!

Why do cuts have to be made at this end where it is children and families that suffer? What about smaller increases in salary in the top 30% highest paid staff? Can't savings be made at that end where the difference isn't as hard hitting?

The children’s centre at moss lane saved my sanity when I had my daughter. It enabled me to meet my postnatal group who are an amazing bunch. So supportive. We met at the children's centre and continued to meet there until we went back to work. I think you need to understand the need for these places is not just in vulnerable areas, and by vulnerable you clearly mean poorer. All new mums and dads are vulnerable and need support. The children's centres are a vital service. I think if the buildings are decommissioned you still need some level of service held in a different building. I also understand you have stopped postnatal groups. I think this is a big mistake that needs revisiting

Children's centre in SANDBACH is a highly valued resource. Big baby boom in the area reported by midwives in recent months, meaning more service users than ever.

Although I live in Crewe, our family is not particularly poor or deprived. However, we don't have a car and so it is difficult to get to some of the baby activities on offer. I feel without being able to go to the children's centre I would have been at risk of becoming depressed, particularly since we had health problems during pregnancy and in the early weeks with my baby. It is not only poor families that need support.

Parents need support regardless of how wealthy they are!! Removing children's centres from areas considered to be 'less vunerable' is completely missing the point. Post-natal depression happens regardless of the area you live in and children's centres offer support and a network that new parents can rely on to help them through these difficult times.

The areas which are being de-designated still have vulnerable children. Maybe not the numbers of other areas but removing the provisions in these areas could be extremely detrimental to these.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I think you are overlooking the fact that these centres are a lifeline for mums as much if not moreso than for the children. I know without a doubt that myself and other mums would have suffered postnatal depression without the centre as somewhere you can receive help and support. Please don’t withdraw these services from the area. Postnatal depression can affect any socio-economic group not just deprived areas.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have personally accessed Nantwich and Rural CC and found it to be greatly beneficial to my own and my son’s well being, growth and development. I am not considered high priority but was glad to access all that was on offer. I have seen the good work that the CC do and the support that they offer to very needy families. I have big concerns that these high needs families will not be able to easily access the services if the CC was to close. It is not appropriate to suggest that they access the services in Crewe or other surrounding areas as they are not necessarily able to get to those places. The proposal of a CC bus is not a solution. It simply would not be accessible for all and is an insult to what is currently available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm not convinced by what I have read that the savings proposed can be made, without making staff redundant, which is not proposed, or making the situation for existing parents and children dangerously worse. We’ve seen a great many cases across the UK were serious issues with children have been missed, and children have lost their lives as a result. Reducing the offering from Children’s Centre is not the right way forward to protect our children. Think again Cheshire East, you’ve got this wrong! How about amalgamating some of the centres in Macclesfield and Crewe in to larger Children’s centres, reducing the cost of multiple buildings in each town? How about setting up PTA type organisations to help support and raise funds for existing centres. Knutsford Children’s Centre is important to all who use it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do think that the most vulnerable children should have greater access to facilities that children’s centres provide. However, I shall miss being able to use facilities that would not otherwise be available to me such as baby sensory and baby massage classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am disgusted that the proposal again is too cut support services again.. Cheshire will be in crisis soon as the focus is on statutory organisations which are failing anyway and the majority of support comes from these support agencies and they want to get rid of them again total outrage and against all policies set out. Making the poor suffer again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it’s important to have baby/ toddler activities for all, not just those vulnerable or receiving extra support. My little boy has gained a lot of social/ emotional development and skills through attending sessions since a baby. He will not attend nursery until he is 3 so this has been his socialising etc. It would be greatly missed if activities were more targeted. I think it’s good for everybody to mix too, from all backgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The children's centre in Knutsford is well used, I have never been in it when it has been empty and was a fundamental resource in the early years of my child's childhood with the groups and support functions it offers. I appreciate the funding issues and if these services can still be offered from an alternative (cheaper) location then fine but I feel by de-designating the children's centre the support it offers is likely to also disappear without a firm alternative plan and commitment in place which does not currently appear to be there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The children's centre in Knutsford is also located near the more deprived areas making it easy for families from poorer backgrounds to use but by moving the services elsewhere this could reduce the capacity for families to reach the services easily.

It is very important to keep all existing Children's Centres open. You could reduce the cost of running these centres by, for example, reducing the number of staff and reducing the number of days that the centres are open. These centres are essential for the local communities. Children and parents from all backgrounds depend on these centres for practical support, advice, mental wellbeing, support from other parents, etc. It is clear that you have chosen to withdraw the centres from what are considered to be the more affluent areas, but bear in mind that there are many children and parents from much less affluent households who depend on these centres. I have been using the Nantwich and Rural Children's Centre since I gave birth to my little girl in April. The centre has been vital for both of our wellbeing and I fear that future mothers will not receive the support I did. Please look at how they are run, and how costs can be cut, rather than simply axing these vital services. Once they are gone, that's it.

I think the children's centres are a brilliant resource as I wouldn't say my children are under privileged but I don't have spare money to take them to groups etc. I work so don't qualify for any government support so I feel my children would greatly miss out on the interaction and support from the groups.

Children's centres do a fantastic job of offering support to the most vulnerable parents in areas. Concentrating on improving life for families of young children has been shown time and again to improve the outlook and achievement of the children in later life. Therefore it is short sighted to think that reducing the budget in this area will achieve savings - there will likely be a delayed effect and increased spending in vulnerable children's later lives. Broken Cross provides a service to an area of Macclesfield where there are many vulnerable parents. Removing this service will isolate them.

Nantwich Children's Centre has been an absolute lifeline for my family. Having struggled with a divorce and two young children, the centre and its staff have provided a place for the children to play and be happy. In a society where one has to pay for everything it is so helpful to find high quality classes/sessions in which the children and I gain so much. It's obvious that all the staff take pride in their work and we have always been made to feel welcomed and valued. It's seems non sensual to close such a well attended centre. Yes, Nantwich may not be a 'deprived' but we all have the same problems in varying forms. A mobile will not provide a nursery setting or fabulous sensory room! And that lovely outdoor space for the children to play. My friends and I have been to the baby massage classes, baby sensory, stay and play, baby first aid, baby led weaning, baby and toddler group, story time, CLASP...how would a mobile provide all this for our community? I sincerely hope that it does not close!

The actions of this government towards young people and young people's education is dispicable. They should be investing more or, at least, maintaining the same level of investment in services such as these that are fundamental to the development of children. Our children are the adults of tomorrow and the government should be doing everything
they can to ensure they get the best possible start in society, rather than systematically destroying the structures put in place for their development. And quite frankly our children will need all the support they can get - the education system will be in tatters by the time my daughter starts school in 18 months.

The children's centre provides not only support to children's early education but also provides key support, advice and networking opportunities to new mothers at a very vulnerable stage in their lives. You cannot put a social status on new motherhood, all women deserve the same level of emotional, social and practical support at the time of becoming a new mum. Its morally incorrect to assume that new mothers who do not fall into a disadvantaged social status do not need or deserve the support delivered by Knutsford Children Centre.

I think Children’s Centres are an incredibly valuable asset for local communities. We run The SMILE Group out of Children's Centres in Hurdsfield and Congleton and have compelling statistics to support the need for our services. Perhaps we should be looking at collaborating more closely with public and private sector organisations to look at effective resourcing and sharing assets?

Whilst no one would disagree that vulnerable children (and their parents) need help and support, that does not mean children who aren't classed as vulnerable don't. Knutsford children's centre has been an incredible support to me in those first few weeks of my baby's life. I wish that ALL parents and babies have that support. How is "vulnerable" defined? If it is purely on economic grounds then this is wrong.

I do not think that the amount if money in an area should be a reason for keeping open or closing a children’s centre. My child would not be considered "vulnerable" due to having 2 parents living together, both with jobs, but that doesn't mean that I need the children’s centre any less, or that it’s services are less useful to me. I attended the new mum group when my son was 5 weeks old. Without this I probably wouldn’t have left the house. The group ensured that I got out of the house for a couple if hours each week. Because of the location of the children's centre I was able to walk from my house, ensuring that not only did I get out, but that I got some gentle exercise and fresh air. I was lucky enough not to have had any surgery during my birth, but a few people I now know did, so driving would not have been an option. This group has provided me with friends that I still see at least once a week, before this I didn't know anyone in my area and without the group I still may not. The children's centre provides us with groups in where we can meet and activities for our babies. Although none of us are classed as "vulnerable" this does not mean we have the money to meet in cafés or pay for groups every week. I have also attended 2 support groups at the children’s centre. One of which I found difficult to attend, but because of the familiar surroundings and familiar friendly faces on reception, it made it that little bit easier. Having the services provided at different locations will not only get very confusing, it also takes away the security that a lot of new parents need. I have friends in areas without children's centres and they miss out on so much, and sadly, do not enjoy the first few months of being a mum as much as they could. The centre I attend is Knutsford. With all that said, I do know that there are "vulnerable" parents in the area who relay on the centre for a lot more than I do. Taking this service from them could be harmful to the parents and
children. I know a few people locally that do not drive. Some due to lack of interest in driving, others due to not being old enough, some due to not being able to afford driving lessons / cars / running costs and others with medical conditions that stop them ever being able to. Not having a local centre may not seem too much of a problem as you may think people can attend another, but that might simply not be an option.

With reduced funding very difficult to provide these service so need to be more focused, but we some kind of support for children in those other areas.

Although Bollington may not have many registered 'vulnerable' children, the facilities offered by a children's centre are vital to our community. I like many families in the area moved here with little or no support network. Although both myself and my husband work, when I was off on maternity leave we had little spare money to pay to attend private classes or groups. By attending the children's centre I was able to meet other families and my son really valued the stay and play sessions. I would say that my experience with my son was much different from that when I had my daughter 9 years ago. At that point I went to the local Sure Start centre in Stockport and felt the children's centre offered much more for our wellbeing such as baby massage, baby weaning classes.

The help I have had from children centres has helped me and my children and it would have devastating affect on people who struggle on a daily basis and even just access groups to help with parenting or parents meeting other parents in the area.

I write in particular about the Children's Centre in Sandbach which my daughter in law has found a valuable source of support and company since she had her first child. She has met many other mothers, many of whom are new to the area as Sandbach increases rapidly in size. The staff on hand can answer questions and concerns of new mums, and she has spoken to a lot of new mums who found the Centre and the activities they run a real help as they feel isolated and some suffer from real depression trying to cope. These Centres take pressure off the doctors surgeries by offering advice. The amount of rates coming into Cheshire East from these new developments should be filtered into being spent in the areas where the developments are taking place, ie Sandbach, Nantwich and Alsager. These Centres help to build communities and are targeting young mothers before they go back to work, they give them an outlet when many are not near family who can give support. Of course vulnerable children need funding, but I feel the Council have to get their priorities right, it is a recognised fact that loneliness is a real issue for new mothers, give them help at the early stages, they hardly get time to spend a night in hospitals when th babies are first born, doctors appointments are not easily available. Not all mothers have transport to be able to travel to come to children's centres, the Council are making it more difficult for those who have a real need for help.

I think services such as Stay and Play, which are universal, can be run by community groups etc., but not the targeted parent groups, e.g. Webster Stratton, You Make the Difference. These require training AND experience to be successful. Experience can be gained by working alongside more experienced colleagues, as well as through courses / self assessment / video feedback etc. Strategies can be modelled during all interactions with parents not just at the groups. Community venues have been used for these groups in
some areas, but I'm not sure it was cost effective due to number of rooms / creches needed etc. Families who would benefit from targeted services do not always make themselves known and so may be identified during universal activities such as Stay and Play etc.

As a mum that doesn't drive and suffers from anxiety which the centers also help I think there should be more centers if this one at broken cross wasnt there then there would of been no chance for me to get to the centers for midwife appointments and child services!

Cut the statutory funding as they are failing all the time they do not help and support they create greater issues. These support services do all the practical and support and advice which is preventative work rather than reactive work too late in many cases. Social workers are stretched and can’t do their jobs and this will make it even harder. What happened to every child matters and all under 5 will be given opportunity has that all stopped.

We live between 2 centres, Nantwich and Shavington. Shavingtons services/days have been reduced dramatically in the last 3 years and this centre is closing soon. If Nantwich closes then we will have to go into Crewe to make use of the services available.

I am just concerned about volunteers running some sessions as they will not be as fully trained as a FSW and will not know all the signs to look out for or have the expertise to answer questions or most importantly ask the right questions. I do agree that its important to get out into the community and take services to people rather than just expect them to walk into a childrens centre. Over the last year I have worked very closely with Sandbach childrens centre and the staff are lovely, they have a great team and we have actually delivered 3 successful events out in one of the deprived communities which has been fantastic and I know that the childrens centre has picked up some more families. Deb Lockett is a great manager and her staff are amazing.

