Division(s): All

#### **CABINET – 23 JUNE 2015**

# Recommendations of the Cabinet Advisory Group on Children's Early Intervention Services

Report by the Cabinet Advisory Group on Children's Early Intervention Services

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This report provides some background into the work of the Children's Early Intervention Cabinet Advisory Group and makes recommendations to Cabinet for changes to the children's early intervention service in order to realise £6m savings by 2017/18.
- 2. The timing of this report is important as formal recommendations for public consultation on change are expected to be presented to Cabinet in September. This report forms the basis for Cabinet to start considering the changes that are required to Oxfordshire's children's centres and early intervention hubs. The draft needs analysis to support the work of the group is available at Annex 1 on which comments are welcome.
- 3. Members have been instrumental in shaping the recommendations presented in this report. The Cabinet Advisory Group would like to pay tribute to the particular role played by the late Cllr Val Smith in the establishment and early work of the group.

#### BACKGROUND

4. The current budget for the Early Intervention Service including Children's Centres is approximately £16M. As part of the service and resource planning process for the period 2014/15-2017/18 savings of £6 million were identified for the Early Intervention Service to be achieved through integration with Children's Social Care. There was considerable public and member interest in proposals for how this would be achieved. In recognition of the significance of the challenge faced by the service a cross-party Cabinet Advisory Group was established to support development of proposals to achieve a £6M budget reduction and fundamental redesign of early intervention services was agreed.

#### Service overview

5. There are 44 Children's Centres and 7 Early Intervention Hubs in Oxfordshire.

#### Children's Centres

- 6. Children's centres developed in 3 phases between 2004 and 2010 following the success of the original Surestart pilots in 2000. In Oxfordshire there was one Surestart centre at Rose Hill (Oxford). The first phase centres were situated in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas and were required to provide full daycare (8am-6pm, 5 days, 48 weeks a year) in addition to the core offer of services. These centres developed out of existing provision (family centres).
- 7. The initial aim was to provide full range of integrated services health, early learning, family support and opportunities for adults to learn and return to work for all families within 'pram pushing' distance of home.
- 8. As funding became available the children's centres programme was rolled out across Oxfordshire in two further phases with a range of providers to the current picture where 14 are managed by schools, 15 by the voluntary sector and 15 by the Local Authority.
- 9. Statutory guidance on Children's Centres was revised in April 2013 to clarify what local authorities and statutory partners must do when fulfilling their statutory responsibilities and the duty to secure sufficient children's centres accessible to all families with young children, and targeted evidence-based interventions for those families in greatest need of support. It is available at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sure-start-childrens-centres">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sure-start-childrens-centres</a> A summary can be found at annex 2.

# **Early Intervention Hubs**

- 10. Hubs are a base for direct work with children, young people and families They also provide a venue for others to work with children, young people and their families and through which youth sessions can be delivered in the evenings.
- 11. The Hubs work with families where problems have been identified to prevent problems worsening and to assist family members to develop skills and resilience to resolve existing problems and successfully address any future issues for themselves
- 12. Launched in Oxfordshire in 2011, Early Intervention Hubs brought together a number of services that were working in a preventative capacity with children and families. The hubs operate at seven main locations (Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, East Oxford Littlemore, and Witney) and a further six satellites (Barton, Rose Hill, Blackbird Leys, Riverside, Berinsfield, and Kidlington
- 13. The work carried out by hub staff is varied and can include direct work with children, young people and their families, provision of open access youth sessions, delivery of evidence based parenting programmes, diversion activities to prevent young people

from entering youth justice system, providing opportunities for young people to access employment education and training opportunities.

#### CABINET ADVISORY GROUP

## Terms of reference

- 14. At their inaugural meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 the Cabinet Advisory Group agreed the following terms of reference:
- 15. The Cabinet Advisory Group will be made up of five councillors, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families.
- 16. The group will meet to explore the issues related to the future provision of early intervention services in Oxfordshire.
- 17. The groups key tasks and responsibilities are:
  - To consider the emerging national evidence and policy relating to children's centres and early intervention services.
  - To undertake visits to children's centres and early intervention hubs as necessary to help inform thinking.
  - To conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy and possible options.
  - To liaise with other organisations operating within Oxfordshire, whether national, regional or local.
  - To consider relevant benchmarking with other authorities.
  - To consider any petitions, received by the Council which may be of relevance to the topic area under consideration.
  - To submit findings and recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 18. At the Chairman's suggestion the CAG agreed to extend its original focus from solely being on children's centres to include the early intervention hubs.

# **Members of the Group**

- 19. Political Group Leaders agreed the following cross party membership:
  - Cllr Melinda Tilley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Chairman)
  - Cllr Mark Gray (Vice Chairman)
  - Cllr Janet Godden
  - Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles
  - Cllr Val Smith and subsequently Cllr Gill Sanders

# Summary of meetings and key issues discussed

- 20. The Group has met nine times between May 2014 and May 2015. They agreed the key tasks and responsibilities (as noted in paragraph 5) and the following principles to guide their work:
  - To support partners to provide universal services
  - To ensure county council services are targeted to those in greatest need in both rural and urban locations (i.e. ensure geographic spread)
  - To do what the council is required to do by legislation, regulation or policy
  - To protect the reputation of the Council
  - To ensure the child and families are listened to and their experience of services is seamless and integrated
- 21. The Cabinet Advisory Group have considered the following issues:
  - Existing children's centre provision through children's centres and early intervention hubs
  - Evidence of need and data analysis at the county and local levels
  - The pressures facing children's social care
  - Models for service delivery
- 22. The group commissioned a detailed analysis of need to underpin their consideration of the issues and support future decision making. A summary of the draft needs analysis is attached at Annex 1 with the full analysis available online.
- 23. The Group visited Gloucestershire County Council to learn about their early intervention service. They met with the Commissioning Director, Children & Families and Director of Children's Services, the Outcome Manager for Early Years and Vulnerable Children, the Manager for the Children's Centre Programme and Cllr Paul McLain, the Lead Member for Children & Young People. The Group also visited a children's centre in Gloucestershire and met with a head teacher and trustee of a children's centre.

# **Findings of the Group**

- 24. The Cabinet Advisory Group meetings have provided members with an understanding of the work that children's social care undertakes as part of its core early intervention offer to the children and families of Oxfordshire.
- 25. The Cabinet Advisory Group now has a good understanding of the needs of children and families within Oxfordshire and what the early intervention service can provide to them and how that fits in with the wider children's social care agenda.
- 26. The Cabinet Advisory Group recognise the important work being under taken in children's centres and early intervention hubs across Oxfordshire and the importance of focusing support and working with those most in need and those who are most vulnerable.

- 27. The Group recognise the pressures within the social care system as a whole and increasing demand for statutory services in the context of an increasingly difficult financial environment.
- 28. The Cabinet Advisory Group acknowledges that the early intervention service cannot continue in its current form and that significant changes are required to sustain the service in the future. Therefore future services must maintain delivery of statutory requirements and focus on targeted services which prevent escalation of need.
- 29. The Group understand the financial pressures facing children's social care and the need to save £6m by 2017/18 and the consequent fundamental redesign of services that is required.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

# **Equalities**

30. A full Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA) should be undertaken and presented to Cabinet with the recommendations for consultation on service redesign. It is essential that the impact of a new service and its delivery be evaluated to ensure limited negative impact on groups that share the nine protected characteristics. The assessment will also review the impact on our rural and most deprived communities.

# **Communications**

31. The changes that are likely to be proposed for service redesign will be significant. It is hugely important that there is communication at the earliest stage and that key stakeholders are actively involved in the development of proposals.

# **Next steps**

32. Over the summer the Council will review the outcome of discussions with potential partners and develop options for service redesign for presentation to Cabinet for consultation with the public in September.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 33.In conclusion the Cabinet Advisory Group recommends that Cabinet consults with potential partners on the proposals set out below:
  - a. The current service needs to be streamlined and refocused to respond to (i) financial pressures to achieve savings of £6m by 2017/18; (ii) increases in demand for statutory services.
  - b. A robust and sustainable service should be developed that delivers an integrated response to families' needs and focus on the prevention of the escalation of need.

