

Children's Centre Consultation

Summary and Dorset Council Response

We would like to thank all those that responded. We appreciate the time you have taken to contribute to the development of our offer to families.

What was the consultation about?	Dorset Council operates a series of Children Centres and Family Hubs across its network. They provide a range of information and support for families to ensure they can access help when they need it. Through the introduction of Family Hubs, Dorset Council is proposing a change to the network of centres and how they operate. The consultation was seeking views on the plans to develop the offer of information and support to families through these changes. Respondents were given information about Children's Centres and Family Hubs generally, in addition to proposed changes to 18 specific centres before answering the survey.
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran from 21/11/24 to 21/02/25.
What consultation methods were used?	The consultation was available both electronically online, in paper form (from the centres where changes were proposed) and via post upon request. The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.
How many responses were received overall?	212 overall responses were received.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	86.8% of responses were from members of the public, 8.5% from Dorset Council staff, 0.5% from Dorset Councillors and 4.3% from other interested parties. There were considerably more female respondents (85%) than male (12.1%), which is higher than the Dorset population generally. Families with children aged between 0 to 5 did not dominate the responses, but did take up a large part. 87.4% of the respondents said their ethnic group was White British which is typical of the wider Dorset population. Responses from disabled people were quite high at 15.8% compared to an approximate Dorset figure of 4.6% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.
Where will the results be published?	This document provides a summary of feedback and next steps. The full results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



We have carefully considered feedback from respondents and the following pages provide a summary of the feedback received, along with Dorset Council's response and confirmation of plans for next steps:

Bincombe Valley Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	8	50%	75%
Agree	4	25%	
Neither agree nor disagree	3	18.8%	
Disagree	0	0%	6.3%
Strongly disagree	1	6.3%	
Don't know	0	0%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Littlemoor Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Mulberry Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	0	0%	26.7%
Agree	4	26.7%	
Neither agree nor disagree	4	26.7%	
Disagree	5	33.3%	46.6%
Strongly disagree	2	13.3%	
Don't know	0	0%	

The proposals for Mulberry centre received a higher proportion of disagree and strongly disagree. The comments for this centre suggested that respondents were concerned as to where the Family Hub would be located. They referenced the challenge in parking and need for a central location to enable access

Dorset Council Response:

We can now confirm that a new Family Hub will be located at the Weymouth Outdoor Education site. The Family Hub will be a 3-minute walk from the Mulberry Centre and will have additional parking spaces.

As proposed in the consultation, services will relocate to Weymouth Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges. Dorset Children's Services will no longer use the Mulberry Children's Centre building.

Outlooks Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	0	0%	25%
Agree	4	25%	
Neither agree nor disagree	3	18.8%	
Disagree	7	43.8%	50.1%
Strongly disagree	1	6.3%	
Don't know	1	6.3%	

The proposals for Outlooks children's centre received a higher proportion of disagree and strongly disagree. The comments for this centre suggested that respondents were concerned as to where the Family Hub would be located.

Dorset Council Response:

We can confirm that a new Family Hub will be located at the Portland Community Hospital site. The Family Hub will be a 4-minute walk from the Outlooks Centre and will have additional parking spaces. The main site will be supplemented by two connected network points: Library on Easton Square and The Drop In #2 in Southwell.

As proposed in the consultation, services will relocate to Portland Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Dorset Children's Services will no longer use the Outlooks Children's Centre building.

Westham Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	1	6.7%	33.4%
Agree	4	26.7%	
Neither agree nor disagree	7	46.7%	
Disagree	2	13.3%	13.3%
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	1	6.7%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation Westham Children's Centre building will be used for early education provision.

Broadmayne Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	3	13.6%	45.4%
Agree	7	31.8%	
Neither agree nor disagree	8	36.4%	
Disagree	0	0%	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	4	18.2%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation Broadmayne Children's Centre building will be used for early education provision.

Poundbury Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	4	14.8%	59.3%
Agree	12	44.4%	
Neither agree nor disagree	2	7.4%	
Disagree	5	18.5%	33.3%
Strongly disagree	4	14.8%	
Don't know	0	0%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will relocate to Dorchester Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Dorset Children's Services will no longer use the Poundbury Children's Centre building.

