

460 respondents accessed the campaign

Step 1:1.00-1:Which of the following are you responding as?

This single response question was answered by 460 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Parent of guardian of a child currently using a children's centre	312	67.83%
Parent or guardian of a child not currently using a children's centre	40	8.7%
Southend on Sea resident	45	9.78%
Voluntary organisation	4	.87%
Community group	2	.43%
Educational body/organisation i.e. Early years setting, further/higher education	12	2.61%
Training provider	1	.22%
Health body / organisation	4	.87%
Local authority / town council	4	.87%
Children's centre staff	20	4.35%
Children's centre management organisation	5	1.09%
JobCentre Plus	1	.22%
Other	10	2.17%

Step 1:2.00-1:Specify which organisation you represent

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 51 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Blenheim	1
Blenheim Primary School and Children's Centre	1
Childminder using childrens centre	1
Church Minister, Belle Vue Baptist Church	1
Early years worker	1
Friars Children's Centre	1
Friend of parent who uses the center frequently	1
Grandparent	1
hamstel children and family centre	1
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery	2
Health	1
I am a Portage Home vistor and work with children with disabilities under 5 in the southend area under the Early Years Special Needs Team.	1
i work across SEPT provider services and also the LA and other agencies .	1
independent music	1
JCP	1
Little Acorns Pre-school, Leigh on Sea	1
Mum 2 mum breastfeeding supporter based at hamstel children's centre. Parent to three children who use the centre.	1
Mum2Mum Breastfeeding Support/SEPT	1
NO	1
Ofsted Registered Childminder	1
Pink Cross Training Company	1

Portage Home Visiting Service- working with children under 5 years old with disabilities and their families.	1
Primary school Nurture unit	1
Prince Avenue Children's Centre	1
Ready Teddy Go Pre School	1
Registered childminder	1
SEPT	4
SEPT as Mum2Mum Breastfeeding support	1
Shoebury & Friars CC	1
shoebury children centre	1
South Essex Partnership Trust	1
Southend CC employed by SBC	1
Southend Council	1
Summercourt Children's Centre management	1
Summercourt Children's Centre.	1
Temple Sutton Children's Centre	1
Temple sutton childrens centre	1
Temple Sutton Primary School and Children's Centre	2
Temple Sutton School	1
Voluntary Breastfeeding advice Mum@Mum	1
Volunteer at Hamstel children's centre. Parent to three (almost four) children who use the centre and one who attends Hamstel infants school	1
West Leigh Infant School SS9 2JB	1

Step 1:3.00-1:How often do you access a Children's Centre in Southend?

This single response question was answered by 296 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Weekly	240	81.08%
Monthly	47	15.88%
Less often	7	2.36%
Never	2	.68%

Step 1:4.00-1:Which of the following Children's Centres are you currently using?

This multiple response question was answered by 291 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Blenheim Children's Centre	69	23.71%
Cambridge Road Children's Centre	10	3.44%
Centre Place Children's Centre	10	3.44%
Hamstel Children and Family Centre	90	30.93%
Leigh Children's Centre	64	21.99%
Prince Avenue Children and Family Centre	31	10.65%
Friars Children's Centre	7	2.41%
Shoebury Children's Centre	15	5.15%
Summercourt Children's Centre	20	6.87%
Sunnydays Children's Centre	59	20.27%
Temple Sutton Children's Centre	41	14.09%

Step 1:5.00-1:What is your main reason for using a centre?**This open response (Free text) question was answered by 282 respondents.**

Response	Number of Respondents
access to nursery and come and play for my two daughters, as well as support for my 12 year old	1
Access to specialised information from healthcare and early years practitioners. Access to toddler groups to inform my children's early learning skills, social skills and to access resources to help improve my children's broader development abilities.	1
Access to toys, groups, other parents, courses and physical activities in a safe, child-centred environment with trained professionals constantly on hand.	1
Activities during school holidays.	1
Activities for child	1
advice, support, meet other mums to stop me feeling isolated, courses eg first aid, delta, massage, yoga, counselling / 1-1 support for colic and breastfeeding, health adviser support & baby weighing, clubs	1
Allows my child to socialise with other children, and participate in the weekly activities they have going. It also allows me to meet other parents and make new friends.	1
Antenatal and postnatal classes. Breastfeeding support. Parenting advice. Health and development advice for my son.	1
Antenatal and postnatal classes. Health and development advice for my son. Parenting and breastfeeding support. Peer support from other parents.	1
As a first time mum, the centre has been a life saver, it enabled me to get professional advice and support as well as making me friends for both myself and my little boy. Over his first year, I took part in all the activites available, now we go to stay and play monthly- it's lovely to see Carole and catch up on everyone's little ones development.	1
As a new mum I have my daughter weighed there and take part in the activities that they hold.	1
As I am a grandparent minding my grandchildren it is an excellent opportunity for my grandchildren to expand their social skills and for me as well. As I am the grandparent I don't have the circle of friends as one would have as a younger mother - having said that I have found at Sunnydays that we all complement one another by sharing our opinions and experiences.	1
At Sunnydays myself and my son always gain support when needed, we have both made friends and the toys available are fantastic, it has also stopped us being isolated at home.	1
Baby groups and classes, meeting other new mums and support with being a new parent	1
Baby health clinic	1
baby health clinic + various mum + baby groups	1
Baby massage, baby yoga, Little Explorers, Easter events, weighing clinic, general socialising for my daughter and I.	1
Baby weigh	1
Baby weigh in, socialising.	1
Baby weigh stay and play	1
Baby weigh, toddler groups, holidays activities.	1
Baby weighing	2
Baby weighing Educational Classes Friendship	1

Baby weighing and general advice	1
baby weighing and toddler groups	1
Baby weighing Health question Social	1
Baby weighing, measuring, different groups, health visitors	1
Baby/Toddler Groups/Activities	1
Because my son has disability and Sunnydays are very welcoming and make every child happy with their good sensory equipment and I get to meet other parents	1
being weighed baby massage meeting mums stay and play	1
Breastfeeding group, baby weighing, midwife, courses	1
Bringing my granddaughter to a local service that I can walk to, mneeting other carers and socialising for my grandddaughter	1
Carol and Kelly have made us feel part of the centre and I respect their knowledge of babies so I go there for advice. The centre is a nice (cheap) place to go to get me out of the house so I don't get depressed. My baby enjoys the different toys and seeing other children which I think enhances his development.	1
cheap, clean, nice equipment, good choice of groups	1
Child care Baby weighing Baby massage Baby makaton Come and play sessions	1
Child care, access to advice	1
Child in nursery (4yr old)	1
Child uses the nursery there.	1
Childcare	2
childcare in order to go to work	1
Childminder Toddler group meets weekly. Also attend other sessions as & when appropriate/have children - eg messy play sessions	1
Children play activities - groups. Health Visits - baby weighing etc. Courses - Child First aid etc. Mum to mum and breast feeding support groups(also kid chance to play together).	1
Children to see and play with other children of similar age. For me to meet other parents and childminders at network groups at Prince Avenue	1
Children's classes, baby weigh in clinic, health advisor advice, support from other parents as a new mother	1
Children's playgroups/activity sessions, especially during school holidays. The child friendly cafe.	1
Clean, new, fantastic staff and facilities and location	1
clinic and groups	1
Closest to where I live	1
Clubs for 3 year old. Used nursery too from age 1-2 at bleinham	1
Dads club on a Saturday morning	1
Daughter uses centre for child care and also attend parent and child groups with friends from local area	1
Daycare for my daughter whilst myself and wife are at work. We also take part in as many of the day outs and other activities that are offered as we can.	1
Developing social skills for my babies and accessing health information and support regarding my babies health and development	1
Education and training, improved parenting and grandparenting skills, better understanding of the dynamics of 'blended' families.	1
Emotional and physical wellbeing support for me and my children.	1
Excellent services for early years stages up to age 3	1
Excellent support on all parenting issues, company, entertainment, meeting point, friendly place and much much more	1

Facilities, courses on offer, advice from the staff and to have my baby weighed	1
Fantastic resource of help advice and support.	1
Feeder into the school that my eldest child is in, excellent academic reputation and close cohesion between childrens centre and infants schools with Staff shared between them for cover.	1
First time mum and checking on baby's progress	1
For activites with my 10 month old daughter during term time and holidays.	1
For breast feeding support. To meet other Mums. To get my baby weighed. To speak to professionals about any concerns I may have. For my baby to mix with other babies in order to learn social skills. To attend various useful courses including; first aid, baby massage/yoga, baby led weaning and a cooking course (I attended all at Hamstel children's centre).	1
for courses and groups for child and myself	1
For help, advice and new ideas. To see a health visitor and have my baby weighed. For social opportunities for both myself and child.	1
For me, SUNNYDAYS gives me support and guidance, making friends and for the children to interact with others. WEA courses.	1
For my children to engage with other children, get my kids weighed. To meet other parents	1
for my children to mix socially with other children and interact with the adults also.	1
For my daughter to socialise with other children gain confidence in playing. To get help for myself in dealing with different stages of child development.	1
For support and advice and to have the chance for myself and my baby to meet new people.	1
For the wellbeing and development of my daughter, to interact and build relationships with other mums in the same situation as myself. This has proved to be greatly beneficial for me and my daughter.	1
Friendly staff, good services and sessions, my daughter loves it, invaluable support with parenting	1
Fun and friendly for children with lots of activity for my baby (18 months) and also my 2 older boys (7 &8)	1
Gaining support as a grandparent caring for 2 under 2's	1
Getting my 2 children weighed	1
Getting my son weighed and letting him communicate with other children of different ages	1
Getting out Meeting other mums Getting much needed support	1
Good range of activities for the children. Good social community and support	1
Health Visit	1
Health visitor checks for my baby and classes such as delta and baby massage	1
I am a childminder in the area and I often have 2 or 3 children of various ages and the centre caters for all their needs. I also meet other people and children.	1
I am a childminder so it's really useful for me to use Sunnydays as I often have 2 or 3 children of various ages between 1 - 5 and they have lots of different activities and toys to cater for the different age ranges. I also get to meet other people with children of similar ages.	1
I am a grandmother, I bring my grandson to sunny days for us both to soicalise.	1
I attend the baby weighing session and also the stay and play sessions. It is an excellent centre providing an impressive programme. I intend to attend more of the additional sessions now that my youngest child is 6 months old.	1
I attend the childrens centre every week for advice and support.	1

I began using Sunnydays when my son was 18mths this helped his transition into nursery at the school go very smoothly as he was used to coming into the school grounds and the staff at Sunnydays also would visit them over at the nursery and have nurse drop in sessions I am now going through the same with my daughter who has been coming to Sunnydays since she was a week old and she has now just started nursery without any problems. I have also used Sunnydays for alot of the adult learning course which include Parenting course, Healthy Eating, Maths (City and Guilds Level 2) and i am currently doing my English (City and Guilds Level2)	1
I bring my daughter to interact with the other children and there is a lovely range of toys and always new activities and the staff are so friendly and helpful.	1
I currently use the nursery at Southend but have previously attended Friars for baby groups	1
I go to get advice on any health problems for my son, I also get him weighed to keep a track on his progress, it is also a great opportunity to meet other mums and socialise with them.	1
I had my midwife appointments at the centre and through that I have since attended the breastfeeding support group, delta and other activities. I don't know I would have gone along to so many things and got te support i needed had I not had my midwife there and got to know the centre before I became a parent. The support, information and guidance I have had from staff and other parents has been amazing.	1
i have got daughter nearly 3 years old and we going to centre because help her learn english language and find new friends	1
I have 2 children - aged 3 and 1 - and frequently come to bumps and babies and the toy library. Sunnydays has excellent facilities including a wonderful garden	1
I have 2 children under 5. so I use it for weighing clinic and toddler groups and any other activities for the age of my children. The Nursery/daycare are currently too expensive to use.	1
I have 5 month old twins and attended the antenatal there, and baby massage. I would have attended delta if I could get a place. I go there for my baby weigh ins and also attend Twin Club there. Carol who runs all the classes I have been to is a huge asset to the centre.	1
I have attended Baby massage, Baby Yoga band Top of the Tots and Tiny Talk Time as well as some Play and Stay sessions. I have attended these sessions to develop my child's speech and language and social skills	1
I have twins, my house is very small and I feel safe within Hamstel and the centre is a good place to socialise	1
I have used this centre for ante-natal, delta and currently baby massage classes.	1
I like the groups that run there and it is close to my other child's school	1
I like them	1
I moved to the area when my daughter was 4 weeks old. I have found the support and advise I have received very valuable. We have attended all of the classes offered to us when my daughter was younger. Baby massage, DELTA, 1st Steps etc. I also go to the centre for regular weigh in's and attended the breast feeding support group.	1
I started to attend the centre when my son was born in 2011 for the breastfeeding support group and the healthcare clinic. I now attend for other toddler groups such as the Little Leapfrogs group.	1
I take my 3 year old grand daughter to some of the activities held there, both regular and holiday activities. Also, my five year old grandson uses the Centre for the holiday activities.	1
I take my daughter to toddler group so she can interact with other children her age, and learn how to share and play together	1
I use childrens centres for their activities for the under 2's and also the weight in	1

clinics.	
I use it mainly in the school holidays when my little one is not at pre-school. It gives us things local things to do at a low cost as well as socialising with other mums	1
I use Leigh Children and Family centre because the staff are invaluable. They provide more than just a standard centre, they provide a welcoming and warm place to visit whenever you are in need of advice, help or just a friendly face to talk to. The centre itself is located within easy reach for the community of Leigh..as myself do not drive any other centre is not practical to go to with a small baby/toddler with the everyday time restrictions. The facilities itself cater for everyone and theres always something to do of interest.	1
I use Leigh children's centre in particular as its local to my community in Leigh. I do not drive and have to walk, so this is perfect. The staff in particular also are one of a kind. It's not just a centre, it's a lifeline for many mums and dads who need quick advice or just a chat. The classes at the club are also great and there's something for everyone.	1
i use sunny days so that my daughter can interact and get ready for nursery	1
I use Sunnydays because it's close to my children's school and it helped my children to meet friends before school. I have been to other centres and dont like them so much because they are not as friendly.	1
I use sunnydays daily because it is close to my home and it is next to my sons nursery/school and i want my children to go to eastwood school and i feel they are used to the school by using sunnydays and it also prepares them for school	1
I use the centre as a reason to get out the house and meet other mums and let my baby socialise with other babies. I currently attend the breastfeeding support group, baby weighing clinic and baby massage. I also use the centres staff for advice and guidance with my babies health and over worries I may have.	1
I use the centre for childcare purposes so that I am able to go to work.	1
I use the centre so that my baby gets used to others and learns to share and play alongside other children. I travel a long way to use this centre because it's the best one, there are three more local ones where I live but this one is by far the best, the staff and resources are brilliant and so are the other families using the centre.	1
I use the centre with my daughter as a social meeting place. It is a valuable resource as it enables me to meet other mums whilst she plays and takes part in art and craft activities.	1
i use the childrens centre for socialising my disabled child and for getting support and advice from other parents and carers	1
I use the many courses,drop in weigh clinic and the play sessions,and the school holiday activities	1
i use this centre as its close to me, all the staff are extraordinary at what they do, ive been attending since my son was a matter of days old. the play groups and the health groups and courses they have as part of their programmes are amazing. i get immensley good support from the staff and health care professionals that work and attend there regardless of the topic of my concerns.	1
I visit children centres to meet other mum's with their babies/ toddlers. If I need advice I can ask staff or other mums questions. My child benefits from the interaction with other people and I enjoy the company too. I have also received very good support with breastfeeding and baby lead feeding.	1
I was on my own with no family to support me I felt isolated and was trying to cope with a one year old baby. I needed help to know how to be a good single parent because my daughter had special needs and had not mixed with other children and didn't like crowds it took her a long time to trust anyone. I wanted to make friends get some confidence and really needed support from staff I needed help to stop blaming myself for being a single parent. I also wanted support to help my little girl mix with others and learn the right things like reading, playing sharing	1

and getting her to come out of her shell.	
I went there for breast feeding support as well as the weighing clinic to talk to the health visitors. We have also been to stay andweplay as well as some of the excellent activities put on during the holidays.	1
introduce me to other first time mum's. somewhere to take my baby to develop him and so that he can interact with other children.	1
It helps my child to socialize and is good for making friends.	1
It helps my sons development to attend the various classes on offer. Plus meeting other mums has helped cure my PND. Without the centres I would be very lonely and isolated with my new baby.	1
It is close by as I don't drive	1
It is local to me about a 5 min walk as i dont drive, i use it for baby weighing clinic and to see the health vistiors. also the stay and play session at that time	1
It is local to me and has fantastic resources and excellent staff	1
It is my local centre and I find the staff friendly, approachable and very helpful	1
its a really good center and both my children have gone here	1
Let's have fun sessions; learn and play sessions; midwife appointments; baby weighing; DELTA course; baby massage course; holiday activities for under 5s. I moved to Southend 2 1/2 years ago and found settling in very difficult at first. Hamstel Children's Centre has played a key role in welcoming me into the Southchurch community and the positive relationships built with staff and other families have been vital in ensuring my emotional well-being. I have experienced some very difficult, life changing events in the last year and knowing that I have somewhere to go where I can enjoy the company of my children and other young families in a safe, friendly, welcoming environment has been a real help to me and has made me a much happier parent, and so my children much more content. The courses and activities provided at Hamstel are ideal for my family and have had a real impact on the learning and development of my children, my relationship with my children and have given me brilliant ideas as to how to support their learning and development further at home. Support in seeking out preschools, information on dental health and the support, advice and expertise of various professionals have been, and continue to be, an invaluable resource for me. What I love about the services provided is that they provide opportunity and encourage me to spend time with my children. This, as a stay-at-home mum, is very important to me. I want to be providing the best for my children and the community of the Children's Centre plays a key role in me doing this.	1
Little Explorer's Mother and Toddler Group and Weigh in.	1
Local and well run	1
Local so easy for me to get to as I have mobility problems and especially as not sure if I'm going to get my disabled bus pass renewed as despite my disability being worse I may now not qualify! Great support and advice and developmental activities for children at a price I can afford.	1
make friends, get advice and help	1
Makes me happy and its good for my children to learn and play	1
meet other mums	1
Meet other parents, clubs, health visits	1
Meeting other mums, doing an activity with my baby and getting support on parenting.	1

meeting other mums, doing an activity with my baby and parenting advice.	1
Meeting other parents with children. My children benefitting from socialising with other children	1
Messy play at Sunnydays Little heroes at Summercourts	1
messy play, toddler groups and baby weighing	1
Messy play,socialising,portage.child has disability.	1
milky mondays the breastfeeding group and the weigh in	1
Milky Mondays, the breast feeding group	1
Mother and toddler groups,health visitor s weigh in, breastfeeding support group, parenting advice, yoga/massage class, baby led weaning class, meeting other mums not to be isolated, support for post-natal depression	1
Motherhood can be very lonely and I find that being able to meet people breaks the isolation that can all to easily occur whilst being stuck in a house.	1
My child attends the nursery at Blenheim, but have attended information sessions and baby massage etc. also attend the midwife and weighing clinics.	1
My child attends the Nursey twice a week and we also attend the stay and play group which is held there.	1
my child bonding with other children. Mixing with other parents and getting advice on different subjects.	1
My child has down's syndrome,adhd. I find him going to the centre a relise mechanism, for myself and my son. He loves being with and playing with other children with dissability and myself with other parents	1
my child has special needs and this centre runs an appropriate session with portage staff and sensory sessions.	1
my child is in nursery	1
My child learning how to play with other children. Also the centre has a lot more toys and activities I can provide in home environment	1
My children love going to the centre, they get to meet other children and have lots of fun. I also get to meet other parents and help my children learn new things	1
My children love it and its good to have somewhere to take them to see friends etc	1
My children to sociolise with other children x	1
My child's health, physical and mental health developpement	1
My daughter and grand-daughter are regular attenders at stay and play which has really been good for them both. My daughter also attends courses and other activities at the centre which has benefitted her with some difficulties in her life.	1
My daughter attends Blenheim Nursery at Blenheim Childrens Centre	1
My daughter attends the nursery and I attend the classes as a childminder.	1
My daughter enjoys her pre school experience. It also helps with her early social skills so she will be ready for nursery school. I also get to meet other parents.	1
My daughter goes to nursery there 4 times a week. We are funded 15 hours but pay a further 15 hours.	1
My daughter has downs syndrome and Sunnydays provides a wonderful environment for her, she can play with other children with disabilities	1
My daughter is 5 years old and I am using the facilities and events organized by the Leigh Children Center during the holidays. When my daughter was younger I used to attend children centre on a weekly basis, sometimes 2 times a week. It is accessible by public transportation and you can walk there if you live southe of London road or the west Leigh. Blenheim children centre is no easily accessible by transportation and therefore only accessible for residents living close by or driving.	1