- c. One coherent 0-19 years' service be created rather than continuing with an early intervention service divided by age groups. This allows for better joined up working and use of limited resources.
- d. Location of services and funding should be determined based on need as defined by Index of Multiple Deprivation, Children on Protection Plans, Children in Need and percentage under 5 (2015-20). See Annex 1 for draft summary of the needs analysis providing detailed information on the data.
- e. In addition to centres being located on the basis of need considerations of access and geographical spread of centres is critical given the rural nature of the county. The existing locality model should be used as a basis for future service design.
- f. Children & Family Resource Centres be developed in line with County Council localities. Locality based centres targeted to those areas of greatest need will be developed and combined with outreach services so as to allow for a good geographical spread of resources. Locality modelling which is based on natural communities means limited resources can be allocated on a needs basis at a local level. Locality modelling is a robust model which can be flexible to meet changes in need and population. It also allows for local communities/groups and parishes to play a part in service delivery.
- g. Early intervention services must not be duplicated. Close working is required with partners, especially schools and Public Health to ensure an effective service.
- h. Outreach of early intervention work from main service centres should be a means to ensure service provision in both urban and rural areas.
- i. Early intervention services need to focus on providing evidence based prevention work in particular to prevent children's needs escalating and requiring statutory interventions as well as providing targeted family support. This means that some other services perhaps traditionally associated with children's centres and early intervention cannot continue under county council funding streams for example stay and play sessions.
- j. Maintaining services through the current network of centres is not sustainable and alternative options for these buildings should be sought. Discussions are required with communities about the future of buildings and services in their area.
- k. The voluntary and community sector provision of early intervention services in Oxfordshire is thriving. Communities should be supported by the council, including being given the opportunity to access funding to develop alternative models of service delivery. As a strong signal of commitment to alternative models community funding should be made available for communities to bid for.

- I. Detailed proposals for the future delivery of early intervention services be drawn up for public consultation and communication undertaken at the earliest stage to involve stakeholders, including schools, district councils, town and parish councils, public health and the voluntary and community sector.
- m. Given the current indications from Government, that there is likely to be extensive reductions in available resource, we recognise that reductions in the service, beyond the £6m, will be needed.

#### **COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY**

Lead Member for Children's Services & Chairman of the Cabinet Advisory Group on Children's Early Intervention Services

Annex 1 – Draft Needs Analysis

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Maggie Scott, Head of Policy, Chief Executive's Office

June 2015

Analysis of need for Early Intervention in Oxfordshire as Commissioned by the Early Intervention Cabinet Advisory Group

Summary report (DRAFT)

Produced May 2015 by Research and Intelligence Unit, Policy Team, Oxfordshire County Council

#### Introduction

The purpose of this analysis is to support future decision making about early years services including Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hubs by:

- Identifying where families whose lives Children's Centre and Early Intervention Hubs services are intended to improve are most likely to live (i.e. where "need" in context of these services is located)
- Indicating the distribution of these families across Oxfordshire (at district or smaller areas).
- Mapping where Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hubs are currently located in relation to major settlements and areas of need.

This research does not comment on other aspects of Early Intervention services, including:

- Effectiveness or otherwise of Childrens' Centres and Early Intervention Hubs, or specific individual initiatives, in improving life-outcomes of children
- Finance of Centres or Hubs
- Performance of Centres or Hubs
- Levels of Centre or Hub usage.

Additional detailed district level analysis is available online www.XXXX

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# Overall summary

Childrens Centre's and Early Intervention Hubs are intended to provide a physical venue addressing the needs of children and young people most at-risk of performing poorly compared to their peers on a range of life outcomes and life chances. This analysis attempts to identify the location and relative numbers of these "in need" children and their families.

A number of indicators were available to identify where within Oxfordshire families are living, or might live in future. These indicators were chosen on their relevance to their correlation with the specific aspects of need identified in statutory guidance relating to Centres and Hubs and their work, or their usefulness as indicators more generally of poorer life outcomes and life chances.

It was found that those families most likely to be in need generally live in Oxfordshire's largest settlements, particularly Oxford, followed by Banbury. Within Oxford City, these families occur predominantly in the south and east of the City. Need is concentrated within these areas, rather than simply being a function of their larger population size compared to other areas.

# **Background to Children's Centres**

"Children's Centres are for children under five and their families and are places where they can find a variety of activities, play, information and support from professionals working in a wide range of fields, whatever their background or circumstances."

(source: Oxfordshire County Council website)

There are currently forty-four Children's Centres in Oxfordshire – their locations are shown in Map 1.

# **History**

Children's Centres were established in 2004 when Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were transformed into the first Children's Centres. These were joined by Centres based on other initiatives including Neighbourhood Nurseries and Early Excellence Centres. SSLPs in England grew out of the recognition that deprivation was damaging the life chances of many children and families in disadvantaged areas. The first SSLPs were set up in 1999. The remit of SSLPs was to bring together early education, childcare, health and family support to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of babies and children under five living in disadvantaged areas, and their parents. Their aim was to improve children's social and emotional development, health, and ability to learn, and to strengthen families and communities.

## Statutory guidance

There are a series of statutory obligations and recommendations defined by central Government for Local Authorities to follow in regard to Children's Centre provision. Annexe 1 lists the requirements and correlation with this research fully. Two key requirements are that Local Authorities must:

- Identify parents who are unlikely to take advantage of early childhood services available and encourage them to use them;
- Ensure there are sufficient children's centres, so far as is practical, to meet local need.

The first of these obligations relates to the running and promotion of services to parents, whilst the second refers to the scope and location of Children's Centres in relation to the child or family populations "in need".

The April 2013 Statutory Guidelines set out the purpose of Children's Centres as reducing the inequality between families most "in need" and their peers in terms of:

- Child development and school readiness
- Parenting aspirations and parenting skills
- Child and family health and life chances

# **Background to Early Intervention Hubs**

## Introduction

"...hubs are a base for direct work with children, young people and families locally. They also provide a venue for others to work with children, young people and their families and through which youth sessions can be delivered in the evenings and weekends."

(source: Oxfordshire County Council website)

#### History

Launched in Oxfordshire in 2011, Early Intervention Hubs drew on previous short-term projects piloted in Oxfordshire that sought to improve outcomes for families vulnerable to achieving poor outcomes.

Hubs work with families where problems have been identified to prevent problems worsening and to help family members to develop skills and resilience to resolve existing problems and successfully address any future issues for themselves. Hubs generally work with families as a result of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process. The CAF process is a request-for-service system shared between partners, which allows partners or internal staff to refer families to the Hub for support. Hubs bring together specialist services for children and young people, from partner organisations as well as those provided internally from within the County Council, including:

- Youth Offending Service: Pre-court and Prevention Services (Family Intervention Project)
- Youth Service
- Connexions
- Parenting Development
- Substance misuse

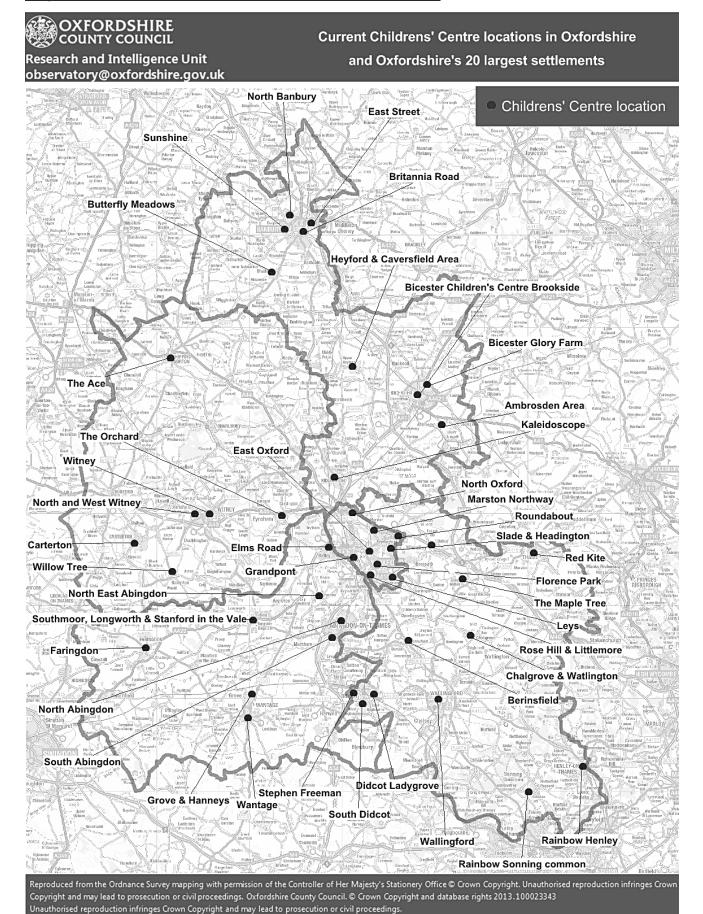
- Behaviour and Attendance Team
- Family and Children's Early Intervention Team (FACEIT)
- Locality Co-ordinators
- Extended Services

The hubs operate at seven main locations (Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, East Oxford, Littlemore, and Witney) and a further six satellites (Barton, Rose Hill, Blackbird Leys, Riverside, Berinsfield, and Kidlington). These locations are shown in Map 2.

