

Family Hubs Consultation Document

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council could receive almost £2.7m of funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to transform services to children, young people and families over the next two years.

To access the funding, the Council must change the way our Family Hubs operate in line with a model developed by the DfE.

If adopted, this would bring significant benefits for people using the Family Hubs:

- The Family Hubs would be open for longer and some will have extended opening hours, making it easier for families – including those who work full time – to access services.
- Support would be extended to children and young people aged 0-19, rather than children aged 0-5 and pregnant women at present.
- Families would be able to drop in without an appointment.
- Services, such as midwives, health visitors and other community organisations, would be available at the hubs, making them easier to access.

To ensure we can deliver the changes and, therefore, access the funding, the Council is proposing to stop delivering services from four of its buildings, reducing the number of Family Hubs from 12 to eight.

The reduction would mean we could offer more staff and resources at the remaining Hubs and we would also look to provide outreach services from other community buildings across our borough when required.

The proposal to cease services in any location is not one which is taken lightly. To minimise the impact of this on children and families, we have undertaken a thorough options appraisal to make sure Family Hubs remain in the areas that they are needed most.

It's important to understand that, if the Hub you usually visit is proposed for closure, you can access the same Family Hub groups, activities and support from any of our other Hubs.

This document explains:

- The reasons for this review and why we are proposing to reduce the number of Family Hubs.
- The process we have gone through to consider which Hubs should remain open.
- The Hubs that are proposed for closure and the reasons why.
- How you can share your views about the proposals and what will happen next.

1 About the Family Hubs

There are currently 12 Family Hubs¹ in Redcar & Cleveland (you might know them as Children's Centres or Sure Start Centres). Our Hubs provide services to support children aged 0 – 5 and pregnant women.

The services delivered from each Hub, and the opening hours, vary. This depends on demand in the local area and the number of staff operating from the building. Six of our Hubs are open Monday to Friday and the five remaining satellite Hubs for only a few days a week. Errington Family Hub in Marske has not had any services delivered from it since before the pandemic and is in the process of being legally transferred back to Errington Primary School.

Most of our Family Hubs are used by other teams and agencies in addition to our Family Hub staff, the three main Hubs provide office space for our Early Help Intervention Teams and Health Visiting and School Nursing staff, the latter also run some services from the buildings.

The buildings are also used by external agencies including childcare providers who lease space to deliver day nurseries, some non-profit organisations rent regular space and a wide range of organisations and community groups book rooms at our Hubs on an ad hoc or regular basis. As such, the services available from each Hub vary considerably.

2 The reason for this review

There are two drivers for changes to our buildings:

The Department for Education (DfE) Family Hub Transformation Programme - The DfE have recently implemented a Family Hubs Model Framework, intended to transform the delivery of services to children, young people and families. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will receive funding of up to £2,692,000 over the next 2 years if we are able to develop our Hubs in line with this new model.

If we implement the new model:

- Our Family Hubs will be open longer, at least 9 – 5 Monday to Friday, and some Hubs will have extended opening hours making it easier for more families to access services, including those that work full time.
- Currently Family Hubs provide services to support children aged 0 – 5 and pregnant women, this will be extended to support children and young people aged 0 – 19.
- A wider range of services will be delivered from each Hub and there will be more activities and groups taking place.
- Families can drop in and speak with Family Hub staff for help and advice, without an appointment. There will always be someone available.
- Other agencies will operate from the Hubs; for example, health services (like midwives and health visitors) and community organisations. Services to support children and families will

¹ Our Family Hubs are East Cleveland (Saltburn), Dormanstown, Errington (Marske), Guisborough, Greater Eston (Overfields, Ormesby), Greengates (Redcar), Loftus, Redcar Coast (Rainbow Lane), Skelton, Southbank, Whitecliffe (Carlin Howe),

be under one roof making them easier to access and organisations can work together to support families in a coordinated way.

We are excited to implement this new model and believe it will result in better services and support for children and young people in our borough. However, for this to happen we need to pool our resources and staff within the eight remaining Hubs and cease delivering services from four buildings.

The Council's Budget Saving Measures - Due to inflation, reduced government funding and the increased costs of goods and services Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council must make budget savings to continue delivering vital services to local residents. By taking the number of Family Hubs to eight, we will reduce running costs, whilst still providing the same services (plus more) from the remaining locations.

3 How we have developed our proposals

It is regrettable that we must close some of our buildings and we know this will have an impact on the communities in the immediate area. We have undertaken a Local Needs Assessment and developed an options appraisal to inform our proposals in a way which is fair and transparent. This process has considered the needs of the local community and the suitability of each building to deliver services.

3.1 Family Hubs Local Needs Assessment

To inform our Options Appraisal we have carried out a Family Hubs Needs Assessment. This is necessary to meet the duty placed on local authorities at Section 2 of the Childcare Act 2006. The Act requires councils to consider the local needs of an area in its delivery of early childhood services.

There is a wide range of data available at a local level regarding topics such as child and maternal health, deprivation, poverty and involvement with children's services. Our local needs assessment brings together all this data (51 measures in total), to help build up a picture of each of the 24 electoral wards in Redcar & Cleveland and determine the level of need for Family Hub services. By combining this data we have been able to rank each electoral ward from 1 – 24, where 1 (Grangetown) has the highest need for Family Hub services and 24 (Belmont) has the least need for Family Hub services.