Corfe Mullen Children's Centre (Library)

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	22	71%	90.4%
Agree	6	19.4%	
Neither agree nor disagree	1	3.2%	
Disagree	0	0%	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	2	6.5%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Corfe Mullen Family Hub Network Point, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Wimborne Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	21	53.9%	92.4%
Agree	15	38.5%	
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0%	
Disagree	0	0%	0.00%
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	3	7.7%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Leigh Park Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Blandford Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	8	14.6%	31%
Agree	9	16.4%	
Neither agree nor disagree	16	29.1%	
Disagree	4	7.3%	21.9%
Strongly disagree	8	14.6%	
Don't know	10	18.2%	

Dorset Council Response:

The proposals for Blandford Children's Centre did not detail any significant changes to the building, however it will now be referred to as Blandford Family Hub Network Point with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Shaftesbury Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	3	3.8%	8.9%
Agree	4	5.1%	
Neither agree nor disagree	11	13.9%	
Disagree	10	12.7%	69.7%
Strongly disagree	45	57%	
Don't know	6	7.6%	

The proposal for Shaftesbury Children's Centre received a high proportion of disagree and strongly disagree. The comments for this centre suggested that respondents were concerned as to where services would be relocated to as they valued the accessible location and central hub model. Many respondents were concerned that the nursery would close, impacting on access to local childcare.

Dorset Council Response:

Dorset Council did not propose any plans to close the nursery at the children's centre. We are fully committed to continue to offer early education provision from the centre. In response to the feedback, we will commit to continue the delivery of children and family services from the building, rather than relocate to community venues. However the building will now be known as Shaftesbury Family Hub Network Point with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Sherborne Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	3	5.8%	23.1%
Agree	9	17.3%	
Neither agree nor disagree	20	38.5%	
Disagree	4	7.7%	13.5%
Strongly disagree	3	5.8%	
Don't know	13	25%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Sherborne Family Hub Network Point, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges

Bovington Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	5	26.3%	42.1%
Agree	3	15.8%	
Neither agree nor disagree	4	21.1%	
Disagree	1	5.3%	26.3%
Strongly disagree	4	21.1%	
Don't know	2	10.5%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will relocate to Family Hub network points within the local area, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

We will continue to explore options for Bovington Children's Centre building to be used for childcare / education provision.

Swanage Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	11	55%	80%
Agree	5	25%	
Neither agree nor disagree	1	5%	
Disagree	0	0%	5%
Strongly disagree	1	5%	
Don't know	2	10%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Swanage Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges

Wareham Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	7	33.3%	61.9%
Agree	6	28.6%	
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.8%	
Disagree	1	4.8%	28.6%
Strongly disagree	5	23.8%	
Don't know	1	4.8%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will relocate to Wareham Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Wareham Children's Centre building will be used for early education provision.

Upton (Library)

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	16	57.1%	71.4%
Agree	4	14.3%	
Neither agree nor disagree	2	7.1%	
Disagree	0	0%	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	6	21.4%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Upton Family Hub Network Point, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Beaminster Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	2	16.7%	33.4%
Agree	2	16.7%	
Neither agree nor disagree	3	25%	
Disagree	1	8.3%	33.3%
Strongly disagree	3	25%	
Don't know	1	8.3%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation Beaminster Children's Centre building will continue to be used by Prout Bridge Youth Project and will offer information and signposting for families.

Bridport

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	16	76.2%	100%
Agree	5	23.8%	
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0%	0%
Disagree	0	0%	
Strongly disagree	0	0%	
Don't know	0	0%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Bridport Family Hub, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.

Lyme Regis Children's Centre

Respondent Feedback:

Option	Total	Percent	
Strongly agree	4	30.8%	46.2%
Agree	2	15.4%	
Neither agree nor disagree	2	15.4%	15.4%
Disagree	1	7.7%	
Strongly disagree	1	7.7%	
Don't know	3	23.1%	

Dorset Council Response:

As proposed in the consultation, services will continue to be delivered from the building, but it will now be known as Lyme Regis Family Hub Network Point, with increased services for families with children across all age ranges.