

CABINET– 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

TRANSITION FUND FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR OPEN ACCESS CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Report by Assistant Chief Executive

Introduction

1. This report deals with two matters:
 - Firstly, seeking Cabinet’s decision regarding the future use of the Florence Park Children’s Centre site, following previous decisions on this matter in June and July 2017.
 - Secondly requesting a decision to determine the use of the underspend from the transition fund.

Background regarding the council’s approach to community initiatives for children’s services:

2. As part of the engagement with communities over the closure of Children’s Centres, communities were invited to engage with Oxfordshire County Council as part of the Oxfordshire Together initiative. Full details of the Transition Fund scheme and inter-relationship with the issue of asset transfer are provided in Annex 1.

Determination of the future use of the Florence Park site

3. The future of the Florence Park site has not yet been determined and has been subject to considerable discussions and a number of proposals over a period going back to autumn 2016. Details are below:
4. Under the first round of the transition fund applications which closed on 21 October 2016 a proposal was received from The Nature Effect. The cross party working group noted that there were a number of proposals for this site that should be assessed at the same time and groups should be encouraged to work together. This bid was subsequently deferred.
5. In the second round of the transition fund which closed on 9 January 2017 two bids were received, one from Aflah Nursery and one from the Nature Effect. The cross party working group asked that both bids were deferred pending further work.
6. In the third round of transition fund which closed on 14 April 2017, proposals were received from Aflah Nursery and Aspire. These were considered by the cross party working group and recommendations were made to Cabinet in June 2017 for their decision. Cabinet subsequently deferred the decision for

both proposals to enable further work with both groups, local councillors and the City Council to see if a solution was possible. An extract from the June 2017 Cabinet minutes is below:

Cabinet considered at length the bid in relation to Florence Park and the proposed asset transfer. Cabinet clarified that Aflah Nursery were not seeking funding under the Transition Fund and that the transfer was proposed under the Asset Transfer Policy which did not exclude organisations for profit. Lucy Butler, Director for Children's Services informed Cabinet of the County Council's statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient supply of nursery provision and that the proposals met a statutory need. Maggie Scott, Assistant Chief Executive explained the background to provision of nursery places during the children's centre process and the current proposal from Aflah Nursery. Cabinet members commented that it seemed further work was needed with all parties to reach a solution.

Councillor Gray proposed that decisions be deferred in respect of Aflah Nursery and the Aspire & Nature Effect bid to enable work with both groups, local councillors and the City Council to see if a solution was possible. He noted that it was a large building and that Aflah Nursery were not seeking the whole of it.

7. A further update was provided to Cabinet on 19 July 2017 and it was agreed to defer the decision to the September Cabinet meeting. An extract of the minutes is included below:

In June during consideration of the third round of bids against the criteria following discussion Cabinet deferred a decision on a number of matters in order to undertake further investigation. Cabinet had before them a report outlining this work to date with recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor John Sanders, local councillor for Cowley welcomed the deferral of the decision on Florence Park. He emphasised that the Fund was to provide open access services for local people.

Councillor Gray in moving the recommendations advised that meetings were being held under the auspices of the OCVA with a view to a possible joint bid.

Progress over the summer:

8. Over the summer period there has been considerable engagement with both groups interested in the Florence Park site, including a further meeting between the applicants facilitated by OCVA.
9. As requested at the June Cabinet meeting an initial meeting took place (3 July) with both applicants, Aflah Nursery and Aspire & The Nature Effect. The meeting included local councillors and County Council officers as well as officers and councillors from Oxford City Council. It was hoped that a joint

proposal could be developed. It was agreed that a further discussion would be had, facilitated by OCVA.

10. The OCVA facilitated meeting took place between the two groups on 7 August, at Florence Park. At this point both applicants determined that they considered it impractical to deliver a joint offer and agreed not to progress this option further. Officers were notified to expect two proposals.
11. In addition, due to updated data regarding the requirements for nursery places in a further summary of requirements was provided to both parties on 21 July 2017. This is provided at Annex 2, and sets out an increase in the local requirement for nursery provision from 24 nursery places as at October 2016 to 40 places. It was requested by the County Council that revised proposals based on the revised requirements were submitted by 25 August 2017, with the intention that these would be considered by Cabinet on 19 September 2017.
12. Given the interrelationship between the City and County Councils regarding the ownership of the property and site, ongoing discussions between the two councils have also been held during this period. Oxford City Council also considered the future of Florence Park at the council meeting on 20 July 2017 and issued the following statement:

We have informed Oxfordshire County Council and other parties that if the San Remo Cafe contract is a barrier to implementing the most suitable solution at Florence Park, that we would break the San Remo contract with the provider if that is necessary to secure a satisfactory outcome to meet the needs and aspirations of local children. It is important to us that the Florence Park re-opens as it provides a great service to the local community. Further, while the City have to follow a process of financial due diligence, having financial recompense from the County is not a condition of the City's preparedness to break this contract.

