



Tuesday 9th December 2014

Dear Mr Spencer,

Re: Consultation on the Future of Harrow's Children's Centres.

As a Primary Head in Harrow I fully understand that difficult decisions will need to be made in order to deliver £75 million of cuts and efficiencies. However we also value the work our Children's Centres carry out to support vulnerable families in child development, parenting skills and health. They also help support the Local Authority to meet its wider duty to improve the well – being of young children.

We hear continually about the need for early intervention and the previous vision of putting Harrow Children's Centres at the heart of the local authority's early intervention and preventative strategies and yet here we are faced with potentially risking many families 'falling through the cracks'.

Having considered all three options I personally feel that Option 2 would impact less on the offer to our families as the three hubs are placed in different parts of the Local Authority. The six delivery points also cover a significant area. I do not support Option 3 as 2 hubs would lengthen travel times and many vulnerable families rely on Public Transport which is not efficient across the borough.

However I am concerned that the timescale for this Consultation is very tight especially if it leads to some closures with the Council deciding in February on the 2015 -2016 Budget. As there are no costs in the Consultation we do not know whether Option 2 would produce the desired efficiencies.

It is unclear from the Consultation whether the Local Authority has a clear vision for supporting vulnerable families especially as other Early Intervention services are at risk. This is an area of real concern to schools as we feel it may affect the efficient safeguarding of some of our more vulnerable families. I know that the Chair of Governors at Alexandra School, Sue Stalley, has already written to you explaining how important the Early Intervention services are to our school community. I hope that you will do everything you can to protect these vital services from being affected by the cuts.

Yours sincerely,



Head of school

