

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**19 JANUARY 2016**

### **CALL-IN: REVIEW OF EARLY YEARS AND SURE START CHILDREN CENTRE SERVICES - ADDENDUM REPORT**

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

#### **Summary**

This report advises the Committee of a further notice of call-in, signed by a further six Members of the Council, of Cabinet decision (2/2016) to commence consultation on reconfiguring services, including the proposal for significant changes to the management and staffing of Medway's 19 Sure Start Children's Centres, and a reorganisation of the authority's early years services. The Committee must consider the Cabinet decision and decide either to take no further action or to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, part 5, paragraph 16.3 of the constitution with regard to decisions, Cabinet decision 2/2016 has been called-in to this Committee by a further six Members of the Council.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The decision was called in by a further six Members of the Council with the following reasons for call-in provided:

“Further scrutiny on the decision to reconfigure services for very young children and their families and Cabinet approving the commencement of consultation on these proposals”.

#### **3. Director's comments**

- 3.1 There is a commitment to all 19 Children's Centres remaining open. The universal entitlements to nursery education and childcare – for all children aged three and four years, and for some children aged two

years – will remain as a statutory function and will continue to be provided for all families in Medway.

- 3.2 Nurseries, pre-schools, schools and childminders in Medway will continue to be funded to provide free nursery education and childcare.

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**Background papers**

As set out in the Cabinet report at Annex A

**Appendices**

Annex A – Report to 12 January 2016 Cabinet meeting – Review of Early Years and Sure Start Children Centre Services