Childrens Centres are not just about children - they are about parents / carers too. Vulnerability does not only arise from deprivation - it also arises due to parental issues - mental health being one, which does not distinguish between rich and poor. Expecting childrens centre services to co-locate with other community functions and in non-purpose build buildings will mean less privacy, more 'business' etc which can have a massively adverse effect on parents suffering mental health issues. Your proposals put at risk the children of those suffering from post natal depression and its ripple effects who happen to live in what are perceived as less deprived areas. Childrens Centres are havens to people suffering from PND. Equivalent places will not be found in busy community hospitals dealing with multiple clinics, in schools and nurseries where parents who feel they are failing will feel surrounded by people who do a better job that they do at looking after children, or in community centres where a distressed woman will have to vacate a room to make way for the next scheduled activity like pilates - just when she has plucked up the courage to seek help.

Children’s Centres are not only good for the children but for the mothers too; especially first time mums. The centres need to be given more direction in terms of management etc which in turn will make them more widely used and beneficial to all. It is evident that our centre in lacking in experienced management which would make it operate more efficiently. The staff are keen but try need better guidance, management and direction.
See previous comment. Especially stop funding vanity projects, no bonuses for senior council staff, ask government for more money, raise council tax to fund these vital centres.

I think there are other Children's centres in Cheshire East which are not used enough to keep them open.

Shouldn't this questionnaire start with the questions "Do you understand the proposal and do you agree with the proposal to dedesignate your local Childrens Centre?" Shouldn't the opening blurb offer one or two scenarios about what a dedesiganted service might look like? The questionnaire starts with a question abut replacing Children's Centres. The second question is also not very helpful. No-one would argue with offering more services to highly vulnerable children but there are highly vulnerable children in all Children's Centre areas. I believe there is also new government data from somewhere called IMD and that this was not used in the original decision making. It should and I would like to see this shortcoming addressed in any summary report. This decision impacts more heavily on Under 5's and their families. Has can we have access to something called equality impact assessment? Is this decision fair to them? My Children's Centre Broken Cross is said to have the fastest growing number of births and is busy ever time I am there. Why are yu closing the busiest fastest growing place?

I fully appreciate the budget challenge that all councils are currently facing and do agree that new ways to deliver services needs to be explored. I also think that the potential to implement a small charge (even if it is based on employment) should be explored!!

The services that the children's centre offer should be kept for all children as those children that are not vulnerable at this moment could become vulnerable without the help they receive from the children's centre. They provide an invaluable service and prevent children and parents becoming isolated without a place to get help. This in turn would create more situations where children could become vulnerable and will become worse without these places.

The Children's Centre in Nantwich provides many excellent activities & groups that are a lifeline to new parents. The atmosphere is friendly & non-threatening - elements that are essential to new parents who often don't know anyone else with small children & need some social interaction with other adults. The fact that the activities are free is also valuable. Often, groups & classes can be expensive & therefore inaccessible to many parents. This is not just an issue that affects socially deprived areas in the current financial climate. I have used the Children's Centre with both of my children & found it to be a valuable support, not only somewhere to allow social interaction for both myself & my children, but also as a source of information to many aspects of childcare & development. There is nowhere else in Nantwich that offers such a facility. Nantwich & Rural maybe classed as a more affluent area, but this does not mean that parents require any less support! I believe that the removal of the service would be detrimental to the well being of the young children & their parents of Nantwich.

I think you're absolutely stupid if you think taking sandbachs children centre away is a good idea, just because a child/family isn't 'vulnerable' doesn't mean that they won't benefit from the wide range of services available and the opportunity to socialise not just children.
but parents too when the only person they might speak to that day is the children's centre staff. You evidently were too good to use their services or haven't had children in the area but the services they provide are good for everyone in the area including many of my friends I met through the centre.

Reduced access for those currently living in the vicinity of the proposed de-designated centres which is obviously a real shame. Who exactly in the community would run the activities in community locations such as village halls as the CC staff would be deployed elsewhere? I can't see how these people would do a comparable job to the CC staff.

I am one of the "squeezed middle" in the eyes of the government we earn too much to get any real financial support, but yet receiving statutory maternity pay had halved our income. I can't afford the child care cost to go back to work, and having no local family the services that the existing children's centres have offered me have been invaluable. These services should be available to all families with young children. Also just because these areas are deemed affluent it does not mean everyone in them is wealthy! I gained support and education from Cherubs breastfeeding groups, weaning groups, first aid courses, baby massage courses, baby groups, stay and play groups, drop in sessions... the list is endless! I don't think the services will continue if the local CCs close as there are no other suitable venues. Everything per event will need storing somewhere, getting out for ever event, then storing. The logistics just don't seem to add up. Also as it stands you can use the services of any of the local CCS but if 4 close then the services at the others will be so over subsided that they will become unavailable to others. I really hope there is an overwhelming response to your consultation and that the Nantwich CC and the other CC's stay open.

I have personally used the children's centre local to me and I and my children have benefitted from the services provided.

Where do you expect Mums in Nantwich, Sandbach and Knutsford to go if you close the CC?????? These provide vital resources including midwife clinics. The 3 towns may be small but the CCs attract people from surrounding villages. The Towns are also isolated and people may find it difficult to travel......and why should we travel to a different town, we want to make friends/have a support network where we live which is what the CC helps with. Crewe and Macc have 3 centres each because they are large towns.....they aren't that large to warrant 3 each whilst Sandbach, Nantwich and Knutsford have none. They also have far better public transport to enable people to travel to the centres.

I take my little girl to the Nantwich children centres as I live in Nantwich and don't drive so it's easy to walk to she loves going the classes with out this we wouldn't be able to go anywhere as public transport is so hard to get on with a pram and Nantwich needs somewhere for us to go and take our children to everywhere else is Crewe nothing in Nantwich, and it's such a friendly environment and the staff are lovely always willing to help. Will be such a shame to close it down as there is nothing in Nantwich for us to take our children.

Your definition of vulnerable seems to refer only to economic situation. Children of wealthier parents can also be vulnerable due to post natal depression and isolation of new
parents at a challenging time when support is needed regardless of economic situation. The children's centres provide new parents with a lifeline at a difficult time allowing them to access vital services and develop a support network of other new parents. I believe the instigation of these support networks and drop in attendance at the children's centre during a child's early years saves Cheshire East a fortune as new parents use each other and the centre for support rather than GPs, other NHS services and other family services. I believe it is very short sighted to reduce the budget but to remove centres from the more affluent areas altogether will result in more children becoming vulnerable for reasons not related to economic status.

The children centres were put there to help families in need and they have become invaluable to helping them. The centres not only help families direct but they support childminders who deal with children regularly. I fear that it will be the children missing out just for the council cutting costs. I believe the council is putting lives at risk by closing these centres. Some mothers need guidance as they don't know any different. I've known women to go to the centres before there own doctor as a cry for help. Loosing this service will make children very vulnerable. I think the council (especially people proposing this) need to see the type of children that go to Nantwich children centre and spend some time with the type of families and understand how the children centre helps them.

I think that this is another way of saving money and it will inevitably cost us more in petrol etc... To go to another location and may result in people not using the services that should be available to them.

I agree that provision needs to be aimed at the areas where there are vulnerable or disadvantaged children. However the services currently offered at Broken Cross (the centre which I use) are always in very high demand and it's always very busy. For that reason, whilst I can see sense in the argument that the centre could close, those services still need to be offered to the community and indeed, could easily be offered through different locations. In running the services from other venues such as libraries, church halls, community centres etc, costs and overheads would be massively reduced but children, and parents, would still be afforded access to vital services. Those venues might even be more accessible than the centres. It's crucial that new/young mothers, and fathers, are not left feeling isolated and the starting point with any de-designation, or changes to the current systems, needs to be ensuring that parent and children are not neglected or isolated.

Children centres in all areas are essential for the development of babies/young children and also to allow new mums to have both a point of contact with midwives/health visitors and to form new social relationships when adapting to parenthood.

I think it should stay open in Middlewich as if you shut Sandbach and Slasher we won't have a children centre and I think as a mother that had post natal depression I really benefitted from the groups that they provide !!

Do not feel the closed questions used in your survey will produce valid results. You appear to be sacrificing many to serve few, focusing your arguments on shutting centres to help those less deprived. It might, from a community point of view, be better to focus on supporting communities with high levels of children under 5 like Sandbach. Having
moved to the area 6 months ago I have made almost all my friends via the Centre. Sandbach appears to have a very mobile population, with almost 50% of those parents I meet having moved to the area in the past year. The Council should focus on enhancing the community through joining parents in activities arranged by the CC - instead if relying on church playgroups or private franchises, which are the only other activity for young children in the area.

The way some of these questions are constructed are very biased and feel very manipulative. It is difficult to argue with some of the binary options but they are far too simplistic and feel as if you are being pushed to give desired answers and don't allow a proper debate about the issues or to reflect the different locations. I comment primarily from detailed knowledge of Knutsford and its provision to Longridge and Shaw Heath which is where the greatest impact will be felt. It should be noted that the fact that certain CEC officers (not CEFS) have and continue to talk about "closure" is highly misleading, unprofessional and has caused a lot of confusion, anxiety and anger and they should be severely disciplined. In addition the interview of staff and notification of job losses before the consultation has closed tends to make the whole thing appear a complete farce - and profoundly dishonest. Not good for CEC's reputation. Not Residents First at all. The provision of the mobile unit is to be welcomed but addresses different issues and extends the reach of the services into more rural and remote areas which is needed but does not address what seem to be the fundamental criticisms of KCC. Having listened to a well presented description of what is proposed there seem to be some fundamental flaws in the proposals and arguments. Neither the mobile unit nor the reduction in services from a de-designated Children's Centre will do anything to extend the reach of the Children Centre services into the more deprived and areas and vulnerable children in the footprint which seems to be a major motivation and point of this exercise (as well hypothetically short term money saving.) It is admitted services will be reduced, both in number and in days available. Therefore however it is presented this will result in less provision to the very families CEC says it wants to help the most. It is difficult to see anything in these proposals and knowing the locality that this will do anything but make things worse on Longridge and Shaw Heath. There is also a more fundamental issue of constantly linking people living in "the most deprived areas" as defined by government data are the ones who most or only need support in the early years of parenthood. This is blatantly untrue and the repeated mantra "concentrating our resources in the most deprived areas" is too simplistic. All parents need help with what is probably the most important task in their lives and the one with least support. All can be prone to post natal depression, stress from life, work and family and indeed may be more vulnerable to financial pressures not being supported through the benefit system. Indeed it is their taxes and rates (which are due to increase) which fund these services. We know that is often children and young people in the more affluent areas who suffer high levels of mental health, stress, eating disorders etc. The Prime Minister as a recent PMQ's re-iterated a commitment to assess every policy against its impact on families. These proposals would fail that test. Somewhat ironic for a Tory-led Council. A criticism has been made that people arriving in four wheel drive cars put others off. That is the politics of envy and prejudice that should be challenged. Any parent willing to ask for help should be applauded and encouraged to do so. Why alienate the very people who are willing to take the time to prioritise their children and admit their need of
help? The prejudice and fear does need to acknowledged but can be changed through building relationships and better communication. Indeed the shared vulnerability of parenthood can be something to build those bridges and bring the active support of more able residents to the whole picture. More does need to be done to do that. Strengthening all families strengthens the whole of society. A key issue for KCC and Longridge/Shaw Heath is the lack of other community spaces/groups which should be a major consideration for any decisions re the Centre. The Community Centre at St John’s has been lost and now absorbed into the school. The Charity hosted by The Welcome Church/Cafe is not a suitable partner for delivering services on the estate. It has consistently failed to deliver and has earned a very bad reputation on the estate, residents often referring to it as the "Unwelcome". It was recently obliged to return funding to another funder for failing to delivery a promised counselling service and after safeguarding and other serious issues of failures of adhering to Professional Standards were raised. It does not hold the lease on the premises from which it operates and is not necessarily in a position to enter into contracts and agreements to deliver services. Safeguarding issues have been raised on more than one occasion. It continues to advertise on the CEC Family Information Service a programme which it has never run and for which it has no qualified or licensed staff to run. CEC should consider carefully any risk that it might expose itself to. Recent arbitrary decisions by CEC affecting partnership working relationships on the estate have caused a lot of anger, bad feeling and mistrust and lack of confidence in the competence and integrity of the Council. There is therefore no good basis for delivering differently on the estate should the centre be de-designated at this time. There is scope, and need, to develop and change the ways things are done both to be more efficient and effective and to extend the reach of the centre’s services and if this exercise puts more impetus into that then a better future can be pursued. But currently there are the wrong people sat round tables making decisions and there are important partners who will no longer engage until all these issues fundamentally addressed and relationships put right. Trust, goodwill and time freely given has been abused and betrayed and public money wasted. Trust, respect and a bigger and better vision need to be re-established with the right partners to achieve all the outcomes that we all want to see. Until this is done and faults acknowledged the proposed actions are premature and will be counter-productive, reducing the services and support to some of Cheshire East’s most vulnerable residents, alienating partners and residents further and building up more expensive problems for the future which we will all pay for in more ways than one.