To view the Family Hub Local Needs Assessment Scores and for more information about how they were calculated please click [here](#).

3.2 Options Appraisal

To identify the buildings to propose for closure there were other factors to consider as well as the findings of the local needs assessment. To take all this information into account we have carried out an options appraisal to assess and consider the following:

- The level of need in the electoral ward as determined by our Family Hubs Local Needs Assessment
- The suitability of the building to deliver services in line with our model.
- The distance to the nearest alternative Family Hub building.
- Parking availability.

- If there is a nursery on the site.
- The number of people using the building
- If the centre is on a bus route.
- The percentage of people accessing services from the immediate electoral ward.
- Having a youth and community centre on site to help deliver our 0 – 19 vision.

Buildings have been assessed and scored against each of the above points, with a higher number indicating it is more important to retain the building against that criterion. The scores against each criterion were then added together to give a final score for each building. A higher score indicates there is a greater need for the building, the buildings with the lowest scores have been proposed for closure.

For more information about our Options Appraisal process and to view the scores against each Family Hub please click [here](#).

Please note that Errington Family Hub in Marske is not included in the options appraisal as a decision has already been taken to transfer ownership of this building to Errington Primary School.

This decision was informed by consultation with local residents and the Primary School and took place in Summer 2021.

4 The Buildings proposed for closure and the reasons why

It is proposed that we cease delivering Family Hub services from the buildings that scored the lowest in the options appraisal, they are:

- Whitecliffe Family Hub (Carlin Howe)
- Redcar Coast Family Hub (Rainbow Lane)
- East Cleveland Family Hub (Saltburn)

In addition, Errington Family Hub will close, as previously agreed in 2021 with the building transferring to Errington Primary School.

The reasons for why these buildings have been proposed for closure are explained below:

Errington Family Hub (Marske)

- The decision to close Errington Family Hub was taken in December 2021, this was informed by consultation with the local community. The building is in the process of being legally transferred to Errington Primary School. Errington Family Hub does not form part of this consultation.

Whitecliffe Family Hub (Carlin Howe)

- Whitecliffe scored the lowest through the options appraisal process.
- Whitecliffe is a small centre which is not suitable to deliver the range of services required under the DfE's Family Hub Model and it could not accommodate a multi-agency team.
- There are poor parking facilities.
- The Hub is currently only open for 2 days a week, running one group a week and only two services.

- There are currently no external agencies delivering services from this building.
- Whitecliffe has the lowest usage among all the Family Hubs (65 users during 2022).

If Whitecliffe Family Hub closes, you can access services from any other Family Hub. The nearest Hub is Loftus 2.3 miles away.

Redcar Coast Family Hub (Rainbow Lane)

- Although Redcar has a high number of users, only 8% of service users live in the immediate ward area.
- There are two other Family Hubs close by, both of which scored higher in our Family Hubs Local Needs Assessment and have a high percentage of people attending from the immediate ward.
- People travel to Redcar Coast Family Hub from as far afield as Guisborough this tells us that families are able to travel and could therefore travel elsewhere in Redcar to either Dormanstown or Greengates to access the same services.
- There are several community buildings in central Redcar which we could utilise to provide some outreach services as and when required.
- We currently deliver a lot of groups and activities from this building which accounts for the high usage, this is because there are more staff located at the building. All of these services would be provided from another Hub if the building is closed.

If Redcar Coast Family Hub is closes you can access services from any other Family Hub, the nearest Hubs are Dormanstown (1.4 miles away) or Greengates (1.6 miles away).

We might also be delivering some services from 25k Youth and Community Centre near Roseberry Square (1.3 miles away)

East Cleveland Family Hub (Saltburn)

Careful consideration has been given to the proposal to close East Cleveland, this scored third lowest through the option appraisal process but the same as the Greater Eston (Overfields) Family Hub in Ormesby. Both centres have childcare provision on site and neither are in the top eight areas of need as per the Family Hubs Needs Assessment.

We have considered the following:

- Saltburn electoral ward is less deprived than Ormesby, as identified in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.
- There is a lower percentage of children living in poverty (14.7% compared to 20.8% in Ormesby)
- Saltburn has a lower number and percentage of children aged 0 – 4 living within the ward, 187 (3.1%) compared to 297 (4.7%) in Ormesby.
- Family Hub services currently only operate from the Saltburn Family Hub 2 days a week compared to 3 days a week in Greater Eston (however both Hubs are open 5 days).
- Parking availability is poor.

If East Cleveland Family Hub (Saltburn) closes you can access services from any other Family Hub, the nearest Hub is Skelton (2.4 miles away)

Please note it would be proposed that any sale, transfer or alternative use of the building will continue to include Rosedene Day Nursery.

You can see a map of the Family Hubs showing the buildings proposed for closure [here](#)

5 How to respond to Family Hubs Consultation and next steps

The Family Hubs Review, including the proposed buildings for closure are open to public consultation for 6 weeks from Monday 13th March until Friday 28th April.

You can share your views by completing the Family Hubs Consultation Survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCBCFamilyHubs>



No decision has been made about the proposals yet, this decision will be made by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Cabinet at the end of June (the date is yet to be confirmed).

Responses to this consultation will be collated and shared with Cabinet to help them make this decision.

For more information please see the list of Frequently Asked Questions on our website.