Proposals

13. Both Aflah Nursery and Aspire submitted revised proposals to the County Council before the August deadline. These contain commercially sensitive information and are therefore not made available in this paper. However cabinet members will separately be provided with hard copies of each proposal and a hard copy has been provided for all members in the Board Room at County Hall.
14. A summary of both the proposals is below:

15. Applicant: Aflah Nursery (Florence Park Children's Centre)

Request: The Aflah nursery is seeking the transfer of the Florence Park children's centre asset but not any transition funding from the County Council

Overview of the bid received on 24 August 2017:

Aflah Nursery state that they will continue with the offer of 15 hours (LEA funded) of free Early Years education for 3 year olds and 25 hours for eligible 4 year olds and having gauged the potential take up for up to 30 hours of free child care for both 3 & 4 year olds, in line with the government initiative being made available as of September 2017, will be offering this in Sept 2017. There is also a shortage of nursery places for 2 year olds in the local area and increasing demand for this service.

Overall, they state that they will offer:

- Places for 2 year olds in the nursery (to begin with 8 places). Stated aim to double this number by the following year.
- Aflah nursery is registered for 40 children per session (running 2 sessions per day) and currently have 44 children on roll.
- They state that they could offer a further 10 new places in each session for the academic year 2017/18. From 2018/19 they state that they would intend to offer up to 15 new places in each session.
- They would offer a breakfast club for those parents of the 3 & 4 year old children availing up to 30 hours
- Intention to provide free/subsidised open access classes for parents e.g. parenting, teaching phonics, early years reading and writing techniques, paediatric first aid etc.
- State that they are also considering a crèche service for parents who will be availing adult courses with Aflah Nursery and stay & play sessions during holiday periods.
- Would intend to provide a room for statutory services such as midwives to continue to run their clinics and also offer the same to health visitors and other therapists e.g. speech and language.
- State that they would be happy to accommodate the baby massage group if they wish to continue once they cease to work from Ridgefield Rd Community Centre, as of June 2017 (their charitable funding runs out at the end of May).
- In future would also plan to set up a sensory room for children with disabilities or special educational needs. This room would be made available for hire to hold sensory play sessions during the week and at weekends.

Officer Feedback:

Overall there seems to be a disappointing level of further thought shown in the reworked bid compared to the previous submission. Specific issues:

Nursery places:

- Whilst it is appreciated that moving from a pack away provision to a fixed building would benefit the nursery, the plan does not generate many more places and the timescales are not clear. The requirement for 40 nursery places is not met and the bid is not clear how many additional places will be delivered.

Open access children's services:

- It was noted that the range of open access provision is good, this is still limited to two sessions per week.

Midwives

- Aflah nursery would accommodate the midwives in their existing location.

Community involvement

- There appears to be a lack of community support for this proposal, this is regarded as crucial for the delivery of children’s open access provision.

Financial assessment

- The bid appears to be financially self-sustaining; there is no requirement for grant income from the Transition Fund.

Governance

- No concerns

Asset transfer issues

- No concerns

Officer assessment of whether the bid meets the county council requirements:

Against the summary of requirements as set out by the Oxfordshire County Council July 2017 (Annex 2)	Criteria not currently met (could be met with conditions)
Against the County Council Community Asset Transfer (Annex 1)	Criteria met
Against the Transition Fund (Annex 1)	Not applying for any grant funding

16. Applicant: Aspire (Florence Park Children’s Centre)

Request: Aspire is seeking the transfer of the Florence Park children’s centre asset and £30,000 transition funding from the County Council phased as £12,500 in Yr 1, £10,000 in Yr 2 and £7,500 in Yr 3.