As a new mum and new to the area, Sandbach Children’s Centre has been brilliant. It really was my lifeline after feeling very alone and cut off. It would be such a shame for new mums not to have a chance to meet, surely everyone should be given the same opportunity?

Regardless of previous answers money should be found for all children. The question is how to raise the money not how to cut services

It will stop people accessing the current activities run in Nantwich which are used by many. I believe that the centre resources and finances should be reviewed and should also explore the avenue of donations of toys/equipment, volunteers and shorter opening hours during the week.
I think it wrong that my children and family members should miss out because there not seen as disadvantage.

Myself & my daughter love going to the stay & play on a Friday mornings & holiday activities with my eldest at Sandbach children's centre. we are not a vulnerable family & to be honest there are probably not that many vulnerable children in our area compared to other areas in Cheshire east but I do sometimes feel people like us & because of the area we live in lose out on a lot of things, personally we are on a low income but not low enough to be entitled to a lot of tax credits or help with school meals. As I am a qualified childcare practitioner I understand the importance of play and play in various settings so I do take my daughter to other local playgroups that have a small charge which I do not mind paying & I wouldn't mind if there was a small charge at the children's centre, but I do feel it is unfair to cut the service completely. Also I always wonder how many of the children that actually need access to these services are getting it, I know a few families where the children could probably do with extra help but as they are not on any social services registers or in school yet they are not being helped.

We have found Nantwich childrens centre to be a god send when our child was small as he loved the sensory experiences and from this has developed a real love for sensory toys/music which I firmly believe steamed from his early experiences. I do agree that helping vounerable children is a priority but I do feel that as a working family our children deserve the same chances. I would not of got out the house as much with a new baby had it not been for the centre and that doesn't have anything to do with wealth or area, I firmly believe every parent has the right to achess group services and support. The nantwich team have been amazing.

Parents who do not fall in to the vulnerable category, like myself, will miss out on the service. Even though my child is not a vulnerable child we have gained many benefits from using the centre weekly. The service should be inclusive and continue to be available to everyone.

Children's services under attack again, but children don't vote do they? It is shameful Cheshire East. Children ARE the most vulnerable people in society, some more so than others, but by their very definition are the most vulnerable. Funny how very little is being cut for pensioners (the richest generation of pensioners that have ever existed or will ever exist). Again, children don't vote do they.

I think it is terrible th that you don't consider nantwich a place of need for a children's centre. It's not just about vulnerable children! Nantwich children's centre offers a super play group that allows the children to play and interact and experience things we can't do so easily at home but just as importantly provides a space for parents to interact as all parents can feel lonely/vulnerable no matter what their background! Also as a twin mum I can't afford to do paid activities so rely on groups such as this for taking my boys to. It would be a great loss to the community if the very well used nantwich children's centre was to close.

I found the activities and support offered by Sandbach children's centre (out of Alsager children's centre) to be invaluable after the birth of my second child by casarean section. I got help with breastfeeding at the cherubs group, met other mums through the post natal
group and baby sensory activities. If the centre hadn't been open I would not have been able to access other children's centres in say Crewe or Congleton as I was unable to drive for 8 weeks following my operation. I do not think I would have managed to breastfeed my baby and would have become quite lonely and depressed without access to these services. I would estimate that Alsager children's centre is within walking distance for most mums, babies and children who live in Alsager and is a valuable resource for those who cannot drive or do not have access to a car. Alsager is a rapidly growing community with new houses being built all the time and so the number of new mums and babies who need to access these resources is going to increase in the very near future. There are pockets of deprivation in Alsager and this also needs to be considered.

Ideally keep all services open but you could introduce a membership fee or fee for certain classes at certain centres or close centres where resources and centres are closer together, Crewe for example. By closing one centre in Crewe there would still be close by resources and it would have a lesser impact on communities. My Children's Centre is Nantwich, with a newborn baby I would have been lost without the support of the Centre and its resources. Just because a family does not come from a vulnerable background does not mean they no longer need support. Classes and groups such as CHERUBS and first aid courses have been essential to mine and my babies well being and development. I would not have had the confidence and means to travel to Crewe if my local centre had of closed and as a result my parenting experience and certainly breastfeeding journey would have been very different. I appreciate budgets need to be reduced but to close four entire centres picked out solely due to the fact they are in more affluent area, feels short sighted. I know from speaking to many Mothers who currently use the service, how distressing the thought of closure is. I hope the Council finds an alternative.

I agree vulnerable children need support but all children should have access to the services provided by the children's centre - the support groups for example, why should a mother struggling with breastfeeding or maybe even PND, but from a comfortable background, be deemed to not warrant the same support as a mother from a lower income family. Child development is vital no matter what background the child comes from.

I think this survey is VERY misleading. It is leading responses down a certain path (to support moving the services to remote) rather than being constructive in to what is needed - whether the children's centres should be closed in the first place. The children's centres are a fantastic local resource. The staff I have encountered are great and I feel they provide great support and importantly a level playing field for the formative years of a child's life. Please keep them open as they are.

Volunteers could be easily recruited to support qualified staff in the centres that already exist. As staff leave more volunteers could be recruited and an even broader provision could be provided.

Working in partnership with companies that already offer and deliver services in the area and seeing if they can offer free places for vulnerable families in return for referrals from support workers for the paying places. Try looking at the way Staffordshire run their centres. They are meeting the core offer and getting providers to do case studies.
It's a big mistake to de-designate in rural areas and would be a real shame to lose such a fantastic service as I detailed in my previous answer - please consider any alternative as you are isolating parents who may not be considered the most vulnerable but still have the same need to meet other local parents and receive information about facilities for their babies in the local area and receive support at a very challenging time. Thank you.

I use the centre a lot and it’s been our life line especially as new parents, to area and with PND

When I had my children I used the broken cross children’s centre a lot as it was nearest to me and I don’t drive. It would have been nearly impossible for me to get to ash grove or hurdsfield without having to get two buses with a large time I between the two which is not ideal with two children. Many people in deprivation cannot afford to drive and by shutting down broken cross you would leave the Weston and Upton priory estates with nowhere to go. Children centres do a lot more than help deprived children, they provide a community place where people can meet and get advice.

I believe the proposal is badly thought out and the questionnaire is completely unbalanced and skewed to give figures to back up a pre-decided solution. Please also be clearer and open in your language as using De-Designate rather than close is patronising clearly there to try and make the proposal sound more palatable. I profoundly disagree that services such as the breast feeding advice/support given at the Nantwich centre are more relevant to disadvantaged families, and from anecdotal evidence the centres you are proposing to keep open are less utilised than the Nantwich centre you are proposing to close. I believe the decision should be made on a basis of community usage and value to attendees rather than a hope that having a centre will benefit less well of children. The likelihood is that with areas of low employment, there would be more support to a young mother, as family members are not working, so a centre would be of less use than to a parent where a partner is working and needs additional support in the day.

Lots of issues people who dont drive wont want to walk 1hr+ to the nearest centre and not everyone can make the times at the other centres and that they dont do the same service as broken cross childrens centre where there lots to offer and the staff are great!!!

I feel that proposal to close centres will have major impact on community. Mums to be benefit from ante-natal care offered, New parents benefit from service provided -classes, weighing clinics, etc . Services the centres offer I feel should be available to all not just in disadvantaged areas, issues could arise with closure ie parents becoming isolated, which may impact on health services -doctors, health visitors, social aspect for parents and children not having these facilities close by, may not have transport to travel to another centre, may just feel can't be bothered to travel further a field and then parent and child missing out. Early intervention my not happen as those needing support may go under the radar.

I think it’s important to maintain some employed staff rather than relying on volunteers to run sessions and groups.

I had my first baby in 2014 and found the children’s centres across Macclesfield to be
incredibly helpful and an invaluable resource. Through the centres I met other new parents and gained valuable support and advice which I feel is especially important for all parents with their first child. Although I agree support is most needed for those in deprived areas, I believe the support given by these centres is important for all and closing any of these centres would be a significant loss to the local community.

Please could the council provide up-to-date data with regard to the numbers of families using each of the centres in Macclesfield and figures for the most deprived areas. Please could the council explain why they are not keeping a centre open on each of the three estates in Macclesfield rather than two on Hurdsfield, one on the moss and none from Broken Cross. Surely it is better to have one centre in each area. It is too far families from Broken Cross to travel to Hurdsfield or Ash Grove. Closing Broken Cross will remove a valuable and highly used centre for all of the community.

Please carry out an impact assessment of each individual centre and with reference to other possible service providers and with any other building venues clearly identified. There is very little/no capacity in any existing Cheshire East buildings in Knutsford.

I found the children's centre invaluable and to say that privilege or financial situations make parents fully aware of their child's needs is utterly ludicrous. Do you think a child's upbringing happens by passive diffusion? The children's centre encourages mothers and children from all demographics to be united in their desire to be good parents together. Delivering this service to only those in difficulty is encouraging segregation and all the negative connotations that come with it!

Nantwich children's centre is so fantastic with wonderful dedicated, friendly, enthusiastic staff. The centre is always packed and fully aporeciated by all who use it. The wonderful classes and groups have become part of the parents' and children's routine, many depending on them for advice, peer support and socialisation. There are not enough groups in the area with the facilities to cope with the demand already, so taking this centre away will have a massive negative effect on these parents with small children who benefit hugely.

Due to the lack of transport within the macclesgield area (having to get more than one bus to get anywhere other than the town centre) I do not agree to de designate the broken cross children's centre as I personally and plenty of other mothers and families would be affected negatively by this. Without the advice, support and social interaction I strongly believe that some children and families will become more vulnerable without the support this children centre brings. This will also be very inconvenient for a lot of families and parents who do not own and vehicle and some families who are struggling financially will not be able to access the other centres as they will not be able to afford bus or taxi fair. The centre is so busy with weigh ins and clinic appointments it's neither logical or necessary to close as it's gets a lot of footfall also.

I think its appalling that this is even being considered. The areas where services are under threat currently are the areas where such things as PND will rise, costing more money in the long run. You will be severely excluding a majority of mothers who rely on these services for support. I'm deeply disappointed at the thought of losing such a valuable service.
I strongly disagree with the possibility of Nantwich Children's centre closing. Having moved from London to Nantwich just over a year ago to be nearer family, this centre has been a source of support, advice and a place to meet new parents. Had this not been available at the beginning of my journey of being a new parent, I feel that I would have been very isolated and unsure of what new play activities (Mums and Tots sessions) would have been available to me. Here at the Nantwich centre, it provides an area to which I can be assured my child is safe, happy and engaged with both the staff and the equipment. Toys are always readily available, ears are always open and advice on what to do next or who to contact for further information is given. The centre has provided a stepping stone in integrating my child onto the next stage of development which is a nursery setting. Other facilities provide this of course, but there is sometimes a payment whereas these centres allow all children to socialise and play without any charge or 'donation'. When the financial climate is already tough for families who have chosen to allow one parent to stay at home or work part time, then these centres with their 'free' activities they provide are essential. My child has forged some good friendships from his 0-18 month play sessions and it would be a shame for him to lose some of these contacts by having this centre being closed down.

I think that the proposal is a bad idea and completely disagree with it. This is because these centres are very important to children, me being one myself, I know this. If they shut centres then it will have impact on families around the UK. There are other ways to cut and budget money, not removing children centres used by hundreds of people across the UK. It is unfair and uncalled for.

The reduction in breast feeding support services is already negatively affecting my family (shorter group at monks copenhall and ceased group at Oak tree), if the 4 centres are closed then many women will find it harder to establish breast feeding successfully which is known to have dramatic long and short term health benefits for mother and baby. The groups should continue but be led by peer supporters who can refer to qualified lactation supporters or the Leighton infant feeding team where appropriate.

I hear the mention of vulnerable children used alot in this survey. When my first child was born the childrens centre was an absolute god send to me, as it is now with my second child I live with disabilities and feel that the childrens centre in knutsford has really helped myself and my children. Without the childrens centre i feel this could have been a different story – My children would probably have been these vulnerable children you speak of. I strongly believe in prevention rather than cure, and feel i use the childrens centre to prevent me from being re hospitalised/ needing help from social services etc. Just because Knutsford is an affluent area, doesnt mean people dont need places like this.

I think there are quite a large number of families in Knutsford who are less educated, informed, affluent etc in need of support that would really lose out if Knutsford children's centre closed and I am not just referring to some inhabitants of Longridge, the council estate in knutsford but other residents of the town too. These sorts of people may not drive and probably wouldn't travel to a nearby town for support so would go without instead. I think all Mums should be invited to a session on weaning, ditching dummies, weigh ins etc however I think more specific classes such as behavioural issues, massage etc should be by referral only from a healthcare professional. Even tiny tots and stay and play is
important because although other venues run playgroups, some mums lack the confidence or impetus to go to them. These playgroups are good for socialising, support, ideas for educational toys, sing song sessions etc.