My daughter Rosie has Down's Syndrome and we have attended Sunnydays since she was three months old. She has been very happy there and flourished enormously with excellent staff and facilities.	1
My daughter uses the nursery and gets 15 hours a week she really enjoys it and is helping her to interact with other children	1
My eldest son who is now 6 years old attended Blenheim preschool which was great but I always chose Sunnydays to use as a children's centre because of the size, facilities and qualities of the toys and products. It has a much friendlier atmosphere enhanced by the coffee and tea facilities. Once he started school at Eastwood it was perfect because of the location of Sunnydays being so close to the school. Also a major help to his transition into school was the fact that the LSAs worked in Sunnydays during the holidays so he was familiar with them. Now I have a baby Sunnydays is now perfect because it means I can incorporate it around the school run as well and he is so used to the surroundings now.	1
My kids like it	1
My son has been coming since he was a baby, he is now four. Sunny days has helped my sons behaviur, stopped him from being clingly and increased his confidence. I have been given advice on how to cope with tantrums. The parenting courses have helped me. Also knowing that i was leaving my son in a safe environment. When I had never left him before. I feel that this has helped him to settle into nursery, which is on the grounds of Sunny days. The transition was made easier for him. My daughters didn't have this luxury and had real problems going into nursery.	1
My son went to baby crew from 15 weeks old till his 1st birthday, he now attends stay and play on a Tuesday and other activities and groups in the holidays. I also go weighing there.	1
next door to temple infants	1
nursery school. cafe. parents on there own. holiday kids specials days.	1
Nursery, baby weighing, play	1
Parental support. Children's playtime. Community support.	1
Place for my 2 year old to learn and socialize with other toddlers.	1
Play groups, child socilations, learning new things about being a mum.	1
Play groups/activitsy for my 9 month old and meeting new mummys.	1
Playgroup and weighing	1
Playgroup or weekly weigh in	1
Playgroups for 2yr old son	1
Pre school funded place	1
Professional non commercial provision	1
Provides reasonably priced toddler activities	1
Proximity to our home but also because I went to a Delta Group and Henry Group after the birth of my son, so I got to know staff at the Centre and liked the set up.	1
Quality of services and care of staff.	1
Registered childminder and parent to one child i live directly opposite the centre. Very nice, clean setting with friendly staff. I attend at least twice a week	1
Rhythm kids and weigh in clinic on mondays.	1
So my child can socialise with others, as it plays a vital part of their development and social skills.	1
So that my under 2 year old daughter can go to the groups held at these sure start venues and as a mum2mum breastfeeding volunteer.	1
Social and interaction for me and my son	1
Social interaction for me and my daughter Also baby weigh clinic	1

Social interaction for myself and my son. Children's centres offer a unique and invaluable service to the community.	1
Socialisation for both me and my baby	1
Spending time with other parents with same age children & the children being able to spend time playing and making friends. Also the staff at the Darlington centre are very knowledgeable & a good information source for new parents. I met some very good friends at this centre which helps when you are a new parent.	1
Stay and Play	1
Sunnydays Children's Centre provides an excellent group run with Portage for children with special needs, allowing them access to equipment and activities they can't normally have.	1
Support and advice for breast feeding, weigh in group, meeting other mums and children, weaning and educational development.	1
Support and meet other parents in the local area.	1
Support and socialising . I attend lots of baby groups/courses	1
Support for breast feeding, advice, meet other mums to stop me feeling isolated, weighing of my baby, health adviser advice, courses eg cookery, first aid, massage, yoga, 1-1 support / counselling	1
Support for breastfeeding / post natal depression & socialising for my child	1
Support for first time mum through weigh in clinic, breastfeeding group, weaning and baby groups.	1
support from other parents/carers with disabled children	1
Support in parenting, positive affordable activities to help my child develop	1
support with my kid	1
Support	1
Support, baby massage class, delta group and clinic	1
Support, health clinics and classes with my first newborn child.	1
Take baby to get weighed, little explorers (a chance to meet new mums while baby plays)	1
The children's centre has been a lifeline for me. I have done three courses there all of which has been extremely useful and in parts essential learning for becoming a new parent. I have made new friends which is I think an important part of being a new mum as otherwise it can be lonely and it's good to swap advice and any worries with others in the same boat. The staff at the centre are so helpful and really know their stuff. I think my experience of being a first time mum would have been a very different, less positive experience without the centre and all it offers.	1
The groups they offer for children are excellent for parents and children both in terms of the activities they offer and the social interaction.	1
The nursery as well as the children's numerous activities that the centre provides	1
the services on offer	1
The variety & good value for money of the classes	1
To access play group and other activities to help my child in her development and socialisation skills and for her to have fun in a safe environment	1
To attend activities with my daughter	1
To attend play and stay sessions, active mums and monthly weigh in	1
To attend the various activities on offer - active mums, breast feeding support and the weigh-in clinic. They are extremely well managed and helpful and also provide the opportunity to talk to other mums so a social element also which is so important with the demands of a new baby.	1

To be able to meet with other parents of same age children and to spend time doing activities with my baby. Many private classes are very expensive and the children's centre offers quality, affordable activities. The centres give me a place to be sociable and get out. I also use holiday activities for my preschool child, he loves them.	1
To bring my child to interact with other young children and also for myself to meet other mums and form friendships which would not happen if we didnt have these centre's	1
To check on my child's health, meet other mums	1
to come to the messy Play sessions at Sunnydays for children with a disability. It is the only place i've been to which cares for the whole family.	1
To develop my child's social language and communication skills. Attended Baby Massage, Yoga, Post Natal Exercise Class, Top of the Tots and Play and Stay sessions	1
to ensure my child get the chance to play with other children and the opportunity to play with different toys	1
to get help managing my children and making sure they get the best	1
To get my baby weighed and also ask advice from the health care workers, which has been invaluable to me since having my baby. Also to go to various classes such as baby massage and baby yoga.	1
to get newborn son weighed	1
To give my child the opportunity to play and interact with other children of her age group	1
To have time to play with my daughter in a setting where she gets to play with other children and where I also get to meet other mums. It is nice to do things like messy play which we probably wouldn't do at home. It has given me more confidence and more skills since accessing the childrens centre'sx	1
To improve wellbeing of my children	1
to interact with other babies and mums, to use the childrens centre for my daughter to get weighed and ask any problems i may be having and get advise	1
To involve my toddler in the early stages of learning and mixing with other children with the support of some great staff.	1
To learn more about caring for my 3month old daughter & to meet others	1
To meet my friends and for my children to spend time with other children in a safe clean environment. Don't always have the money to go to soft play centres and in bad weather there is nothing else to do. My children learn a lot and so do I.	1
To meet new Mums & their children & learn more about bringing up my 10 week old baby daughter. When she is a little older I'd also like to attend classes with her so she starts learning & interacting with others from a young age.	1
to meet other mums and socialise my child in an understanding environment that doesn't cost us loads of money. I also got a huge amount of breast feeding support with was so valuable to me and I feel this helped contribute to me feeding till my daughter was 1 year. being around other mums doing the same was really helpful.	1
To meet other mums attending baby groups and get support as a new mum with breastfeeding and weaning.	1
To meet other mum's with new babies, the support workers there have been invaluable already and my baby is only 6 weeks old. They've helped with so many aspects already.	1
to meet other parents	1
To meet other parents & educate myself on parenting skills	1
To meet other parents and for my child to socialise	1

To meet parents like myself, get out of the house with my toddler and give him the chance to play, sing and join in with other children. It can be very isolating being at home looking after a small child and going to a children's centre for socializing, advice and support has been vital to me.	1
to meet people	1
To meet with other Mums, for stimulation for my children and to spend some quality time with them, singing and playing. As a new Mum I also received lots of help and advice from other parents and staff	1
To meet with other parents and for my children to socialise	1
To provide my child with learning and social opportunities before starting school.	1
To provide my son with a good start to education as well as develop social skills I also use their groups and classes when available and suitable for my needs	1
TO SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER MUMS. I USE SUNNYDAYS BECAUSE IT WAS SO EASY TO MAKE FRIENDS AND MY THREE CHILDREN LOVE IT. tHEY LEARN SUCH A LOT PARTICULARLY TO SHARE. tHE STAFF REALLY SUPPORT ME WITH A THREE YEAR OLD AND ONE YEAR OLD TWINS	1
To take advantage of the good facilities and affordable activities available. Staff at the centre are always very helpful, providing useful advise on all aspects of parenting.	1
To use the available services	1
to weigh my child and receive advice from health visitors	1
Toddler groups information parenting groups	1
Value for money fantastic staff and love the weekly class they offer! Hope for my little one to go to the pre school at temple as I have had his name down from birth! Please don't merge this centre with hamstel centre!!!	1
visiting baby groups and a health clinic	1
We are using children centre as it benefits my son's physical and psychological development, improves his social skills and gives me the opportunity to socialise with other mums with similar age children. Also occasionally we attend various courses held by the centre	1
We attend a playgroup which is a wonderful experience for my two sons. They get to play with different toys and other children. Also it's a really enjoyable experience for me as it offers support in that I can chat with other parents/carers and get support or ideas around raising my sons (sleep, behaviour etc.). The toy library offered is also a great idea and we sometimes use this facility. It's a great centre and much needed in the community. I have previously used children's centres for Rythmn Kids, Baby Massage, Baby Weighing.	1
We use Sunnydays because I've made friends here.	1
We use Sunnydays Children Centre for come and play which is a fantastic service. It enables me to meet new people and access services that I wouldn't otherwise know about.	1
Weigh in and baby groups such as little explorers	1
Weigh in and play group	1
weigh in clinic as its walking distance, massage, yoga, fitness class, meeting other mums with children the same age	1
Weigh in clinic, classes (baby massage etc), help advice and support from the staff there.	1
Weigh in for my baby. Classes such as Delta early parenting, breast feeding group, baby massage, baby yoga and active mums, and if I need advice from HV or midwife.	1
Weigh in group, Delta group and baby massage	1
Weighing and children's activities	1

Weighing and classes	1
Weighing and general child enquiries	1
Weighing and information/advice	1
Weighing clinic	2
weighing clinic and advice	1
weighing clinic advice parent and toddler classes baby massage	1
Weighing clinic, Active mums, baby massage, baby weaning, Delta group all of which offer valuable advice & support for me as a new first time mum.	1
Weighing clinic, active mums, baby massage, baby weaning, first aid all of which offer important advice and support to me as a new first time mum.	1
Weighing clinic, DELTA classes, baby massage, first aid - and contact to other parents	1
Weighing my child & advise from the health visitors. When my toddler was a small baby I regularly attended classes and play groups.	1
weighting baby, courses for parents and baby, breastfeeding group, play group	1
without this centres continual help from post natal depression through ems leukaemia we might not have my daughter and grand daughter also the breastfeeding group which is government recommended as best start for babies.	1

Step 1:6.00-1:What is your postcode?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 365 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
n/a	2
no answer given	1
Ss0	3
SS0 0BY	1
Ss0 0eg	1
SS0 0EZ	1
ss0 0he	1
ss0 0hh	1
SS0 0HQ	1
SS0 0IQ	1
ss0 0jd	1
ss0 0jf	1
SS0 0JY	1
SS0 0LF	1
SS0 0LQ	1
ss0 0nh	1
SS0 0NN	1
SS0 0NU	1
SS0 0NV	1
SS0 0PT	1
SS0 0PX	1
SS0 0RJ	1
Ss0 0ry	1
SS0 0SY	1

SS0 6TG	1
ss0 7ad	2
SS0 7HH	2
SS0 7JN	2
SS0 7NP	1
ss0 7nq	2
SS0 7QR	1
SS0 8AG	2
Ss0 8de	2
SS0 8HP	1
SS0 9DR	1
SS0 9DT	1
SS0 9HB	2
ss0 9qn	1
SS0 9RB	2
SS0 9RE	1
ss0 9rp	1
SS0 9SZ	1
SS0 9TQ	1
Ss0 9xd	1
ss0 9yb	1
Ss00ps	1
Ss00rh	1
Ss08bd	1
ss08bu	1
Ss08ps	1
Ss08qa	1
SS09SF	1
Ss09xj	1
SS09XP	1
SS1	3
SS1 1ER	1
ss1 1gl	1
SS1 1NF	1
ss1 1qb now, was dalmatia road when first attending with daughters post natal depression, trust built meant she wanted the staffs help in next pregnancy and after.	1
SS1 2AG	1
Ss1 2dn	1
SS1 2HB	1
SS1 2JD	1
SS1 2LR	1
ss1 2pw	1
ss1 2qg	2
SS1 2QR	1
Ss1 2qw	2

SS1 2SG	1
SS1 2SH	1
SS1 2SS	1
SS1 2SW	1
SS1 2TE	1
SS1 2TF	1
SS1 2TU	1
SS1 2TZ	1
ss1 2ug	2
ss1 2ut	1
Ss1 2uw	2
SS1 2XP	1
Ss1 2xr	1
ss1 2xw	1
Ss1 3aj	1
SS1 3DU	1
SS1 3HA	1
ss1 3he	1
Ss1 3JF	1
SS1 3LQ	1
SS1 3NX	1
SS1 3PZ	1
ss1 3qh	1
SS1 3RL	1
ss11hb	2
Ss11qb	1
SS12AF	1
Ss12qn	2
ss12qy	1
Ss12sx	1
SS12UP	1
Ss12uw	1
Ss2	3
SS2 \$DN	1
SS2 3EDE	1
Ss2 4 nh	1
SS2 4AL	1
Ss2 4ar	1
SS2 4AT	1
ss2 4az	1
ss2 4bn	1
Ss2 4da	2
Ss2 4dn	1
Ss2 4ds	1
Ss2 4dt	1

SS2 4EA	1
SS2 4ED	1
SS2 4EE	1
SS2 4EG	1
SS2 4GQ	2
ss2 4hg	1
SS2 4HR	1
ss2 4ht	2
SS2 4HX	2
SS2 4JF	2
Ss2 4jq	1
SS2 4JS	1
Ss2 4jw	1
ss2 4lf	2
SS2 4LW	1
SS2 4NH	1
Ss2 4nl	1
SS2 4NN	1
Ss2 4ns	1
Ss2 4nu	1
SS2 4PA	1
Ss2 4pb	1
SS2 4PF	1
SS2 4PQ	1
SS2 4PZ	1
SS2 4QB	1
SS2 4RZ	1
ss2 4sg	1
SS2 4ST	1
ss2 4su	1
SS2 4SW	1
SS2 4te	1
SS2 4TL	1
SS2 4UD	1
SS2 4UJ	1
SS2 4UZ	1
ss2 4uz	1
Ss2 4xb	2
SS2 5DX	1
SS2 5ED	1
SS2 5HF	3
SS2 5HQ	1
SS2 5JA	1
SS2 5JW	1
Ss2 5jy	1

ss2 5la	1
SS2 5LF	2
SS2 5NQ	1
SS2 6HA	1
SS2 6HL	1
SS2 6HP	1
SS2 6JD	1
SS2 6JS	1
ss2 6ju	1
SS2 6JX	1
SS2 6NP	1
SS2 6QY	1
ss2 6rt	1
SS2 6RZ	1
SS2 6SJ	2
SS2 6TY	1
Ss24hl	1
SS24LF	1
Ss24lh	1
Ss24lq	1
Ss24ls	1
Ss24lw	1
ss24pz	1
ss24qq	1
Ss25bh	1
ss25hy	1
ss25je	1
Ss25le	1
SS3	3
SS3 0HN	1
SS3 8BT	1
ss3 8by	1
SS3 8EG	1
SS3 9BB	1
SS3 9HY	1
Ss3 9lu	1
ss3 9nt	1
ss3 9tg	1
SS3 9UP	2
ss3 9wl	1
ss3 9xy	1
ss3 9yq	1
ss38th	1
ss38ub	1
SS38UP	1

ss39by	1
ss39pe	1
ss4	1
SS4 1TG	1
SS4 1UG	1
Ss5	1
ss5 5dt	2
ss6 7js	1
SS6 7LY	1
SS67JS	1
ss68sr	2
SS7 1DU	1
SS7 2EE	1
SS7 3JZ	1
ss8 7sy	1
ss9	1
SS9 1AU	1
SS9 1AZ	1
Ss9 1dx	1
Ss9 1en	1
Ss9 1et	1
SS9 1FG	1
SS9 1HP	2
Ss9 1hw	1
SS9 1JT	1
Ss9 1nn	1
Ss9 1pa	1
ss9 1pj	1
SS9 1PS	1
SS9 1PY	2
SS9 1QZ	1
Ss9 1sa	1
ss9 1we	1
Ss9 2al	1
SS9 2DF	1
SS9 2JY	2
SS9 2LA	1
SS9 2NG	1
SS9 2PG	1
ss9 2rg	1
SS9 2SY	1
SS9 2XQ	1
SS9 3AA	1
SS9 3AE	1
Ss9 3aw	1

SS9 3Ax	2
Ss9 3bd	1
Ss9 3be	3
SS9 3DE	1
ss9 3dn	1
Ss9 3ds	1
SS9 3HP	1
SS9 3HQ	1
Ss9 3jt	1
SS9 3NP	1
SS9 3PL	1
Ss9 3qp	1
SS9 3RH	1
SS9 3SF	1
SS9 3TX	1
SS9 4AG	1
SS9 4AL	1
ss9 4aq	2
SS9 4BF	1
SS9 4HA	1
SS9 4HD	1
SS9 4HE	1
Ss9 4hs	1
ss9 4hx	1
SS9 4JB	1
Ss9 4je	3
SS9 4JF	1
SS9 4JZ	1
SS9 4LE	1
SS9 4PF	1
SS9 4QL	1
SS9 4UH	2
SS9 5AB	1
ss9 5eq	1
SS9 5NY	1
SS9 5PE	1
SS9 5PH	1
SS9 5QB	2
Ss9 5qu	1
SS9 5RR	1
SS9 5RX	1
SS9 5RY	1
Ss9 5sf	1
ss9 5TU	1
SS9 5TX	1

ss9 5ud	1
SS9 5XA	1
SS9 5XG	1
SS9 5XQ	1
SS9 5XR	1
SS9 5XS	1
SS9 5YR	1
Ss91dd	1
SS91DX	1
SS91ER	1
Ss91nh	1
Ss91qy	1
Ss91rt	1
Ss92an	1
Ss92hu	1
Ss92la	1
ss93aw	1
Ss93eu	1
Ss93hr	1
SS94AY	1
SS94HS	1
SS94JE	1
SS95SR	1
Why	1

Step 1:7.00-1:What is your household income?