Overview of the bid received on 25 August 2017:

Overview: The proposal describes a vision of a dedicated Centre for children and families from the local area, providing the space and services that are essential for early years’ development and support for parents and carers. They intend to create a new model of cooperative childcare nursery that will, in its first year, create:

- an additional 24 full-time equivalent places for 2-4 year olds in the catchment area, including the free early education entitlements and at least 8 places for 2 year olds;
- access to the health & midwifery services; and
- open access children’s services and drop-in sessions to complement other services provided in the area.

Officer Feedback:

Significant work has clearly been done by Aspire and local partners in the past few weeks. There appears to be very strong community support and a potentially powerful local coalition now in place that is keen to make the proposal work. This community element is something we have been keen to foster through the transition fund in other areas. Specific issues:

Nursery places:

- The proposal would deliver a limited number of nursery places (24 places in the first year), not meeting the county council requirement for 40 places.
- The timescales for the creation of places do not fit with the immediacy of needing places for 30 hours and funded two year old places.

Open access children's services:

- The proposal includes open access delivery; however it is unclear where this will be delivered from if the building is split into a nursery and café.

Midwives

- It is unclear of the arrangements for the midwives as the proposal suggests a re-negotiation would be required.

Community involvement

- The community element is in line with the approach and ethos we wish to foster through the community led centres.
- There appears to be very strong community support for this proposal, with over 1500 people signing a petition, and also evidenced through the membership of the proposed steering group.

Financial assessment

- There is concern about the level of grant funding being sought for the first year operation and whether this is achievable.
- The income from the café appears to be ambitious.
- There is the on-going issue of the San Remo contract with the City Council and the potential for them to seek redress for the loss of income from the County Council circa £10k. However the 20 July 2017 Oxford City Council published statement made clear:
"while the City have to follow a process of financial due diligence, having financial recompense from the County is not a condition of the City's preparedness to break this contract."
- There are concerns regarding the business model of appearing to rely upon a profit from sub-leasing the premises to different organisations/social enterprises and relying on this income to provide services. This is not allowed under the County Council Community Asset Transfer Policy (see below).

Governance

- The proposed steering group appears to be strong.
- There is a concern over the proposed governance arrangements in particular the proposal to transfer to a social enterprise in April 2018 and lack of clarity regarding Aspires ongoing role.
- It appears that Aspire only plan to support this process until March 2018, this has lease and grant award complications that would need further consideration

Asset transfer issues

- The proposed usage would need to be agreed with the landlord, Oxford City Council, particularly around the café and hot desk proposals.
- It is possible that part of the usage proposed are commercial, which may affect the rental charges for the County Council under the Asset Transfer Policy.
- A short term licence will not be permitted under the terms of the head lease between the City Council and the County Council. Aspire will need to enter into a formal sub-lease
- The Community Asset Transfer Policy does not allow for any OCC premises to be sub-let at higher than the passing rent as OCC premises are not to be used for profit making or funding charities for transparency reasons.
- Planning may also be required for a change of use as the premises were previously used as a Childrens Centre. Aspire aim to have 1700 people using the café by 2019 which is a considerable impact on infrastructure, traffic and parking.

Officer assessment of whether the bid meets the county council requirements:

Against the summary of requirements as set out by the Oxfordshire County Council July 2017 (Annex 2)	Criteria not currently met (could be met with conditions)
Against the County Council Community Asset Transfer (Annex 1)	Criteria not currently met (could be met with conditions)
Against the Transition Fund (Annex 1)	Criteria not currently met (could be met with conditions)

Overall assessment and options

17. Having assessed both proposals against the 'Summary of Requirements' for the site (annex 2), the Community Asset Transfer Policy and the Transition Fund Grant Criteria (where applying for grant funding) (both in annex 1), officers suggest that the following options available are available to Cabinet in determining the future use of the Florence Park site:

- **Option1** – Support the proposal for asset transfer for Aflah Nursery (potentially subject to any further requirements that Cabinet may determine)
- **Option2** – Support the proposal for asset transfer and transition fund grant for Aspire (potentially subject to any further requirements that Cabinet may determine)

- **Option3** – Decline both proposals and seek an alternative solution
18. It is clear from officers' analysis that neither proposal meets all the requirements for the site that the county council set out in July 2017, and that there are concerns about both bids in a number of important areas.
 19. Given the focus on services for children the Director for Children Services makes the following observations:
 - Florence Park should be used to offer extra childcare places as there is a sufficiency issue in that area and also if possible offer open access sessions for the 0-5 age range.
 - The July 2017 requirement (at annex 2) set out a preference for a 40 place nursery. Neither proposal meets this need, it will though be preferable to have some provision from this site as soon as possible.
 - It is preferable not to start the process again (option 3) as this would delay any implementation of childcare places.
 - Whilst both proposals do not meet the requirement there is an opportunity to work with the chosen group to offer additional childcare places, open access and other community initiatives.