I think it's totally disgusting that the council could even comprehend closing this service. The children's centre offers invaluable services to new parents who at times can feel alone after having a baby. The centre offers information and classes that you feel at ease to attend thanks to the staff and atmosphere. I have used the Sandbach and middlewich centres after having my 1st baby and I intend to continue to use and support those local centres when my new baby arrives in the next few months. Attending the baby weigh in is one of the most simplest of tasks but allows you to ask any questions to the health visitors on site at the time. How can you expect people who can't afford to run a car attend centres in areas further away? Surely you cannot label one area privileged and another not just based on a few surveys? Every area in every county has underprivileged children and parents!!!

We only moved to the area last year and found Nantwich and rural children's centre invaluable in helping us to settle in to Nantwich. Without it we could have felt quite isolated. I would not have been able to afford to take both my children to as many classes locally as we attended after the move if I had have had to pay for them. The centre gave them the only opportunity to play with others when we knew no-one in Nantwich. All children should be treated equally, closing the centre means children will be penalised by the postcode they live in.

All cuts to public services are unacceptable and will have a huge impact on the future of this society

Some of the staff working at the moment in the centres which are going to de-designated could be placed in some of the existing Community Centres or other community buildings offering children activities - to provide some additional support

Not schools or pre schools/nurseries the have enough to deal and not online mums need face to face interaction and reassurances! Although I agree vanurable children need extra support I fear others may miss out or even be lost all together

areas of deprivation tend to have residents less interested in taking children to children,s centres the numbers will say it all if researched properly. of course there will be more children attending in highly populated areas.....but......the proportion of children attending when the local number of children is taken into account will be lower dont take centres of people who appreciate them and give them to people who dont [in general] more parentcraft in school is the best start by far

I am fundamentally against the de-designation of Knutsford Children's Centre. I write as a member of their advisory board, and Community Development Co-ordinator for the Registered Social landlord for Longridge. We have always worked holistically with KCC, offering part of their 'team around the family' as it were. We believe the Children's centre offers a family a step by step plan from ante-natal on. Very intensive family support involving our neighbourhood team, has seen families hold on to tenancies where they
might not have managed before. In extreme cases, we have seen this level of support negate the need for children to go into the looked after system. Aside from the obvious benefits of keeping a family together, if Cheshire East were to do a social return on investment analysis on the cost saving there – it would be enlightening. KCC offer early help intervention and we feel that we would be seeing more families discovered at 'crisis' level without their lower level input. Cases they have assisted with at a family support level include: families and individuals involved in domestic abuse; people in financial crisis; those facing eviction; those dealing with substance and alcohol misuse, manipulative relationships, post natal depression, mental health issues. For me, the fact that 47% of the LSOA attended or were engaged by family service workers in the last quarter speaks of the trust KCC have taken 8 years to establish with a community that has a reputation for keeping themselves to themselves. We would see those kind of figures as a massive success. Over the last 8 years KCC have worked to bridge the gaps for the area it serves. With poor transport links to employment, lack of job centre, local college etc. the centre have built up CAB drop ins, adult learning, a voluntary programme. We are proud to have developed the Strong Women course in collaboration with KCC, and have two Ofsted commendations which testify to its ability to empower the most hard to reach women and engage them on a progression route to design their own future. KCC have been the only partner we have worked with able to offer crèche provision to allow parents to attend adult learning courses - they do not see barriers as closed doors, rather as challenges to overcome. This offers a massive step towards combatting the education, skills and training gap (top 10% nationally for the LSOA) and illustrates KCC's understanding of the barriers our families face to get back into learning or work. More recently our Employment and Skills Manager has begun to use the venue for interview preparation. Were we to lose these services again, just by consulting a map, it is immediately obvious the void it will leave and isolation that will return. The response you will be getting from users of KCC who have been so empowered by the centre (volunteering, running groups, attending courses) will be a further testament to the power it has had to change lives over the years. I was recently proud to stand at a Town Council meeting with such a volunteer, who had been supported through post natal depression by KCC and is now setting up her own group. She spoke out with honesty, admitting "I would have been sectioned were it not for KCC". These are not isolated cases, we have been inundated with quotes and supporting statements when the news hit. Please seriously consider if this is the right thing to do. Other questions to pose: How will you identify families in need of early help without this level of engagement? How will a ‘quick response’ be ensured? Equipping a family with the tools from a Webster Stratton parenting course equip a family for life - can this cost saving be measured against a family reaching crisis point and accessing higher level social care?

The Knutsford children's centre is very well attended and an amazing resource for mums in the area. It provides do many services that are expensive elsewhere such as classes and stay and play groups for young children. It's a great resource and it will be very sad if it's taken away not to mention the negative impact it will have on many families in the area.

my personal observations are that the public are not as aware of what goes on in the centres as they could be. schools should advertise and promote the work and services provided. If the centres were to close, many people will loose that important link especially pre school - when parents dont yet know who to ask for help and advice - early
Interventions are essential. Families will not be able to access family services when they need them most and in an informal and friendly manner. If the centres were gone - how will the services currently being delivered continue? Where will families be able to receive professional advice from the EP drop in service, SALT, CEIAS, Family Workers, Health Visitors, Midwives, Play therapists, finance, housing, therapies, support for children with SEND, medical and health support to name a few.... families will not go to the school or nurseries - this is not the schools role. The medical centres cannot pick up this work as they are already stretched. Families have a good relationship with FSW through the centres and the workers have worked really hard with many, many families to gain their trust that professionals are there to make a difference to them, as many have been let down before. I feel that if the centres were to go as proposed.... many families would become even more isolated, their vulnerable and difficult issues would not be addressed and to be honest it is a disgrace to even be considering closing any of them.

It is such a shame that this has to happen. I know that this is fully the responsibility of the Tory government who do not support public services. Just another example of the result of awful cuts to public sector budgets. Lots of families really rely on the services they get from the children’s centres. They do great work and I am sure as someone who has used Nantwich numerous times the service will be greatly missed by many. I hope that maybe using village halls to run some play sessions / classes in the area will continue.

I found the Childrens Centre in Sandbach a very valuable resource. At pre-school age, my son attended a class there, which was a great opportunity to mix with other parents and children. And I have also attended an adult learning programme, which has helped me a great deal in my confidence of Maths. I gained an understanding of how my children were being taught and now I feel confident in helping them. If this course was not available and not advertised in a local centre, I do not think I would have the confidence I now have.

Knutsford Children’s Centre is superb and was a huge benefit to me as a new mum, enabled me to meet other mums and learn the skills to look after my baby. The ability to see health visitors and attend groups such as cherubs is key and the loss of this centre would be a huge loss to the community. There are areas of Knutsford that are in need of this service and centre and it is wrong to say Knutsford is affluent and so the centre isn’t needed. I hope views of those using the centres are taken into account and it isn’t simply a box ticking exercise.

We moved to Knutsford from Ireland where we had our first daughter. I feel so lucky with our second child who was born in 2015 that we had access to this fantastic services in Knutsford, walking distance from our home. Our child has benefitted from many services available at the Knutsford Children’s centre right from bringing her home. It was through the Children’s centre that my child now has some wonderful friends she will grow up with. We had access to courses and activities I simply couldn’t provide at home. Regardless of background all children should be given the same opportunities to learn through play in a safe and welcoming environment. It’s an expensive time for all families and many play groups/activities are an additional cost many families can’t afford. For example the baby massage course is so beneficial & many families can’t afford £45 for a private course and may be unable to travel to access such courses in another area. Have you considered fund
raising or asking parents to make a small donation to access the facilities locally. The experience I had in Ireland with my child was very different, none of these facilities were available to us and it wasn’t until we moved to Knutsford that we made lots of friends and became part of a great community. The Knutsford children's centre plays a vital role in improving the wellbeing of young children and their parents alike. It would be a great shame to lose such a vital community service. The staff are wonderful and having the support has made my experience of having a baby in the UK a truly great one. I do hope this service is available for many more families in Knutsford for year to come.

Making services only available to vulnerable children means that only children from the same backgrounds will play and socialise together. Making services open to everyone creates less segregation between not only children but their parents.

There should be access for all children. Also just because there may be fewer vulnerable children in the proposed areas, this proposal will still have an impact on the vulnerable children and all children in these areas. The purpose of these centres was to give a better start to life to all children and removal of a service provided by professionals will create issues further down the line.

Back in 2013, I gave birth to my little boy prematurely. He received six weeks of special care and shortly after he was born I was taken seriously ill and ended up in intensive care. When we both came out of hospital, things were extremely traumatic. With the support of the health visitor and the children centre, I came through a very tough time. The support and help the children centre gave me was above and beyond and without it I know I would have entered a very dark place. As my child was so little I was advised not to go to any groups until he had received his vaccinations. This meant I was very isolated. My health visitor was amazing and she recommended that I speak to people at the children centre. They very kindly arranged someone to come to my house to show me baby massage and you also arranged for me to use the sensory room on my own so that my child wouldn't come into contact with any other babies. This help was invaluable to me and I cannot thank them enough. Although, as a teacher and a person not deemed to be deprived I needed the centre, yes I agree, deprivation has to be tackled but by taking our centre away a lot more people and children are going to be deprived of your excellent support. Getting out of the house with a new born is bad enough but to have to go to another town would be a nightmare and people just wouldn't bother, it's a life line for many- not just the deprived!

Knutsford children's centre does an amazing job. Without it I would not have met the wonderful friends I have today (New mothers group) and would probably not have continued breast feeding (Cherubs meeting). It is an amazing safe space where I feel safe bringing my baby and two year old that should be available to use by everyone in the community and not just in deprived areas.

I believe I have given these on previous questions. I would just like to add that lavender, strong women, stronger women and Jo Swindells in particular saved me last year. I understand budgets need to be cut but taking away from the vulnerable and removing resources would be a disaster. Unfortunately, the community do not have much say in the overall decision and as a volunteer on my days off from work I feel it would affect not only
my personal progress but the help I try to give others. I still need support after becoming vulnerable myself last year but I also need the support from staff at the children's centre to help my own venture for other vulnerable adults.

It seems unclear about whether the decision has taken into consideration how much services are used in each centre as, only in my experience, Broken Cross sessions are always very well attended. I'm not sure how the other centres will cope with the influx of people. Are the other centres in Macclesfield so well attended?

Keep things as they are, it's important to give support to all families, not just vulnerable families.

Living near to Holmes chapel the only centres which offered any support to me were Sandbach and knutsford. I've attended post Natel groups in knutsford and other groups which were only available in Sandbach or Knutsford. In closing these two centres there is a massive geographical area which will no longer have any access to support. The supposed Holmes chapel and congleton centre has offered nothing at all. I don't even know where the centre is and I have two children under six. It'll be a huge shame to close knutsford and Sandbach as regardless of the financial position of the users they are still for theist part full time mums in need of support.

I am not classed as deprived and my child is not classed as vulnerable but I do use my local children's centre (Shavington -which you are closing with NO consultation-) several times a week. I also access Nantwich centre. I am on maternity leave receiving basic maternity pay and could not afford to travel far to attend baby groups or pay regularly for them (most are around £5 per session). The free sessions are a godsend to me, my 5 month old baby and my 3 year old as well all get something out of it. We can walk to the centre (which was essential after I had an emergency c section and could not drive), I get professional and peer support which is essential to reduce isolation and risk of post natal depression, my baby gets sensory stimulation and my 3 year old is able to play safely and mix with other children aiding his development. If we were not able to access these free sessions I would not be able to afford to pay for this at groups such as baby sensory, and it is very rare that other groups let you take a baby and older child. Just because I am not 'deprived' it does not mean I have lots of money, I worry about money every day and cannot afford to access anything other than the children's centre and church playgroup. Also you say you will be offering more free childcare so children will be in childcare and therefore not taking up services. Many families I know do not want their children to be in childcare everyday and the days we are off with them we want to do nice activities but again cannot afford paid for groups if working part time or on mat leave. We don't need qualified social workers or high paid staff to run the sessions (from experience it doesn't make them better with kids) just volunteers will do, sames as at the church playgroup but don't take away our local support network.

Closing Knutsford will put a great number of families in difficulties in terms of support for post natal depression, learning the best techniques for start of life and beyond parenting, providing children with a safe environment to play and learn. Knutsford has a varied demographic, some of whom can afford to drive to a location further away but the most
vulnerable children who need these services in knutsford do not have access to a car and there are many in this situation. Perhaps if closing knutsford is the only option, some of the freed up finding could at least be used to provide a bus/taxi service to the nearest children's centre. The staff at the children's centre are so valuable and know the families in this area really well. They are aware of children at risk, parents who are struggling and new mums who need someone to talk to, and they know how to help. Removing their location and availability would be severely damaging to this community.