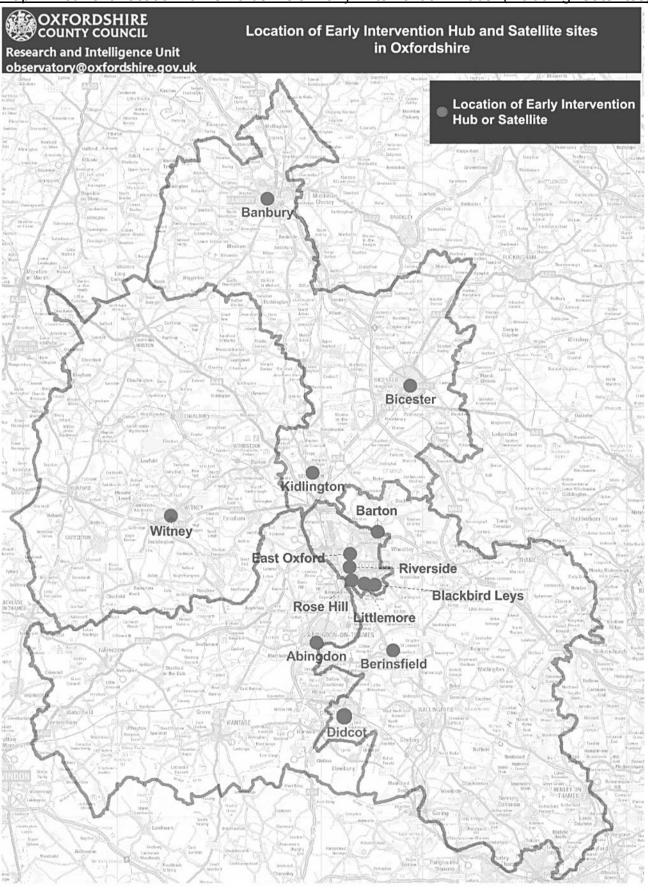
# Statutory guidance

Provision of Early Intervention Hubs is not a statutory duty in itself (unlike provision of Children's Centres), but they deliver a range of services that may relate, directly or indirectly, to statutory duties.

Map 1: current location of Oxfordshire's Childrens' Centres



Map 2: current location of Oxfordshire's Early Intervention Hubs (including Satellites)



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### Section 1: Numbers of children and young people in Oxfordshire

It is estimated that there are currently around 150,000 children and young people aged under-18 living in Oxfordshire, of which around 34,000 are under 5. There will be slight growth in these numbers by 2020: current forecasts are for 37,000 children under 5 out of around 160,000 under-18s. This growth will not greatly change the relative distribution of numbers of children between districts however. These figures are shown by district in the tables below.

Table 2: Numbers of **children aged under-five**, as estimated for mid-2015 and currently forecast for 2020, for Districts in Oxfordshire.

Children under 5	Cherwell	Oxford	South	Vale of	West
			Oxfordshir	White	Oxfordshir
			е	Horse	е
2015 (estimated)	9300	9400	8300	7500	6900
2020 (forecast)	9900	10200	8800	8300	7400
% of county total, 2015	22%	23%	20%	18%	15%
% of county total, 2020	22%	23%	20%	19%	17%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 3: Numbers of **children and young people aged between five and eighteen**, as estimated for mid-2015 and currently forecast for 2020, for Districts in Oxfordshire.

CYP aged 5-18	Cherwell	Oxford	South Oxfordshir e	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshir e
2015 (estimated)	24400	22900	23000	20800	17400
2020 (forecast)	25700	24800	24000	22200	19400
% of county total, 2015	21%	20%	20%	18%	21%
% of county total, 2020	21%	20%	19%	18%	22%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 4: Numbers of all children and young people aged under nineteen, as estimated for mid-2015 and currently forecast for 2020, for Districts in Oxfordshire.

Children under 19	Cherwell	Oxford	South Oxfordshir e	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshir e
2015 (estimated)	33700	32300	31300	28300	24300
2020 (forecast)	35600	35000	32800	30500	26800
% of county total, 2015	22%	22%	21%	19%	16%
% of county total,	22%	22%	20%	19%	17%

1. Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding

2020			
2020			

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Further breakdown of these estimated and forecast numbers is possible, into individual settlements. The largest settlements in Oxfordshire, ranked by 2011 Census child population, are shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Population data for **children under 5**, for the twenty largest settlements in Oxfordshire

Settlements ranked by population size in 2011.		Built up area	2011 Census population, all ages (built-up areas)	Estimate of under-5s population for 2015 (ward-based)	Forecast of under-5s population for 2020 (ward- based)		
			1	Oxford	171380	9425	10193 <sup>°</sup>
			2	Banbury	48651	3701	3755
بد			3	Abingdon	38676	2253	2135
Jesi			4	Bicester	33846	2242	2114
6 largest			5	Didcot	29341	2033	2092
9			6	Witney	29103	2155	2366
			7	Carterton	16364	1433	1578
			8	Wantage *	18505	1217	1440
			9	Kidlington *	15829	793	744
	12 largest	ire	10	Henley-on- Thames	11494	755	785
	<u>a</u>	dsb.	11	Thame	11329	737	921
	12	xfor	12	Wallingford *	10348	847	879
		Ő	13	Faringdon *	7121	744	915
		īS Ē	14	Benson *	5802	543	582
		ient	15	Chipping Norton *	5719	483	533
		20 largest settlements in Oxfordshire	16	Sonning Common *	4821	257	243
		t Se	17	Chinnor *	5473	324	316
		ges	18	Eynsham *	4648		
		<u>a</u>	19	Cholsey *	3081		
		20	20	Bloxham *	3374		

<sup>\*</sup> Ward boundaries can align poorly to the "natural" boundaries of settlements. "Built-Up Area" populations are less similar to ward-derived populations for the smaller settlements. The smallest settlements are grouped with larger ones in some wards (e.g. Cholsey into Wallingford ward)

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Table 6: Population data for **children and young people aged between 5 and 18**, for the twenty largest settlements in Oxfordshire

Settlements ranked by population size in 2011.		Built up area	2011 Census population, all ages (built-up areas)	Estimate of 5- 18 year old population for 2015 (ward- based)	Forecast of 5-18 year old population for 2020 (ward- based)		
			1	Oxford	171380	22898	24778
			2	Banbury	48651	8386	9231
4			3	Abingdon	38676	5300	5475
ges			4	Bicester	33846	5523	5645
6 largest			5	Didcot	29341	4537	5214
9			6	Witney	29103	4709	5813
			7	Carterton	16364	2656	3587
			8	Wantage *	18505	3100	3620
			9	Kidlington *	15829	1855	1913
	12 largest	ire	10	Henley-on- Thames	11494	1919	2096
	<u>a</u>	dsh	11	Thame	11329	1991	2149
	12	xfor	12	Wallingford *	10348	2150	2365
		Ő	13	Faringdon *	7121	1505	1902
		ts ir	14	Benson *	5802	1032	1235
		neu	15	Chipping Norton *	5719	1038	1234
		20 largest settlements in Oxfordshire	16	Sonning Common *	4821	906	848
		st se	17	Chinnor *	5473	984	905
		ges	18	Eynsham *	4648		
		<u>a</u>	19	Cholsey *	3081		
		20	20	Bloxham *	3374		

<sup>\*</sup> Ward boundaries can align poorly to the "natural" boundaries of settlements. "Built-Up Area" populations are less similar to ward-derived populations for the smaller settlements. The smallest settlements are grouped with larger ones in some wards (e.g. Cholsey into Wallingford ward)

# Section 2: defining, and locating, "need"

"Need" as defined in the statutory guidance for Children's Centre services (see page 4) relates to children and families most below-average (below their peers) across a specified set of measures. Early Intervention Hubs offer services working with families vulnerable to achieving poor life outcomes. Identifying whereabouts in Oxfordshire these families live, or are most likely to live, requires two things:

- Knowledge about the prevalence of need in different areas this requires specific indicators that can be used as measures of school readiness, parenting skills, or child health and life chances.
- Knowledge about the numbers of children who will be living in different areas.