This single response question was answered by 364 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Â£0 - Â£9,999	19	5.22%
Â£10,000 - Â£24,999	80	21.98%
Â£25,000 - Â£39,999	72	19.78%
Â£40,000 - Â£54,999	57	15.66%
More than Â£55,000	55	15.11%
Would rather not say	81	22.25%

Step 1:8.00-1:What is your age group?

This single response question was answered by 361 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Under 18	1	.28%
18 - 29	94	26.04%
30 - 44	216	59.83%
45 -64	37	10.25%
65 and over	5	1.39%
Would rather not answer	8	2.22%

Step 1:9.00-1:which ethnic group best describes you?

This single response question was answered by 358 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
White British	314	87.71%
Black or Black British	2	.56%
Asian or Asian British	4	1.12%
Mixed	7	1.96%
Chinese		
Prefer not to say	14	3.91%
White other	17	4.75%

Step 2:10.00-1: Do you agree with the principle of reducing building costs

This single response question was answered by 394 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	220	55.84%
No	174	44.16%

Step 2:11.00-1: If no, how would you propose to find the savings?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 158 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
1. The proposal does not make it clear what the savings will be, it assumes there will be savings - what will be the cost of redundancies and reorganisation etc. 2. The significant investments made in some of the current buildings will be lost and further capital investments may be required for those centres identified as providing the wider service. 3. Current clients may not easily move to a new centre	1
A high quality building is essential for both mums and babies to be safe and comfortable	1
Activities at centres are already oversubscribed, by reducing the number of centres, fewer people will be able to use facilities. Many people who use the centres do not drive and many are unable to easily use or afford public transport so not having a centre within easy walking distance will isolate many parents.	1
Activities that my daughter and I enjoy attending will no longer be run	1
After speaking with other parents we feel it would be possible to keep or centre running as it is by taking on extra fundraising and involving local businesses to raise the required funds. The centre is too important to lose	1
all centres are useful and have different services, they all hold different weigh in clinic days to reduce the bussiness of them so that each individual gets time to express any concerns they have.	1
All centres should remain open.	1
All children centres need to remain open to families to access early intervention programmes	1
All the centres currently open are budy. Reducing the number of centres will be detrimental to children and psrents	1
as it would not make childrens centres available in all areas	1
Because each centre is unique and local to each community with some really experienced staff - why would anyone make cuts on these types of places when they do such a fantastic job.... They all offer different support / sessions and temple is a prime example of a centre that offers everything and I would 100% recommend to others.	1
because for sme parents, travelling to another area is bnot viable and causes problems	1

Because I do not want it to merge the temple Sutton centre is very popular now if you merge it into one it will be impossible to enjoy the centres fantastic classes they offer as space is very limited!!!	1
Because I think the building is more than just bricks it provides part of the experience, connection to using the centre. They are a landmark, a central point in the community, the go to place. It means something. People see a building such as a childrens centre the way they see their home, they have pride in it, they care, it is a place of safety and sanctuary. I think costs do need to be saved but by making more of the building, doing more in it and making it work for us more	1
because it could force sunny days to close	1
Because it is invaluable that mothers with young children have access to a childrens centre in their local area. As a mum of two I found the local childrens centre a wonderful place to meet other mums, obtain advice, and learn about different ways to care for my baby through the courses provided. Whilst I am lucky enough to have the ability to travel, many others are not, and would not if it were made more difficult. Realistically, the money cut by reducing the number of childrens centres would never be re-invested in those that survived!	1
Because its more than likely they will not use the money to invest in improvement, and i find all the centres at a high standard anyway	1
Because its nice to have a local centre you can walk to, especially if you can't drive and close by. Also merging centres would mean busy weigh ins and waiting lists for the groups and classes. It's a way to make friends close by and build routine and get back out there. Whilst breast feeding in the early days its so hard to get out and timings etc so it's so handy to have a centre close by you know you can get to. I think the support helps post natal depression as you know you can go there	1
Because the distance for more drivers like us would be too great there should be a centre at least every 4 miles	1
because the other centres are not walking distance for me, my 2 year old and 3 month old, they would be overcrowded and not be able to provide the service we currently recieve at hamstel.	1
Because there needs to be easy access for all	1
Because those families who are most vulnerable will find it difficult to reach other centres and will be less likely to attend.	1
Because will have to go further to a centre	1
Breastfeeding is very important to mother and babies health. Many mums who have problems breastfeeding access the support group and without this service many women will not breastfeed	1
By closing Childrens Centres this will reduce the amount of services available. Blenheim Childrens Centre is always busy with very little available room space so does not have the spece to take on extra services. Sunnydays Childrens Centre is also very busy and would not be able to take on the additional Mums and Children from closed come and play sessions. They wil have to limit the numbers at the door and stop people comming in when they are full	1
Centres are very useful and more than often very busy, if not crowded. if you merge them it will be impossible to have baby courses or children activities because of the high demand and not enough space or time to do those. the quality of these services will be worse.	1
Centres have good facilities already, but if there are fewer it will make it difficult for a lot of parents to get access due to locations being further away. I also do not believe all the savings will be reinvested and ultimately if centres close the remaining ones will just stay as they are and there will be less available for the community. For example...how would Blenheim absorb the people frm Leigh given the centre appears to be fully utilised anyway. These proposals will just result in less being available to parents who want to do their best in rearing and socialising their children.	1

Centres need to be spread across the Borough	1
Centres need to be spread evenly across the town, not all parents drive, and by reducing numbers of centres you are making it difficult for these parents to access them,	1
Centres should be walkable for those with no transport - closing some centres will mean less accessibility	1
Centres will become over stretched. We use Blenheim for other activities such as weigh ins, baby massage and holiday activities. These are already busy enough.	1
Children don't need "centres" or services... they have schools!	1
Children's centres are a vital community resource. The building costs are for properties already existing, some such as Hamstel very new. The principle places additional burden on those remaining and the upkeep of the remaining buildings is likely to increase due to the level of usage exceeding those planned for at the time of building.	1
Childrens centres are important & support local community. Vulnerable families will not attend if they have too far to go.	1
Children's Centres are our partners and we need their support across Southend	1
Closure of buildings mean many people will lose a local centre and have to travel further to use a centre. This will be impossible to some especially the poor and most especially the disabled. The hamstel centre is only a few years old and has the best and most child friendly facilities of any others I've seen. What a waste and a complete disgrace if it closes!	1
Concentration of centres will mean: 1. Less convenient access 2. Increase of parent costs to travel 3. Parking congestion 4. A disincentive for parents to attend 5. Longer waiting times for parents 6. An increase in the building sizes will be required to accomodate more parents/children 7. Parking will need to be expanded	1
Cost cutting excercise always hits the worst families who are constraint by the money availability. In our household we can't afford a car and if Leigh children's centre had closed I won't be able to reach other childrens' centres as I'd have to pay bus fare as well as baby group fee. Also more crowded centre will translate into poorer quality of social interaction and support availability from the staff. This will result in mums like me being left isolated. We have no family around and it will be devastating for me to loose Leigh centre's support.	1
Current investment in early years provision is already under-par. Southend has some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country and those centres should be assured. Other wealthier areas have high birth rates and high rates of first time mothers (prone to post-natal depression) who also merit consideration. Local access to a centre is crucial.	1
Depends what reducing building costs means? Staff cut backs? Less groups?	1
Different centres offer parents different environments for parents to feel comfortable in. Many parents don't drive and the extra distance, although nothing in a car makes the difference whether parents attend a centre or not	1
Each centre has it's own assets and support different clientele. Merging centres would result in some parents feeling alienated by the larger centres and not attending, therefore potentially leaving vulnerable parents without the support they desperately need. The difference in distance although small to car users, would also force some people away from support they need.	1
Even though the Leigh & Blenheim centres are near, if you close Leigh Family Centre then for many Blenheim is too far away to walk to, so those without cars due to a partner using it for work would not be able to access the centre & all the different classes/facilities available. When my baby was 0-1 yr old when I was on maternity leave, I used Leigh Family Centre at least 2-3 times a week for various activities. I would never have gone to Blenheim as it is just too far to walk to.	1

Every place is essential and important to local mums.	1
family centre help children and mums as well find new friends,especially if we are not english,hepl improve with english language	1
Funding for Children's centres is vital especially in view of Government cuts. Stop cutting grass verges or something trivial like that. Keep all Childrens Centres open for the sake of future health.	1
Growing birthrate of children in the area- need centres to accommodate that growing need	1
Hamstel already has space and facilities. Why close Hamstel to "save money" and then spend money making temple Sutton bigger, when there is already a perfectly available location.	1
Hamstel centre is within walking distance for me I will not be able to walk to temple Sutton! The centre is purpose built for young children and family's why should it go. When I attend weighing clinic over 60 people go, how will everyone be able to attend alternative centres? They won't there simply will not be enough space to fit everyone one in. Due to lack of space hardly any class will be able to continue such as breastfeeding support group. Then where will young mums struggling turns to for help and guidance? They will simple give up. There is plenty of space and amazing stuff at the hamstel centre. Find your savings else well, shut smaller centres!	1
Hamstel Children Centre has proven to be providing a crucial work in the field of work in Early Years and with families in need. I understand that Hamstel primary School is going to be in need of additional classroom space, but for me that also means that there will be a rise in the number of families using children's centre facilities. I see it more beneficial to run the children centre along the school.	1
Hamstel has a more central location for those without access to a car, better facilities. Also, Hamstel is always very busy at the weighing sessions. I do not feel that temple Sutton can cope with the increased volumes of users.	1
Hamstel provides excellent support for many mothers, fathers and children. Reducing costs will mean reduced services. Mothers may not be able to attend as many sessions in another area and still be able to drop off and collect their children already at school in Hamstel. Why spend money on the children's centres just to merge them a few years on? Yes we are experiencing testing and difficult economic times but there must be a better way of keeping these essential services open. The next step will be to dissolve all the children's centres. Spending money to advertise and promote all the existing centres which will encourage more parents and grandparents to become involved and subsequently raise money through fundraising.	1
Having attended both Temple Sutton and Hamstel Children's Centres, it is clear that both are in high demand. Merging them will reduce the number of places available or lower the quality of the services provided. It may sound simplistic but why can't savings be made elsewhere and those savings redirected to the current children's centres. For example, instead of spending millions on providing households with free food waste bags, continue with letting people buy their own or wrapping their food waste in newspaper.	1
Having read through the proposals and spoken to friends/family who use the services it seems a ridiculous idea to merge centres. They may be close in distance BUT you built them that way, and you did so because of the huge amount of families who need access to them. Merging two centres, unless you are doubling the building size, facilities and staff will mean less help and support for the families who so desperately need it. Attend these centres on clinic days, Breastfeeding groups, or ANY session and you will see they are not only well attended but much needed and loved. Some people already walk a fair distance to attend and many, probably the most in need would not go any further. Which means that the already vulnerable and in need families become even more in need and will put strain on council funds elsewhere. Think about it, speak to the families who use	1

the centres, attend sessions, speak to the staff and you will see this idea is really not a good one.	
How can users of 2 centres fit into 1 centre? The groups and sessions will change and the services delivered will be oversubscribed. Hamstel deliver such a full programme as does temple Sutton, I'm sure, how will this work from 1 centre?	1
I agree but not to closing shoebury	1
I am not against reducing the building costs in principal, however the centre we use is extremely busy all the time and in my opinion parents in our area would benefit of more facilities like Sunnydays Children Centre to be available to us	1
I am working mother with a young child, who always contributed to the budget though continuous unentupted work. I agree with the principle of savings, but totally disagree with the allocation of the budget as a qualified accountant. Children center services are essential for families on a tight family budgets. A lot of families due to their decision to have children have to sacrifice such things as a second car for instance. The current proposal of closing Leigh Children center will leave families living south of London road and West Leigh without essential services. Blenheim children center does not have a regular bus service and it is too far to walk. I have only one child and it is crucial for me to engage her during school holidays and make sure that she can play with other children and intellectually stimulate her. Leigh Children centre was perfect for that. She was attending it with her school friends as well. I feel quite upset that I get up at 5.30 a.m. to catch a train to go to work and pay back to society, but when it comes to essential services as children centres and libraries, it will not be accessible to me or my child due to the fact that we can't simply walk there. Leigh Children centre has very interesting program and great stuff. It would be a waist to loose what they build. They are targeting a different location compared to Blenheim, essentially many Leigh people will not have access to such service. it is even more aupseeitn to see millions invested into building a state of art museum, which I do not believe is as essential as weekly services provided by children centers and libraries. If I ask myself how many times I or my daughter are going to visit that museum - perhaps 1 time for me and 3 times for my daughter during our lifetime. We live with a relatively close proximity to London with its 1st class museums and a lot of parents and citizens of Southend borough council would rather go there than waist money on such costly projects.	1
I attend the Leigh Children's Centre at Darlington School which I find small and friendly. I would be very dissapointed if the services were moved to Blenheim Children's Centre as it is that little bit too far to walk and would require me to drive which means I simply would not use the service. I have attended a few things at Blenheim but it is quite outside the centre of Leigh so puts a lot of Leigh residents off.	1
i believe reducing the number of centres will take away valuble resorces and support from those most in need. Less centres is not going to help	1
I believe savings could be made elsewhere. Children of today need a good start in life and I have found Hamstel Road surestart centre invaluable to meet not only my needs but those of my son. I don't think we should reduce funding for the next generation. By reducing the number of centres, less people will be able to attend as the centres left will not be able to cope with the volume. More and more children are being born and we need to have adequate resources.	1

I believe that anything that involves the education for children should be saved and families need places to take their children that do not cost the earth nowadays. For our family to go to the cinema for instance now costs around Â£40. For 1 and a half hours entertainment!!! We should seriously look at other ways to save money, for instance Free black bags, free recycling bags, free food bags, these are all available for purchase in the shops, I for one would be happy to purchase these if it ment that my children had things to do rather than end up walking the streets looking for trouble??!! We moved to Southend just over a year ago and were very very impressed with the amount of centres/schools/nurseries and entertainment available for our children. A year on and now it all seems to be disappearing....childrens centres, airshows, whats next??????????	1
I BELIEVE THAT DESPITE THE CENTRES BEING REASONABLY CLOSE WALKING A MILE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN OR WITH A DISABILITY WILL PREVENT SOME USERS FROM ACCESSING SERVICES	1
I disagree because that means it will be even further for me to go. I also disagree because our local council can spend thousands on a stupid light feature along the seafront to just rip it down a few years later. I think they need to prioritise what's more important and in my opinion our children centres are more important. Without them I would be at home all day in my own with my children	1
I disagree with idea of closing any existing children's centre. They are all important to the local community they serve.	1
I do not agree at all	1
I do not agree with closing the small centres in the community, they are nice and local and a real friendly atmosphere there and it would be sad to see them go and the lovely staff	1
I do not want Blenheim children's centre merged with darlinghurst. Having just Blenheim as one centre for everyone in the Leigh area. It's not accessible to people locally in Leigh unless you drive. Which isn't fair for the whole community.	1
I don't believe individual centres should be closed.	1
I don't understand how this will work. I think we need all the centres.	1
I feel that Hamstel is ideally located for nearby parents. Temple Sutton would be a long walk for some mothers.	1
I feel that the community , whether that be in Shoeburyness or Leigh on sea , is important. Sadly with community buildings being closed so rapidly the community as we know it will no longer exist.	1
I have used both Blenheim and darlinghurst centres both are busy joining the two would make them over crowed and give a less personal feel staff at each centre have taken time to understand our needs as a family and got to know us as individuals. Blenheim has supported me through difficultys financially, post natel depression and helped me to become a best parent I can be - its enable to meet like minded people in my local area I am not confident that a larger centre could cater on such a personal level.	1
I love my sure start centre & would be devastated if it were to shut to keep another open, our group are close & intimate - you would loose that intimacy if groups were made larger.	1
I object to the closing of the Leigh children's centre. I have been using the facility since it opened and my children absolutely love the activities that the centre provides. The facilities are of very high standard and the staff are very welcoming and friendly. I have used the Blenheim children's centre in the past but find the facilities very limited and the outside area poor. I haven't been there for a while as when I went there was broken plastic in the garden and a drab school desk which posed a risk. The only other item in the garden was a very old ride on toy. I didn't return and haven't to this day so am unsure as to whether the facilities are any better. Also the staff which they were using was from the nursery clearly didn't like being there and they mentioned that fact. As I stated previously I haven't been	1

back for some time so am unable to comment about whether it has improved. I will be fighting the corner for the Leigh centre to remain open as I feel it is a perfect little setting and as the saying goes 'why try to fix something that clearly isn't broken!'	
I prefer to have a local centre near where I live that is easily accessible and brings local mums from all different backgrounds together	1
I think funding could maybe be cut in other areas rather than childrens services. Childrens health, education and well being is more important than other areas that also need funding. How much money was spent on Southend seafront recently? Surely something like that could have taken a backseat if there were to be funding issues	1
i think hamstal should close and temple stay open	1
I think that having a local children centre to go to is invaluable when you have a baby. This was my first baby and it really was a shock to the system, I had no clue what to expect and the difficulties I would face. Being able to just pop locally to see a health visitor for advice really helped to settle any concerns and answer any questions. It is also great to be able to meet other local mums and babies and when they are local it is easier to meet up and make friends.	1
I think that if centres are closed mums and children will miss out on interacting with other people, it could be very isolating if there are fewer places in which to socialise. Also, if some centres are closed this will create over crowding in the remaining centres, there will be fewer resources to go round.	1
I think that savings should not be made to affect front line services such as support for families and children.	1
I think that the time and energy that has been invested into the existing Children Centre communities is going to be undone and that the full potential of these projects will not be fully realised. This in itself will be a huge waste of resources and money spent. Children Centres are supposed to be for all, but particularly those "hard to reach" families. How does this proposal ensure that those families continue to receive the support and services that professionals will have worked so hard to achieve? I have very limited access to a car and tend to walk everywhere. Although Centre Place is now my nearest Children's Centre, I am most involved at Hamstel as this was my nearest Centre when I first moved to the area. It would be very difficult for me to re-build those relationships with staff and families and would leave me more vulnerable emotionally. Hamstel actually offers the services most suitable for me and my children. The support I have required has been opportunities to spend time WITH my children and to receive advice and I have had good examples of positive parenting demonstrated to me. Temple Sutton would be too far for me to walk and it would be a challenge in itself to get there. I do not understand the sense in ceasing to use the Hamstel building, which is more central than Temple Sutton. It is only a few years old and has been designed and built specifically for the services that it provides. I am concerned that this consultation does not truly engage with those "hard to reach families". Questions 10 and 11 are not worded in a way that is very accessible. How can someone with poor literacy skills answer these questions?	1
I think that two centres are essential to meet the growing demand for the facilities. These cost savings need to come from somewhere else.	1
I think the centre at Darlington is a great resource and I would hate to see it close. I understand there is a need to cut costs, but what work has been done to see how the centres are attended?	1
i think the council should look at other ways of saving money	1