We have tried to get outreach support from our children's centre and have given up. It appears that the outreach support extends to someone visiting our group and taking names and postcodes to 'prove' that they have been out to see us.

I strongly disagree with the closure of broken cross. This is my local centre and has been an invaluable resource to me and my son. I personally believe this is extremely narrow minded and has anyone actually spoken to the local community about what they need and want. Decisions should not be made on the basis of funding but what should be of value to our future generations.

Breast feeding alone results in a reduction in costs on the nhs, had I, and many other mums not had support groups to attend I know that many of us would not have continued. These unseen costs must be considered.

The children's centre is an essential resource in sandbach. It's not just lower income areas that have vulnerable children or parents needing support. Affluence is only one factor. What about mums suffering from postnatal depression? Knowing you have somewhere you can go where there will be resources and trained staff is essential. If the group's are based in other buildings / far away it will make it that much harder for the mums who need the services the most to access them. You'll end up reducing services to vulnerable children in the areas where the centre's close because only motivated organised mums will be able to find the support. Bigger groups or less staff is better than nowhere to go. It's too complicated to use multiple venues or to expect people to travel miles. It's hard enough getting out the house nevermind to another town.

I am a town councillor for the ward of Macclesfield West and Ivy and as previously mentioned in the survey I believe that the current Broken Cross Children's Centre is a vital part of the Broken Cross and Weston community and that a new delivery venue is not an option. Looking at Macclesfield on the whole the area in which the centre in situated is one of the most deprived areas in the town. A lot of the families rely on public transport and moving this elsewhere is not really an option. The area, unfortunately, really needs this service and to move it further afield would be detrimental to the most vulnerable in our community.

Today without the help of knutsford. They might not have as many vulnerable children but they do a massive amount for the community, especially for mothers who just need a little support, this cannot be ignored it helps new mums especially make massive inroads. They helped me with breast feeding, they helped me integrate with other mums, they helped with coping strategy courses all of which I have benefitted massively from.
Why close purpose-built centres to move activities to other places seems daft and such a waste of space and opportunities. The children centres have always been brilliant with fabulous activities for all children and parents such a sacrilege to see them all closing

It would be a great shame to lose the Sandbach Children's Centre I know many people that have used the facilities and gained from the services that they provide

i think the children's centres are a valued resource to disadvantaged families, families who are not disadvantaged, child care providers (childminders) and health care professionals (health visitors, breast feeding support). i think the children's centres provide a good service but how about capitalising slightly more on what they provide? e.g. groups £1 a time for the snacks they provide or if you don’t wish to charge remove snacks and tell families to bring there own? - I'm sure there is other things as well. You are already reducing the cost of creche staff at some point (which has gone quite).

There are families that do not fall into your 'deprived' category but that would struggle to pay the prices for private classes & services rather than using the children's centres. I feel it’s unfair to take these services away from this type of family. I personally have found it a useful place to get advice when health visitors and doctors are too busy or you feel you may be wasting their time. This kind of advice should be available to all parents no matter there personal circumstances.

I have found the centre in Knutsford very useful. Variable locations may be confusing for some people and having a consistent centre with staff is a good thing. I think volunteers can do a lot of work but can be essential reliable than paid staff

All parents and families should be able to access support equally, living in an area which is not considered to have lots of 'vulnerable' children does not mean there are not reasons to need to access the support these centres provide. There are plenty of social playgroups, but there groups led at children’s centres are more focused around child development. There is also access to talk to professionals in a relaxed setting when parents may not feel they can make an appt to ask for help. Especially important to offer support for new mums, mums with post natal depression, mums with children with additional needs etc.

Think the whole consultation is a disgrace. By taking the children's centres away children will inevitably be put at risk. The role will fall to school to offer family support, their budgets are already being reformed and there is not the capacity at the moment for schools to address this. It's just moving the problems and passing the book over to schools. Disgraceful!

There is only one children's centre in nantwich so closing it would mean there would be none available. Although nantwich is more affluent area there are still families who need support. Plus all mothers regardless of financial background need support.

As a first time mother who had relocated to Knutsford immediately after the birth of my child, the Knutsford children's centre was an invaluable resource giving me the opportunity to meet other mothers and as a place I could receive support and advice, particularly as my husband was often away working. Focussing resources on areas of social deprivation
ignores the fact that all mothers, irrespective of socio-economic background, need support, particularly those suffering from post natal depression. Without the resources of the Knutsford Children's Centre, Knutsford mothers will suffer.

I would raise concerns that the loss of such a vital facility for new parents and parents in general would lead to harm to children in the area. Parents need help no matter their financial position. These centres are an important part of the community!

I am having a baby in March and I found it extremely convenient to have a children centre at hand. I do understand that children that are vulnerable would need extra support however, I think all children should have the same opportunities, regardless of where they live. Taking the children Centre and/ or the service it offers away from any areas would deprive the children living in this particular area. It is not fair on the staff who have a job there.

I think natwich children's centre is a valuable resource. Childrens centre need to be easily accessible to those in community to which it serves. If there is disadvantaged families within that community what is the likelihood that they drive and have a maintained car in order to travel further to the next children's centre? the childrens centre know the families they serve well and know the problems they face. How about decommissioning children's centres with poor performance who do not serve the public within there footprint (?) namely monks coppenhall who always has a rude person on the front desk and when i was in need of family help and support closed the door in my face? however, the more intimate places like natwich were there and picked this up and even thou i didn't want/require a lot of support knowing someone was there was vital to me. by removing the smaller centres I'm my opinion you will by side roading the vulnerable families it serves!

Nantwich Town Council supports the retention of the existing provision at the Nantwich and Rural Children's Centre. This centre provides support and services to families within Nantwich and as a support focus to groups operating in the rural areas. Closure of the centre will mean that some services will have to be provided at health centres or schools which are already overstretched. There are no appropriate venues in Nantwich that could accommodate these services and provision of a mobile facility will only dilute the services. The required savings should not be achieved by cutting front line services.

It would be devastating to lose the Knutsford children’s centre. It’s situated within easy access of the more in need families and serves the community as a whole. I found the support, advice and classes there to be invaluable as a first time parent. Knutsford is not just made up of wealthy families, it has a mix of people from all backgrounds. Perhaps George Osborne needs to support his constituency better.

Children Centers which you are thinking about closing are really important to the parents and children in the villages/town no mater if there are vornable families or not. Families which can be refered as not voenable might change the statuse as a result of your action.

The re designation of services from Nantwich will have a devastating impact on local communities. The existing services provide a vital life line for families in Nantwich who might not otherwise have access to such services. The services currently offered in
Nantwich provide an essential outlet for mothers who are isolated in the community or feeling overwhelmed after the birth of their child. This certainly assists with reducing levels of post natal depression. Equally many mothers from migrant backgrounds who do not have close family support nearby find the support offered in Nantwich to be vital to their physical and emotional well being. There are also many mothers who do not have access to transport to Crewe and who would end up not using the service should it not be offered in Nantwich. This places both mother and baby at risk of isolation and social deprivation.

I appreciate cost saving is required. However the children’s centre is an invaluable resource for parents and carers in Nantwich. Many many local families rely on the centre and the services it provides for a range of young children. The centre could optimise its opening hours and sessions and be commercialised for other meetings etc on the days it’s not open for centre activities.

Why should Nantwich Childrens Centre be one to be ‘de-designated?’ Which, by the way isn’t even in the English dictionary! I have used the centre since by baby was 2 weeks old and have done 3-4 times a week since. She is now 21 months old. The centre allowed me to develop a circle of friends with like minds and children of a similar age. The centre helped me when I felt things were difficult, i.e establishing a routine etc in the early days. I enjoy taking my child to the centre to spend quality time with her doing things that I may not have thought about doing with her at home. She doesn’t go to nursery and I feel the centre gives her that experience of being in a large group and sharing activities with others. The staff at the centre are worth their weight in gold and are supportive to myself and my daughter. I have used centres with my child in shavington, Crewe and Nantwich and never have I found someone in there from a 'deprived and vulnerable' background/situation. My personal opinion is that this audience wouldn’t use such groups and centres. Just because we come from a more affluent place in the region this is not a reason for parents and children to be disadvantaged as a result! Taking the Nantwich centre away would take away a vital resource within the parent and young child community. Myself and my husband both work but cannot currently justify and afford £46 per day for nursery and the children’s centre is my closest port of call to enable my child to have this experience.

I am saddened to hear that you are thinking of closing a valuable asset to the mums of Nantwich. Without this centre I really don’t know what I would have done. I wouldn’t have gone to Crewe and as a single mum, on maternity leave couldn’t have afforded to pay the fees. The new mums of Nantwich are being penalised. I was a 43 year old first time mum, and would have found it difficult to meet other mums, as my friends all have grown children, other friends that go are on low wages. I know my comments probably won’t even be read, and even though I only go when I have time off work I will miss it, and want to say a huge thank you to the staff. They were always amazing and supportive. Very very saddened.

The Nantwich and rural areas Childrens centre has helped lots of children and would be missed by many people and children .it would be really bad for the area

The use of mobile centres in Community Centres or village halls as Childrens centres is a good idea. I have attended the Stay and Play at Alsager Civic Hall and find the location and
Council staff very inviting.

I'm a mother of a 10 month old, living in Cheshire East (Holmes Chapel) but having recently moved from Bolton. I have not used the children's centres here at all (yet) but partly because I assumed from my research of the area that there weren't any. They are not well advertised, even to those trying to find them and the health visitors didn't tell me about them. I did use several of the centre's in the Bolton area and found the support as a new Mum invaluable. However, I went to health visitor clinics and breastfeeding support groups so can see that these and similar services could be provided in alternative settings. I'm not sure what other services are offered at the centres, suggesting again that more advertising is required to help these resources be utilised. I had a centre within a 10 minute walk of my previous house but often drove to a different one for a particular support group. I was happy to travel for the service. I would be in favour of concentrating services in areas where there may be more vulnerable children, with staffing/resource levels maintained to enable maximum support BUT with greater awareness raising of what support is available across the region.

I don't think that because there are areas that have more vulnerable children the other areas should be left to fend for themselves. Not having somewhere to go to get help and support for parents in more rural areas can lead to more isolation than they already feel. Make the most of medical centres that have available rooms and do weekly/bi-weekly meetings or drop ins there instead of dedicated buildings. Alsager already has this, there is also plenty of room in scholar green. Don't just push these areas to one side because you want to pour money into Crewe.

I have used the children's center alot since it has been open and I kno alot of others have and it will be truly missed

Sandbach childrens centre is an invaluable source to many local mums here it will be a complete shame if it is lost.

From its opening until 2015 when my youngest child started school I attended Stay and Play on and off at Broken Cross Childrens centre. I really appreciated having free childrens activities within walking distance as without use of a car in the daytime it was hard to get to activities in town, expensive by bus and time consuming to walk further when trying to fit activities for younger ones around school/preschool pick ups for older ones. Closing centres like this would make it harder for families without transport who live at the edge of the town to access facilities for their young children. Being a regular attendee at a stay and play and having got to know the staff a bit meant that when I was diagnosed with cancer in 2011, with a young baby, they knew our family and were able to offer support in ways I would not have thought to ask for, which was greatly appreciated. Having fewer centres again would make this kind of support less likely to take place for families in when difficult situations arise.

I know a lot of people who have really benefitted from the Centre such as the new parent sessions. This would be a real loss. However I personally have no issue with losing the Centre as there is not enough on offer for a two year old. the only event I can attend locally is on a Friday morning which can be too busy. Not everyone has the means for travelling to
different locations to try other sessions. If the centre stays in Sandbach more should be offered to entice other parents.

Yes! The children's centres were a life line for me and my daughter. I have a middle income, I pay my taxes, received my statutory maternity pay, this is minimal! This should not mean my daughter is less entitled to facilities than someone else's child because they choose not to work or earn less the rest of the time. Other structured children's classes are outrageously expensive and just not realistic for parent to pay for. Without the children's centres I would have been stuck in with my baby I would have slipped over the edge into postnatal depression, they gave me a reason to get dressed and get out, without them I would only have socialised with family (retired family) my baby would not have had access to the wonderful people at the centres (Fiona at monks coppenhall) closing these centres will cause either over crowding at others or a massive bunch of people to miss out on vital support. Just because a baby's parent is not on the breadline does not mean they should be entitled to less in their own community.

Purely an excuse for not delivering services. "Redeploying" is smoke and mirrors for cuts. Also object to way this survey is written which alludes that the closure is a foregone conclusion.