Transition Fund Underspend

20. The 2016/17 budget agreed by Council in February 2016 included the creation of a 'one off' £1m fund to provide pump priming to support community-led solutions for delivering open-access services for children and families.
21. The purpose of this £1m fund was to provide pump priming grants to communities to enable them to create sustainable solutions for open access children's services. The approach was flexible recognising the different needs across the county. Through the current support provided to community groups, individual solutions were developed with differing funding requirements.
22. A cross party group of county councillors was established to consider how to obtain the maximum benefit for this fund. Councillors were nominated for this group by the party leaders. The group consisted of Cllrs Stratford, Mathew, Gray, Hards and Fawcett.
23. The group agreed terms of reference and subsequently these were agreed by Cabinet on 20 September. The group was chaired by Councillor Stratford, the Cabinet Member for Finance. Cabinet also approved the guidance and grant application forms.
24. Cabinet initially agreed to two funding rounds and added a third one in at a later date to allow for those groups that had no submitted in the earlier rounds to apply for funding.

25. The first round of applications closed on the 21 October 2016. In this round 17 bids were submitted for consideration with six receiving funding.
26. The second round of applications closed on the 9 January 2017. In this round 20 bids were submitted for consideration with 12 receiving funding.
27. A future round was agreed at 20 December Cabinet and this third and final round of applications closed on the 14 April 2017. In this round 14 bids were submitted for consideration with 9 receiving funding.
28. Three bids were deferred pending further work, Aflah Nursery, Aspire & The Nature Effect and St Mary's Church (Chipping Norton). The Florence Park decision is due at cabinet in September and the St Mary's decision was taken by cabinet on 18 July.
29. Following the three successful grant application rounds where 26 community groups have been awarded funding there is now a remaining balance of £262,674 in the budget. This may reduce by up to £30,000 pending the Cabinet's decision about the Florence Park site.
30. The original grant criteria were limited to those OCC Children's Centres at danger of closing as a result of the transformation changes in Children's Social Care. This was agreed in the 12 July 2016 motion to council.
31. The majority of the centres in this category are now working towards a sustainable solution and have been awarded grant funding. In addition, a limited number of OCC centres were identified alternative uses such as nursery provision, which has left a shortfall in open access services in some areas.
32. Given that the original council decision provided £1m to try to mitigate the gap left in open access provision (as a result of the move to more targeted provision in the new Children & Family Centres) it is proposed to continue to use the underspend as a grant scheme for open access children's services delivering for the 0-5 age range.
33. It is proposed to broaden the existing criteria to allow for other groups to apply for grants for delivering open access services for the 0-5 age range in locations other than previous children's centres. This would also encourage applications from groups in locations where there was previously a children's centre which has been repurposed i.e. nursery provision.
34. A gap analysis of the current open access provision against what was previously delivered by the children's centres was undertaken. This has helped to identify shortfall by locality area and would be used as the basis for assessing applications which address this gap.
35. The grant criteria would remain the same:

- Sustainable solution for open access children's services in the local community
 - Ability to self-fund in the long-term, as outlined in the business case
 - Clearly defined costs and timescales for implementation
 - Evidence of the need for the project
 - Community buy-in
 - Engagement, partnership working and collaboration
 - Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money.
 - To what extent we can have confidence that the project will have a lasting impact, beyond the funding period.
36. Applicants would need to demonstrate an identified need in their area as a result of the changes in early intervention services and provide a sustainable business plan beyond the funding period.
37. Previous recipients of transition fund grants would not be eligible to apply again.
38. Applications would be assessed by a cross party working group as nominated by party leaders with recommendations made by the group to Cabinet, who would continue to make the formal decisions. The group would be chaired by the Portfolio holder for Local Communities.

Slade Nursery School

39. Further to the closing date for the final round of applications a late application was received from Slade Nursery School. It is proposed that this should be dealt with in the new process for allocating the transition fund underspends.