These indicate the number of, and extent to which, families in an area are likely to be "in need" (in context of the Children's Centre statutory guidance), or will be vulnerable to achieving poor life outcomes (in need of Early Intervention Hub services).

#### Indicators of need

Initially, potential indicators of need relevant to the remit were identified, including:

- Teenage conceptions
- Breastfeeding (good evidence exists that breast feeding of infants results in healthier adult life)<sup>1</sup>
- Low birth weight
- Single parent families
- Maternal depression
- Childhood obesity
- Tooth decay in children
- Early school years measures of child attainment
- GCSE performance
- Child hospital admission
- Domestic violence
- Looked-after children
- Families involved in Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme

Data for many of these indicators is unavailable for geographic areas smaller than districts, or exists by school attended rather than by home location. District-level data is useful for

1. Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding

comparing the scale of provision required between districts but doesn't identify where need exists within it. District-wide figures can also mask smaller areas of relatively high need. School-based data is difficult to match-back to areas of residence and can also result in "averaging-out" smaller areas of high need. Relevant indicators for sub-district areas that were found to be available are outlined in the table below, against the aspect of need that they can report on.

#### Indicators of need

The indicators in the table are broadly ranked in order of their value as indicators of the location and scale of need, as previously defined. Three key indicators were identified: these provide the most powerful indication of where Oxfordshire's families "in need" (as defined above) are most likely to live.

Relevant data available for sub-district areas	Relevance	Aspect of need in statutory guidance this relates to
Thriving Families. This data provides counts and locations of all families identified in Phase 1 of the programme	Thriving Families is the name for Oxfordshire's initiative as part of the national Troubled Families programme. Thriving Families targets families where two or more of the following are identified:  Parents and children involved in crime and antisocial behaviour; Children not attending school regularly; Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness; Families affected by domestic violence and abuse; Parents and children with a range of health problems.  Those families where children are highly likely to be behind peers in terms of: school readiness, quality of parenting received, and overall life chances.	Key Indicator: relates to all 3 aspects (child development and school readiness; parenting aspirations and skills; and child and family health and life chances.
2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation This data is in the form of a ranking for small areas across all of England.	The 2010 IMD provides a single-statistic snapshot of the relative life chances and outcomes of people across a range of measures. One domain of the overall Index relates specifically to children experiencing income deprivation. Additionally, a strong correlation exists between the overall 2010 IMD ranking for an area and the rate of teenage conceptions <sup>1</sup> - which is very useful since direct data on teenage	<b>Key Indicator</b> : relates to all 3 aspects.

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(link: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22615419)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Deprivation-based inequalities in under-18 conception rates and the proportion of under-18 conceptions leading to abortion in England, 1998-2010. <u>J Public Health</u> (Oxf). 2012 Dec;34(4):609-14

	conceptions for smaller areas is not available.	
Numbers of children who have entered care.	This data provides numbers of children that have become looked-after in the last three years by the location of the family they were living with previously. Data on where children lived prior to entering care is likely to indicate where children at risk of entering care in future are most likely to live.	Key Indicator, relating to two aspects: Child and family health and life chances; and Parenting aspirations and parenting skills.
Early-years educational attainment	This data is a measure of the percentage of pupils meeting expected levels across early-learning goals, at small area level.	Child development and school readiness
Hospital admission of children for injury	This data provides some indication of the numbers and locations of children most vulnerable to physical injury	Child and family health and life chances
Lone parent families, where parent is not in employment	Lone parent household are more likely to live in poverty, according to data from the Department for Work and Pensions.	Child and family health and life chances
Child obesity in reception year	Obesity is linked to several negative health outcomes	Child and family health and life chances
Families receiving child benefit	Child benefit is available for all persons responsible for a child under 16 (or under 20 if in approved education or training). This data provides a count of Child Benefit claimants for small areas.	All (indicates numbers of children living in individual areas, complementing Census and forecast data).

Some of the indicators of need provide information on the number and location of children in need, while others provide an indication of the level of need per-child. Where a level of need-per-child is available for different areas, data on the number of children living in those areas is additionally required when attempting to understand the distribution of need. Wardarea forecasts produced by the Research and Intelligence Unit provide evidence about the expected size of child populations across the county.

Maps of these indicators are shown on the following pages (page 11 onward). Indicators were selected on the basis of value as indicators of areas where children are most likely to have poor life chances and/or outcomes, relative to peers. They are therefore highly relevant to the remit of services offered at both Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Centres.

# Summary of evidence of location of need

The individual maps reveal that families who are "in need" according to the Children's Centre statutory guidance are predominantly located in (or likely to be located in) Oxford City. Smaller pockets of identifiable or inferred need exist outside Oxford City, clustered in other urban areas in Oxfordshire (in particular Banbury, followed by Abingdon, Bicester, Didcot, and Witney). Across available indicators that relate to the definitions of "need" discussed, these areas of Oxfordshire have the greatest number, or expected number, of families defined as, or most likely to be, "in need".

The following maps (page 11 onward) predominantly show the prevalence of children or families or population in an area that are indicated as being "in need" according to a given indicator (the percentage of children or families in an area who are in need), rather than absolute numbers. When data on prevalence and child population size and location are overlaid, the urban centres of Oxfordshire are further highlighted as having the greatest "need". This is due to the fact that Oxfordshire's population (and particularly its young population) is concentrated in urban centres. Table 1 below shows the percentage of children living in the largest settlements in Oxfordshire: in 2011, 22% of children under 5 in the county lived in Oxford City (according to ONS mid-year population estimates); 46% lived in Oxfordshire's 5 largest settlements (including Oxford City), rising to 61% for the 10 largest. 27% of adults and 24% of children live outside the 20 largest settlements in Oxfordshire.

## **Key indicators**

Data on the location and numbers of Thriving Families, the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation dataset, and data on the rates at which children in different areas of Oxfordshire enter care, form a group of three key indicators.

# Thriving families

Thriving Families is Oxfordshire's local programme, part of the national Troubled Families initiative. It targets families where two or more of the following are identified:

- Parents and children involved in crime and antisocial behaviour
- Children not attending school regularly
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

Thriving families therefore is aimed at families where children are highly likely to be behind peers in terms of school readiness, quality of parenting received, and overall life chances. There is therefore overlap between those families identified by Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme and those families that Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hub services are required to work with to improve children's life chances (see pages five and six).

Phase 1 of the Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme identified over eight hundred Troubled Families. These families were mapped to provide an additional indication of where children within Oxfordshire defined as "in need" (see page eight) are presently living (though families who have since moved out of Oxfordshire or for whom current address data is not available were not mapped). One third of all families involved in Phase 1 live in Oxford City. A further quarter live in Cherwell.

Table 1: number of families involved in Phase 1 of Thriving Families, by home district.

