
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

30th June 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Ruane

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director for People

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Children's Centres and Youth Service e petition

Is this a key decision?

No, as the report doesn't contain any proposals that would significantly affect residents of the City.

Executive Summary:

An e-petition has been presented to the Council asking for the "Council to keep all Children Centres and Youth Service open; to maintain a high quality and fully accountable Public Service, without replacing employed professionals and well trained staff with volunteers." In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those issues relating to Children's Centres and Youth Centres are heard by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

- 1) Notes the petition and requests that Officers write to the petition organisers to advise them of the Council's current position

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Children's Centres and Youth Services Petitions

1. Background

- 1.1 An e-petition "Save our Children's Centres and Youth Services" was presented to the Council on 31st March 2015 with 21 signatures organised by the Coventry City Branch of UNISON asking:-

"We, the undersigned, oppose the City Councils "City Centre First" strategy as referenced in the current budget proposal that would see Council run Children's Centers and Youth Services reduced. We call upon the Council to keep all our Children Centers and Youth Service open: to maintain a high quality and fully accountable Public Service, without replacing employed professional and well trained staff with Volunteers."

- 1.2 The e petition relates to concern from UNISON regarding the level of service reductions that may need to be considered by Coventry City Council. This is following the Pre-budget Report (December 2014) and the Budget Report (February) which set out the City Centre First Savings Strategy, which includes Children's Centres and Youth Services. The budget was agreed by Members and included a £5million savings target for City Centre First by 17/18.
- 1.3 No decisions have been taken regarding the closure of any of the city's Children's Centres or Youth Services. Any future proposals to make changes to these services will be subject to public consultation and member decision.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to request that Officers write to the petition organiser to advise them of the Council's current position and assure them that petitioners will be encouraged to participate in any future discussions in relation to Children's Centre and Youth services in Coventry.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The proposals in the pre-budget and budget report (including City Centre First Saving Strategy) were subject to a public consultation. Proposals about the provision of Children's Centres and Youth services will be subject to an appropriate level of consultation to inform any future decisions.

4. Comments from Executive Director for Resources

- 4.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

- 4.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

5. Other implications

5.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Not applicable.

5.2 How is risk being managed?

None

5.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

5.4 Equalities / EIA

None

5.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

5.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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| Jivan Sembi | Head of Regulated Services | People | 4 th June 2015 | 16 th June 2015 |
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