



Decision Ref. No.

B102/17

DECISION RECORD ¹

Subject: Change in the location of premises for the delivery of well-baby clinics`	
Staff Contact: Brian Gale	Executive Member: Jim McManus
Tel: 01438-843537	Portfolio: Public Health

1. Decision

The Public Health Service will agree with the commissioned Health Visiting Service provider to reconfigure the well-baby clinics across the county.

The Public Health Service will, through the commissioned provider, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, ensure that services are in place to assess the health needs of babies and young children, and to provide interventions and support to families.

2. Reasons for the decision

The Health Visiting Service co-ordinates and delivers the Healthy Child Programme (0-5 years) and delivers a core offer to all universal families.

Well-baby clinics are 'drop in' clinics for families with babies and children (usually up to the age of 3 years). These clinics provide a further setting for parents/carers to receive additional health promotion advice and information, early intervention and to monitor a baby/child's growth and nutrition.

Earlier in 2017, a service user audit took place involving 1,275 service users who gave feedback on what they wanted from the service, how often they attended clinics, mode of transport etc. These have informed the reconfiguration of the service along with national guidelines.

An EqIA has been undertaken.

The county wide service is being reconfigured to:

- reflect changing levels of uptake of the clinics by families
- move from unsuitable venues
- ensure effective staff skill mix to meet the needs of families
- maximise resources

There are currently 71 clinics that operate across the county. The proposed changes to the clinics are summarised below.

Increased Clinic Opening Hours

- Queenway Clinic Hatfield
- Tesco community room Watford,
- Hemel Central and North Clinic,
- Berrygrove Children Centre clinic, Watford

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- **Leavesden Children Centre Clinic, Watford**
- **Stockwell Lodge, Cheshunt**
- **Bennetts End, Hemel Hempstead**
- **Boxmoor Clinic**
- **Waltham Cross Clinic**
- **Royston Clinic**
- **Bowling Road, Ware & Hertford**

Merger of Clinics

- **Batford clinic to close due to unsuitable venue, expand clinic in Harpenden**
- **Chorleywood clinic to close due to low numbers and expand clinic at Rickmansworth**

Adjustment to clinic times

- **Hill dyke Clinic, Wheathampstead and Redbourn to change from weekly clinics to fortnightly clinics**
- **Knebworth Clinic to change from fortnightly to monthly clinics**
- **St Albans Principal Health Centre to reduce clinic time by 1 hour each week**

Where clinic hours have been reduced, the commissioner has ensured that there are other clinics within the locality that families can access.

Whenever a parent has a concern they can contact their health visitor at any time during office hours for advice and support.

The provider will undertake engagement with families and will ensure that changes are communicated in advance of these being implemented. The provider will also inform relevant stakeholders such as children centres, GPs, A & E.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected²

Public Health considered maintaining current service provision and staffing arrangements. This was rejected as this would lead to: some clinics being under-utilised, others where demand exceeds capacity and some clinics being delivered in unsuitable venues.

4. Consultation

- (a) Comments of Executive Member : Cllr Richard Roberts^{3 4}**

No Comments

- (b) Comments of other consultees⁵**

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6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertadirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.

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- 5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed:



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Title: Director of Public Health

Date: 12 March 2018