

# Feedback from West SEN Youth Services/ Family Hub Sessions 03/11/16

## Connecting Communities Consultation - How to get involved

### Family Hubs

We want to create family hubs for 0-19 year olds in areas of the city where people who most need to use services live.

These new hubs will provide a wide range of services for children, young people and their families from all over the city to use.

### How do I get involved?

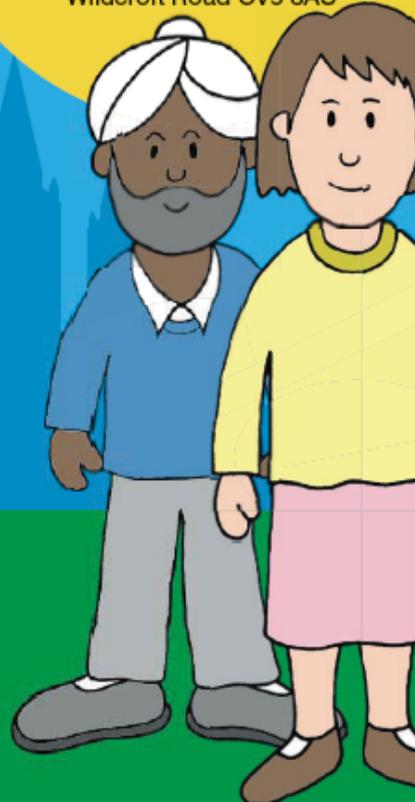
We want to hear what you've got to say about how services could work best for families in the future. We'll be holding consultation events across the city so if you're someone whose family uses and cares about support services for 0-19 year olds then we'd like to hear from you!

We only have limited spaces on these events so let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to come along.

Please email [connectingcommunities@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:connectingcommunities@coventry.gov.uk) or call us on 024 7683 4022

If you need this information in another format or language please contact 024 7683 4022 or email [connectingcommunities@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:connectingcommunities@coventry.gov.uk)

**West  
Young People/  
Special  
Educational Needs**  
**Thursday 3rd November**  
**6pm - 8pm**  
**Whoberley  
Youth Centre**  
Wildcroft Road CV5 8AU



## Whoberley Youth Service/ Family Hub Consultation 3/11/16 , 6.00 – 8.30pm

**Venue: Whoberley Youth Service**

**Facilitator: Nigel Patterson**

**Notetaker: Kristi Larsen**

### **Who took part?**

Three group sessions took place.

In total:

18 young people

4 parent/carers

7 staff

1 TU rep

### **Feedback**

**What are your first thoughts on what you have heard today? How might it affect you or your neighbours? Are there any particular groups of people who will be more affected? (eg age, gender, ethnicity, faith, disabilities, etc)**

*Parents:*

- Family hubs will they serve SEN and main stream YP
- Can understand closing other youth clubs - but special needs are different they can't mix with- mainstream YP as results in a lot bullying – it's unfair on these kids
- Children who come here are vulnerable and they shouldn't mix with mainstream children again as they get bullied and tortured
- Would that be mixing all the children together - that is an issue?
- Baginton Fields School that caters for these yp they are closed sessions not open access why are they classified as open access in this proposal?
- Where is the proposal for hubs for special needs children?
- Surely it will cost a lot of money to assess the children again in a hub - why not save the money and keep the clubs as they are , all the support is being pulled again from our feet including help with transport.
- What time are these hubs being open - you are taking away a service that works really well?

- What is the definition of most vulnerable or in need - disabled children might not meet this criteria
- I don't see how the hub is going to be better than what we have now - all you are talking about is saving money - no guarantee that SN children won't be overlooked
- Our kids need a youth club - they are not there to learn how to become an adult - our children live day to day and they have fun here and you are taking it away the family hub has nothing for my son. You are taking the one thing he can benefit from and replacing it with nothing that is relevant to my son
- Mainstream kids can go off and do other things - LA want to protect vulnerable young people but by closing the SEN youth clubs you are not doing this
- You are affecting their quality of life, it's the enjoyment factor not just learning
- The council can't afford to pay for the services so you are going to be shutting down all the services my son goes to Baginton Fields why is that affected - if the youth don't have these places where can they go?
- My child has SN if he didn't have this he would have been able to choose something else to do as his mum I have to make the decisions what best suits him and his needs - the parents like me with SEN children will be the worst affected they don't have any other choices.
- Council needs to make cut backs within the council not the community
- Why aren't the Councillors here? The people who make the decisions
- Things going backwards not forwards - we were referred here and a big picture is built of all the support that is there and then it's going to be cut back and stopped, don't want to join things as frightened that things will stop
- Will the buildings no longer be accessible to the community when you close the youth clubs?
- Will there be transport available to get to family hubs?

*Young People:*

- Please don't close it
- It's ridiculous what happens to the kids like me? Very sad
- Need advice for employment skills and help gain social skills at youth club-
- It's wrong that they are shutting down stuff - very disappointing
- I come here because I want to see my friends and keep me away from crime - kids hanging around nothing to do so they commit crime - break windows, it's a social life as well
- I have a daughter I am worried what's going to happen to them, what will be there for them?
- Please tell me so I can understand and my friends, why you are taking our youth clubs away from us?
- This is the only time outside of school that I can hang around with my friends
- Please explain in a way we can all understand what you the people in charge are going to do for us?
- What are you going to do to help us?
- We don't want to have this shut down
- Taking away our joy - we have lots of fun at youth club - very disappointed at the council trying to shut this down - none of us want this to close - how nasty can the council get
- I need help - how are you going to help me
- It's not about our SN it's about our youth club - we need to see our friends
- Not fair on us kids

### *Staff*

- All the kids that are here need this facility there is a big distinction between main stream youth clubs and SEN youth clubs
- These are the most vulnerable children they need this support
- Will all children that come to youth clubs currently will they get one to one support?
- Why haven't the powers that be in youth service fought harder - we should have been fighting this years ago - we are a team, we are not being treated as a team.
- This is a foregone conclusion the decision - people that should be here are the people that can answer the questions - can someone come to Baginton Fields to answer the questions - we are fighting hard but what are we fighting for?
- What is the criteria to get a one to one a lot of people might be excluded due to SEN - taking away their safe place some they just come out once a night this is their street corner
- Every child who uses the youth service may be vulnerable - the powers that be are taking away the youth clubs you take away safe havens for children - families know their children are safe and not on the street - that safety net is being taken away - now going to be vulnerable 7 nights a week
- Can we access any cash from youth budget to run the club ourselves? Majority being penalised so the minority can access a service

### *TU Rep*

- Youth provision will be very different in the on-going discussion with other providers to provide open access youth provision will it be for this area and these specific users with special needs
- The premise of the consultation is that we have to make these cuts.
- Parents need to lobby their Cllrs to lobby government - there is an alternative to these cuts
- You need to get the message to the right person - be better if you speak to the people who make the decisions - consultation is time to negotiate and influence people