I use Hamstel CC almost everyday, since jan 2010 and volunteered at the centre for approx 18months. It isn't the closest to me (TSutton is) but it has the best range of activities, best facilities and is based at my sons school. I would not use TS. HCC is a new building used and needed by many families who just wouldnt go anywhere else. Trust is built from familiar surroundings to some vulnerable families who really need the support offered. There is plenty of room on the school grounds to build extra classrooms elsewhere. TS was not long ago expanded making very little difference to its size, their waiting lists suggest nursery places there are much more important than the children's centre part! Seems very little thought has been put into the Hamstel centre at all in this proposal. Has anybody from the council attended and spoken to the families who use it? I presume not.	1
I use Hamstel Centre the most as the staff are amazing, there is so much going on in such a nice environment. I completed my Delta post natal class there which was so supportive. I am a first time Mum and really value the centre and its staff. They help with lots of different queries and always offer advice. I would not use Temple Sutton as it would just be too far to walk. I live really close to Centre Place Centre but rarely go there as there are no activities happening there.	1
If anything there should be more children centres	1
If by reducing building costs you mean shutting the lovely, recently opened, clean, welcoming and extremely well run Leigh Children's Centre then I think that the Council should find some other solution and save money elsewhere.	1
If Leigh Childrens centre closes it will be a huge loss to the community, i rely on the centre for help and guidance and attend on a weekly basis.	1
If my local centre is closed another one is too far away	1
I'm concerned that with a growing birth rate in the area, the remaining childrens centres won't be able to cope	1
It concerns me that the merger of 2 centres will not ensure enough space or quality of care.	1
It is important that there are centres close to people's homes to allow for accessibility to all. It also means that there is a better community spirit in these areas especially for those with small children and vulnerable groups. I feel strongly that this is a key area of investment and the council should look at puting more money into this service, rather than use it as a way to save money for other means.	1
It is vital to retain a network of local centres. The most well-resourced centre is of no use to those who cannot readily access it, and something as basic as a room with other parents, a member of staff and a few toys can be a lifeline if it is within walking distance.	1
It seems that there are other areas in which savings could be made rather than withdrawing vital facilities from the community.	1
It seems there are other areas in which savings could be made rather than removing vital facilities from the community.	1
It will be expenses past to the user in trying to get to Children Center's also increasing the cost of childcare for building costs for Nursery's in CC	1
it will never work - inverse care care yet again	1
It will strongly disadvantage those who can't afford to travel a long way to other centres - like me.	1
Its a very difficult question... The Centre is excellent and used by many so it's the wrong one to close	1
its not got good for family to meet	1
Jobs will be lost. Sessions we attend are already very busy and popular so access to these would reduce further if centres are merged. Growing birth rates should increase demand for children centres not decrease.	1

Keep all the centres open, they are vital	1
Leigh childrens center staff are all trained to carry out all the health based services they offer unlike other centres they do not have to pay for outside services to come and hold classes which is reducing costs	1
Long term, the money 'saved' will be outweighed by the cost of services needed elsewhere to support the families that need it most. The costs could be saved through charging for use of the building for other public activities and classes or sharing the building?	1
Merging centres will be a huge mistake. They are literally a lifeline to mums (in particular first time) regardless of age, culture, financial background and are needed! Postnatal care in the area is bad and staff at these centres offer support and advice. The first few months are the hardest and support is vital. Merging these will make them less accessible for many and overcrowded. Merging would cause more financial strain on the NHS as could lead to higher PND etc.	1
Merging centres will not be good for some parents re:- travel. Plus there would be less likelihood for one to one which is vital for some	1
Money 'saved' will be outweighed by the money needed to be spent on other services for families who most need it. The birth rate has risen so there will be an increased demand for services. Target Families will have to travel further - who are limited financially!	1
Money should be saved else where and not taken from any children centres or schools.	1
More centres reach more people and support many people. They are stretched as it is and closing down centres won't help	1
More people will have to concentrate on a smaller number of centres, increasing queues and reducing quality	1
People who are struggling or can not drive need something walkable!!!	1
Personally I feel very disappointed that the council is intending to close several children and family centres in Southend. My understanding was that the government intended to support families. I do understand that savings have to be made but it appears very drastic. I think choice is very important and i felt very lucky that i was able to attend different children centres. For example I was able to connect much better with the mums at Darlinghurst.	1
The area has a large number of mums. Trying to consolidate into existing centres will lead to overcrowded weigh in clinics and not enough spaces on the baby classes and courses. The centres as they stand are very busy and it is a waste of the existing venues not to use them to full advantage.	1
the baby weighing sessions are always bust at every one that I have been to, closing centres would mean even longer waits or not being able to get my children weighed and speak to the health visitors	1
The buildings are already there so should be used rather than being closed as that is a waste of money	1
the centers are well used and needed, and many are purpose built so i do not understand why there would be 'building costs' please can you be clearer with the information so people can answer the questionnaire knowing all the details. Surely there is still the same needs for the under fives now and increasingly as there was 3+ years ago?	1
the centre has a nursery in it already	1
The centre is greatly valued within the community and has given excellent support and advice. It has been s safe haven for 1st time mums and without it I would have been lost.	1

The centres are all relatively new from what I can tell. They were built where they are, close to each other in some cases because of the huge amount of families who need them. Closing centres and making people travel further will, in many cases mean people don't attend. I'm sure you are well aware that for many families it really is necessary for them to have contact with a children's centre. Having a health led children's centre at Hamstel means it offers something very different to the others nearby. Hamstel is a very new centre, it makes no sense to close a purpose built building that is not even very old when it will make a negative impact on so many.	1
The centres are all some distance from each other and for everyone to be able to attend they need to have in walking distance. Or do you assume that everyone have a car or the money for bus fares to be able to reach a centre.	1
the centres are already over run. if you were to take away some of the centres the ones that are left would not be able to cope with the demand.	1
The centres are so well used and needed by so many. My local centre little treasures already lost their funding and we are very upset not to have it anymore. If people have to go further to a center they might not bother and miss out on much needed support! NOT EVERYONE DRIVES and can get about so easy.	1
The centres need to be built to a high standard to meet the communities needs	1
The council has just spent god knows how much on ree issuing blue boxers to all households surely schemes such as these should be scaled down-given out to those who request replacements and funds distributed elsewhere i.e here	1
The current centres are vital to those who use them. Use of the remaining centres would be impossible for many. Funding should be split to ensure all centres can remain and reach as much of the community as possible.	1
The government wants people to go out to work, yet they punish the working parents by taking away valuable facilities. My son attends Temple Sutton Children's Centre and without the care arangements there I would not be able to work the 25 hours a week that I do to support our family. Taking away centres will affect working families across the borough & will probably mean a rise in benefits if people cannot work due to lack of childcare places. Also just because a building is within a mile of another doesn't mean to say it is easily accessible by all, for instance I don't drive & can walk to Temple Sutton but Hamstel would be too far to walk.	1
The Hamstel centre is the best equipped centre that I have been to for this reason, I feel safe with my child there and would be very disappointed to have to go somewhere else. I have been to Temple Sutton, Prince Avenue and Little Treasures and did not feel they were well equipped to deal with the type of work that they are doing.	1
The Leigh Children Centre is at the front of Dalinghurst School and takes up the space equivalent of two class rooms. I understand that school's are having larger in takes but feel that the space we use is more valuable to the surrounding area and people within it that don't have school age children.	1
The locality of the children's centre is vital. If I had not been within walking distance of hamstel cc I would have been extremely isolated filling my cesarean section. The support I received there in the early weeks was crucial to my recovery.	1
The main appeal is proximity	1
the reduction could be found elsewhere, i.e new website for council, did we really need millenium lights on seafront,the councils website is costing the same as reduction needed. what is more important website or babies no question in my mind.	1
The small amount the council are looking to save should be taken from other budgets that clearly waste money. Stop taking away services that are important to communities. Education and child development is too important.	1

there have been too many budget cuts and this change affects too many families as the centres provide the support they need	1
There is limited space available at the centres and classes that are already very busy just won't have the space for any more	1
There is no guarantee it will be used on remaining centres	1
There is not enough space in the other centres to accommodate the same services for the same quantity of people and the are not as easy to get to	1
These centres really do provide a huge amount of support to new mums. It was hard enough for me to venture out to the Leigh centre in those first few weeks and it might not be much further to a new centre but when you've not left your house for 2 weeks any distance is really important. Support for new mums has been reducing at the time when there are increasing numbers of new mums - 2 midwife visits and 1 health visitor appointment is nothing and these centres step in to fill that void.	1
They are purpose built buildings with all the facilities and the costs to have built them would outweigh the saving after such a short space of time.	1
They should just improve the other centres	1
Think that all the centres are probably so good for all parents	1
This is an essential service in this area - do you want mothers to claim benefits or work? It is also run in a first class way and I am happy in the knowledge that my daughter is happy having freshly cooked food and is being looked after safely.	1
This is an exceptional case .i agree in principle with darlinghurst as blenheim CC is nearby and is large enough to accomodate and provide additional services etc . However i do not agree its the same for hamstel CC .This thriving centre has only been open 2 and half years and is a unique service in an area of high need ,merging theses services into temple sutton CC isnt feasible - due to size and location .Mothers would become isolated - they will not access other venues for individual groups etc .when attending hamstel for a service they automatically enrol for other sessions and build trust and relationships with the team and other families .the centre feels safe ,clean, light and comfortable - all things which encourage attendance on a regular basis.Many local families are now using the service at hamstel,reducing their isolation ,raising their aspirations and being supported to make better health and wellbeing choices for themselves and their children . I understand that Hamstel may need extra space for reception year children but not at the cost of this wonderful purpose built centre that starts with ante natal right through to starting school -(and more with out of school activities) the childrens centre is like the cloche nurturing children through to nursery and then school . The council has had to make so many cuts due to the current climate but on this one occasion can funding not be sought from other sources e.g education for the provision of an extension elsewhere on the school site to accommodate a new reception class? This would then be complimented by the existing childrens centre .	1
this is just a chance to reduce spending on children services and i don't beleive the money saved will be re invested in the remaining centres. Children and families will suffer with these proposed closures	1
This will surely result in many parents needing to be able to drive to attend their local centre. We are a one car family, I rely on being able to walk to my local centre as my husband uses the car for work and should it close I would struggle to use can alternative. There are many young and single mothers who really need somewhere friendly and local, it would be a shame to alienate this demographic.	1
To reduce the buildings reduces the provision and availability to carers. I found the first year of my son's life very difficult for a few reasons. Being able to easy access a variety of childrens centres with a range of activities and support (support and social oportunites) was vital to my well being and my son's. I have many friends who say the same.	1

Too many people to use one centre	1
We need all centres	1
We need to keep all the existing centres. Merging some to free up building will cause hardship for the families we are trying to reach most in that it will make it more difficult and costly for them to attend centres further away from their homes.	1
we shouldnt have to cut budgets to childrens centrrres	1
What is meant by reducing building costs? If maintenance contracts, and utility providers. Then Yes these should be renegotiated.	1
Whilst I appreciate that the council needs to make savings by proposing the closure of a number of children centres is not	1
You seem able to find funds to support Southend as a City of Culture, and in the past to apply for City Status, yet you can't find funds to support a vital service like children's centres! I have seen the service and intervention that is given by these centres, having taken my Grandson to them in previous years. The support they offer to parents and the guidance/interaction for young children is so valuable to society in general that these centres must be kept open.	1

Step 2:12.00-1:Do you agree with the proposal to make no changes to the Cambridge Road, Centre Place and Summercourt Children's Centre shared budget?

This single response question was answered by 368 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	306	83.15%
No	62	16.85%

Step 2:13.00-1: If no, how would you propose to find the savings?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 59 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
All centres must have money invested in keeping them open	1
all children centres could be run in partnership	1
As before, it will affect working parents as well as parents that use support groups at the centres. Easy of accessibility would also be an issue.	1
Because I do not use these centres, have no interest in their use, but believe that not changing their budgets will have a negative impact on the centre we do use	1
Because that's not fair on people living the local Southchurch area that can't walk that far with new born baby's to them centres. Cut back a little from them all and leave hamstel centre open	1
Because they are not as busy as blenheim and provide the best activities for children in the area! X	1
Because they don't effect me or my child	1
Budgets should be maintained	1
Changes in funding need to happen at every centre to make them better, not closing them.	1
Children's Centres are at best, a duplication of "services" that are available elsewhere and at worst, an expensive attempt at trying to deal with the real problem - a lack of decent parenting and self-responsibility	1
Do not use thosevcentres	1
Don't know	1
I do not have enough information to make comment	1
I do not not know the details of the shared budget to give a informed decision. I	1

could have pressed yes, but there is no back button.	
I do not use these centres but think that changes should be shared across centres so certain areas aren't affected more than others.	1
I do not use this centre	1
I don't have enough information	1
I don't know what the proposals are	1
I have no view on these centres	1
I have not used these centres so I am unable to comment or make a decision on this question.	1
I have used the Cambridge road centre and found it to be brilliant and I would not want anything to happen to it. I have never used centre place so I can not comment, I have been to summercourt children's centre and would not return. I went to the new mums course and I was the only person to turn up, I also found it so difficult to park, there was no parking close by, the only parking was for a maximum of 1 hour.	1
I think changes should be considered across the borough's childrens centres so we continue the provision the best it can.	1
I think it's only fair to make changes to all of the centres if it has to be done. Why should the local people to the other centres you propose to change have to travel further to another ?	1
I took my young son to Summercourt Childrens centre - we were the only English speaking there and songs in the play group (i.e. wheels on the bus and twinkle twinkle were all sang in polish and many other languages We will not be returning to Summercourt as i felt the 'odd one out which is rather strange as we are tax payers and always have been. But i guess thats another story	1
if others are being merged or changed then there should be changes all round	1
If this results in cuts to provision and or the centres being shut then this will affect wellbeing of mums and babies and affect Every Child Matters agenda items. These centres are crucial offering different resources and whats on offer that suit different needs and if local centres are changed then this will mean that mums will not be able to get to centres due to travel and logistical issues. They have been a life saver to me and I will continue to need to use when my new baby is born. Funding should be found from somewhere.	1
If you are making cuts they should effect all the CC	1
It appears to me that most, if not all, of the Children and Family Centres work well together...but these three centres seem to have been exempted from any structural changes, even though they don't provide nearly the number or quality of services provided by the two centres my family currently uses. Let's keep the quality at Leigh and Hamstel and lose the 'dead wood', please!	1
It is difficult to comment on changes without knowing what their budget is. Clearly this is an area of massive need and each of the centres is doing a fantastic job, but without knowing the budget allocations I can not say. Traditionally, Cambridge Road has received much higher funding and this has been supplemented by the Big Lottery Grant which was supported by SBC.	1
it not good to colosed ohter	1
Maybe these centres could be merged as they are fairly close to each other	1
More details needed on why these two become excluded from the full group before I can decide.	1
Need all copiers	1
no answer given	1
no share	1
Not close enough for the people who walk	1
One centre would be too busy.	1

please see earlier comment	1
Review should encompass all centres	1
See previous comment	1
Shared budget and partnership will inevitable lead to a reduction in services offered to parents. These centres offer a vital service to the community and the services are of great benefit.	1
Summercourt currently operates more as an adult learning facility offering very little in the way of play based drop-in sessions and alike. They seem keen on addressing adult issue and appear to forget their a CHILDREN'S Centre. Joining up with other Children's Centre will not address this issue.	1
The 3 mentioned above are all close together - Prince Avenue centre is central but the only one in area	1
The changes shouldnt be made at the leigh centre, it should be to these centres instead. the leigh centre is so good for maternity classes and the other classes they run..its a brilliant centre.	1
There has been a recent baby boom the demand of people using the centres outstrips their ability to service everyone.	1
There should be cuts. Invest the money elsewhere.	1
These centres are not looked after. They are dirty, unhygienic and toys are not clean. Leigh centre hygiene standards are particularly high reducing risk of cross contamination of viruses and infections to all who attend.	1
these centres have too ,many children in need of the centre already	1
They are close together so could be merged	1
They are not walking distance for me! And Centre Place is in the middle of the kursal estate parking is bad and I don't feel safe round there. Also more foreign residents that attend rather than like minded professionals at my centre. Not enough buggy space and facilities not as nice. Would not leave my buggy hanging round there!! I went there for antenatal but wouldn't go there regularly!!	1
Think that all centres are good for all	1
This does not concern me	1
Too many centres	1
unaffected so unsure	1
What is the budget? Can all 3 centers work with this figure ? how many people use these centers? Please supply more information so can answer well informed	1
Yes and no, they are of course part of the fabric that makes southend children centres unless there was a specific reason, I see no reason why they are any different as they too are in close proximity? and share the same waiting lists as all the others.	1

Step 2:14.00-: Do you agree with the proposal to merge Friars and Shoebury Children's Centres?

