

## Appendix E – Petition Information

### Family Hubs Proposal

- 1.1 The Council received an e-petition to ‘Save our Children’s Centres’ on 13th December 2016. The petition has 6 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

“We believe that the proposal to close 9 Children’s Centres and convert 8 Children Centres into ‘family hubs’ is wilful neglect of the most important asset this city has for future prosperity and security – Coventry’s children. Removing nursery provision from all Children Centres will place children at greater disadvantage and will increase inequality and social immobility. There is no guarantee that private providers will take over nursery provision in Children’s Centres. Ofsted has found the provision at these Children’s Centres to be outstanding. We are not assured that privatisation of these public services will offer the same quality of nurturing for children and parents. Children Centres provide access to multiple support services for parents and children.

The proposal gives little detail over what services the ‘family hubs’ will deliver, where they will be delivered, who will deliver them and how services delivered by the Council, NHS and the private sector will be integrated. The provision of services for areas of highest need will leave gaps in service provision, contrary to the Council’s early intervention strategy.

We call on the Council to abandon these proposals, use its considerable financial reserves to continue to support these services and actively campaign with the citizens of Coventry to demand full funding of these public services from Central Government.”

- 1.2 An e-petition was submitted to ‘Save our Youth Services’ on 13th December 2016. The petition has 11 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

“We reject the Council’s proposal to close youth services at 16 locations. The services provided by 8 new family hubs will only be available to the ‘most vulnerable’. Youngsters who are not ‘most vulnerable’ will not have their needs met, reducing their future opportunities and creating additional demands on services at a later date. Youth club activities will cease. Removing these activities will reduce the opportunities for the children to approach youth workers for help. Will there be enough volunteers to run a reliable and effective alternative. Our children need places to go and things to do. They also need trained staff that can provide a positive role model for the future. We call on Coventry City Council to connect our communities to find the funding for our current services and fight with the people of Coventry for a better deal for public services from central Government.”

- 1.3 A petition was submitted to ‘Save Jardine Youth Centre and Tile Hill Children’s Centre’ on 12th December 2016. The petition has 382 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

“We, the undersigned protest at the cuts planned by Coventry City Council including closing virtually every library, children and family centre, adult education and community centre, making cuts in transport for the disabled and sacking all lollipop

men and women, reducing street cleaning and road maintenance, and axing another 1000 jobs that will then never be available to the young people of our city.

We particularly object to the plan to close Jardine youth centre and Tile Hill Children's Centre (Sure Start) both on Jardine Crescent which are used by young people, children and families in our area. These are both essential safe spaces, open new doors and horizons to the young people, children and families that are central to healthy local communities."

- 1.4 A petition was submitted referring to 'Closure of Youth Centres' on 12th December 2016. The petition has 209 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"Stop Coventry youth centres from being closed down and turned into family hubs.

The closure of youth centres in and around Coventry City will leave kids without places to go to have fun, make friends and socialise with the community. As a child myself who attends the Xcel leisure centre which is one of the centres rumoured to close I am utterly devastated and I will do everything and anything I can to prevent it. In the Xcel leisure centre I attend Canley youth theatre a group which has inspired hope, laughter and tears. In the centre there lies so many memories and I consider it as a home it is our centre and the Coventry City Council cannot close it down. Coventry City Council should research the great work Canley youth theatre has done and all the other groups which are in the centre to realise what an amazing effect it has on young people like myself. Not only would you be taking down a building you would be taking down a museum of living memories. People need to realise that not all kids are reckless juveniles and our centre proves that. We have kids of all different backgrounds, races, religions and sexualities however we are all one big family and we all enjoy where we are and what we do. We don't want this great sense of unity, friendship, family taking away or the transferable skills we learn every time we attend. It will take away young people's spirit and it will diminish the strong community we share together. Think about the domino effect which could occur if we were to lose such vital provisions."

### **Libraries Proposal**

- 2.1 An e-petition was submitted to 'Save Coventry Libraries' on 19th September 2016. The petition has 26 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"Coventry City Council has just revealed proposals that Caludon, Cheylesmore, Coundon, Finham and Earlsdon will shut if community groups do not take them on. Aldermoor, Canley, Hillfields, Jubilee Crescent and Allesley Park are also under threat as the Council want to make cuts of £1 million.

But this is just a proposal! Let's make our voice heard by the Council and stop these changes.

Libraries are the centre of our local communities and they support vulnerable people. Protect our children's education."

- 2.2 A petition was submitted to 'Save our Libraries' on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The petition has 2666 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"We, the undersigned, protest at the cuts planned by Coventry City Council threatening libraries across the city. Libraries are an essential safe space, open new doors and horizons to enquiring minds, and are central to healthy, local communities. Libraries under threat in Coventry have been used for many years by families and especially by children, we need to keep proper libraries staffed by professionals. The Council says it has no choice but to get rid of dozens of library staff in order to implement a cut of £1m imposed by the Tories. But the Labour Council has doubled its reserves to £84m in the last 5 years. Use some of that to offset these cuts and work with the people of Coventry to mount a campaign to force the Tory Government to properly fund essential local services."

- 2.3 A petition was submitted by to 'Save Coundon library' on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The petition has 555 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"We, the undersigned protest at the cuts planned by Coventry City Council including closing virtually every library, children and family centre, adult education and community centre, making cuts in transport for the disabled and sacking all lollipop men and women, reducing street cleaning and road maintenance, and axing another 1000 jobs that will then never be available to the young people of our city.

We particularly object to the plan to close Coundon Library on Moseley Avenue which has been used for many years by families and especially children in our area. Libraries are an essential safe space, open new doors and horizons to enquiring minds and are central to healthy local communities."

- 2.4 A petition was submitted to 'Stop Caludon library from closing' on 2nd August 2016. The petition has 43 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"Caludon Library is important because people can take out books, go on computers, get help with homework and enter reading challenges.

Lots of people I know agree with me and have signed this petition to show that they don't want Caludon to close either."

- 2.5 A petition was submitted to 'Object to closure of Finham library' on 9th January 2017. The petition has 155 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

"We the undersigned object to the Coventry City Council proposals which could result in the closure of Finham Library. This is the only Council facility in Finham and its closure would mean the only Library available would be in the City Centre."

### **Petition relating to Youth Services, Children's Centres and Public Libraries**

- 3.1 A further petition relating to Youth Services, Children's Centres and Public libraries, and headed 'Stop the Cuts' was submitted on 12th December 2016. The petition has 327 signatures as at 25th January 2017. The petition states:

“We the undersigned, protest at the £3.8m cuts planned by Coventry City Council affecting public libraries, youth work and nursery provision, children’s and youth centres. We believe those essential services should be provided by properly paid staff, not replaced by volunteers working for free.

We object to the Council’s current ‘consultation process’, supposedly listening to people’s views on whether these cuts should go ahead, when at the very same time the Council has set up a fund of over £1/2m to give grants to those who want to take over services under threat.

We believe the Council should use some of the £84m it has in reserves to stop these cuts, and buy time for a serious campaign in the city involving the Council, trade unions, and all those affected by these cuts to demand proper national funding from the Government of essential local services.”