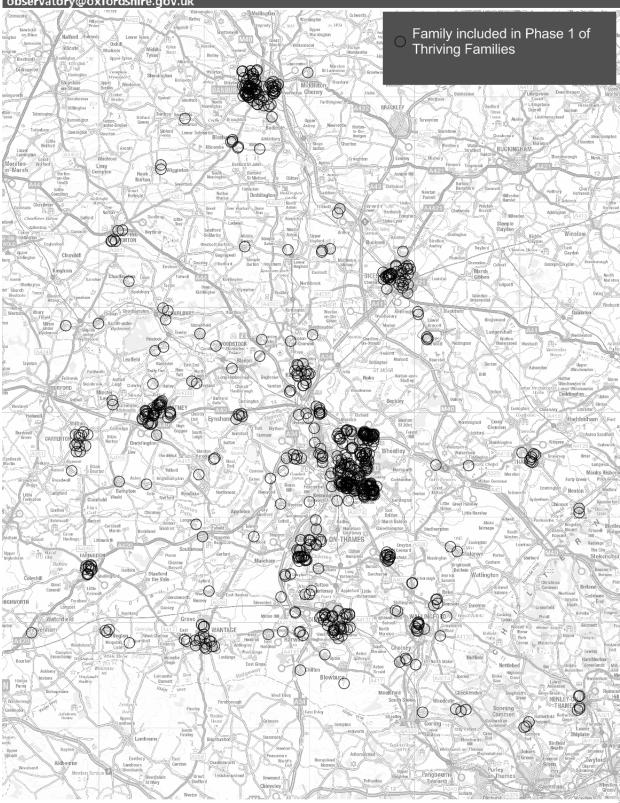
Home district	Number of families involved in Phase 1 of Thriving Families (where address data is available)	
Cherwell	162	24%

Oxford City	228	33%
South Oxfordshire	106	16%
Vale of White Horse	98	14%
West Oxfordshire	89	13%
Total	683	(100%)

Map 3: families included in Phase 1 of Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme



# Map of families included in phase 1 of Thriving Families in Oxfordshire



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## 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 is a dataset published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It covers thirty-eight separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation, and includes a single combined measure of deprivation called the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD 2010). This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area specific to every small Census area (Lower layer Super Output Area, or LSOA) in England. The IMD 2010 can be used to rank every LSOA in England according to their relative level of deprivation. The English Indices of Deprivation are a continuous measure of relative deprivation, with no definitive point on the scale below which areas are considered to be deprived and above which they are not.

Overall, Oxfordshire LSOAs have relatively low levels of deprivation compared to the national picture. However, certain areas of Oxford, Cherwell, and Vale of White Horse are in the 20% most deprived areas in the country:

- Of the 404 LSOAs in Oxfordshire, a large majority (324) rank in the top 50% of LSOAs nationwide (are less deprived than average).
- Out of the 80 LSOAs in Oxfordshire that are in the bottom 50% (more deprived than average), 67 are found in Oxford and Cherwell.
- Of the 18 LSOAs in Oxfordshire that are in the bottom 20% (are in the most deprived fifth of small areas in England), 12 are in Oxford City, 5 are in Cherwell (all in Banbury), and 1 is in Vale of White Horse (in Abingdon).

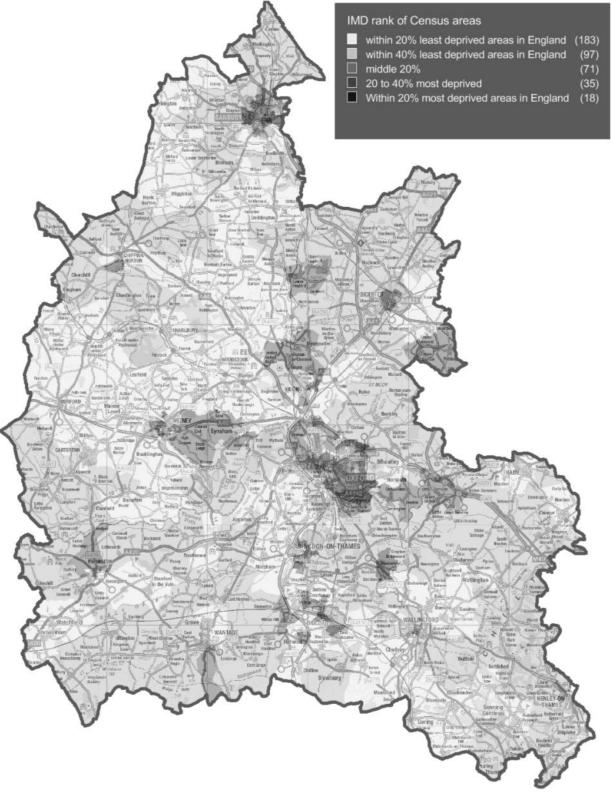
Oxfordshire LSOAs ranked in the most deprived fifth of LSOAs in England are found in these wards:

- Northfield Brook (Oxford City)
- Rose Hill and Iffley (Oxford City)
- Blackbird Leys (Oxford City)
- Barton and Sandhills (Oxford City)
- Banbury Ruscote (Cherwell)
- Banbury Grimsbury and Castle (Cherwell)
- Littlemore (Oxford City)
- Holywell (Oxford City)

# • Abingdon Caldecott (Vale of White Horse)

A map showing LSOAs in Oxfordshire, coloured by their overall 2010 IMD rank, is shown in map 4 below. Map 5 below shows LSOAs in Oxfordshire, coloured by their rank for the Income Affecting Children sub-domain of 2010 IMD.





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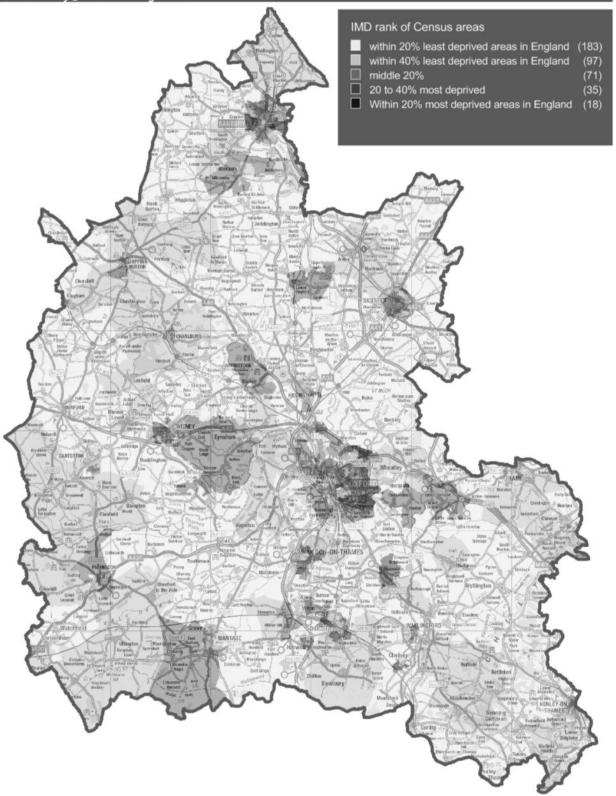
Map 5: Income Deprivation Affecting Children domain of 2010 IMD

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2010 index of multiple deprivation:

Research and Intelligence Unit observatory@oxfordshire.gov.uk

sub-domain - Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAChl)



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#### Looked-after children

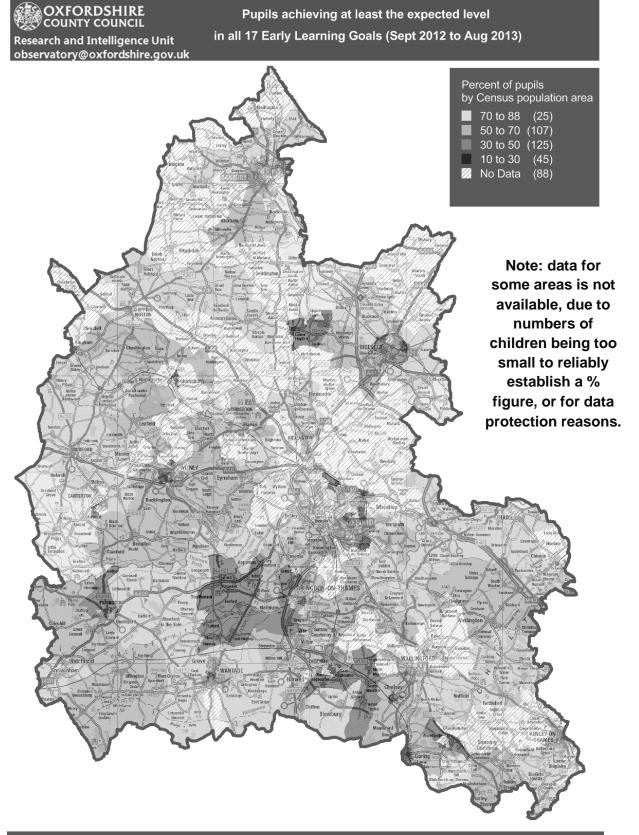
Map 6 below shows the rate at which children living in different areas of Oxfordshire have become looked-after in the last three years, by the location of the family they were living with previously. This rate was obtained by dividing the number of children taken into care by the estimated child population, for each ward in Oxfordshire.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Rate at which children enter care Research and Intelligence Unit observatory@oxfordshire.gov.uk (2011-2013 data) Rate of entering care, by ward 0.8 to 1.04% (1) 0.6 to 0.8% (6) 0.4 to 0.6% (8) 0.2 to 0.4% (25) Under 0.2% (97)