The proposal to shut existing centres and provide them from a bus instead is ridiculous! The existing centres act as a central hub for parents to seek help and assistance from numerous social and healthcare professionals. The existing facilities are warm, safe and secure - all of which can not be said of a bus. The so called 'cost savings' made from stopping services being provided out of structure made of 'bricks and mortar' are overstated and shortsighted. Provision of a suitable bus will be expensive and as the services from it will be limited and ineffectual, it will be stopped as part of a future 'cost saving' measure! Basically it would result in a total waste of money and a redundant bus. Stopping services based on geographical area is discriminatory and makes the assumption that vulnerable children only live in particular areas, they do not and children from all parts of the county deserve to access these services via a warm, safe and secure building in their locality.

Knutsford children's centre has been valuable resource to my friends and I. I'm sure the presence of children's centres help women to make friends post-natally at a time when they are vulnerable emotionally and provide excellent support on parenting. As a happy mother of two and a registered nurse fortunate to live in an affluent area I do not feel my need for a children's centre is as great as some, that said I have friends who have suffered with anxiety and post-natal depression who have gained valuable support at their children's centres. This has helped then become more confident parents and happy mothers, potentially overall costing the state less long-term.

There is only one children's centre in sandbach and I don't think that should be taken away from us. Me and my son love going to playgroup on a Friday and we wouldn't have the means to travel anywhere else. There are no other similar arrangements for mums and children to meet up weekly and for some of us is a lovely way to spend a few hours.

I attended a new mom's group based at Monks Coppenhall Childrens Centre and I know that the current consultation does not affect this centre but feel very strongly on the
importance of these centres. It was hard to answer the previous questions as I do feel that all the centres are important and vital to the community, however I am also aware of the financial implications the government face. In my case the group that I attended was vital to my health and well being and looking back now, I can honestly say I do not know what I would have done without the support of the staff I met and also some of the people I met, who I am pleased to now call my friends. I moved from Birmingham to be with my partner and have my little girl. However, I was a high risk of developing post natal depression and was being seen by a psychiatrist prior to my move. This was mainly due to a previous period of depression and death of my father. From the moment I walked into the centre I felt at ease and very welcome. I never felt judged and the staff were all extremely supportive. I also attended the Health Visitor Weigh in and Stay and Play Sessions. There were times when I was struggling emotionally as I was also living with my in laws whilst our house was being renovated, at times I was at breaking point, but the staff were always there to listen to offer advice and support. I know that Monks Coppenhall is classed as being in a more vulnerable area and therefore services being in more need, but I truly feel that children's centres should be supported no matter where they are located as there will always be parents like me who need helping hand. I class myself as educated and financially secure but without the support I received for the staff at the children's centre I'm unsure if I would be hearing writing this today. I know this probably doesn't help with the consultation but felt compelled to let people know what a vital role these centres play in peoples lives.

I work as a teacher at Nantwich Primary Academy and Nursery which is attached to Nantwich Children's centre. Although Nantwich is not classed as an area of deprivation, the number of deprived families and children in this area is still far too high. The children's centre and staff offers invaluable support to children, parents and school staff. If these services were removed or relocated/ on a bus many families would not be willing to travel or engage with the services as often it is the extremely close proximity of the centre that helps parents to engage and the almost immediate availability of centre staff to talk to. If this were to be removed then families would simply not engage as it would be put off or be too far/difficult to travel to.

It's harsh to close the ones in the more affluent areas. Surely all children should be entitled to the resources. I have often used the local Sandbach childrens centre and would be upset if my next child missed out.

Yet again middle of the road earners would suffer. Not in benefits but not able to afford to pay for classes. We need the children's centres to stay as they are otherwise young children and babies will be the one missing out and not learning as much as they could.

The broken cross childrens centre is the only one within walking distance for me and my daughter- if it were to close you would be cutting off alot of mums and leaving them feeling isolated. If the childrens centre was not there I would have sat in the house alone with my daughter feeling even more depressed (post natal depression). Taking my daughter to group made me leave the house.

We need to maintain the fullest coverage across the county because a less well off family can be living anywhere in the area. Concentrating on deprived areas might make accessible
difficult for those living outside that locality.

Whilst I agree it makes sense to target provision to those who need it most it is also these groups who are the hardest to engage; despite the relentless work the staff do to engage all members of the community. Additionally within groups and other services it is positive to have a mix of people from different situations attending so people can form positive support networks and act as a role models to each other. Additionally, group dynamics can be difficult to manage if all attendees are high need - do you then propose to run more frequent groups with less people and how does this impact on the budget? Similarly, if only people from the most deprived areas use the centre this could then put other people off using the centre- which affects the aforementioned group dynamics. Additionally, issues such as domestic violence affect all communities and the centres are supposed to be places where people can come and seek assistance when they are most in need, I feel by minimising centres this possibly is reduced but I also feel by only targeting high need this is minimised more.

I found that the playgroups at the children's centres that I attended, especially after having my first child, have made me the parent I am today. I may not have been in the 'the most deprived area' but these groups gave me so much confidence and knowledge. I believe there is a requirement to support all mums and children. I realise this seems like an impossible task but otherwise someone in need will miss out somewhere.

The parents and children of the Weston and Upton Priory Estates will suffer incredibly if you cut services especially the parents who don't have access to a vehicle. The centre brings vital services to many families.

The vulnerable children will be made more vulnerable if the areas and specialist resources are reduced in an ever decreasing society with its dwindling family values.

Please see previous. Nantwich children’s centre covers a huge area and it is massively important that those areas are catered for. Each session that I have attended has been attended well so I don't understand why the centre is being shut for its success. I have no doubt that I would have had huge problems meeting like minded people and struggled to find support at a time when i was vulnerable having just given birth.

I strongly feel that all the Children's centres should be kept open to all families wanting to access them. I appreciate that vulnerable families are in particular need of the excellent services offered by the Children's centres but All areas have vulnerable families or families that may not be deprived but are desperately in need of support and help. I know that the Knutsford Children's centre and it's staff are constantly busy in providing support and services / groups and would do more if staffing and time allowed. As a volunteer at Knutsford Children's centre I have seen first hand the great work they do for All families that need their support and time. These families are from varying backgrounds, with different needs. I am certain that these families would not be able to travel to Macclesfield for example for the same services, even if they had their own transport as it would take up too large a proportion of their day and a lot of families are limited to being around for either end of the school day. For example parents suffering with depression can call in to the Children's centre for advice or attend a group where they know there will be a member
of staff to talk to, who can help them access the right support. If there isn’t a local Children’s centre then the only other option is to go to the GP which means waiting for an appointment before then being referred on to the appropriate services. The local Children’s centres make the whole process more accessible and can liaise quicker with the appropriate support staff. The local Children’s centres provide continuity in staff for families long term which is in itself vital. The services provided by staff need to be from a local base in order to be high quality and cannot be provided from a community centre one day and then a church hall the next. The staff rely on having a lot of equipment to hand and a hygienic environment to work from, this cannot be provided to the same standard when moving from one venue to the next. I completely understand the cut backs in funding are government lead and that the Councils are being put under great strain financially to make cutbacks but as a local resident I do not feel that the Local Children’s Centres anywhere should take the brunt for that decision. It will be a great loss to the local community, children and their families and is a risky decision politically in this area.

It is absolutely disgusting your thinking of closing this centre. There’s a lack of services full stop in the area and nothing at all for young children that isn’t so expensive, it isolates and financially excludes many. Water babies as an example, works out £20 per season! More than I have per week for entertainment. My child has additional needs, so cannot attend tumble tots etc. Most children’s centres already offer more, which is an insult; when our council tax and housing is more expensive. Yet many of us have to be here for family reasons. Most of the areas you’re keeping open, the most needy mums don’t even attend. I know because I’ve lived close to one & it’s middle classes who use it. Vulnerable mothers are afraid of intrusion. There is also much more to do with kids at an affordable rate in Crewe & Northwich as examples. Sandbach is expanding at a alarming rate, with no supporting services for the insane amount of council tax we pay. It’s reverse discrimination and it’s becoming pointless contributing in this country. Your destroying communities and leaving some mothers isolated with no other means of meeting others. Honestly flabbergasted at this suggestion. It’s a complete joke.

It is obviously important that the most vulnerable children are protected and helped but all children and new Mums are vulnerable. Having a local children’s centre gives a safe, life pressure environment for Mums to ask for help and to start to build a support network of other local Mums. Most Mums on maternity leave are sibling with a reduced family budget and balancing what they silent with how long they can afford to stay off with their new babies. I think it is important that everyone has access to the valuable services which these centres provide. If they are not pulling their with could they not be hired out to other community groups when the facilities are not in use?

We use Knutsford children’s centre and think it’s great. I attended the new parents group, baby massage and go to tiny tots. Great place to meet like minded mums, support new mums and provide advice to new parents. Staff are also really friendly, please try to make sure this fab resource stays open! Mum to 5 month year old, living in Holmes Chapel

Yes as previously mentioned your actions will show that you do not care about a parity of services for all children under 5 within the locality and are not making services available to all. Some families will need extra support for reasons other than deprivation and having a
place to get that support is vital— for example if a child has additional needs. You will also penalise those who cannot afford to go to bigger centres due to lack of transport. When you consider the volume of family homes being built locally the number of under 5's will increase. Also surely the amount of extra council tax you will generate from these properties means you should be able to develop additional activities and add further groups. Relying on volunteers is unrealistic and closing the centre is shortsighted for future development.

| knutsford children's centre provide a hugely valuable service to the town. Not everyone in knutsford have high incomes and having a dedicated local free service is vitally important to many of the towns residents with new babies, toddlers and preschoolers. |
| Don't deprive the mothers and children of Nantwich of their beloved children's centre. It's not just for the children but for the parents too and that children’s centre really helped my mental health |
| I think all mums need support, especially first time mums. This isn't just in underprivileged areas but across the board. As a new mum with a child that did not sleep until their egg, dairy and soya allergy was diagnosed, I found early motherhood more challenging than I ever expected. The children's centre helped me through by giving me access to a network of mums for support and drop in sessions with health visitors. I also benefited from the first aid course for children and weaning talks that gave me confidence in my early days. Now to go to the centre for midwife apts and because of the way the centre is set up to be child friendly I also take my toddler along with me. I would greatly miss it and the access to meeting other parents and support networks if it closed. |
| This proposal appears to have come about with a desire to cut costs by simply axing some buildings from the portfolio. As you say one size fits all is not a good approach. So surprise me Cheshire East - do something professional and caring by taking time to do an impact assessment of each individual facility. You look at the realistic possibility of other providers taking on the work and the reality re the availability of any other community buildings being suitable. In Knutsford I can tell you the availability of premises for 'social' childrens centre activities is negligible. The closure of the St Johns wood community centre which serves the same area resulted in reduced capacity. Plus the Knutsford Childrens centre has been seeking more space to expand its programme due to demand and has found it near impossible to source! Do your homework properly and then ask us to mark it. My grade for your work is D, put much more effort in next time. |
| Parenting is hard regardless of area you love or wealth. Children and patents are no less vulnerable in an affluent area. I live in Nantwich ( a so called affluent area) and without the services of the children's centres i don't know how I would have got through and feel that that both myself and my child may have suffered as a result of the resources being available. The resources should be available to people that use them the most. Surely there could be slight cut backs instead of complete closure. Stop snacks at groups for example or ask for a small fee. Means tested fee if need be. I am pregnant with my second baby and I am concerned by the proposed closure and do not feel I will get the support I need |

Parenting is hard regardless of area you love or wealth. Children and patents are no less vulnerable in an affluent area. I live in Nantwich (a so-called affluent area) and without the services of the children's centres, I don't know how I would have got through and feel that both myself and my child may have suffered as a result of the resources being available. The resources should be available to people that use them the most. Surely there could be slight cutbacks instead of complete closure. Stop snacks at groups for example or ask for a small fee. Means tested fee if need be. I am pregnant with my second baby and I am concerned by the proposed closure and do not feel I will get the support I need.
As a member I found the help of the children's centre invaluable in my 'hour of need', the staff are fantastic and I know a lot of parents that take great comfort knowing they are people on their doorstep that can help through their troubles and crisis.

It is not just 'vulnerable' families who benefit from input, I have seen those with good sociology-economic status not have a clue about how to interact with their babies/young children. I was disappointed with the sensory time sessions at my local children's centre. I attended expecting to learn new things but instead found a bunch of costly resources and parents left to their own devices. This results in a gang of mums having a catch up and generally igniting their child for an hour as they do not know the value of it indeed how to engage with the sensory resources. As a special needs teacher luckily I could apply what I know to my baby.

The Knutsford Children's Centre has been invaluable in supporting me and baby since she was born in August 2015. I have attended sessions such as Tiny Tots and the Well baby clinic and been given advice and support with breastfeeding and weaning. Without the support of the clinic we would have struggled in my ways. The centre offers so many services I can't see how it would continue to provide the same support without having the centre itself. There are no appropriate community centres in the area which could be used and schools just don't have the space to accommodate children's centre services. Having worked in schools myself for a long time I know that every room is in constant use in a school. It is not just 'vulnerable' children who need support - all mothers do. Without the excellent services that the children's centre currently provides, mothers will resort to visiting their GP, further overburdening them with matters which could have been resolved without them. It is my opinion that the de-designation of the Knutsford children's centre would be a grave mistake.