Financial and Staff Implications

40. The financial implications are set out in the main body of the report.
41. Further information in relation to the groups applying for funding is included overleaf:

Centre	Organisation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Funding requested
Florence Park	Aflah Nursery	£-	£-	£-	£-
Florence Park	Aspire & The Nature Effect	£12,500	£10,000	£7,500	£30,000
TOTAL					£30,000

TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	£1,000,000.00
FUNDING APPROVED IN 1ST ROUND OF APPLICATIONS	£162,984.52
FUNDING APPROVED IN 2ND ROUND OF APPLICATIONS	£305,883
FUNDING RECOMMENDED UNDER 3RD ROUND OF APPLICATIONS	£268,458**
REMAINING FUNDING	£262,674
FUNDING REQUESTED IN THIS REPORT	£30,000

** Includes conditional funding allocations

42. The panel when making its recommendations have ensured due diligence in assessing the applications and ensuring value for money is achieved. This has resulted in a proportion of the funds remaining unspent as outlined in the body of the report.

Equalities Implications

43. The Public Sector Equality Duty, under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, places a responsibility on local authorities to exercise 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.'
44. There are no equality and inclusion implications arising directly from this report, the protected characteristics have been considered when assessing both proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

45. The Cabinet is asked to make the following decisions:

(a) Regarding the future use of the Florence Park site:

- **Option 1** – Support the proposal for asset transfer for Aflah Nursery (potentially subject to any further requirements that Cabinet may determine)
- **Option 2** – Support the proposal for asset transfer and transition fund grant for Aspire (potentially subject to any further requirements that Cabinet may determine)
- **Option 3** – Decline both proposals and seek an alternative solution

(b) Approve the proposed use of the transition fund underspend.

MAGGIE SCOTT
Assistant Chief Executive

Background papers: Transition Fund Guidance Notes & Transition Fund Application Form.
Gap Analysis for Open Access Children's Services

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September 2017

Transition Fund and Community Asset Transfer Process

1. Under the Oxfordshire Together Programme the Community Initiatives for Open Access Children's Services was launched following the decision to move to a new model in children's social care.
2. In May 2016, OCC published the framework for communities, explaining the process by which to engage with OCC on the provision of open access children's services solutions and the potential transfer of assets via a lease arrangement to communities. This document set out the landscape for engagement, facilitation and funding arrangements.
3. During this period of engagement the Community Asset Transfer Policy was being reviewed in light of the lessons learned under the work previously of the Big Society and the transfer of youth centres to community use.
4. The criteria for the transition fund is independent of the community asset transfer criteria although where a proposal includes the use of property then both are taken into consideration as funding could not be awarded against a building which was not deemed suitable for community asset transfer.
5. Revisions to the Community Asset Transfer policy were agreed at 11 July 2016 Delegated Decisions Cabinet Member for Property outlining the process for transfer and the exclusions. A copy of the policy can be found at this link <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/childrens-services-how-will-it-work>
6. A Community Initiatives for Open Access Children's Services launch event took place on 27th September 2016 at the Kassam Stadium, all councillors were invited to attend along with Towns, Parishes and community groups. Over 140 people attended the event and this was followed up with briefings to all councillors and all groups.
7. During the Community Initiatives for Open Access Children's Services launch event on 27 September 2016, groups were invited to express an interest for Community Asset Transfer to begin engagement with groups interested in taking a lease for the OCC owned buildings. A deadline of the 14 October 2016 was given to ensure that the community asset transfer process ran in parallel with the transition fund grant process.
8. There were concerns expressed at the launch event about the charging of rent to community groups and a subsequent motion was brought to Council on 1st November to waive rental charges to community groups.
9. A report went to cabinet on 20 December 2016, Rents for Asset Transfer of Children's Centres, considering the implications of the current asset transfer

policy in supporting community groups to develop self-financing, sustainable proposals to take on responsibility for a children's centre. It was agreed to offer a defined, short-term rent-free period of up to a maximum of 12 months to support mobilisation, where the business case would otherwise not be viable with a review after 6 months to consider progress. After this initial period the rent would increase in line with the asset transfer policy, to 50% of the commercial rent level for the property. N.B. the 12 month period to start on 1 April 2017.