Map 6: looked after children map (wards)

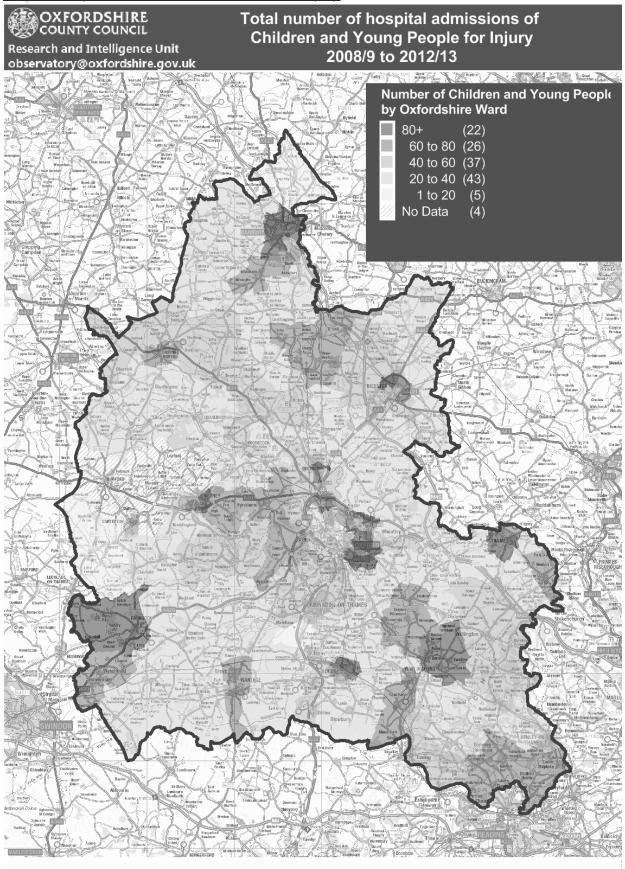
#### **Additional indicators**

## Map 7: Early-years attainment



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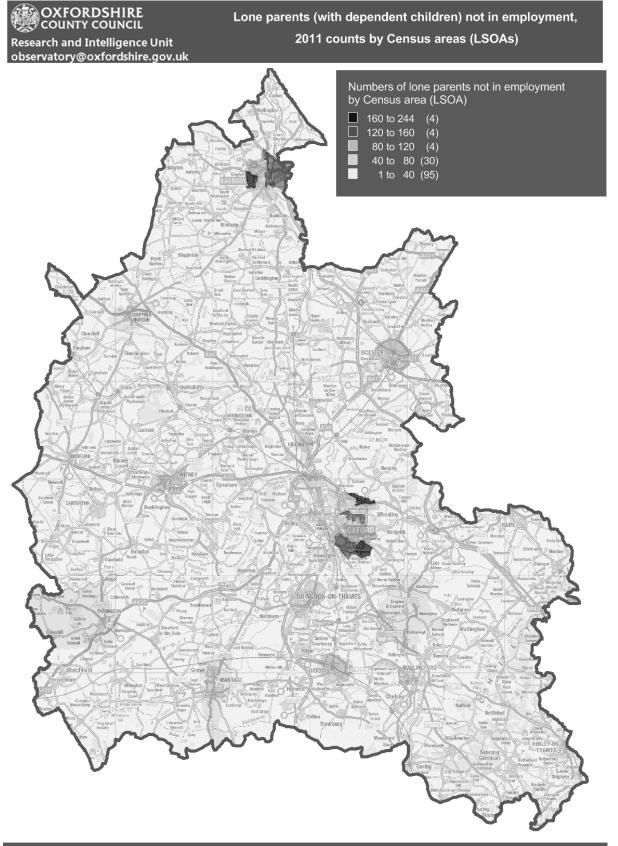
Map 8: hospital admissions of children for injury



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Map 9: lone parent families not in employment



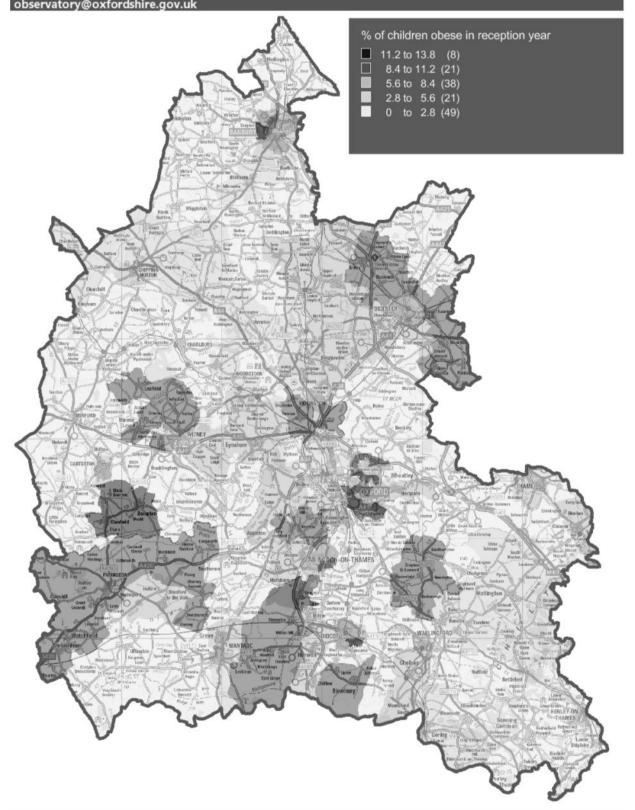
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OXFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Percent of children that are obese in reception year

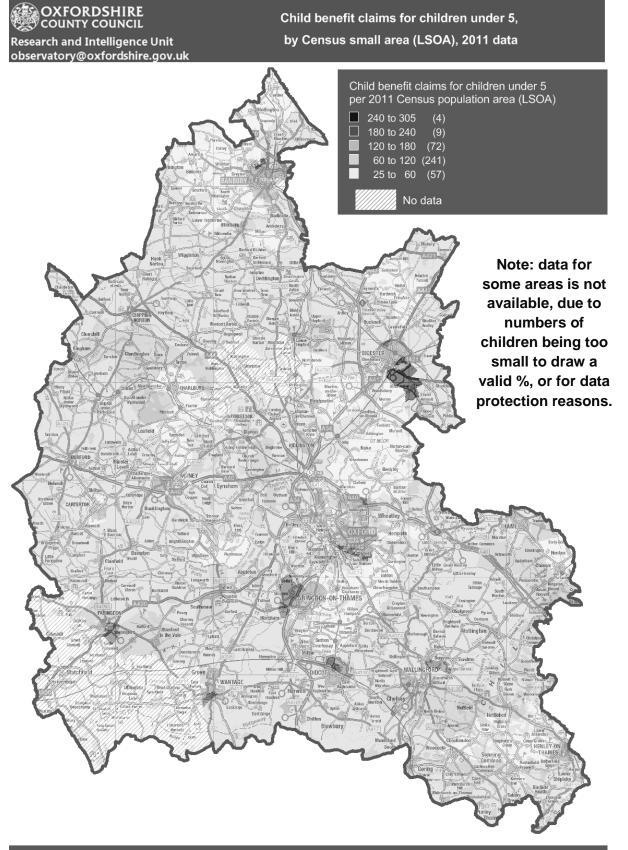
Research and Intelligence Unit (2011/12 - 2012/13 year data, National Child Measurement Programme observatory@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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Map 11: families claiming child benefit



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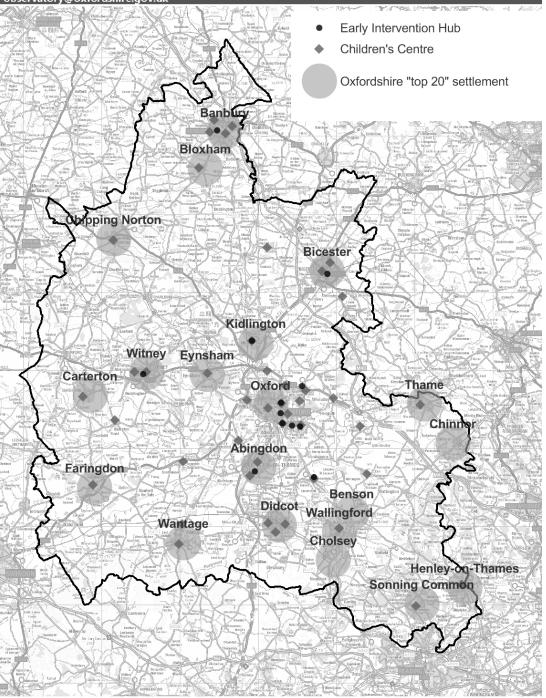
## Section 3: Location of Children's Centres and relation to major settlements.