This single response question was answered by 362 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	214	59.12%
No	148	40.88%

Step 2:15.00-1:If no, how would you propose to find the savings?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 129 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
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<p>this will have a negative impact on families with young children who might struggle to get to the new centre and will cause job losses. Southend council could have saved thousands by not sending me 2 new blue food recycling bins, i now have 4 of them. what a waste of time and money!</p>	1
.	2
<p>A merger will inevitably lead to a reduction in services offered to parents. These centres offer a vital service to the community and the services are of great benefit. Although these centres are geographically close, when considering a parent without access to transport who usually attends Shoebury childrens centre then having to walk the extra distance to Friars to access services, particularly with a young child, this is a fair distance. This may mean that parents who usually attend sessions at Shoebury Centre are no longer able to attend activities at the centre and may become isolated.</p>	1
<p>Again I do not agree with removing vital facilities from a community when saving s could be made elsewhere.</p>	1
<p>Am not local and do not use these centres so cannot agree as have not the knowledge</p>	1
<p>As before, it will affect working parents as well as parents that use support groups at the centres. Easy of accessibility would also be an issue.</p>	1
<p>As I said before parents need more facilities like those centres rather than merging them together</p>	1
<p>As I said before taking money from children and education is fundamentally wrong. Save it from not giving out food bins to thousands of homes that don't use them.</p>	1
<p>As I stated earlier the council should stop spending money on stupid things and put it towards our children's futures</p>	1
<p>As per my comment before</p>	1
<p>Ask council for change in way they do funding. Try and fundraise locally. Ask for lottery funding or similar</p>	1
<p>Availability of services like this to as many people in the community as possible should be paramount. If the centres merge, the demand on one centre will be much greater and may limit the quality of services people can receive. As the services include healthy eating classes etc, the problems that may result from parents not being able to attend such invaluable classes may well cost more than Â£73,123 in the long run.</p>	1
<p>because I don't know enough about these centre's or this proposal to agree.</p>	1
<p>Because the two centres serve different halves of Shoebury and merging them would mean making one half of Shoebury less able to fully utilise the service</p>	1
<p>Centres should only be merged where services continue or increase and travel time / access is as is rather than reduced.</p>	1
<p>Children's centres are a lifeline and provide more than just a weigh clinic. It does not matter about background, everyone needs support in the early days and by merging centres this will be harder to receive. Why not ask for Â£1 donations when people visit (apart from weigh clinic)</p>	1
<p>Close both, save more.</p>	1
<p>Cut money on things that aren't needed e.g. Using less money on turning Southend into a tourist place and actually focusing on the things that actually matter like families that need help.</p>	1
<p>Do not build a very high and so expensive sea wall in Shoeburyness, but a solution that cost less, just higher a bit the one existing. With the money that you save you can pay for children centre.</p>	1

Don't believe parent would travel to the opposite centre especially over near Shoebury Childrens Centre where it is a poor area making these isolated parents. To save money don't make the sessions voluntary contribution set fee of Â£1, save tokens like sainsburys kids for equipment, advertise groups on social networking like facebook and your southend to boost attendance, buy equipment from petty cash rather than expense catalogues this way you could get value for money taking advnatage of high street promotions like 25% off ELC supermarket toys and argos. This would still be cheaper to do and replace more regularly rather than broken toys and bits missing. You could also hire out the childrens centres for childrens parties as good sized venues, parking nearby and costings could be in line with church halls but more parents visit childrens centres making them more inclined to hire your centre. All of the southend has had lots of new developments for housing such as by asda, garrison, white horse. so many more families so cutting the amount of centres could lead to lack of availability.	1
Don't know	2
Everyone needs easy access.	1
For space requirements alone there are no spaces for the people who need the services	1
for the reasons already mentioned.	1
For the similar reasons in general as outlined before	1
Friar's is gradually being left without any services. Not everyone can get to Shoebury Children's Centre.	1
From what I know of shoebury there are a lot of families who need help and support. Merging centres means less support, people without transport or funds for public transport having further to travel so perhaps not bothering. The services are not a want, they are a need an a necessity. I do not know how you would raise these funds, perhaps less money wasted on speed bumps in sill locations, excessive road signs etc. must be many many ways to find funds.	1
Get rid of a manager, get other services to use the premises, generate other income for the centre providing alternative provision	1
I agree to merge the 2 centres providing some services are still offered in the wider community as travel can be a barrier for some hard to reach families. Session times will need to be considered so that they allow parents time to drop off/collect other children from schools that may be a distance from their now closest CC.	1
I am not a user of these facilities. But I question if there is capacity at on for the current amount of children plus the addition growth in numbers. What is the money spent on currently. If one can not see the break down of cost we can I advise to save?	1
I believe that Shoebury needs its own centre. I have no idea how savings can be made, perhaps reduce top councillors salaries	1
I believe that there are currently not enough Childrens centres within the area. By merging Friars and Shoebury Childrens centres will there be enough places for all children that attend?! So many Children will be disadvantaged and why should they suffer because the government can not look to take funding from other areas that are over resourced which I believe there are plenty!	1
I disagree on the basis that I am not adequantly informaed about them, SO i CAN'T SAY WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION (CAPS) why or why not	1
I disagree with this proposal for the reasons set out in my previous answer. I would find the funding by shelving the bid to be city of culture and making further cuts to the salary budget for Southend Council senior staff.	1
i do not agree with any of the mergers. i think the councillors should think harder at ways to achieve the saving as that is their job not mine. it is far too easy to simply point at cost saving measures within one budget. if i had a job as a councillor i would happily pass on my ideas.	1

I do not know the area well, but am sure that it would have a negative effect on those Children's Centre communities. Again, this question is not appropriate when considering hard to reach families.	1
I do not know the centres but understand each centres offer different things to parents. Having larger centres removes the sense of connection parents need when they are trying to start out and cope with families. Sense of community is lost and parents are left more lonely despite the greater volume of people attending the centre.	1
I do not know these centres personally but I'm sure they both offer great things.	1
I do not know what this money is to be spent on so how can I say how it should be funded? Please give more details and then I can make an informed response. I have not been to these centres so would like to have more details on these also.	1
I do not use these centres so cannot comment	1
I do not use these children's centres so am unable to comment.	1
I do not visit these centres personally, but as a parent it's hard to find centres as it is and having a variety really counts. It gives parents less restrictions and more freedom to visit alternative centres as and when.	1
I don't agree with merging as it offers less options to parents, some vulnerable	1
I don't know about money but me and my friends take our kids there and we don't want them to close.	1
I don't live in Shobury so feel I can't say I agree with merger as it wouldn't affect me. I also feel to ask how I personally would save £73,123 is a ridiculous question! I am a member of the public, a mother wishing to keep vital services! Perhaps there are high paid salaries that could be cut instead of services!!!	1
I don't think you should make cuts on things that will affect people's mental and physical wellbeing. Where I live in Leigh we have just had brand new plastic waste bins delivered. It is sitting in my garage unused as the previous one is perfectly ok and has been in permanent use since I first had it - what a waste of money	1
I don't use these centres so don't know enough about them to comment	1
I don't use this centre so not relevant to me	1
I have insufficient information to make any judgement	1
I have no view on these centres	1
I suggest that there are fewer managers across the council with fewer perks, I am sure this will save a lot more than £73,123!!!	1
I support the merge of the centres as long as some service delivery still operates in the wider community as travelling to sessions can be difficult for parents and can become another barrier for hard to reach families. Times will need to be re-thought as many sessions run alongside school drop off/collections which may no longer be appropriate.	1
I THINK ALL CHILDREN'S CENTRES SHOULD BE SEPARATE SO CHILDREN HAVE ALL DIFFERENT ONES TO GO TO ON DIFFERENT DAYS SO THEY GET TO MEET NEW CHILDREN. I FEEL THAT YOU COULD ASK FOR A DONATION OF A POUND FROM EACH PARENT WHEN ENTER THE CENTRE TO HELP PAY FOR THE COST AND DRINKS YOU COULD CHARGE FOR. IF THE CHILDREN WANT TO BORROW TOYS FOR A WEEK YOU COULD CHARGE 50P A TIME WHICH WILL HELP	1
I think that all of the individual children's centres meet the criteria of different people and it's important to keep as many open as possible. I think that this is more important than silly water features on the seafront.	1
I think the centres are worth more to people so maybe a small charge for facilities	1
I think they are considerably distanced from each other	1
I understand that merging Children's Centres would save money but I don't think the Council should be closing Children's Centres down. Parents heavily rely on the Children's Centres that are nearest to their home. A lot of parents don't drive.	1

I understand that there is a large phased house redevelopment programme in Shoebury which will significantly increase the population of and need for a local children's centre for young families - particularly those with high social needs. I am not convinced that needy families will travel that extra mile to access services. Children's centre provision should be within walking distance of disadvantaged families' homes. It is not clear whether the saving stated of £73,123 - is per annum, overall?	1
I wont be able to get to Friars as I dont drive and cant afford buses	1
I would look at the money spent in other departments. Perhaps the money spent on the Victoria circus statue and road improvements that have caused misery for local travel.	1
I would personally have to go and look at the centres and ask the parents what sort of problems there would be if this happened and get their views before anything was done, something which I personally have not been aware of. I found out that Hamstel was closing on a Mums Forum??????	1
I would use the money that have been saved from the cancellation of the airshow.	1
If you shut shoebury, where will I go? i cant get to friars. money should be taken from somewhere else to pay for the wonderful staff and building.	1
I'm afraid I do not know enough about these particular childrens centres	1
It depends on how close the two centres are to each other. If close then yes, if not NO	1
It is not my job to work out how to find those funds. Perhaps not wasting money on pointless things around town would be a good place to start? Shoeburyness is full of families who really need support and guidance in their parenting. Merging centres will not offer more support, it means less!	1
It's a deprived area and if this support has to go what will be put in instead?	1
its not my job to make this saving, i cant advise as i don't have all the facts at hand. why is the council spending money selling and buying back car parks?	1
It's not that I totally disagree with this proposal, I would like reassurance that it really is the best option and that services will still reach those that most need them	1
Job losses would have detrimental impact on community	1
Kids will miss out. Stop benefit spongers that would save millions	1
Make savings by not employing expensive interim/contract staff/consultants. Many of those who use shoebury will find it difficult to reach the proposed centre and will be less likely to attend as travelling with young children and no transport can be very difficult. These are some of our most vulnerable families who have built links and confidence with their local centres. There are savings to be made at sbc without risking our children's futures.	1
Merging the centres would make it difficult for existing users to continue using the services provided. Savings could be made by refraining from spending money on unnecessary new blue recycling boxes for residents and suchlike.	1
merging two centres may result in some parents and children missing out on support they need.	1
Merging will overload the existing resources available. There is a risk of skilled staff not being retained. There would probably have been an estimated throughput of people when the building was constructed. A timescale for Refurbishment and redecoration was likely to have been estimated that would be increased by implementing this.	1
More children being born, more centres needed.	1
Move the centre into the youth centre	1
My previous answer applies. This is not a vast sum. I am sure it could be saved by reduction in costs elsewhere such as not using outside/private agencies for certain	1

tasks and using in-house resources instead.	
My son goes to friars, next thing you will want 100 pupils per classroom.	1
Not everyone can get to both centres and shoebury has a lot of poor people who need help and support. the support given will be diluted. Close youth centre it is not used for purpose.	1
offer volunteer groups? open different centres different days?	1
once again, do you want mothers to claim benefits or work? I suggest that you sack some of the top heavy council executive and cut right back on councillors' expenses. Furthermore, you could have saved money by not supplying new blue food bins and an exorbitant cost.	1
only if the distance for people in the area isnt to far to travel to the nearest centre and public transport for easy travel	1
Open less hours	1
Pay the big bosses at the council less wages, obviously	1
People choose certain centres for different reasons. It's a must for parents/ carers to have choice in where they go to socialise their children.	1
people obviously use both centres so they are required.	1
Please refer to my previous response.	1
please see first comment	1
Please see previous	1
reducing the number of centres will take support and resouces away from the vunerable. savings should be made from sources	1
same reason	1
Save the money by making the person who applied for City Status to repay the funds used in applying for that Pipe Dream.	1
Savings could be found elsewhere, and not in key areas such as children's services. Alternative savings I feel should be targeted in other areas such as reducing the number of temporary staff employed by the council (as I am aware that these temp contracts account for a large percentage of the councils costs) . The upgrade to the website, recently reported in the Southend Echo, at a cost of Â£55k should also be reconsidered.	1
See previous answer	1
Shoebury Children Centre and Friars Children Centre is quite a distance apart. If you don't drive you have to get public transport!!!!	1
shoebury covers a large area and needs these centres. lose one f your six figure earners from council. children are the future and need investing in.	1
Stop spending money on consultants. Turn down the heating in Civic Centre (always too hot with windows open!) Stop councillors making ridiculous expenses claims.	1
Take from less urgent and more expensive projects like the shoebury commons sea wall which can be delivered in much more cost efficient ways and with less community impact than the proposed one	1
The borough has high Child birth rate. The centers help children and parents develop important skills, positive behaviour and support networks. To raise money the centers could have fund raising events.	1
the building will not close as a nursery is in there so why take out our supoort	1
THE CENTRES SERVE TWO AREAS OF SHOEBURY. THOSE LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF SHOEBURY HIGH SCHOOLS WILL BE PUT OFF ATTENDING THE CENTRES IF THEY HAVE TO TRAVEL TO FRIARS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITHOUT THEIR OWN TRANSPORT. TO ACHIEVE THE SAVINGS, I SUGGEST APPROPRIATE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS ARE CONSULTED FOR THEIR VIEWS. ASKING THE CITIZENS OF	1

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA HOW THEY WOULD ACHIEVE THE SAVING IS FUTILE WHEN THEY HAVE NO IN DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE COST SAVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE.	
The cuts need to be more even across all children centro's or taken form LA staffing as there on costs are higher	1
The Shoebury Children's Centre is better located and in close proximity to other children's services (e.g. schools). I would relocate the service here and close the Friars Centre	1
There is a high level of deprivation in Shoebury. The Shoebury CC is opposite the main area which needs support to take this away will have a detrimental effect as people do not travel across Shoebury! Rather than taking away space Shoebury CC needs more. It's capacity at present is for 8 parents and children this is not suitable to run services from especially those to encourage parents/carers in in the first place. Of course we can do outreach but we need to engage with these families once we have reached them and Friars although the more suitable venue is still too far away for those families who are our 0-30% targets. Will our budget be squeezed even more by having to pay for a bigger outreach venue in this area? We already use the Youth Centre which is costly and not always consistently available. Having a base on the Saxon Garden estate would be good maybe the back room of the contact centre could be used so we still have a presence at this end of Shoebury or we have a bigger space in the CC. To successfully engage with those we need to we must keep groups running in Delaware Road.	1
There is a long way between them for parents to walk, this is one of the most deprived areas of Southend	1
There should be no Children's Centres and they should all be closed down to make immediate savings	1
These areas need both centres available to deal with the social issues in parts of Shoeburyness. Savings could be made by cutting Councillors expenses claims	1
These areas score highly on all socio-economic deprivation indices. Repeated studies show poverty alleviation measures are best implemented at an early years or preventative stage. The savings of Â£73,123 will be more than recuperated by increasing long term skills and life chances of these individuals. There will be cost-benefit gains through lower educational costs (SEN/ADHD funding), benefit reliance, criminal justice costs etc) which can be helping families with successful 'Sure Start' provision.	1
These centres are needed and shouldn't be merged	1
They are a fair distance apart which would impact upon the accessibility- especially given the nature of some demographic groups in Shoebury. An opportunity, given the needs of the area would be to extend use of the sites out of school hours for Borough services (hosting the Housing services previously offered the "East Area" office) or gaining financial income by offering out as adult education in conjunction with the Adult College.	1
They are needed by the community. Remove free bus bass entitlement, make it means tested	1
This has to be one of the most disadvantaged areas and should have more, not fewer, services...and over a longer period of time.	1
this is not a centre we visit but i am assuming there we will a loss of jobs	1
To save thousands, freeze the saleries of the top council workers (as has been done to teachers) Again, these centres are too far apart to feasibly merge. Many high needs families will become more vulnerable and harder to reach. This will inturn cost more that the Â£73,123 saved by merging as new initiatives will no doubt be conjured coating in excess of the saved dunds	1
Trick question. You are paid to resolve this and know all the available resources. Work it out as we pay you to....	1

up to the government to provide it out of the budget instead of sending money abroad all the time	1
Use the money you are saving from the airshow	1
We have a lot of clients in this area who do not have cars and we are already working at both centres filling up appointments. Move Centre next door to Youth Centre they need more space.	1
We need as many centres as possible to reach out to all that need them. In order to achieve the £73,123, perhaps charge a small fee to parents for the use of the centre	1
We need services running in both Centres as our target groups are opposite Shoebury Centre	1
What is this money to pay for? You can not expect members of the public to come up with ways to raise money when not really their job for a start but you do not detail what the money pays for, please supply more information so we can answer well informed.	1
With the proposed closures of libraries at Thorpedene & Friars and both community centres should both one or other children centres close it would cause a severe decline of community buildings for the community to use! Not to mention the Youth Centre!	1

Step 2:16.00-1:Blenheim and Leigh Children's Centres?

This single response question was answered by 338 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	185	54.73%
No	153	45.27%

Step 2:17.00-1:If no, how do you propose the savings are found?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 147 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
What is this money to pay for? You can not expect members of the public to come up with ways to raise money when not really their job for a start but you do not detail what the money pays for, please supply more information so we can answer well informed. I know blenheim and it is purpose built but do not know how well used etc the leigh centre is and if there is easy connections with buses etc for the people in the community? Could you detail in next proposal?	1
Again it is a shame that these financial cuts need to be made however I do appreciate that to merge the 2 centres may be the most viable option. I also understand that the Blenheim ward is of a more disadvantaged area so therefore should be the CC that remains open with Darlington merging. It is also a better designed delivery space for the amount of families it would need to cater for with 3 (possibly 4 picking up Little Treasures) reach areas. However I feel the Lead Body should be SEPT as they have full time staff that are qualified to run most services themselves as well as instant access to the Health Visiting and School Nursing teams. The skills range from healthy lifestyles, SOVA, breastfeeding, pre and post natal groups, contraception and sexual health, domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse, RoSPA, smoking cessation, counselling, baby massage, family star, SOUL and many more. The CC staff also do valuable outreach work with many referrals coming from the Health Visiting team. The families of Darlington have made it quite clear that they have chosen to use Darlington CC instead of Blenheim CC because the staff and services are more suited to their needs. The parents have made it clear they feel they are being victimised because they are perceived as wealthy therefore not in need of support. To have SEPT operating from Blenheim these families would feel able to access the CC as there would be	1

familiarity making the transition easier.	
Again not my job! There are many many ways you can save money. And also many ways that those attending children's centres will mean less money needing to be spent on them with education around their parenting/health/money/housing improving the way they live. Try attending any group held at any of these centres and actually speaking to the people who use them to see just how important they are!	1
again people need both centres	1
Again, as in the previous question, I would like the reassurance that this is the best option, that services will still be able to those who most need them, that some of the savings will be ploughed back into the centre and that the staff are supported to succeed in providing the service, not to fail and then become a cut to the service next time budgets are set	1
Although Blenheim is only a mile from Darlington school it must be remembered that Darlington is already well away from Leigh town centre. This merger would leave Leigh entirely without a readily accessible Sure Start Centre. As far as the savings are concerned, the £250,000 wasted on providing people with blue food waste bins (of which we now have two sets) is just one example of the arbitrariness with which the council can find funding for favourite schemes.	1
As above	2
As above - merger only where access and availability of service is not impacted. Without access to all of the accounts for the childrens centres I can't see exactly how I would generate savings - a question from you that's destined to have a poor answer! But I would be looking at income generation opportunities, staffing savings, charging for some sessions.	1
As before	1
As before, I suggest you look a little harder else where.	1
As before, it will affect working parents as well as parents that use support groups at the centres. Easy of accessibility would also be an issue.	1
As before.	1
as I SAID BEFORE IN THE LAST QUESTION ALL CHILDRENS CENTRES SHOULD BE SEPARATE	1
As per my previous comment	2
As per previous response - close them all down and make the full savings	1
As previous comment	1
As previously stated, the two centres cover a very large area, and many parents do not have access to transport and walk to these centres. Merging them would not only put a strain on the Blenheim Centre but also make it harder for many families to continue accessing these valuable resources. Much money is wasted by the council in other areas such as recycling boxes and CCTV cars. It is a low blow to plan cost cutting measures to reduce valuable services to some of the most disadvantaged social groups.	1
because I don't know enough about these centre's or this proposal to agree.	1
Because it's fucking stupid.	1
Because of the distance of them all	1
Blenheim Children's Centre provides a rather lack-lustre level of service...a lot of gloss but not a lot of substance...whereas Hamstel seems to have something good going on almost every day. Why not keep Leigh and get rid of Blenheim?	1
Blenheim C C already seems very busy and proactive to improve the lives and opportunities for the children in Leigh	1

