

HAVE YOUR SAY on Services for



Children, Young People and Families

Why are we consulting you?

Following the election in May 2010, the government said it would significantly reduce the money it gives to all local councils. This means we have to make big changes in the services we provide to make £119 million savings between April 2011 and April 2015.

While we have to continue to meet our legal obligations, like child protection, we have looked at what we do now and are making some proposals about how to do things differently, in order to make the savings. We think that despite the cuts, there may be some things we can actually do better by changing the way we work, but there will be some loss of very valued services too.

This consultation paper tells you about some of the proposed changes and is asking for your comments on them.

What difference will what we say make to the plans?

These are proposals – no decisions have been made yet.

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet will make final decisions when it meets on 19 April 2011. There is still time to influence the plans and we need to hear from you, as our customers – to make sure we get the plans as right as we can in the circumstances.

**Your views are important to us
Please take time to have your say**

What are the proposed changes?

This Consultation asks for your views on each of the areas listed below, but concentrates on the Early Intervention Service as these are the services where the proposals are most likely to affect you.

1. Creating an Early Intervention Service
2. Changing the way the local authority supports schools
3. Re-structuring management of the Children's Social Care services
4. Consulting and involving children and young people

1 The Early Intervention Service

The government and the council are very committed to trying to prevent problems you and your families face from getting worse and reaching crisis point.

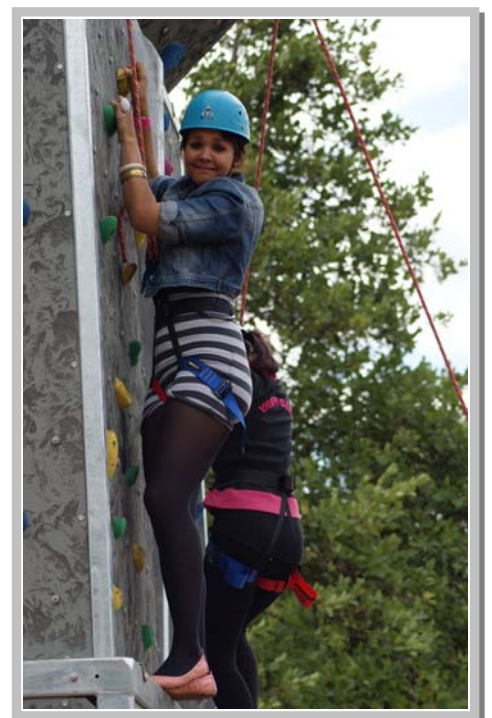
You tell us, your parents tell us and national research tells us, that it's best to offer help earlier than to wait until a crisis – both for you and in terms of cost. For instance, giving a child some extra help in school with a behaviour problem will be much cheaper than the child ending up excluded and in trouble; and it will be much better for the child and the family too.

One of the major changes is a proposal to merge some of our current services to create a simpler service called the Early Intervention Service. (This doesn't mean 'early' in terms of age, it means 'early' in terms of getting help in early on where there's a problem and preventing a crisis later on.)

What would the Early Intervention Service do?

The new service would do things that lots of services currently do. For instance, it will support children and young people at school to prevent difficulties and exclusions, it will aim to reduce teenage pregnancy, support parents, prevent young people misusing drugs or alcohol, support young people to get employment, training and further education etc.

The service would be staffed by a team with a mix of experience and expertise from a range of professional backgrounds.