The previous section identified that families who are defined as "in need" generally live in Oxford City and other larger settlements in Oxfordshire. In this section, current Centre locations in Oxfordshire are considered in this context.

Map 12: key population centres and current Childrens' Centre and Early Intervention Hub locations



Location of Children's Centres, Early Intervention Hubs, and Oxfordshire's largest settlements (as at March 2015)



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A measure of relative level of deprivation between settlements was requested, to provide a comparison of the amount of deprivation in different settlements. This measure captures information about the number of people and the level of deprivation experienced, in a single metric. However, deprivation is a relative measure, and so does not allow for the straightforward calculation of this kind. A settlement-wide measure of *relative* deprivation between settlements was conducted however, which allows the ranking of settlements by deprivation, but does not indicate the scale of difference in deprivation between settlements (it is not possible to quantify how much deprivation differs between areas). The ranking of settlements by settlement-wide deprivation is shown in table 7 below.

Table 7: settlement-level assessment of deprivation

		Scale of child deprivation**	Number of under-5s in 2011	Settlement-wide deprivation (lower % means more deprived)*
More deprivation, cting more dren	Oxford	1 (highest need)	9176	46%
Ě	Banbury	2	3758	50%
eb	Didcot	3	1898	72%
o d G	Abingdon	4	2212	76%
More affecting children	Bicester	5	2026	76%
E C ⊠	Witney	6	1913	75%
aff ch	Kidlington	7	802	74%
	Wallingford	8	815	75%
	Wantage	9	1196	83%
	Carterton	10	1254	85%
	Faringdon	11	598	76%
_	Henley-on-Thames	12	769	84%
<u> </u>	Chipping Norton	13	397	73%
₽	Thame	14	721	89%
c, D	Benson	15	476	91%
atik ⁄er	Chinnor	16	281	91%
<u>ڇَ</u> ج	Sonning Common	17	287	93%
ep 1g 1	Cholsey	18	***	85%
ti d	Eynsham	19	***	92%
Less deprivation, Affecting fewer children	Bloxham	20 (lowest need)	***	98%

<sup>\* 2010</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is Census area-specific. Census areas do not correlate perfectly with the boundaries of smaller settlements: therefore, simple averages of IMD ranks for sub-areas of settlements were calculated (un-weighted by populations of settlement sub-areas). A percentile rank of 0%indicates the settlement is as deprived as the most deprived areas across England; 100% indicates deprivation is as low as the least deprived areas across England; 50% indicates England average.

- \*\* "Scale of child deprivation" combines numbers of children under 5 with settlement deprivation rank.
- \*\*\* Population data and forecasts for ward areas are a poor fit for these settlements, so figures for numbers of under 5s are not reliable.

#### **Section 4: Travel to Early Intervention services**

A good amount of data on how Centre users travel to Centres is available from surveys carried out by Centres themselves during preparation of Travel Plans. These surveys show that Centre users almost all walk or drive to Centres (over half walk, almost a third drive), 6% cycle, and only 1% of Centre users travel by bus (see Chart 1). Ten percent use other modes or a mixture of walking and car travel. This data comes from travel surveys conducted by the following Centres within the last five years: Chalgrove; Carterton; Grandpont; Kaleidoscope; Marston; The Orchard Centre; Grove; and Rainbow (Henley). Over five-hundred users were surveyed in total. Data regarding travel to Early Intervention Hubs was not available. A summary of the travel modes used to travel to Children's Centres in shown below.

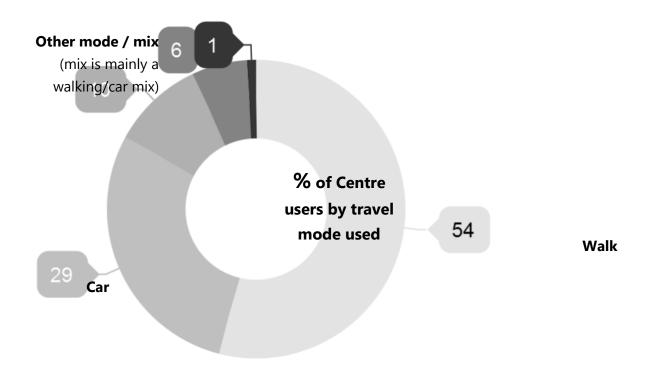
Some examples of travel survey data from Children's Centre Travel Plans illustrate this pattern:

- Watlington Children's Centre (one of the most rurally-located Centres in Oxfordshire)
  completed a travel survey of families using the Centre in 2010, which showed that
  none usually travelled by public transport. (It was noted in responses to the survey
  that there is no public transport access to the Centre.)
- Grandpont Children's Centre is surrounded by Oxford City centre's extensive bus network, yet a survey for its 2011 Travel Plan showed that no users access the Centre by bus.
- Kaleidoscope Centre (Kidlington) carried out a survey in 2010 that was completed by
   57 users, none of whom travelled to the Centre by bus.

<u>Chart 1: travel modes used to access Children's Centres (% of users by mode they selected)</u>

<u>Cycle</u>

Bus



#### Mapping bus service provision

As assessment of how well different areas in Oxfordshire are served by the bus network was requested as part of this evidence base. This is difficult to undertake meaningfully: an appraisal of whether services offer viable options for journeys to Centres for current users would require an understanding of the number and patterns of individual's journeys, which isn't available, and would risk self-selection bias by focusing on those already able to access Centres. Additionally, the cohort of people using centres changes completely at regular intervals, so analysis of individual's journeys is of limited value. It is also not meaningful to map the routes services follow, since this does not indicate locations at which potential users could actually board it (not all services stop at all stops, even if they pass them).

With this in mind, an analysis of bus service provision levels for different areas in Oxfordshire was therefore carried out with the aim of indicating which areas are relatively well, or poorly, served by buses at present. Two source datasets were used: The Association of Transport Operating Companies (ATCO) data file, which is prepared by Oxfordshire County Council and shared with journey planning tools such as Traveline, and the NaPTAN (National Public Transport Access Nodes) database. The ATCO file logs where and when bus services are scheduled to pick-up or set-down passengers and a stop, and NaPTAN logs where bus stops are located. Combing the two provides a snapshot of

bus service provision, by showing – for each bus stop in the county – how many buses call there, when they call, and which services call there.

This approach does not explore individual journeys (it does not explore where people might begin or end a journey to a Centre, Hub, or other location). However, movement of people from home locations to population centres (a city or town centre) – where work, education, and shopping opportunities are concentrated – underpins the operation of commercially-operated bus services and is also taken into account where bus services are subsidised. This means it is reasonable to expect that, where the ATCO data shows a bus stopping, this will usually represent a potential journey to/from a home location and a population centre where opportunities for education, shopping, leisure, or employment will exist. This could include population centres containing a Children's Centres.

It is important to note that bus service times, schedules, and routes change regularly, so this analysis provides only a snapshot of service provision, This analysis used a February 2015 ATCO extract.

To make the analysis relevant to journeys to Centres and Hubs, the data was filtered to leave only include instances where a bus calls at a stop on weekdays between 0930 and 1530 hours<sup>2</sup>. This time-window was chosen in order to reflect the times at which Centre and Hub users would be most likely to board buses when travelling to or from them, based upon these venues typically offering daytime services and events.