Blenheim does not have the room to offer these additional activities, the rooms are full during school holidays, by merging the two centres and putting these added value 'help' sessions you will be penalising the children to do activities with their parents during half term / summer holidays. The car parking will also increase as mums with prams will not walk the distance. The nursery is at full capacity and has a waiting list. The management already struggle with bookings and get times / booking in availability wrong. I suggest the Â£86k is saved by using six sigma project methodology. Saving on waste will reduce this number significantly. By stopping repeat work (staff costs) rework for invoices, sending unnecessary letters, marketing material and generally managing the centres as a business rather than a government funded 'give away' you would e able to recoup have both Blenheim & Leigh running at a reduced cost. Being accessible in 2 locations is imperative for many families. Children need variety. Visiting 2 centres grows confidence.	1
Blenheim is a good centre with a variety of things to do Unsure about Leigh Centre	1
Blenheim is a very good sure center it not only provides for children but also for mothers who are on there own, has educational courses, if the council didn't pay out for ridiculas things and shud pay out and fund for perants who need the help and find the center useful!	1
Both centres are needed and well used. maybe some other money saving methods could be used. use centres in evening for evening classes.	1
Both centres are needed to deal with the social issues in parts of Leigh on Sea. Savings could be made by cutting Councillors expenses claims	1
Both of these centres are vital to the growing number of new mums. Having the support of that centre will absolutely save the borough money in the long run of more confident parenting and healthier children with breastfeeding for example being supported - leigh has the lowest rates of breastfeeding in Essex. If the council had not spent money on providing new food waste bins to all properties when the old ones were still perfectly fine perhaps they would have some of the money needed.	1
both these centres are extremely busy	1
Both venues provide a valuable service to the community. Perhaps a revenue by offering evening classes in subject areas for adult learners could be explored. Private sponsorship from local businesses in support of children centres.	1
Charge a little more for the classes that the centre offer	1
children need these places as so many kids have no where to play and mix with other kids and meet their social needs and of course mums need this as well to save more post natal depression. mums will pay a few quid each week to attend.	1
Close both, save more.	1
Community ned, again means test free bus passes.	1
Cost cutting excercise always hits the worst families who are constraint by the money availability. In our household we can't afford a car and if Leigh children's centre had closed I won't be able to reach other childrens' centres as I'd have to pay bus fare as well as baby group fee. Also more crowded centre will translate into poorer quality of social interaction and support availability from the staff. This will result in mums like me being left isolated. We have no family around and it will be devastating for me to loose Leigh centre's support.	1
Don't know	1
Dont know	1
Everyone needs easy access.	1
for the reasons already stated.	1
For the same reasons as stated on my previous answer.	1
For us as a family, bleinham is too far for us to attend regulary with no car. Maybe the money from the new unnessarceary watse bins and liners could have been	1

better used	
Have the centres open for alternative days and rent out the space in the days that it is not open. The Leigh centre is essential. If you don't drive then getting to Blenheim is difficult and it would mean I would have to have money to get on the bus. Which I generally don't have. Which would mean southend are denying me access to a children's centre.	1
How about not paying consultants who come into Southend council such ridiculous wages??	1
how about stop spending money on pointless projects like the seafront XD	1
How much money has just been wasted on providing every household with a new blue bin. Could the money from this not have been used?	1
I disagree in general with closing Children's Centres in general but this one in particular is outstanding and has offered a lifeline to many mothers I know, including myself. Surely you do not seriously expect a member of the public to come up with a budget to show the Council how to save Â£86000?	1
I do not agree with removing vital facilities from a community when it seems savings could be made elsewhere	1
I do not know this area or the children's centres involved so cannot comment specifically. There needs to be a third option in the previous question rather than just "yes" or "no" as there will be people who have ticked "yes" merely because they do not know this specific area. This will mean that the results from this survey will not have a fair representation of parent's opinions. Southend is a large area with hugely varying needs from one community to the next.	1
I don't believe they should merge because there should be more than one centre for parents to go to. I don't work for the council so it's not for me to help you save money. Although not helping out so many layabouts would be a start rather than penalising hard working people	1
I don't know	1
I have given reasons in previous answers. I think that the children's centres should be made a prime reason for the government to spend their money on. They are sometimes a life line for parents or carers. I know the Leigh centre is always fully booked on their activities so they are obviously very popular.	1
I have insufficient information to make any judgement	1
I have no view on these centres but maybe a fun day could raise the money required to help keep these centres open, I would personally attend and try help with fund raising.	1
I stongly disagree as I pointed out earlier. I believe that two children centres serve families living at different areas and closure of one will be devastating for other area. I believe that the coucil shall review its projects, reject building museum and review allocation of speding budget of project like replaing plastic bins for food. people are not using them because they do no want to keep food rot in their houses during a week, not becasuse they lost their plastic bins.	1
I teach Paediatric First Aid at one of these Centre's and my courses are full and have wating lists. To me this shows that the Centre's are being used and therefore am confused why the Council are targeting Children's Centres.	1
I understand the importance of saving money during this economic period of uncertainty, although Leigh children's centre acts like a family and makes everyone feel welcome and happy. I have attended Blenheim only once and felt very lonely and uncomfortable. Carole and the team do an amazing job at darlinhurst and it would be a travesty to close such a good local resource.	1

<p>I understand the need to save money and that building costs are a viable way to do this. I also understand that merging the 2 CC's is a viable option. Blenheim CC is located in an area of higher deprivation and therefore is the centre that should remain the base for the 3 reach areas. (4 reach areas if taking into account the families no longer attending Little Treasures CC) As a building it is more suited to service delivery. However I feel very strongly that SEPT should be the lead provider. As a team we have currently have 1 full time Manager, 22.5 hours per week Deputy Manager and 4 full time Family Support Workers all working across 2 CC's. The skill mix across the team is extremely valuable and most services are delivered amongst ourselves therefore eliminating the need to outsource other professionals so adding no extra cost for service delivery other than materials. The range of training covers SOVA, safeguarding up to level 4, baby massage, breastfeeding support, CAF, care programme approach, contraception and sexual health, post natal parenting and family caring trust parenting facilitation, denver developmental checks, domestic violence awareness, counselling, drug and alcohol misuse, HENRY, MEND 2-4, integrated working, management and leadership, lone working and outreach, bowel management, paediatric continence promotion and toilet training, record management, relationships counselling and mediation, RoSPA, smoking cessation, SOUL, family star, systmone and many more. The team are providing outreach services in peoples homes with referrals coming from local schools, Health Visitors and Blenheim CC. With the access to systmone we are able to access targetted families information to do an initial assessment and find out current support in place. The systm also provides information as to health professionals so that appropriate relationships can be made with those required. Continued on last page.</p>	1
<p>I use Leigh children's centre, if it were to close I could not use a centre regularly as I rarely have use of the single car my family have. I can not walk to Blenheim in anything but fair weather as it is a long walk and a particularly long way for my preschool child to walk (I have a baby to push). Many mothers will be in a similar position. It is not my job to make savings! Though I'd start by looking at council salaries and making sure everyone earns their wages. Perhaps black sack collections once a fortnight, this would save money and encourage recycling and use of blue bins.</p>	1
<p>I use this centre weekly and there are too many already</p>	1
<p>If you merge the services there will be fewer services to go around making the facilities more difficult to access for the people that need them the most. If there were fewer managers in the public services with posh offices I am sure large amounts of money would be saved instead of taking away facilities from people that need them.</p>	1
<p>I'm sure all centres have the same views as my cdbtre do about merging.</p>	1
<p>Increase cost of using the service. Demand is strong and the current charges are too nominal. Merging will reduce diversity, community network and impact jobs.</p>	1
<p>Is that £86,000 in the first yr, each year or always?</p>	1
<p>it has been made very unclear on which building you will merge to and again loss of jobs to the people who work very hard in these centres</p>	1
<p>It should be clear to people how the places differ. I feel as a user of Darlington I would be losing a good centre. I am actually closest to Little Treasures but that has already been cut.</p>	1
<p>Job losses have negative impact on community. I use both centres for various courses, clinics and childcare. The sessions are always very busy and over populated so by merging these two centres it would restrict access to the excellent services available. Growing birth rates in this area surely justifies the need to keep both centres open.</p>	1

<p>Larger centres remove the connection parents need when they are coping with families. Sense of community is lost and parents are left more lonely despite more people. ie getting lost in a crowd. I suffered sever problems breastfeeding, yet with the support of the Leigh Childrens' Cnetre, continued to feed until my 2nd son was 15 months. I couldn't have done this without their support. I also suffered from post natal depression with both my children. My 1st child is 8 & I suffered far more with him because I didn't have the resources available now. I have had so much valuable support from the centre & used the weigh in clinics to support me through difficult times, the massage courses to help my son's colic & yoga/rhythm kids to help for me to continue getting out the house and socialising for myself & my son. The centre was a life line for us. I learnt about baby led weaning there, which took away so much pressure from me and worked for us a family & helped us live a healthier lifestyle. I attended the Blenheim Centre on 2 occasions. I went home in tears after 1 occasion. The other occasion was a holiday club where there were faeces on the floor. It may be right for other people, but the centre seemed so vast and overwhelming, that should it have been my only option, then I wouldn't have attended and would have suffered more with post natal depression, felt more isolated and stopped breast feeding far sooner, which would have fed my post natal depression. The Leigh Children's Centre is always clean, welcoming and has recently received a good, with outstanding features Ofsted report which only furthers my points of how people need this service. I have recently discovered that the statistics used that 50% of parents using this centre use other centres, is being misused in my opinon. I attended another centre only twice & have been included in this statistic, yet I went twice & found it wasn't suitable for my needs & would only attend Leigh CC.</p>	1
<p>Leigh as I understand it is also a health led children's centre, so offers different things to Blenheim. They may be close in location but this was your doing, and I assume they were built where they were so that there was enough support for the families living in surrounding areas. Closing one centre means everybody going to one, it will be too busy so people who may really need support will be turned away because of lack of space/staff</p>	1
<p>Leigh centre is so handy for such alot of people and close for so many mums who live in leigh and westcliff. they are more popular than the other centres so make changes with those centres to save money not the leigh centre.</p>	1
<p>leigh centre is the only health related childrens centre all others focus on education. leigh centre runs health programmes which a lot of mums and children rely on for support, advice and continuing health surveillance. i would do fund-raising there are many different ways to do this e.g pre-loved sale where mums gather all unwanted pre-loved items which can be sold to raise funds this is just one example. the local community needs the leigh centre it is the best one in the borough for numerous reasons</p>	1
<p>Leigh is a big area to cover</p>	1
<p>Leigh is a newer, bigger, cleaner, nicer venue. It has only been open just over a year and would be crazy to close it. The staff at leigh are fantastic, offering the support that many need and are a lifeline to most! Blenheim is not a very nice venue and is always overcrowded.</p>	1
<p>Leigh is one of the busiest children's centres, closing it will result in blenheim being over stretched and the quality of the resource diminished. Money could be raised by increasing contributions from parents towards classes in a means tested fashion, most mums I know would willingly contribute.</p>	1
<p>Leigh provisions have already been reduced and moved. Childrens centres should be in walking distance and this will leave south Leigh with no where. The area may be better off financially but has higher depression rates so some support is necessary</p>	1
<p>Love Leigh - really cosy and welcoming and very suitable for babies. Blenheim is not geared towards welcoming babies and it as practical for me to get to. Would b</p>	1

happy if a specific room for babies is built at Blenheim.	
maybe the council should have considered the detrimental affect to services and space for the courses, help, support groups offered before replacing local blue food waste bins when already adequate ones existed as well as providing compostable bags	1
merging the centres will take away valuable support from those in need	1
Merging the services will mean a reduced service to parents and children in the Leigh area. There are many ways that childrens centres could reduce costs and raise extra money, by relying more on volunteers rather than hiring more staff, reassessing spending on promotion of their services by using more 'free' avenues such as social media, regular fundraising events.	1
More children being born, more centres needed.	1
Much like I said before	1
My concern is access to services for vulnerable groups. I believe the savings can be made in other areas of the council .	1
My daughter attends Blenheim nursery at the childrens centre. I think the merge may affect her, as there will be more children, meaning she may get less attention, less one on one time. I pay alot of money for this and don't want her to be disrupted	1
Need all children centres	1
No no no no no!!!!!!! Residents of Leigh use darlinghurst for so many reasons. The staff are amazing, the location is ideal for everyone in the area. Loosing this centre may just seem a way for the council to save money. But to me and many other parents its a place I can go when I need help? When I want my son to meet new children locally. Where u can see similar faces who support each other. Merging these centres would be disastrous. Many people in Leigh couldn't walk the distance in time for certain classes. As having children gives you many time restrictions.darlinghurst is local to Leigh, allowing you to drop in unplanned. Blenheim is not accessible to residents of Leigh. We need this centre as a community, do not deny us of this fantastic facility.	1
no reason given	1
Open less hours	1
Overcrowding at centres and waiting lists in Leigh in general are bad as people use them more round there	1
people use both!	1
Please refer to my previous response.	1
Please see my previous comments. Blenheim is far too outside the centre of Leigh to appeal to Leigh parents which is a shame. Many parents do not drive and the Leigh centre is very popular. It is a shame that the service to Leigh residents will have to move so far away alienating parents of Leigh.	1
Please see previous answer.	1
Please see previous answers	1
proposing such a merger represents political short-termism and a typically myopic view from Southend council . There will be a far more substantial and sustained cost to Southend borough in the medium to long term to address the problems which these centres in their respective locales currently address. These will range from funding for mental health provision for mothers suffering from PND, NHS funding for assistance with speech development, breast feeding, emotional heath, budgetary implications local primary schools in Leigh for additional support for ADHD/SEN, anti-social behaviour - very real and very costly issues which are outcomes of poor early years nurturing and absence of professional support. My view is that the long term socio-economic costs of merger far outweigh the short-	1

term and short-lived macro-fiscal benefits.	
Putting all services into one children's centre will not reach some of the more vulnerable families in the reach area that is Leigh and West Leigh. One building will not be able to facilitate all the activities and the numbers of parents that wish to attend. Also, how can one set of Children's Centre staff do the level of outreach work that is needed in the local area if they are busy running sessions. The more needy families may miss out on support they need.	1
Same answer as the Shoebury merger.	1
Same as before	1
Same as my answer to 15.	1
Same as previous	1
Same comments as merging Friars and Shoebury Childrens Centre.	1
same reason	1
Same reason as before	1
Same reason as previously stated	1
see last comment	1
see last question	1
See my answer to the pervious answer	1
See previous answer - Blenheim would be too far away for me to access	1
See previous comment	1
See previous comments	1
See previous comments.	1
see previous question answer	1
See question 15	1
See question 16	1
SEE RESPONSE RE THE SHOEBURY CENTRES FOR MY VIEWS REGARDING SAVINGS. THE TWO CENTRES CURRENTLY OFFER DIFFERENT GROUPS/ACTIVITIES. THE BLENHEIM CENTRE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ALL THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AT BOTH CENTRES. THEREFORE SOME GROUPS/ACTIVITIES WILL BE CUT DISADVANTAGING THE USERS.	1
Stop buying new dustbin carts and supplying dustbin liners for food recycling	1
Stop wasting money.	1
The area that both of these childrens centre cover is vast. it is certainly not my role to decide how to achieve the Â£86,000 that the merger will achieve.	1
The atmospheres at the two centres are totally different. The support given to me by Darlington was invaluable with breastfeeding and postnatal depression. Blenheim centre is intimidating and impersonal. They are two very different places. Darlington has offered so much by way of support to vulnerable parents that would be put off by Blenheim (distance, area and clientele.) maybe the money could be saved by spending less on the airport expansion or poor planning on transport changes etc	1
The centres serve different populations of need. They have differing identities. I would suggest saving the 86k by reducing key salaries of serving officers of SBC by,	1

say 10% - or the % that would take earnings just below the 45/50% tax threshold	
The Leigh Centre has a lot of health services which reduce the health inequality of the area saving some more money as they develop cutting the service will drastically reduce support for health and increase costs for the NHS, benefit systems and education	1
The Leigh Children Centre has a larger out reach area than Blenheim Children Centre and offer Family Support Worker 's who are able to support vulnerable families and those suffering with post natal depression often brought on my extreme isolation. We offer a comprehensive timetable to supports parent from the ante natal stage all the through to their child starting school.	1
The Leigh Children Centre has been attached to Darlington School for about two years. I feel that in that time it has become established in the area with lots of activites and has become extremely popular. The Leigh CFC is a NHS Centre which focuses on health. As it has only been up and running for only two years why did you not realise two years ago that you should only have one in the area. You have waited for something to become successful and then decide to take it away. If the services are then transferred to Blenheim, will this become an NHS run Children Centre?	1
The merging of these two centres will lead to parents missing out on vital parenting support. Blenheim is already very busy and whilst excellent at providing activities, does not offer the same support as is provided by the Leigh site.	1
The original idea behind children's centres was that they were within 'buggy pushing' distance of local residents. I am a regular user of the Leigh Children's Centre, with my 4 month old baby, and previously my 6 year old boy. The staff and services offered there have provided a really supportive lifeline for me. If I had had to get to Blenheim, which would have involved a drive or public transport, I would not have been able to access these services so easily. As previously mentioned, savings need to be made from other services such as reducing temporary staff, delaying the website upgrade, reducing the frequency with which we receive the new blue food bins!	1
The parents that access Leigh CC will not go to Blenheim. There will not be enough availability for mums to access group that are run, mums like to walk to their local centres.	1
The same as I said previously	1
The same reason as above	1
The service that Leigh Childrens Centre has provide me and my daughter	1
There should be at least 2 centres in leigh as it is a large populated area	1
these are not close enough to each other therefore excluding some people from centres	1
They are a long way apart. Ask for lottery grant or government grant	1
They are very different centres and there will to great. Demand on the one remaing centre,maybe carving per family for activities would be an option,small % reduction in each staff members wages,	1
This is a tricky question. Personally I am very impressed how Darlington has been run and I noticed how popular the various groups they offer were. Maybe the centre could offer more workshops that would contribute towards raising money such as first aid, healthy eating etc.	1

This is my main concern with the proposal. The thought of having this centre merged with Blenheim makes many parents in the community of Leigh angry, upset and extremely disappointed. I have visited Blenheim on a few occasions and although the structure may appear better, the facilities, the staff, the attendees and location are not. Leigh Children's Centre is within walking distance for people of Leigh. Blenheim Children's Centre is not located for the people of Leigh. As a parent this centre isn't just a place you can cut just to save some money, to me it's a life line. As it is to many other parents. It's a place I can easily get to for advice, or just a friendly face. Many parents would not attend the new location due to its difficult location for walking parents of Leigh. The staff are incredible and nowhere near as personal or friendly as they are in Blenheim. Losing this centre in its present location would be an enormous loss and for many parents their only place they take their children locally.	1
Too many accessing centre to rehouse into 1 and will it reduce child care places? Happy for an increase in child care cost and also maybe contributions to some of the classes at centres could achieve the saving needed!	1
Use educational funding meeting ECM agenda to cover this or worst case scenario those that wish to use centres pay small fee to register with the centre for the year. More fundraising!	1
We need all centres	1
We need both centres to deliver from.	1
Your job to find these funds. You built the centres where they are, not us. And you did so because you knew there was a need for them. Parents need support, information, guidance, a place to build friendships which will enable them to be better happier parents. Merge the centres and there is less opportunity to do so. How can one building continue to offer all that it does PLUS all that another centre does? It can't. Services would be cut, courses shortened, less help provided. Therefore families feel isolated, children may not get all that they need. And council funds are used up elsewhere in supporting them.	1

Step 2:18.00-1:Temple Sutton and Hamstel Children's Centres?