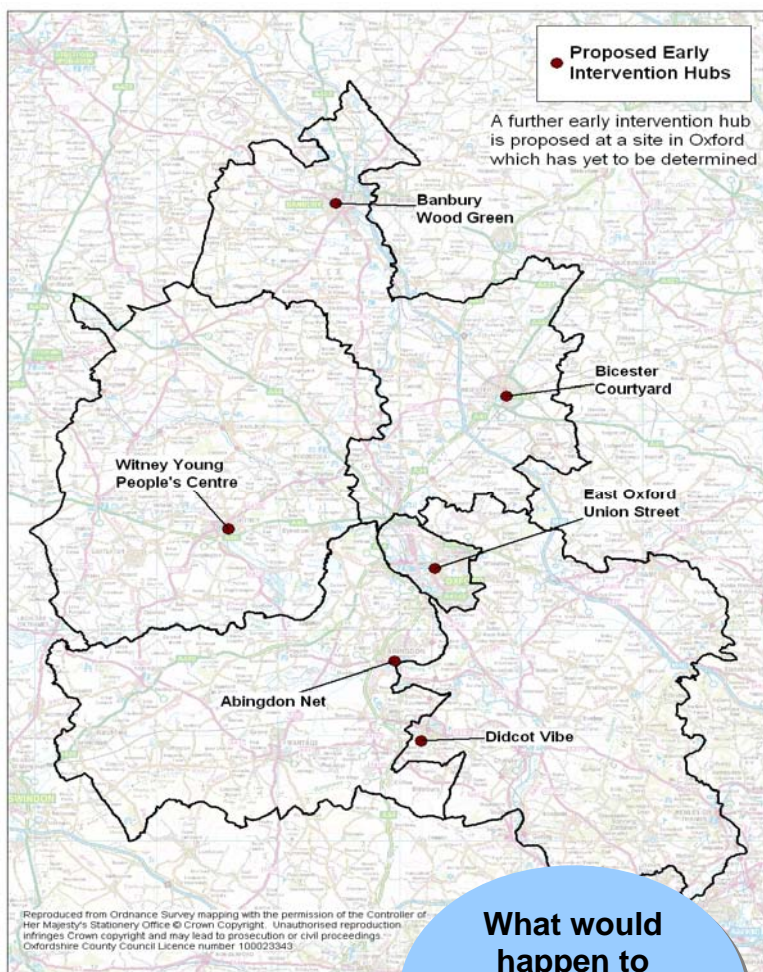
Where would the Early Intervention Service be based?

The location of the seventh centre is still under discussion. It would be based in Oxford though, probably in Barton, Blackbird Leys or Littlemore. There would also be some services run at 'satellite' Young People's Centres in Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill, Barton, Berinsfield and Kidlington, and at other sites like schools, children's centres, GP surgeries etc.

The Riverside Centre would remain at Donnington Bridge as a countywide centre for outdoor activities and would run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme too.



It is proposed to run the service from seven hubs based in existing Young People's Centres across the county. Six of these are shown on the map below.



What would happen to Young People's Centres which aren't hubs?

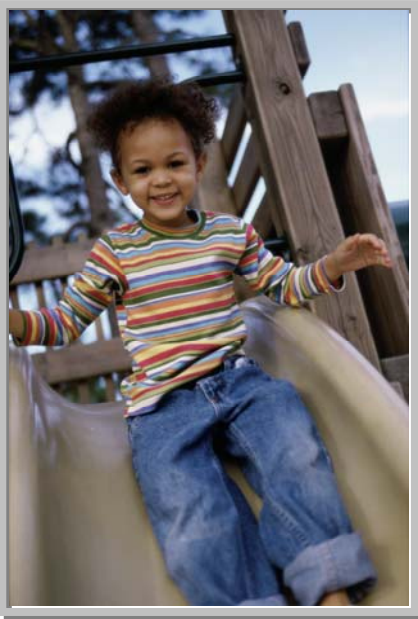
It is proposed to end funding to some Young People's Centres, including: Eynsham, Wheatley, Wantage, Chiltern Edge and Thame, Wolvercote, Saxon Centre (Headington), Cutteslowe, Carterton, Bampton, Standlake, Chipping Norton, Burford, Faringdon, Wallingford, Henley, Cholsey, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Watlington and Wood Farm.

We would aim to work with communities in these areas to make alternative plans for community-led facilities so that some provision is kept. A grant to help these communities is planned to support them to get their ideas going.

Why did these centres and not others get chosen as hubs?

We looked at:

- ⇒ where the highest needs were in the county;
- ⇒ the quality, size and cost of accommodation available in order to maximise the use of buildings and minimise transport costs;
- ⇒ a geographical spread.



What changes would we see in Young People's Centres provision?

