Prevention and Early Help

Prevention and Early Help is the name we give to the way we support families and communities in Bradford.

Prevention is about stopping problems emerging in the first place. Early Help is about preventing problems that are happening from getting worse.

We want to make sure that babies, children and young people have a great start in life and the chance to live well. This means we need to use the energy, experience and effort of everyone in the District.

This starts with supporting good relationships within families and communities to avoid the sort of issues that bring conflict and other difficulties. Some of our services are universal, so everyone can use them. We provide more targeted support to those families with more complex needs.

By responding to babies, children and families’ needs early, we can help stop small problems becoming big ones. This means we will need to spend less money on expensive emergency and specialist services later on.

Because of government cuts, budgets in the Council are under more pressure than ever before. This year, we spent £37.1 million on Prevention and Early Help. By the year 2020, we need to have cut that by more than a third, to £23.8 million.

And this is on top of cuts we have already had to make in previous years. In the ten years from 2010 to 2020, the money the council has to spend on services will have been cut in half.

So we are proposing to make changes to the way we deliver Prevention and Early Help across Bradford. We want to be sure that when we plan these changes we take into account the views of people living and working across the District. Details of how you can be involved and give your views are at the end of this document.
What are we proposing?

The principles that guide our plans are:

- Building greater self-care and resilience within families and communities to help them help themselves
- One family, one plan, one key worker – so we make sure that families get the right support at the right time
- Providing support as close as possible to where families live
- Finding new and innovative ways to support families
- Targeting more support to those families who need it most.

Under our proposals, we would keep a small group of central services which would operate across the District, and create four new Prevention and Early Help teams to cover the following areas:

Keighley and Shipley

Bradford East

Bradford West

Bradford South.

These teams would deliver:

- Children’s Centres core offer to children under 5 and their families. This means being registered with the Department for Education, and offering services for at least 25 hours per week for at least 49 weeks a year (or at least 8 hours per week if an outreach site)
- Targeted work with individual children and families (Families First)
- Parenting support
- The quality and take-up of early education and free childcare
- Education attendance
- Diversity and cohesion.

Each of the teams would be given a pot of funding to support their work.
Some services would still be delivered centrally:

- The Early Help Gateway (including Families Information Service) which would be a single point of contact for advice on Prevention and Early Help
- Oversight of education, including children missing from education
- Specialist support and inclusion for children with additional needs
- Short breaks for disabled children
- Intensive family support to prevent children coming into care
- Youth offending services
- Service support, such as admin, finance and performance management.

As part of our plan, families would have a single key worker for all their needs. This would avoid duplication, and mean that families don’t get a series of interventions from different services.

We would also change the way we commission health visiting, school nursing and oral health services. These would be joined up, and integrated with the four area Prevention and Early Help teams. This work would include the Healthy Child programme of regular health checks for children and families as well as targeted services for families that need most support.

The Council’s Youth Services and ward partnerships would continue to be managed by the Council’s Place Services.

We propose that the responsibility for short breaks and specialist behaviour support for disabled children would move, or work more closely from Specialist Services to the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services.

Responsibility for assessed contact (for children who are subject to care proceedings) would stay within Children’s Specialist Services.

We would continue with plans to buy in services related to short breaks, Families First key workers and some other targeted services.
**How will the plans affect Children’s Centres?**

We have no plans to close any Children’s Centre buildings at this stage. However, the services of the seven standalone children’s centre clusters would be delivered by the four proposed Prevention and Early Help teams.

The following buildings would become outreach bases, which would still deliver at least 8 hours of activities each week for babies, children and families:

- Hirst Wood
- Highfield
- Parkland
- Farcliffe and Lilycroft
- Princeville
- Bierley
- Tyersal
- Wyke

We would continue to work with local communities and our partners in health, the police and the voluntary sector to make the best use of the resources we have available.

**How will the plans affect frontline services?**

These proposed changes would mean that some services are likely to change or to be delivered differently.

We aim to limit cuts to frontline services as much as possible, but the cuts imposed by the government mean that we can’t afford all the services we currently pay for. We are working with local people and communities to see what part they can play in helping to deliver services for themselves.

We know that some families in some parts of the District experience many more difficulties than others. We will target our resources in those areas where children have the poorest outcomes.
In drawing up our plans, we have taken into account:

- Our local knowledge and feedback from our earlier engagement exercise
- The statutory and legal requirements we have to meet
- The way that families, children and young people use services now
- The need to save money to meet budget cuts, whilst still providing the best level of Prevention and Early Help services we can
- The impact of changes on different local groups and the differing needs of local communities
- What we know about deprivation and poverty across the District
- Information about disability
- What other organisations, both local and national, have told us.

The feedback we get from this consultation will help us to build a better picture of the impact of any changes we make.

The final decision on these proposals will be made by the Council’s Executive in April 2018. We want to make sure that your views are taken into account.

How can I have my say?

You can have your say on our proposals in the following ways:

- Fill in the online questionnaire by visiting www.bradford.gov.uk/consultation
- Pick up the questionnaire at your local children’s centre or library, or from Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford BD1 1NN. You can drop it off at any of these places when you have completed it
- Come to one of our consultation events which are running across the District. A list of events is at the end of this document.
You can come to one of the consultation events we are running across the District. You can talk to us about the proposed changes, and we can help you to complete the consultation questionnaire.

These are the dates, times and places where the public consultation events are taking place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am to 11am</td>
<td>8 January 2018</td>
<td>Rainbow Children Centre, 14 Braithwaite Grove, Keighley BD22 6JB</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30am to 11am</td>
<td>10 January 2018</td>
<td>St Edmund’s Nursery and CC, Washington St, Bradford, BD8 9QW</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm – 4.30pm</td>
<td>10 January 2018</td>
<td>Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am to 12 noon</td>
<td>15 January 2018</td>
<td>Manningham Library, Carlisle Road, Bradford BD8 8BB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm to 2:30pm</td>
<td>15 January 2018</td>
<td>Allerton Children’s Centre, Avenel Rd, Allerton, Bradford, BD15 7PQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am to 11.30am</td>
<td>16 January 2018</td>
<td>Princeville Primary School, Princeville Street, Bradford BD7 2AH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm to 3pm</td>
<td>18 January 2018</td>
<td>The Life Centre, 102-104 Bierley House Ave, Bradford BD4 6BU</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30am to 11am</td>
<td>23 January 2018</td>
<td>Victoria Hall, 18 Sand Beds, Queensbury, Bradford BD13 1AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm to 2.30pm</td>
<td>23 January 2018</td>
<td>Indus Hall, Kala Sangam, St Peter's House, 1 Forster Square, Bradford BD1 4TY</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am to 11.30am</td>
<td>24 January 2018</td>
<td>Steeton Primary School, Market St, Steeton, Keighley BD20 6NN</td>
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<td>2pm to 3.30pm</td>
<td>26 January 2018</td>
<td>Woodside Village Centre, 82 Fenwick Drive, Bradford BD6 2RZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm to 2.30pm</td>
<td>8 February 2018</td>
<td>Shipley Library, 2 Wellcroft, Shipley, BD18 3QH</td>
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