This single response question was answered by 331 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	170	51.36%
No	161	48.64%

Step 2:19.00-1:If no, how do you propose to find the savings?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 154 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Again I do not use these centres so cannot comment	1

<p>Again I understand the need to merge the 2 CC's to save the money. However I feel the wrong building has been proposed to stay open. Firstly the skill mix of the team which I have already explained and the added benefit of the systems in place by Health for accessing valuable information. Secondly Hamstel CC is a purpose built CC that provides suitable accommodation for the services that the 2 reach areas require. The volume of families that will be expected to use the CC once merged will not physically fit into Temple Sutton CC. Of course some services will need to be provided elsewhere but the groups that bring in high numbers including Child Health Clinics and Midwifery sessions are not viable or safe to run in a church hall. I am aware of the fee that will need to be paid back if either CC does not use the space for EY's education so I propose that Hamstel CC stay as a CC and Temple Sutton extend their Nursery provision which will secure the staff and allow more 2 year funded spaces. Temple Sutton nursery also have a waiting list where parents would be paying for their childcare which will bring in capital to support the nursery. As a CC we will continue to work with TSCC as we always have and work hard to ensure a safe transition for the parents currently supported at TSCC as we have the staffing levels and management support to accommodate this. Our parent committee board with our support are looking to fund raise at a high level to bring in capital and we could look into the CC gaining a charity status. Our community is proactive in researching ways to contribute funds as the budget cuts are understood and appreciated.</p>	1
<p>Again what is the money to be spent on? More details need to be supplied by you for an informed answer from the public. Hamstel is purpose built and larger in many ways plus has antenatal and breastfeeding help as well, when I have visited Temple Sutton I do not remember seeing these services or space to do so. Plus this is a distance away from myself and other friends and car parking is an issue. I am not happy about this proposal and want more information regarding it as I do not feel adequate information has been supplied by the council at this stage.</p>	1
<p>Already over subscribed and huge community need. Means tested bus passes for over 60s for saving.</p>	1
<p>As a friend and family member of people who use this service regularly, I am deeply concerned by this merger. I have heard of many of the positive things this has achieved - such as the potential saving of a child's life. This is ultimately worth more than £64,500. The distance between the two centres means many of those who currently use Hamstel will be unable to attend Temple Sutton. To some people with disabilities, the location of Hamstel is vital. I am not in a position to propose alternatives for such savings. But I can inform you of the detrimental effects this may have on families in the future, who may end up requiring further services and greater expenditure from the Council as a result.</p>	1
<p>As above</p>	1
<p>As above. Also, Southend East has areas of real deprivation. To remove a critical support service and make access to it more difficult denies those who really need the support. If we enable parents to access children's centre services at an early stage in their child's life then there will be many benefits and savings - bringing new mothers in to the centre for breast feeding support, for example, will lead to support on healthy eating, perhaps access to financial advice, perhaps advice on parenting. Closing centres reduces the opportunities to access these services and will lead to an increased burden on the borough's finances later in the child's life.</p>	1
<p>As aforementioned</p>	1
<p>As before</p>	4
<p>As before, it will affect working parents as well as parents that use support groups at the centres. Easy of accessibility would also be an issue.</p>	1
<p>As for the Shoebury centres, I do not live in this area so can not simply 'agree' with the merger.</p>	1

AS I SAID BEFORE CHILDRENS CENTRES SHOULD BE SEPARATE SO CHILDREN HAVE A DIFFERENT PLACE TO GO EVREYDAY AND HAVE ALL DIFFERNT THINGS TO DO	1
As per my previous comment	1
As per previous comments	1
As previous	2
As stated before its an excellent centre and should not be closed. The services will not be the same if they are merged	1
Because it's fucking stupid. What's more important, encouraging tourists to Southend or the families that actually live there and that need help? Pretty obvious what the council think...	1
Because temple sutton is even further away from us. Put the airshow back on to further boost income	1
Because they serve two different areas	1
Both centres are needed to deal with the issues of depreivation in these areas. Savings could be made by cutting Councillors expenses claims	1
Both childrens centres server different specialised areas - Hamstel being PCT linked, Temple being Borough/SEN. Looking into other services in the area - Cluney IYSS , the closed business centre there should be scope for some co location. Out of hours the sites can be used for Adult education being a sympathetic distance from SAAC as a revenue stream.	1
Both schools very large. also no parking at hamstel. keep both open but do 1/2 week each	1
Bring Temple Sutton over to a brand new purpose-built building at Hamstel. Transfer money from other budgets that are less important. Charge people a compulsory amount and remove the donation.	1
Charge a bit more for activities. Charge for drinks and snacks. Childrens activities to fundraise. Have a more limited offer at Centre Place and invest this in other Centres. Hold baby nearly new sales and jumble sales etc and charge for entry.	1
Charge people Â£1.	1
Close both, save more.	1
Cut councillors wages and stop wasting vital cash on the seafront	1
Cut resources elsewhere not cutting children centre budgets	1
Definitely not, these two Centres are a long distance from each other and parents with no car would have a long way to walk. I think the Council need to focus on other areas to save money in.	1
Don't believe either site can accommodate the number of service users. However, the savings could be achieved by sharing management and admin staff for both centres	1
Don't know	1
Don't know about them	1
employees should be consulted on the money saving ideas as they are directly involved in the day to day running of the centre.	1
Feel there is the need for both	1
Find ways to raise the money, you only need to save 16% surely that is covered by closing the other 2. Hamstel is newer centre than Temple Sutton, will it not cost more money to maintain Temple Sutton than Hamstel?	1
For the numbers of people using both centres, space is going to be a major issue and if merged, the centre will not be able to cope with the capacity and therefore people won't attend and you will then have a knock-on effect of depressed people not able to partake in the services offered. In relation to the saving, fundraising activities could be undertaken to raise some money and perhaps charging a small fee for the services offered so still affordable. I'm not sure of what other costs	1

could be cut but there are always opportunities for cost cutting by looking at alternative suppliers, re-looking at how things are managed now to streamline processes making them more efficient.	
For the reasons already mentioned, merging would decrease the amount of resources to go round meaning that people that need them will not be able to access them so easily. Savings should be made by reducing the amount of managers, posh offices, company cars etc instead of taking away valuable resources	1
for the reasons already stated.	1
For the same reasons previously stated.	1
Fundraise, ask health and other businesses to put some money towards using the centre	1
fundraising	1
Get rid of the camera cars	1
hamstel centre was built for pre school age, not for school age children, as pre schoolers are just as important if not more, if they are to achieve well when they do start normal school. nhs staff are highly needed so ask mums for a small amount each week.	1
Hamstel Children and Family Centre was established about 2 3/4 years ago attached to Hamstel Infant School and was purpose built as a Children Centre. The activities there are many and my grandchildren have enjoyed them. I visit family in the area and take my grandchildren along to the Centre along with many local parents. There is always something going on there for families. There is a purpose built room for the activities to be carried out which is light and airy plus a small garden. The staff make new families feel welcome. Temple Sutton do not have a large space and the rooms are small and can be cramped. If it is essential for the children's centres to merge, why not merge Temple Sutton in to Hamstel as this makes much more sense.	1
Hamstel children centre is again an extremely active part of their local community offering extensive support to their families in all areas of health. Again they, like Leigh Children Centre offer the services of family support worker's who can support those more vulnerable parents at home.	1
Hamstel Children Centre is more central than Temple Sutton. Is within walking distance for many. Many friendships have been made through the centre.	1
Hamstel children's centre has excellent facilities and is always very popular amongst parents/children. The staff are always welcoming and friendly and many groups/classes are on offer and always seem to be full, I cannot possible see how so many people could be moved to Temple Sutton and still gain access to the same level of support and services. The facilities and space at Temple Sutton childrens centre can no way match that of Hamstel. For instance, when the weigh in occurs both centres are always full and wait times can often be long, merging the two would obviously double this wait time. I know that many parents would also not travel the extra distance to Temple Sutton (particularly if they cannot drive) meaning they would no longer access a children's centre. The parking at Temple Sutton is also inadequate for those that do not have the centre within walking distance.	1
Hamstel has a central location for those without access to a car. Also the sessions at Hamstel are always full and I do not feel that temple Sutton can handle the increased capacity. The centre was a huge help to me when I had my baby and I fear that many new mum's will miss out on this support. Mainly due to the location of temple Sutton. Fundraising for the centre should be advertised more.	1

hamstel is a largely populated childrens centre. the government can save money elsewhere instead of removing or downsizing much needed services for vulnerable people. they could save money if they spent more wisely on our country instead of using all our resourses to bail out other countries	1
Hamstel is health led and the services are second to none.	1
Hamstel is the centre I use and have done since I fell pregnant. It was wonderful getting to know the centre whilst pregnant, seeing the work done there and learning so much before I was even a parent. I had intended to bottle feed but seeing my midwife at the same time as a breastfeeding support group meant I was able to get information and advice before my baby was born which convinced me breast was the way for me and six months later it still is. That alone has changed mine and my daughters future. I have attendees various groups and activities all of which have improved me as a parent. There are many people like me who really do need the extra support. If it were to close I wouldn't be able to get to temple Sutton as often as I do Hamstel because of the distance. I imagine it would be very busy too if that small building (where exactly could it be extended?) had to deal with all it's usual families from a busy area plus those from Hamstel. Everything I attend there is always full to capacity, so services would have to be cut which is a dreadful shame. The services Hamstel provide are very necessary for the area. Money can be found to keep this centre open I am sure.	1
I agree that the budget would benefit from a merger, I would just rather the Hamstel Children's Centre remain open and Temple Sutton close. Hamstel has a large, friendly environment which offers a wide range of services. Temple Sutton is small, doesn't make full use of its budget and facilities and the staff are unfriendly and unhelpful.	1
I am not going to keep repeating myself.	1
I do not agree with removing vital facilities from a community when it seems savings could be made elsewhere. Temple Sutton childrens centre is a 1/3 of the size of Hamstel meaning many parents & carers in need of vital support and advice would miss out, there are already waiting lists for all of the classes closing one centre would mean even longer waits which is not exceptable particularly for mothers suffering from conditions such as postnatal depression, there are also parents with disabilities that rely heavily on Hamstel Childrens centre & its staff to get by day to day. Is it not possible to make savings in other areas such as the seafront I understand that re-developing brings in new revenue but where is this revenue going if it is not being spent on the local community??	1
I do not feel that by merging the two centres you will be meeting the needs of the area, the hamstel centre is nhs lead therefore there is a greater base of knowledge there for women during and after their pregnancy, having the midwifery clinic at the centre is a fantastic resource. It has lead myself and many other parents to join other groups at the centre including breast feeding support. Having a health based centre is crucial to many new parents as having support regarding health and development.is at the front of every parents mind. By closing this centre and the leigh centre there will be no health.based centres in the area. Mothers travel from across the area to access groups at the hamstel centre. The weigh in group is very popular and the facilities at hamstel mean that this session runs effectively and with adequate space. Which is difficult to find elsewhere. I feel that the hamstel centre covers a large portion of southchurch and Thorpe bay parents are less likely to travel the extra distance to the temple sutton centre. I feel the facilities at hamstel are more appropriate than that of temple sutton. I have attended temple sutton for weigh in group but do not find it as accessible as hamstel. I would not choose to aattend groups at temple sutton on a regular basis. I feel that it is unfair to ask parents how the council can make the savings needed but I do not feel closing hamstel and then putting money into building more space at temple sutton is cost effective. Loosing the centre at hamstel I believe will have a negative effect on the outcomes for children in the area which goes against the core of the every	1

child matters framework. Midwives at the centre can support new mums and flag up concerns and support needed at the earliest point which ensures that early intervention is in place from before birth. The school may need some space for its early years increase but surely it needs the expertise and support the centre has to offer	
I do not know the centres but understand each centre offer different things to parents. Having larger centres removes the connection parents need when they are trying to start out and cope with families. Sense of community is lost and parents are left more lonely despite the greater volume of people attending the centre.	1
I don't know, I know nothing about this! This is not a consultation, you have already decided! Asking parents this question covers your tick box "well we asked for your thoughts!" that is very sad!	1
I feel Hamstel Childrens Centre is better equipped and a nicer more convenient place to go with my son, the transport to Temple Sutton is not as easy as Hamstel School. I felt I fit in better at Hamstel and would be happy to help do fund raising to keep the centres open.	1
I feel this is in a more deprived area and if parents have their local centre closed then maybe they won't access the other centre. Maybe keep both centres open but maybe open each on a part time basis? Combine the successful parts of the centre in a more condensed timescale? Then rent the space on other times for exercise classes or business meetings on the other days?	1
I have attended both centre's and I don't agree with using Temple Sutton as the main centre. I agree with merging the centre's in order to save money, but I feel using the Hamstel building would be a much better option. My reasoning for this is the building is alot larger and designed in a way to create a more relaxed and positive experience for a first time Mum. I started going to a breast feeding group at Hamstel when my baby was 4 weeks old. The fact the centre has double automatic doors made my life so much easier, being able to take my pram right into the building made me feel relaxed and therefore encouraged me to continue going to the group and therefore to continue to breastfeed. When I have been to Temple, it's quite stressful trying to open the door whilst holding a new born sleeping baby and change bag. Also the buggy park only has one entrance so I often find my buggy is trapped at the back with others in front and impossible to get out. The staff require you to collapse your buggys, but this is near impossible whilst holding a small baby who can not be put down. I know changes could be made to Temple, but why waste money making changes when Hamstel is perfect the way it is. Both centre's get very busy, therefore it would make much more sense to use the larger of the two centre's.	1
I personally use the hamstel centre and if it merged with the temple Sutton one I would no longer continue to use as the people who use that one are vile	1
I think they both have specialist services which are needed in both areas where they are situated	1
I think you should keep them both open, however if you do have to close one if these, you would be wiser to close temple. Hamstel is much bigger and nicer whereas temple only has one small room and doesn't offer much compared to hamstel	1

<p>I use hamstel all the time since baby born from weighing to playgroups i am very unhappy about this suggestion as temple sutton is a distance away and when baby was tiny would not have made delta group or breastfeeding groups. Temple sutton is nice but hamstel has larger rooms and facilities for antenatal and postnatal mums especially the breastfeeding group i do not believe temple sutton would be able to house all the families from both groups very well and what with under 5 numbers increasing would not be able to cope in the future. I can understand the need for school places but build up rather than out as it is the under fives that will also need support before school and the council should be planning for the future not just the next 3 -5 years depending on the government, i would like to see real foresight about how to cope rather than reaction type decisions as the need for school places must have been apparent to the council for the last 4 years.</p>	1
<p>I would take the money out of developing ridiculous things such as Southend Victoria station and the statue as well as the seafront. Hamstel is a new centre so if you did not intend to use it then why did you 'waste' the money to build it?</p>	1
<p>If the merger does have to happen I think it's the wrong centre closing. Hamstel is a bigger purpose built centre offering so much more to so many more people. If temple Sutton closed as a children's centre they could expand their nursery, which is very popular with long waiting lists. Hamstel could take the regular temple Sutton users easily, temple could not deal with the huge number of people who attend hamstel, it just isn't big enough. If temple were to close there is st Edmunds hall and st Luke's church hall which could be rented out, they already have a couple of places on Cluny Sqyare that could be used for extra services. There aren't as many options in the hamstel area to do this and they have more people in need of access to a children's centre.</p>	1
<p>It is a big saving to consider, however hamstel road is so popular and everytime I have been there it is so busy. Once when u went to the weigh in I had to wait an hour and a half before I could be seen. Merging the two would make it even busier!</p>	1
<p>It is not about the money sometimes but the quality of service they give to the community. Being a 1st time mum that went to Hamstel children's centre, it gave me the support and understanding that I needed at the time. It was informative and gave me the confidence and reassurance needed to help raise a happy, healthy baby.</p>	1
<p>It is not for me to work out your budget!</p>	1
<p>It takes a long time for professionals to build relationships with families&time for families to feel at ease in an environment.For families who are struggling with parenting,such as mothers suffering from maternal depression,getting to&entering a different building alone could be a huge challenge for them.Those hard to reach ☒families will become even harder to reach,as the workload of one CC increases&the familiarity of services is affected.The proposal will increase pressure on CC staff,who have already had to deal with an increase in work load as teams have become noticeably smaller.It is young families who will suffer&the effects of this will not be truly apparent until a few years time,when money will then need to be spent to make amends.If there is no choice but to cease the use of one of these buildings then I would like to see HCC's services being made available on a more mobile basis.There are many Baby&Toddler groups,Preschools and Nurseries serving young families in the area.HCC could offer services such as parenting support, information&advice, courses&so on during and through these groups&on these premises.They would be able to signpost families to appropriate services.They could also support the planning of play activities and suggest ideas as to how to support the childrens development further.I am a member of Belle Vue Baptist Church&am sure that this is an idea that could be discussed with the church.The original aim of CCs was to support&draw together existing services.Maybe we need to go back to this&look at the voluntary services that already exist in the Southchurch area.If this merge goes ahead then I would like to</p>	1