Clearly the proposal will reduce the amount of county council youth centres and staff available. There would still be youth work in the evenings and weekends at the seven proposed hubs and sessions in the satellite centres.

**Q. What do you think about these proposed changes?
Do you think the proposed hubs are in the best places?**

What about changes to the Connexions service?

The Connexions Service would become a new countywide Information Advice and Guidance service.

It would include advice on education, careers, housing, money, health and relationships etc for 13 to 19 year olds, especially those most in need of additional support. We are also developing a single children and young people's website, which will be incorporate existing sites (e.g. Spired and BigVoice) into a new one. It will provide up-to-date, interactive signposting services, advice and guidance.

One drop in centre will be retained at Gloucester Green (Oxford), but other centres would be incorporated into the hubs.

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your families?

Are there any changes proposed for the Youth Offending Service?

A central team would continue to deliver statutory court work (for instance, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance), but pre-court and prevention work would be run through the hubs.

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your community?

What changes are proposed for the Inclusion Access and Engagement Service?

There would be a small central team to carry out statutory and administrative functions (like assessments and data analysis), but all advisory and support work would be run through the hubs. Schools will be encouraged to buy the additional services they need (e.g. psychology support).

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your families?

What changes would there be in Early Years and Children's Centres?

Children's Centres will provide a network of outreach bases from the seven hubs. There are no changes proposed at the moment to Children's Centres, but there will be a full review of the services over the next year.

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your families?



2 Proposed changes to the Education Services

Since the coalition government was elected in May 2010, there have been lots of changes in education policy and legislation, including new freedoms for schools and a different role for local authorities. The changes proposed aim to meet the new government plans and include:

- helping schools and Governors to recruit and retain high quality leaders
- helping underperforming schools to improve (before things get bad)
- supporting schools to support vulnerable and challenging students
- concentrating support on schools which need it most
- supporting schools to find funding solutions for things like international education, music services, outdoor learning etc
- supporting pupils with additional and special needs to achieve as well as they can
- supporting skill development for young people as they enter the work world
- developing relationships with local employers.

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your families?

3 Proposed changes to Children's Social Care

Safeguarding of children and young people in Oxfordshire remains a top priority. The changes to the Children's Social Care service are primarily in the management structure and should not impact on frontline services.

Q. What do you think about these proposed changes? What impact might they have on you, your friends, your families?

4 Consulting and involving children and young people

Are there any changes proposed to the way we consult with and involve children and young people?

There are no plans to significantly reduce the way we hear the views of children, young people and parents and carers - though there may be some changes in how we do it, to improve things and meet the changes in the structure of the Directorate. Things like the Sounding Boards, the Children in Care Council, OYE! (Disability Forum) and the Youth Parliaments will go on. If you have any ideas about how we should develop these forums, please let us know.

Q. How do you think we can improve the way we hear your views and voices?



Other comments, queries, ideas?

We'd like to hear about other ideas, comments or questions you have about these proposals. Please use this box to tell us what you think.

And lastly . . .

Please tell us something about you (but you don't have to!) We are asking so that we know who's responded, from where etc – and therefore who we haven't heard views from.

Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?		
Do you currently use County Council Services	Yes	No
– if so where/what?		
Ethnicity		
What is your religion?		
Where do you live?		
Do you describe yourself as having any additional needs or disabilities?	Yes	No
What school/college do you go to?		

How do I tell you my views?

THANK YOU!

Your views on the proposed redesign of services for young people are important to us.

This consultation is your opportunity to influence our proposal. We need to hear from you, as our customers and communities to make sure we get the plans as right as we can.

Please take part in this consultation by returning your comments by **4 April 2011**

You can take part by:

1. Completing this questionnaire and returning it to:
CYPF Service Redesign Proposal, FREEPOST, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL or email to: cypf-servicedesign@oxfordshire.gov.uk
2. Completing the online questionnaire at
<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/CYPFservicedesign>

If you have any queries about the Children & Young People's Services Proposal that will help you to take part in this consultation, please contact us:

Email: alison.partridge@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 01865 256647