Children's centre in Sandbach made a huge difference to me following the birth of my daughter two years ago, without the postnatal group, sensory sessions and family sessions on Fridays I would have been very isolated, even though I am not from a vulnerable background, because a of my previous networks were work related. I pay a considerable amount of tax when working, and see very little back; this is one way in which I felt I actually benefitted from the welfare state. Volunteers would not have the expertise to provide the reassurance needed by new mothers.

The centre at Broken Cross is an invaluable resource for families with young children. It is easily accessible and offers great support. The weigh clinic there is much busier than the other clinics I have attended and I think all families and children deserve the support of the children's centres regardless of their financial income. We use the centre frequently and although my child is not considered as 'vulnerable', as a new mum with PND, the centre offers a great local support base which is much needed. Having to drive to a children's centre /use public transport is also impractical for many families.

Would prefer to keep all children centres open but understand in a time of budget cuts that need to concentrate the services in areas of most need. However think it’s important to point out that the services provided to mums and children not necessarily in high deprivation groups are also vital and hugely beneficial - the mental well being of new mums.
etc may be affected by the loss of services leading to further problems down the line. All people that are being classed as low need (low deprivation) are entitled to support as new parents and I feel that it is vital that these services are not only in place for the poorest in society. The loss of support networks for parents could lead to mental health issues (post natal depression etc) and this could then impact on gp services and the well being of the children. Just because you may not be living in deprivation doesn't mean you know anything about bringing up children and still require support.

The children's centres are an invaluable resource for all whether deprived areas or otherwise. Could a nominal fee for those not receiving benefits be introduced to help maintain the existing network and offering?

Please look at other areas where these type of reductions have taken place and where services end up being so reduced that rural isolation is exacerbated. Leading to increased postnatal depression and the emotional impact on such young children's development.

Broken cross children center shouldn't be closed down. It's a valuable asset to the local children and community. Without it....children and families will suffer. All the staff there are amazing and helpful. Me and my four children have received invaluable help and support and advice over the past year at Broken Cross centre. My eldest son in particular who is dx ASD has a great relationship with one of the support workers...who has helped him so much in the past year.....he is very sad about the proposal for the centre to close. It's not fair on the local community's children....children should come first!!

Not everyone drives, by closing children's centres in this area you will be isolating parents/children/families. This is a rural area and children's centres are needed. Maybe a reduced service eg 1 day a week at each centre rather than a complete closure is an option? What will happen to areas who have a reduced service... Will this reduce further?

Although it is very important to help vulnerable families, there are lots of new Mum's and Dad's in our community that need the help and support from the great friendly staff that help make the children's centres a positive place to go to. Learn new things i.e first aid, baby massage, baby weaning, advice and shoulder to lean on and meet new parents with children of a similar age. Cheshire can be quite rural in places and to lose those services for some parent could have quite an impact.

It is difficult enough to raise young children in this society without removing these vital services. If you do not invest in children at this age, vulnerable and those from a more stable background you are simply delaying the problem to further down the line. We are only now seeing how these centres have benefited today's teenagers. A relatively small investment now you could give children who will ultimately end up as a drain on resources in the future a solid start. I think it is disgraceful that these centres are under threat.

I went to my local children's centre when I had my first daughter this year. I didn't know anyone with children the same age or who were off on maternity leave at the same time. I have met a group of friends through it that I never would have met if not for the children's centre. Although I may not need the service to be free I still think it should be there and maybe ask for a small donation to attend courses etc. I think it is very important and
without it I know I would have found maternity leave and being a new mum a lot more lonely

Closing Nantwich children's centre is an un-necessary event that will upset myself and many mums in the area - it's a place for new mums to come together and support one another, and for children to socialise and mix with peers. The centre covers a wide area, and a lot of mums either can't drive after a cesarean birth, or don't have a car to travel into Crewe. I think it's really unfair to say that children's centres should only be available for vulnerable children - yes these children and their parents require provision, but my child should not miss out on opportunities because he is not vulnerable and lives in a less deprived area?! Could it not be implemented that a small monthly fee is charged to parents for using the facilities? I would pay to have these opportunities available to me and my son, and this could fund the wages of the poor staff who work so hard in the centres and DO Not deserve to lose their jobs, that the council apparently can't find the funds for (which is, by the way, ridiculous!) Nantwich children's centre has all the provision and resources it needs already and is probably actually one of the most used centres in Cheshire east! As u previously stated, the fact that we are in a less deprived area certainly doesn't mean we don't enjoy, use and NEED the children's centre! KEEP IT OPEN!!!

Please don't close the Nantwich children's centre, it's a fantastic place for the babies and children and a lifeline for mums helping prevent postnatal depression

Sandbach children's centre was brilliant for the year I was on maternity leave. It wasn't there for my first child but was for my second and I really noticed the difference. The classes were great for advice and meeting people. I had midwife appointments there, post natal group, sensory group, first aid course - it meant I got to know the staff and feel comfortable going there. It was somewhere to go regularly when maternity leave can feel isolating. Neither me nor my child are vulnerable - and I agree it is important to help such people - but we really benefitted from the centre and I would be very sad if it had to close.

Knutsford Children Centre is a life line to families in the Knutsford area. As a mum of three, I have used all its maternity, new mum, breastfeeding, baby and play group services. I have valued these services greatly and have also volunteered for the last four years at KCC in order to 'give something back' for all the support I have received. KCC has helped me meet new friends and form a support network in an area I was new to when I had my first child 5 years ago. I feel so sad and sorry that Cheshire East does not value this centre as much as we mums do. Many Knutsford a Mums are going to miss out on these services and my positive experiences if they have to travel to Oakenclough or Congleton. As a separate note I would like to thank and commend Sue Kenyon and her wonderful team for the professionalism and positivity they have demonstrated to their end users throughout what has been a very distressing and difficult process.

I would write down every group that will no longer run and the number of families that will miss out if a centre is closed then think about how else you will reach each and every child who has missed out.

The children's centre in Knutsford is a valuable resource for ALL parents providing education, support, encouragement, advice, practical care and a focus. It would be a
massive loss for the community if it was taken away and many parents would miss out on valuable information and advice. It is well used and appreciated and needed in Knutsford.

When my first baby was 4 months old I hit rock bottom, I went to the wonderful ladies at Ashfields Primary Care in Sandbach and they informed me of the Children's Centre in Sandbach. The following week I went along and found help and support within the groups and as an added bonus made some excellent lifelong friends. Without this important resource I don't know where I'd be today. My baby will be 4 in May.

The children's centre is a safe and welcoming place, I have attended it through midwife visits to preschool and would be sad to lose the Nantwich and Rural children's centre.

I have found the children's centre such a valuable resource. My son is by no means vulnerable, but I go regularly to my children's centre. Without it I would feel very isolated, alone and unsupported. I found out many useful things about being a first time mum and would not know what to do if I wasn't part of the groups that run there. I would be able to travel to another centre but many parents don't have a car and don't have that luxury. We have taken advantage of many of the things the children centre has to offer. I would have missed out enormously if this did not exist and I don't think I would have coped as well as I have done without it.

By reducing the number of children's centres you not only run the risk of alienating new mums but also put health visitor jobs at risk. They already deal with so much child protection within their case load that caring for well babies and helping teach new mums positive parenting. Their well baby clinics are already reduced and post natal groups now non existent you open up spaces for parents to not fulfill their role by reducing their easily accessible support networks.

Childrens centre is ideally located, easy to get to.

Listed in all 4- all valued all access any centre.

Nantwich centre is absolutely great and would be a great shame to be shut down.

I really appreciate existence of cc in knutsford, especially when i became first time mum. Offering new mums ***, stay and play sessions, breastfeeding group etc. helped me to meet new mums and to get social skills for my children. They offer entertaining for little ones even during the school holidays when there are no activities around. well done! All the staff always friendly and help full. I dont think if the CC was further away, I would want the cc in knutsford so often as i am now and find all the provided services 80 helpful and useful. walking distance from our home make it extra special! I would like to say big thankyou to all people in the CC in knutsford for supporting our family.

I think that if broken cross is de-designated the travelling distance to my nearest childrens centre would be 5 times further (+) to get there. There needs to be something for the local children on this side of town.

Broken cross provide a great service for all family and needs to stay. They also provide great free activities that help you get out the house when money is so tight.
Parent/family need centre resources within walking distance of home. Logic/ loss of groups that provide support will have a long team affect on finances Isolation, lack of support will see an increase in post natal depression.

Yes, this is my local childrens centre, fortunately I do drive but for those that don't and broken cross is local, it will be hard to get to another centre.

I have accessed all Cheshire East children's centre's regularly with both my children and i feel the support I got was imperative to myself and my children. Accessing children's centre's is extremely beneficial for new mums and first time mums as it is a safe enviroment that we have visited and know through midwife and health visitors appointments.

Please keep broken cross open. the other centres are to far away. Neston etc is the biggest in macc. It is used for lots of things and i have used it for the midwifes, heaton visitors baby massage and stay and play.

Me and my daughter enjoy coming to sandbach childrens centre every tuesday. If it closes we wouldn't be able to get to another venue as, don't drive.

The questions in this paper are extremely leading ones. I urge the council to cut bureaucracy and financial waste, not front. Line services. Fine innovative ways in which to save money elsewhere, dont take easy option. I have used the centre weekly for almost 5 years and it has been an invaluable resource in parenting health and social well-being and integration and education for life. The centre is purpose built for housing children which would be challenging if offered in other buildings, which knutsford doesn't really have. keep the centre open but with a reduced budget for providing service. e.g. no new toys or building works. Please do not consider keeping the overhead of building costs by using the centre for midwifes + health visitors - this can be provided at community don't move cost from one pot of budget to another excluding a number of spreadsheets(!), I don't understand why some towns have access to 3 children's centres and you are proposing knutsford has none? there is deprivation within the community here, not just wealthy tax payers! I would also be happy to contribute a small weekly donation for services, e.g. stay and play, which may be a way of keeping the services, e.g. stay and play, which may be a way of keeping the service running , and am sure others would too. challenge staff costs as people do in your consultation also does not provide enough information on how alternative solutions to either keep knutsford cc open or at least provide a detailed plan on how services can be maintained but delivered by other means, if your decision has not already been made...? we will fight this closure. I am also a tax payer and want the money spent wisely on front line services please.

As earlier, there are lots of vulnerable families in all areas and by leaving 3 centres in some areas and none in others you are leaving some families that you say you want to support more with no service. It would seem to make more sense to me to concentrate resources in one central area and keep centres open in all areas so all families can benefit. I would struggle to travel to other centres as an alternative as we only have one car and it is used to get to work so is unavailable during the day.

It would be a shame if the centre was closed , because it is a very useful and much needed
network for both me as a parent and for my child and her development. This facility offers a wide range of classes which other facilities do.

I have major issues that broken cross childrens centre may be closing as this is the only centre I feel welcome in! I've moved into macclesfield from out of area and knew no-one when I started coming to the centre 2 years ago! From offering baby massage to my boy when he was just 3 months old, I have managed to make a network of friends who also regularly attend groups and classes at broken cross childrens centre! I would be at loss and extremely isolated if broken cross childrens centre closed.

Has supported me and other families and offered help. I have lived in knutsford all my life their is no other service like knutsford children centre to go. Me and my son enjoy going stay and play on a monday its nice for myself as a mm and my son to meet other mums and with other children and prepare him for nursery. The staff are so well supporter and have helped me so much in my journey being a mum. I really dont know what i do without this service. The family support workers are so well trained and advice they give one so well supportive. Plus when i have difficulties and have to ring important people, the service has telephone access where parents and others can make these important telephone calls they have a privacy room which is good so you get privacy.

As regards volunteers & agree that they are a very valuable part of the ###, but we do not let volunteers school, nurse or supervise children need the experience and guidance of trained staff and to out their jobs because of financial gain is ludicrous. If children are targeted and helped young enough they are more likely to make a successful life. And make the right choices. It is a lot dearer to supervise and look after adults with ####### issues. I realise that cuts have to be made all across the board but if the children are helped now it will save their future distress.

This is are 3rd child we was at this centre with are first ### it ### the team came to baby group #### i went back to work. With are second child we went to ash grove the centre seemed very busy with older children and there parents didn't #### much for younger ones. We are now having are 3rd child and when we went for are #### appointment i asked if we could come here as we like it here more and midwife the staff are so helpful put a little chair in the room invite us to groups tell us whats on. We have also been to huddersfield childrens centre for a baby groups no one else was there the staff didn't set up the room till we got there again seemed more for older children and there parents if any should be closed down it should be Huddersfield.