Results of the analysis are shown in Map 13. As expected, some bus stops in Oxford City have hundreds of buses calling at them in a typical week, between a Monday at 0930 and 1530 on Thursday. These are typically stops lining the main corridors into Oxford. There are well-served stops at the centres of each of the larger settlements in Oxfordshire (Bicester, Banbury, Witney, Abingdon – and to a lesser extent Didcot, Wantage, Wallingford and Carterton) that exceed an average of 80 buses calling during this period. This indicates that stops in the centres of these towns have at least 20 buses between 0930 and 1530 on a typical weekday (either to pick-up or set-down passengers, or both).

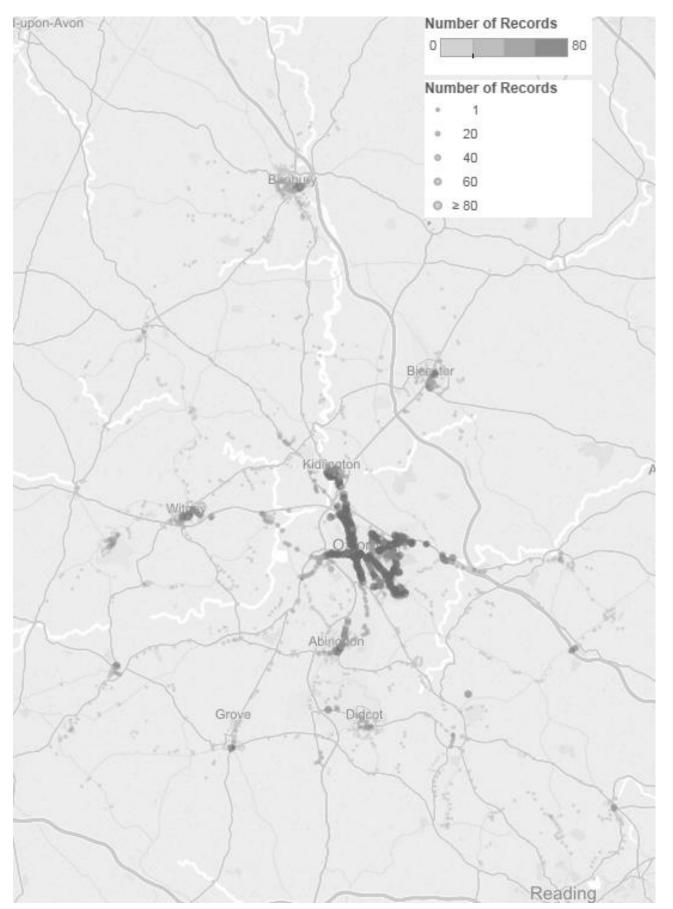
With reference to the areas of need identified in section 2, bus services are strongest in the areas with greatest need. In particular, bus service provision in the east and south of Oxford

37

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Monday to Thursday only, since the data for Friday included some differences to the rest of the week, and was omitted to avoid skewing the analysis

City is the most extensive in the County on the basis of this data, and these areas were found to have the greatest need.

Map 13: timetabled bus-stop "events" each week between 0930 on Monday to 1530 on Thursday (each time a bus calls at a stop within this timeframe is counted as one record).



#### Conclusion

Childrens Centre's and Early Intervention Hubs are intended to provide a physical venue addressing the needs of children and young people most at-risk of performing poorly compared to their peers on a range of life outcomes and life chances. For Children's Centres, this is specific to: child development and school readiness; parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and child and family health and life chances. Early Intervention Hubs offer specialist services for children and young people, from partner organisations as well as those provided internally from within the County Council, which includes those working with: young offenders and prevention of youth offending; young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs); children with poor school attendance; and substance misusers.

Indicators were sought that could compare the likely location and numbers of at-risk families (those vulnerable to performing poorly compared to peers on a range of life outcomes and life chances) at a fine geographic resolution (ward areas or smaller). Eight indicators were found from which three key indicators were identified, which provide the most comprehensive correlation with the features that define families at-risk, and the best evidence available about the relative geographic distribution, both current and future, of at-risk families. Data on the locations of families involved in Phase 1 of Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme provides the first of key indicator. 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation provides the second key indicator (a useful summary measure of deprivation in itself and also a proxy for teenage pregnancy rates). The third key indicator is derived from data on the numbers and locations of families where a child has previously been taken into care. Data on child populations, both current estimates (2015) and forecasts for 2020 were also gathered.

Analysis of the indicators revealed that families most at-risk live in Oxfordshire's largest settlements, particularly Oxford, followed by Banbury. Within Oxford City, these families occur predominantly in the south and east of the City. Smaller pockets of need are located outside Oxford City and Banbury, clustered in other urban areas (in particular Abingdon, Bicester, Didcot, and Witney).

This distribution of need was expected on the basis that these settlements are largest, and therefore are home to more children and young people. However, the analysis shows that these families occur more often in these areas than can be explained by the size of their child populations: for example, Oxford City is home to 22% of the County's 5 to 18 year

olds, yet 33% of families in Phase 1 of the Troubled Families programme live in Oxford City. After adjusting for the numbers of children and young people living in different areas, the area where a child is most likely to enter care is found within Oxford City.

Children's Centres are predominantly accessed on foot or by car, and very rarely by public transport. This information is difficult to interpret, since it is unclear whether this means that Centres and Hubs are currently so well located that that all families wanting to access them can walk or cycle, or whether there are potential users without access to a car who live too far away to walk and find bus travel unsuitable.

# Annex 2: Extract from statutory guidance for Local Authorities regarding Children's Centre provision

# Factors not considered

	Issue	Reasoning
1	Service usage / service requirements	Current services can be altered to fit need.
2	Finance	While a consideration, finance can be re-distributed.
3	Use of Children's Centres out of county	While families can use any children's centre close to them, we are working on the assumption that we must provide a service for all of Oxfordshire's residents who require it.
4	Performance of children's centres	This cannot have a bearing on service or centre placement. Need is the priority.

## How does this analysis link to statutory guidance consideration?

	0				
	Statutory Delivery Requirements	Analysis consideration			
Local	Local Authorities Must				
1	Identify parents who are unlikely to take advantage of early childhood services available and encourage them to use them	Not within scope of this analysis - relates to how individual Centres are run, how they "reach out" to communities.			
2	Ensure there are sufficient children's centres, so far as is practical, to meet local need.	Mapping of deprivation and settlement size.  Mapping of children in need based on: (1) educational attainment (2) obesity rates (3) breastfeeding rates (4) teen pregnancy rates (5) maternal mental health rates  Ranked relative income deprivation with relative size and scale of education, skills and training deprivation, with relative numbers of children expected to enter care from local child population.			
Local	Local Authorities Should				
1	Ensure children's centres are accessible to all families with young children in their area	Partly: analysis of Centre locations in relation to key areas of need, and bus accessibility mapping.  Partly: relates to running of Centres and how they engage to local communities			
2	Ensure children's centres and services are within reasonable	Main-settlement mapping highlights areas acting as transport hubs to/from			

	reach, taking into account distance and availability of transport	rural areas, where transport links should be strongest. Also analysis of bus accessibility.
3	Consider how families can be supported to ensure access to health and employment services	None at this stage – consideration for service provision at each children's centre to be analysed at a later date.
4	Target children's centre services at children and families in the area who are at risk of poor outcomes, based on the analysis of local need	Ranked relative income deprivation with relative size and scale of education, skills and training deprivation, with relative numbers of children expected to enter care from local child population.  Mapping of children in need based on
5	Demonstrate that all children and families can be reached effectively	educational attainment.  Ranked relative income deprivation with relative size and scale of education, skills and training deprivation, with relative numbers of children expected to enter care from local child population.  Mapping of children in need based on: (1) educational attainment (2) obesity rates (3) breastfeeding rates (4) teen pregnancy rates (5) maternal mental health rates
6	Ensure opening times and availability of services meet the needs of families	None at this stage – consideration for service provision at each children's centre to be analysed at a later date.
7	Do not close an existing children's centre unless you can demonstrate that the needs of the children wouldn't be adversely affected	Not within scope of this analysis.
8	Take into account the views of local families and communities in deciding what is sufficient children's centre provision	Not within scope of this analysis.
9	Take account of families crossing local authority borders to use children's centres in its authorities	Not within scope of this analysis.
10	Take into account wider duties under the Childcare and Child Poverty Acts.	Not within scope of this analysis.