Community Asset Transfer Criteria

10. The County Council will consider the transfer of the asset via a lease arrangement on terms to be agreed as part of the community asset transfer policy (extract below). This will be subject to the County Council being able to financially justify that the proposal better serves the community than an open market lease or sale and that the business case can demonstrate all of the following:
 - a) There is no other local building from which the community/voluntary organisation could reasonably provide the same service.
 - b) The proposal makes good use of the asset.
 - c) The proposal represents good value, taking into account the expected social, economic, and environmental wellbeing benefits.
 - d) Supports the County Councils Corporate Plan.
 - e) There is evidenced need and demand for the proposal and it has local support.
 - f) The proposal is financially viable and sustainable.

11. Exclusions under the policy stipulates that assets will be made available for transfer unless one of the following principles applies:
 - a) Property revenue savings or capital receipts from the property are needed to contribute to County Council savings.
 - b) There is another County Council or basic school need for the property which would be financially disadvantageous to meet in any other way.
 - c) The property has already been identified for utilisation under a Place Review¹.
 - d) Grant conditions for capital expenditure on the property prevent the property being transferred or prevent a change of use within a specified timescale.
 - e) The proposed use and terms of the transfer would result in a liability upon the County Council to repay grant monies
 - f) The condition of the asset is not deemed fit for purpose without substantial capital investment.

12. As a consequence of the asset transfer policy the following was determined, Where there was a nursery on site or an identified need for sufficiency of places, these were considered to be excluded from Community Asset Transfer as per above.

13. We also worked with these settings to support the delivery of some open access services from these buildings; including health visiting services with an offer that we would still like to hear from communities that would be interested in running open access sessions in these buildings alongside the statutory provision

Transition Fund Grant Criteria

14. The transition fund criteria is independent of the community asset transfer criteria although where the bid includes the use of property then both are taken into consideration as funding could not be awarded against a building which was not deemed suitable for community asset transfer.
15. The cross party working group assessed bids against the following criteria making recommendations to cabinet.
- Sustainable solution for open access children's services in the local community
 - Ability to self-fund in the long-term, as outlined in the business case
 - Clearly defined costs and timescales for implementation
 - Evidence of the need for the project
 - Community buy-in
 - Engagement, partnership working and collaboration
 - Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money.
 - To what extent we can have confidence that the project will have a lasting impact, beyond the funding period.
16. Where there were property implications the panel recommended a short-term rent free period in line with the earlier cabinet decision.

Summary of Requirements for Florence Park Children's Centre

July 2017

To aid the discussion of groups wishing to occupy the former Children's Centre in Florence Park a number of previously published requirements must be satisfied for any lease consideration:

1. Accommodation of the existing arrangement with the Midwives who occupy room 1 for office space. Midwives have a sublet with the current CC that doesn't expire until June 2020, Midwives have a licence not a lease at £675 pa
2. Nursery – in the data provided in October 2016 there was a requirement for 24 Nursery Places, since that time new data for this ward has been obtained and the preference now is for a 40 place nursery for children aged 2 – 5, providing places to deliver:-
 - the free early education entitlements for children aged 2, 3 and 4, including the 30 hour entitlement available from September 2017
 - the needs of working parents

Minimum opening hours 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 48 weeks per year

Whilst we would expect provision is flexible to meet actual demand for families an indicative breakdown of places is 8 part time (15 hours) places to be available for funded 2 year old children and 32 full time places to be available for children aged 3 and 4

3. Open Access Children's Services – a minimum of two sessions a week
4. Affordability of a full repairs and maintenance lease

We would like to see Health and Midwifery services delivered out of this building (office space as outline in 1 is additional to service delivery) but this would be for negotiation with them direct as there are implications for space and overheads.

Transition Fund

Any bids to the transition fund would need to satisfy the following criteria as outlined in the guidance:

- Sustainable solution for open access children's services in the local community
- Ability to self-fund in the long-term, as outlined in the business case
- Clearly defined costs and timescales for implementation
- Evidence of the need for the project

- Community buy-in
- Engagement, partnership working and collaboration
- Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money.
- To what extent we can have confidence that the project will have a lasting impact, beyond the funding period.

Attached for your information is a floor plan of the site.

Key Officers Involved:

Sarah Jelley – Senior Policy Officer

Maria Godfrey – Area Social Care Manager

Debbie Rouget - Service Manager, Early Years Sufficiency & Access Service