I think that closing the childrens centre would be detrimental to sandbach. I have been coming for a couple of years and many people have come with there children. It offers many services to sandbach breast feeding clinics, playgroups are just a few i have attended. It delivers a sense of belonging to a community and offers help and a social network not only to the children but also the parents. Many different types of parents visit and it should not be only available to a specific group of people but widely available to everyone.

I think that they should be kept open my children get a lot out of the service that is offered and have learnt loads
I strongly feel that 'areas of deprivation' are not the only ones in need of children's centre services. Children who need extra support for medical, social, emotional etc reasons are not all in low income families or in certain locations. Parents from all locations and social backgrounds need support and advice as well as chance to meet other parents.

Lack of resources i.e. childrens centre will increase isolation and we will see a rise in post natal depression due to lack of peer support in a lesser socially deprived area.

Having worked in the creche's at Nantwich, brooks, monks and Oaktree. My first thought when asked to do Nantwich was its in a well to do area why do they need creches their, but out of all the centre's, nantwich totally opened my eyes couldn't believe some of the parenting I personally think after working in them all that they do have the most vulnerable children and without this centre children and without this centre children will slip through the net. It appears from the centre's you have choose to de-designate that its gone of they one all well to do areas but that doesnt mean children are any less vulnerable and maybe you should come into the centre and see one creche i did childs happy hadn't been changed all morning and alcohol opened in pram.

If the children centre is removed from nantwich, then the children who really need it will have no access to it at all! they will not be prepared to drive to a different childrens centre, nor may they have that option. The gap between vulnerable and able will extend. Outreach to these parents still need. to happen. support to vulnerable parents is imperative. On a separate note, many parents who currently access the service do not leave grandparents to their children locally- the childrens centre provides role models of good parenting to all social classes. Volunteers will not love the capabilities that other paid staff at the cc have and this proposal will not last.

The public consultation should identify centres/ buildings that are in knutsford, which are available for use. surely each children centre should have an assessment done showing the impact on the community. Produce a more un-biased survey for the public to complete. This one is extremely mis-leading! Inform public where health visitors will work from- well baby clinic, development cheeks, new parents group and blunder group. Where will midwifery hold their clinics- antenatal post, parent craft etc. we- the public must know answers before centre at knutsford is closed!

Parents/ families in the knutsford area will have to travel long distances. If would be better to have more centres available for less time - More around non-council buildings such as schools and nurseries, so that services one more easily accessed by all residents.

Would it be possible to keep groups running with a small fee?- I am sure many parents would be happy to contribute to a class financially in order to keep the group running for the children at this centre may not be disadvantaged, the services offered have been a highlight in our week from birth and with another child on the way, I would hope that we can continue to attend these classes. It breaks up what can be long days- a chance to get out and make friends socially, or simply have the opportunity to speak to other adults!

It would be a big shame to de-designate the Knutsford children centre. I have attended a number of classes here + have found it to be a great way fro the children + parents to
It may be useful to determine which children's centres are used most rather than deciding to close those in more affluent areas. Although, I tend to agree that vulnerable children are in more need and their families benefit more from support with parenting etc, are the centers in deprived areas used more? Childrens centres, in my opinion, should be a community benefit available to all.

The system is understaffed at present and this is a safeguarding issue. To cut funding further is paramount to turning your back on children. Close the centres and gov will see problems arise and start a permanent fundraiser to make up any shortfalls. Instead of rolling over and giving up: fight! Show that you can stand on your own two feet and that means something to our community.

I feel it would be a great loss to close Nantwich children's Centre. It has been an amazing welcoming place for both of my two children and myself. The staff are wonderful and make you feel like part of the family. The programme of events provided is very much welcomed by the community. I currently take my 8 months old son to the weekly baby stay + play on friday mornings and baby massage which are the highlights of our week. Groups are well attended and have allowed us to meet other mums and babies in the local area - without the centre I don't feel this would have a detrimental effect on some families if the centre was to close.

I think it would be devastating if the Nantwich CC had to close. The services + support it has offered for my daughter and me has been invaluable from 3 weeks old up to 18 months. Having no car means that the CC is one of the places i can go to meet other mums on a regular basis if the service was relocated it wouldn't be associated to me anymore. In the past i have attended breast feeding support, baby massage course and first aid courses at the CC- all for free. I would not have been able to afford there courses myself. We also still go to storyline on a thursday and stay+play on a friday morning. The staff are brilliant and provide well organised,fun +supportive sessions i suffered quite badly with PND after having my baby and being able to attend groups like this was invaluable in providing support and reassurance for me. The staff know me and my daughter really well among all the other kids who use the centre and they obviously care hugely about it. it would be a huge loss to the nantwich community. I probably don't qualify as 'deprived' or 'non-affluent' on paper but it doesn't mean i don't need or benefit from this essential service.

Do not close children centre! They offer great services and groups. I think it will have a massive affect on the community and new mums. I would of really struggled as a new mum without the childrens centre.

If you close/de-designate the childrens centre in Nantwich, you'll loose the engagement with mums + families, right from the beginning what is the point in the government funding nursery places from 2 years (if eligible) 3+4 year olds if the support from the first few years is lost? We used our childrens centre in liverpool- halewood, x3 per week whilst i was on maternity leave with my first. It was invaluable, a group of mums, started baby massage then we continued to meet and use sensory room + attended stay + play. This for a first time mum was amazing the staff were amazing, which i no doubt is the same for nantwich.
having just attended parents classes at the centre, and realising that they offer the same activities.

My daughter loves stay and play, and I do its a way of interacting with other learning new songs and new skills. I started going stay and play the day after my dad died it really helped me through it focusing on something outside of the house which made me and my daughter smile she started nursery in January but i chose to keep Tuesdays free so we could carry on this day together.

Children’s centre ideally located for ease of accessibility Very popular centre > targeting a wide target audience

Nantwich children's centre provides brilliant services to a wide range of families from different backgrounds. I have been a GP in the area for many years and although there is not a high concentration of socially deprived families, I feel there remains a real need for high quality support for vulnerable families, I feel there remains a real need for high quality support for vulnerable families. Having to travel to Crewe for these services would be too much of a barrier for some vulnerable families.

I do feel that by de-designating certain children's centres alot of people in the local community will suffer. Children's centre offer support to all families/children regardless of income. this can be invaluable to many people. In an ideal world-yes the needy should be prioritised- but in some cases no matter what is an offer some parents will choose not to access it therefore i feel personally every parent/child should be offered the same support/opportunities, not only those on benefits.

Within the last 12 months I have advised 19 families with pre-school +younger children at broken cross children's centre. These families came to see me in a familiar and local environment. The vast majority of these families were helped through referral to the speech + language therapy service, groups accessed at the BK children’s centre and by giving advice. I worry that without a children's centre that is local to this area some of these families would not have received servical advice a would have delayed getting help-when early intervention is most effective.

I have used several of the childrens centres since the birth of my little boy. They are always busy and i think it is great for the community. There are not many things available in this area as it is, and by closing the centres you will make it ever worse. I do not believe that these services should just be available for the less fortunate, all children have the right to go to a safe place to play!

Sandbach childrens centre is a valuable resource. For all pregnant mothers in Sandbach + surrounding areas. As a local midwife I currently see 150 pregnant mothers each year and we have over 1000 face to face contacts with these mothers at Sandbach childrens centre. Closing the centre will of severly disrupt our provision of care in this area.

Keep as same as my little girl loves it and is very confident here, where other places is shy and quite

I think it would be such a shame to loose a purpose built building. built for the children and
parents of knutsford where not everyone who lives here has lots of money to spend on play groups ect. I attend. Stay and play on a monday with my little girl who loves it so much. We have also attended lots of extra actives put on (all were free) plus lots of helpful course’s that the childrens centre also run, which have all been well attended. maybe it would be better to find other ways to vitalize the building. Along side the childrens centre rather than loose it. I have benifited so much as my little girl has and would hate to see it go, split up or loose any of the service that is offers.

Many facilities rely on their local children centre for an opportunity for their children to mix with other kids + experience new things - toys, activities, group play etc. Closing local centres will mean these children miss out on this socialisation. Although there are other centres in macclesfield, they aren't easily accessible to these without a car. Public transport also isn't the best from broken cross to these centres + they're a long walk away (45-75 mins) even longer with children.

I have worked with several families over the best year that have found the support they have received from the childrens centre at broken cross second to none. I feel it would be a massive shame for the important facility to close when i know its support is appreciated by so many.

The knutsford centre provides a valuable service to all the residents at the locality. My family and I have used and benefited from the centre for a number of years, Using many of the facilities and groups. The loss of this centre would be felt. by the whole community, be that parents such as myself accessing the male carer's group or those who i know have accessed emergency assistance in times of crisis

Will there be transport available for those that need it if their local centre is shut? Bus services may not be appropriate with a maternity wage.

Children are vunerable, when in a economically deprived situation. Which is what your proposal is seeking to concentrate services on helping with. I am a professional older mum and found the services at the childrens centre invaluable, because I had no experience with a child or any family or friends with a child. My child would have suffered from "social" deprivation. The interaction with older mums and children helped enormously.

This tuesday tots group is the highlight of both my son's and my week. being a stay-at-home mum is very lonely. causing here for the past four years has been a lifetime. I regularly have long conversations with the staff, asking for advice and just letting off steam. I have made very good friends here. I have attended ante-natal and post-natal groups. Baby sensory clubs and tots groups. The centre has fantastic equipment for children and the room itself is a very safe environment where parents/others can relax knowing the children are safe. "De-designated" i.e. getting rid of this service will affect many families in more ways than can be seen an paper.

I regularly use the Nantwich Childrens Centre and would find it very disappointing if it closed I have recently moved from London and this has been a huge support for me. It has enabled me to meet people and for my son to socialise with other babies.
My child is not 'vulnerable', however I feel that without the children's centre, or centre such as monks coppenhall that I would struggle. The centre is a crutch, a support for myself and many other first time parents. I use facilities such as the weigh-in drop in centre which has been really helpful encouraging me to continue breast feeding, being able to see my sons weight increase week on week. Also the health visitors at hand when i have also used the baby group & sensory room.
Q7 Which of the following are you completing this survey as?

“Other” responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A concerned rate payer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive parent - 2 year old moves in 22nd Feb 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult learner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And childminder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a parent who understands the needs of others in our community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunt to a young mum who uses the centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEC employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair of The SMILE Group peer support charity for families affected by perinatal mental illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire East Cllr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire East Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire east care leaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire east resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child who uses Broken Cross Childrens Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childminder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Co-ordinator, Great Places Housing Group and advisory board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned local resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned resident, voter, and payer of council tax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current parent in the region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECNHST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectant mother of child who will access Children's Centre from June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family member of a Children's centre employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family of users of children centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodbank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former teaching assistant at Sandbach Primary Academy (attached to Sandbach Childrens Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granparent of child using current services - having attended with her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love in Cheshire west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I never got to use the centres but would have benefited from them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested grandparent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Primary school Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local church minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local resident and council tax payer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members KWP Advisory Board, CE Children and Young People's Trust, Early Help Support Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother in law of a centre user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother to be this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a member of Cheshire east children's centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not yet a parent!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organiser of local toddler group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRE-SCHOOL MANAGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL IN EDUCATION SUPPORT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parent

Parent & Knutsford Town Cllr

Parent of children who have never needed access to such a centre.

Preschool Leader

Previous volunteer of a Children’s Centre

Project Founders of The Strong Women Project

Provider charity

Retired KCC employee

SLT working in CCs

School

Single parent of 3; Community Staff Nurse

Student

Teacher

Teaching staff at a local school

Town Council

Town Councillor for the West & Ivy Ward of Macclesfield

Town Councillor, Chair of Childrens Centre Advisory Board

User of Childrens’ Centres to promote Cheshire East’s Real Nappy Incentive Scheme

Volunteer

Volunteer at the children’s centre and a past user of lavender, strong women and stronger women

Volunteer for years and now a school employer who uses the centre to refer children in.

Voter

as an ex teacher

childminder

childminder

gp
local engagement officer
local primary school teacher
nursery manager
ofsted reg nanny
parent in borough
partner agency
pregnant resident
previous employee of cheshire east
resident near broken cross centre
retired childrens centre health visitor.
someone who has a direct debit with money going to Cheshire East
I am a Registered Childminder, I have in the past used the facilities the Children Centre's provide for us.
Employee of the SMILE group that runs out of Hurdsfield centre on Fridays and Congleton centre on Wednesdays.
Parent of older children. Child care professional. Member of the community who values our children and their future.
Employee of a Cheshire east school & local parent who has been fortunate not to need the services of a children's centre
Parent who helped run a PLA pre-school in Shropshire for five years and worked as a Portage Home visitor in Stoke.
Cheshire East employee of different service
Child minder/ grandparent
Creche worker in the centre
G.P
Health professional
Midwife
Parent of teenager using an employees care
Pre-school
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speech + language therapy assistant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will be becoming a parent in march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visiting for midwife appointments but would use in the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>