see more activities on offer at Centre Place that encourage parent/child interaction, rather than courses and training with creche facilities. I have made a choice to be a stay-at-home parent & do not want to spend this time separate from my children. Instead, I want services that support me in my role as a parent.	
It will affect the number of spaces available to children in the areas as each site is not big enough to accommodate the children from both. Charge nominal fees for some of the activities that are currently free	1
It's all about access and availability. All centres are busy and an excellent resource for not only new but all parents. Plus the childcare they offer is invaluable. Only the children will suffer by taking away any centres.	1
It's local, has everything you need with a young child. Newly built centre with lovely staff.	1
It's not all about the money saving options in this type of thing. It's about providing the local surrounding area with support groups, advice, health, different experiences with well equipped staff. It's on that stands on its own two feet and would be a shame to combine? They are in x2 separate areas.... And are very much needed in both.	1
Jobs losses will occur	1
Limited space at Temple. It is not equipped to provide health services at Hamstel e.g. midwife. Birth Rate has risen, this has been known about since before the centre was built! The school should have planned. The need for a centre was there 3 yrs ago and increased!	1
Money has recently been sent on creating hamstel, so this is wasted. It's an area of high need. Money saving could be achieved by charging people like myself who can afford it more for things like baby massage instead of £1 per session	1
More children being born, more centres needed. Fundraising could help pay. Cut pointless spending in other areas.	1
More contributions to the courses on offer from the parents. cutting out snacks provided.	1
Most activities at Hamstel Childrens centre are oversubscribed, and I assume that the situation is similar at Temple Sutton. By merging the two centres, there would be fewer places available for activities and courses resulting in even more parents and children missing out on valuable opportunities. Activities on offer at Hamstel are affordable or even subsidised allowing everyone to participate regardless of income. This means that everyone has an opportunity to take part in activities such as baby massage which when attending private sessions are very expensive. The £64,500 could be saved by reducing unnecessary outgoings, using volunteers, fundraising activities, hiring out the centres space for local classes, events etc when not in use.	1
Much like the services at Blenheim, Temple Sutton provides a mediocre service to its disadvantaged community. It is already working with (relying on) the staff at Hamstel to provide the level of quality we expect to see in SureStart Children's Centres. Why close the one that is providing the QUALITY service and leave the ho-	1

hum open. Consider the closure the other way around, please.	
My daughter has various disabilities and doesn't welcome change very easily. She has been attending Hamstel since it opened and has been through so much change since starting. It was the health professionals at this centre that recommended she should have blood tests done thus resulting in her diagnoses for leukaemia being caught early. I have relied on the staff heavily for lots of things from being pregnant, suffering postnatal depression, being encouraged to try new things, volunteer work, various things I can add to my cv including mum to mum trained, first aid training ... I don't even know where to begin with my children	1
Need all children's centres	1
No as Hampstel is my centre, and I wouldn't be able to get to the other easier or my child's grandparent when I'm not around as she can't walk that far! The facilities at Hamstel are new so why would you close that?! It's so nice and inviting there.	1
no reason given	1
Not at all! The centres may not be a huge distance apart but it was YOU who built them and also YOU who must realise just how many families live in the surrounding areas and use these centres. Both are necessary. They offer different things. Could temple Sutton really cope with the 50+ babies we have attend for health visitors clinic plus their own babies? I very much doubt it! There is room to build and expand Hamstel school without taking the children's centre. Speak to Lisa Clark and she will tell you the work the school and centre do together is absolutely necessary for many families in the school and it works because they are on site. Hamstel has the busiest mum2mum Breastfeeding support group in the area and that may continue. No thought has been put into this proposal and what it will mean for the children, parents and staff at these centres. Ridiculous suggestion.	1
Not relevant as I don't use these but I am sure many others do	1
Now I can comment! I disagree because they are two very different venues that offer extremely different services. I attended the milky monday for peer breastfeeding support which was outstanding and having had nipple thrush I may have given up without their support. Particular as they pushed me to see my gp on their knowledge of the symptoms. My gp had to google it!! scary stuff but breastfeeding without them would have been grim. I also attended baby massage, which we still do and yoga another highlight for my daughter. The people are welcoming and the building is clean, you would be surprised how dirty many baby orientated places can be. it also offers a safe environment, with a mix of people not just middleclass competitive mums but real people with real struggles. I also attended baby led weaning which was epic and my daughter eats anything and everything! I travel to hamstel because the surestart centre closed near me and the less and less money they had started to show! I think there is a lot that can be done. The mothers are passionate and are full of action and have fire in them, they are an untapped resource the council just need to talk to them in a language that they understand, consultations dont mean anything if its not a language the audience understand. To quote an idle you need to "give the stick back" I have lots of ideas i think establishing the venue as a chairtable organisation could work, not just through grants and trusts but through the traditional form of fundraising in the community. The sector gets creative when money gets tight and that is what we need! Also sponsorship from companies have we asked any one, have we got our begging letters out there, do people even know? I dont think they do! we need to market this! social media, these mothers have serious skills they were once people employed but through choice and child care costs stay at home. Many have PR skills, fundraising experience, relationship management.	1

Parents need a choice and variety for their children. Merging would only create a lack of this.	1
Please refer to my previous response.	1
Please see first answer	1
Please see my comments to earlier question about Friars and Shoebury - again I believe that where there are more families living in less affluent circumstances, provision should be closer to home.	1
please see my full concern and response in question regarding principles of buildings etc at start of questionnaire .In the scheme of things Â£64,500 isnt a huge amount to find - what if some families are not getting the support or referral they need at a time they need (because they no longer have a centre to attend)?- the impact on other health and social care budgets may actually be increased . The Hamstel centre lends itself well to out of hours income generation (this is working for other council buildings e.g Shoebury Youth Centre) .the building can be hired out for childrens parties and other functions at the weekends and for clubs and groups in the evenings .	1
Please see my previous answer	1
Please see my previous answers	1
Please see previous answers	1
Please see the reasons already set out. Perhaps the savings could be made from the Â£14,500,000 Southend Council is putting into the new Forum building.	1
reduce 10 SBC employee salary bills to below 45/50% tax thresholds? Consider reducing costs involved in various re branding initiatives? Identifying the cost of redundancies incurred in this merger would be helpful. This area is of an even greater variation in need than Blenheim and Darlington.	1
same as previous	1
Same as answer to 15	1
Same comments as merging Friars and Shoebury Childrens Centre.	1
same reason	1
same reason as previously stated	1
saving money is not my issue but southend council clearing need to prioritise and focus on needs of communities in place of temps at council offices being paid in excess of Â£250 per day	1
see before	1
see comment before last	1
See previous answer.	1
See previous answers	2
See previous comment	1
See previous comments	1
See previous comments - Hamstel Road is one of the best centres I have used and I cannot believe there is a proposal to close it - I am disgusted at the news and am sorry to hear that staff may lose their jobs as a result - without them, I would not have learnt so much and gained confidence in parenting. I would have no problem in paying a nominal fee to use the centre each time.	1
See previous responses	1
See prior rationale. I understand these areas suffer from multiple socio-economic deprivation, thus rendering any decision to renege or or diminish provision unjustifiable.	1
See q16. Both these centres are extremely popular and in areas where they are badly needed.	1
See question 15	1

<p>Stop cutting hedges in Thorpe bay? Stop many things that aren't required and carry on with the things NEEDED! Hamstel on its clinic days has on average 50 babies coming to be weighed in a two hour time slot. Temple Sutton I imagine isn't much different. How could one centre manage this? It would be done on different days or spread over a longer time slot. Which means other services being cut. Currently on a Tuesday at temple Sutton there are activities, whilst Hamstel runs its clinic. Same for Thursday when it's temples clinic day. Merge the two and that couldn't continue as there simply wouldn't be the space for a clinic and an activity. If you have any mothers working on this proposal she must know how vital family support is? My granddaughter is a very capable mother of four young children and doesn't need support in day to day stuff with her family BUT she does need the social aspect of it. You can't find that anywhere else. Trust and bonds are built in these centres with other parents and staff and if you speak to just a few parents who use these centres you will realise what a silly idea it is to evn consider these mergers.</p>	1
<p>Temple Sutton is a deprived area and needs a centre accessible to families who cannot afford to travel to Hamstel</p>	1
<p>Temple sutton is a much smaller building, which means they aren't able to cater for as many people in the groups they do have on offer but they don't have as many activities on as hamstel.</p>	1
<p>The centre used by my daughter and grandson. It was very valuable in helping her cope with first baby. The staff is very supportive. It's one of only two centres linked to Health so provides extra services others do not. If closed target users will not find it easy to get to Temple Sutton. The cost to Childrens Services in future will be higher as early intervention will be lost.</p>	1
<p>The effectiveness of the cc is their proximity to the LOCAL community. Merging will leave many hamstel cc users unable to physically get to temple. Families will suffer as a result,</p>	1
<p>The same arguments apply.</p>	1
<p>The same reason. The cuts to the budget should be met by cutting sometime unreasonable salaries to those in charge on Council budget and by unreasonable I mean the ones that exceed salary of Prime Minister</p>	1
<p>The saving can be made by the services which are still developing and in breastfeeding initiation rates have been risen to 74%. Putting a push button automatic door instead of a sensor would save a lot of electricity. The services needed in the area save a lot in education funding, health funding and reduce benefits uptake in area</p>	1
<p>The space at Temple Sutton is different to Hamstel. Several services have attempted to run Temple Sutton and not been successful whereas they are at Hamstel because of the facilities there. The vulnerable families that are located in the Bewley and Longbow flats attend a number of sessions at Hamstel; the more needy and vulnerable families may miss out on valuable support as one Centre cannot possibly reach all those that need support. Hamstel run health led services (Immunisations Clinic, Midwifery Clinic, Baby Weigh Clinic) and the number of parents attending would not be able to in the facilities at Temple Sutton. Baby Weigh Clinic at Hamstel generally has 60+ people attending on a Tuesday afternoon - could Temple Sutton continue this service?</p>	1
<p>The two centres are providing a much needed service in an area of deprivation and for families to have to walk in most cases it would be too far and they just wouldn't do it!</p>	1
<p>The whole Â£64k would not be spent on sure start.</p>	1
<p>There is a long way between them, deprived parents have to walk and may not go. Again one of the most deprived areas, support these parents.</p>	1

There is not enough facilities at the moment, merging them would mean that there was not enough space, ask any member of staff, only a couple of weeks ago the Thursday afternoon at Hamstel was so busy it wasn't big enough. I personally wouldn't mind if the charges went up a little as the prices of anywhere has all gone up. It is so expensive to let your children play safely.	1
These centres are both fairly new and would have cost a lot of money to build. Hamstel is much newer and so not as well established. Temple Sutton is established and outstanding at every level - consideration should be made for centres that are providing such a high level of service to the community.	1
These centres are not near each other. I travel (walk!!) from central Southend to use Hamstel (30 min walk) and Temple would be too far. Use educational funding meeting ECM agenda from elsewhere! Especially as these are relatively deprived areas!!	1
These venues are stretched already. Temple Sutton already offers a packed schedule of activities. The space is restricted to 2 rooms plus a small outdoor area. Merging the 2 would mean turning parents away and large queues for activities in a waiting area that also serves parents of nursery children. Explore using the premises during evenings after the children have been collected and generating revenue.	1
they both offer different services or the same services on different days so that families dont have to miss out	1
This centre has fantastic facilities for me and my 14 week daughter and has been an absolute life saver to me as a first time Mum with no family or other friends with children. The breastfeeding group solely for the support of breastfeeding Mums has been an absolute lifeline to me and I don't believe I would have continued to breastfeed if it hadn't been for this unique group (initially I was too nervous to attend a breastfeeding group joined with a weigh in group that's why Hamstel centre is unique) The classes run have helped build my confidence greatly and its fantastic to know there is support for me and my growing daughter in classes spanning all ages. I feel a merger would mean very cramped facilities & less classes. I have the following fee earning ideas for the use of the centre to help generate extra profit: Evening parent events: social, talks, charge for entry, bring own snacks & drinks Nearly new sales: charge for those selling baby clothes, toys etc or donations given Drop in parents groups: entry fee, use of play equipment for children parents time to chat & meet others Baby & Childrens weekly disco: all ages welcome, no DJ required just an ipod & some disco lights! Teddy bear tea party: inside or outside dependant on weather Treasure hunt: inside or outside Arts & Crafts sessions: fee covers each weeks materials eg paints & paper	1
This is purpose built facilities not even five years old! The business case to spend public money then on build and providing that service has not changed, indeed it has become more acute. Hamstel has one of the highest numbers of attendants in the borough. I do not believe per square foot there would be enough space to take attendees Again how is the current cost being incurred?for me to suggest were the spend is best placed and were improvements can be made. I would suggest renegotiating contract and or renegotiating more budget. This appears to me as a example of lack of planning by the current and previous council to provide for the children today and the next 5 - 10 year and poor policy by national government.	1
This will mean disabled people like myself struggling to access children's centre facilities. The fantastic facilities at the centre could be used more at a charge after school clubs, children's parties.	1
Too far for me to travel to Temple Sutton without a car and impossible to get there by public transport.	1
we need all centres	1
where would you put them, they are busy centres if they get busier no one will go!	1

While Temple Sutton is an outstanding children's centre I do not believe it has the physical space and therefore capacity to meet the needs of the whole area. It is already difficult to get booked into some sessions. Access is harder for people in South of the area and therefore I feel parents currently using Hamstel will not engage, preventing early intervention. Savings could come from having not replaced blue bins unnecessarily, using and supporting volunteers and voluntary organisations more effectively to carry out some roles, requiring Health to contribute financially, employing sessional staff	1
Why spend all that money building Hamstel Children's Centre if it is to be closed? Both these areas serve big council estates and the people who are most at need of the advice and support of the Children's Centres.	1
will it really save that much what about the children in Bewley and Longbow flats	1
You should not make cuts on services that are promoting health. We are not financial advisers	1

Step 2:20.00-1:Prince Avenue Children's Centre?

This single response question was answered by 321 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	287	89.41%
No	34	10.59%

Step 2:21.00-1:In no, why not?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 34 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
again much like before	1
Again...what is the rationale for exempting this Children's Centre from making any changes or cost savings?	1
All CC should be effected	1
All centres should reduce at the same rates.	1
As a resident of this area it is very difficult to find out about events at this centre as it is poorly publicised compared to others I have used. As one of the newest centres this one should have been considered for changes.	1
As above - we should be looking across the piece to provide the most care and support. There must be ways to reduce the support costs for the centres without decreasing the phsyical provision of centres.	1
As aforementioned	1
as before	1
As I said previously if the council spent their money wiser these changes would not need to be made in the first place	1
Can't agree or disagree	1
Close it.	1
Cost cutting excercise always hits the worst families who are constraint by the money availability. In our household we can't afford a car and if Leigh children's centre had closed I won't be able to reach other childrens' centres as I'd have to pay bus fare as well as baby group fee. Also more crowded centre will translate into poorer quality of social interaction and support availability from the staff. This will result in mums like me being left isolated. We have no family around and it will be devastating for me to loose Leigh centre's support.	1
Don't know	1
I do not feel I can comment as I have never attended the centre.	1

I do not have the knowledge of this Children's Centre or its locality to answer a "yes" or "no" question. There should be another option in Question 20, as this will cause an unfair misrepresentation in your findings from this consultation.	1
I do not know enough about this proposal to agree.	1
I dont agree with any changes unless all parents/children/members of staff are included in the proposals as it is these people that will be affected and not the staff in the offices making these decisions.	1
I don't have enough information to comment	1
If you don't need to alter this one then why alter the others	1
It's a small centre and the space could be used for other things.	1
Not heard of it or what is on offer	1
Please see previous answers	1
prince avenue is a relatively new centre and offers alot to the community in that area who currently have nothing similar, the government put up all these centres to support families and are needed more than ever, but now take support away when people have the greatest need,	1
respondent did not answer this question	1
See previous comment	1
Should encompass all centres	1
Sorry don't know what the proposal is.	1
this children centre isnt unique therefore should have its share of funding educed	1
Why should this one be singled out above others	1
why take no budget from that area?	1

Step 2:22.00-1:Sunnydays Children's Centre?

This single response question was answered by 319 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	282	88.4%
No	37	11.6%

Step 2:23.00-1:Sunnydays - not agree

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 37 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
All CC should face cuts	1
All centres should reduce the same amount	1
As above	1
As aforementioned	1
As before...ALL the children centres should be considered as a whole and not parcelled because of some convenience of geography or politics. Where is the greatest need? Provide the greatest service there!	1
Can't answer question	1
Close it. One large centre for the whole borough is what is needed. Save money through economies of scale, and children see a wider cross section of the community.	1
Don't know	1
I cannot comment. I do not know enough ifo on the centre	1
I do not feel I can comment as I have not attended the centre.	1

I do not have the knowledge of this Children's Centre or its locality to answer a "yes" or "no" question. There should be another option in Question 22, as this will cause an unfair misrepresentation in your findings from this consultation.	1
I do not know this centre so can not comment with an informed choice. You, the council have nor supplied details about it or how much it cost to run attendance levels what course, groups are held here so how can i make an informed choice?	1
I don't know enough about this proposal to agree.	1
I don't know it	1
I don't know this so don't feel i can comment but no option to say this, if more detail supplied i may have been able to say.	1
I have no view on this centre	1
I wouldn't go there! Need to think about parking if people can drive as centres will not be walking distance	1
it needs a bigger car park!! and a refurbish	1
It needs more parking and to be more spacious	1
it needs refurbishing	1
Not heard of it or what is on offer!	1
Of the changes are going to be made else where then the same should be made here too.	1
Please see previous answers	1
Respondent did not answer this question	1
Same as previous question	1
same as q22	1
See previous comment	1
Should encompass all centres	1
we come here on tuesday play and stay session and my daughter love these session	1
Why are some centres not being altered and others are being merged? Surely the savings would be less drastic for all the centres if all the centres faced cutbacks...	1
why should one centre be saved over another, what makes them particularly special, possibly merge this one and prince avenue	1

Step 2:24.00-1:How proposals will directly affect you?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 308 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Is more difficult to go to temple suton	1
1. Leigh Chn Centre appears to have been the least stable of this Southend provision. 2. Having invested significant staff time developing relationships with Leigh Children's Centre staff (first at the virtual Leigh Chn Centre, then Leigh Community Centre), understanding the services they now offer at Darlington School, signposting parents to the centre; any changes (as in this proposal) will mean repeating this whilst hoping that parents will continue to invest their time in and have confidence in the new provision. 3. Personally, I do not doubt that Blenheim Chn Centre will be able to provide as good a service for many of the families of Leigh but hope that our families agree once some stability is achieved.	1
Although Sunnydays doesn't affect me directly if it closed it would be a major loss to my daughter and her friends who use the facilities on a regular basis and have formed strong bonds with other children, adults and staff.	1

am hugely worried about my childcare arrangements locally which help me work every day in the area and without services offered by blenheim on the same scale i would find myself having to make a choice between working and not working, not a choice i wish to make as things are tough enough and am scared for the impact upon my children now and in the future without the ongoing support from blenheim	1
as a grandparent i need the centres to gain support	1
As a member of staff I am obviously concerned about the security of my own family especially as my partner has been made redundant also. This makes for a scary time. It is massively upsetting considering the hard work, dedication and job fulfillment that our whole team has applied continuously. However the focus must be on the community we are supporting and not my personal circumstance. I am worried for our children as they are the future and CC's were designed as a preventative measure to enable children to grow to fulfill their potential of becoming well adjusted adults. These budgets will have such a negative impact on the families we are supporting. It takes such time to build up trust between professionals and hard to reach parents and these relationships may well be lost meaning the family will be lost never to risk engaging again.	1
As a resident it means that you can continue to support children and their families in a more efficient way. I do think it is important to be able to offer early intervention where needed and to increase the number of younger children in nursery. So you are able to carry on targetting families that have low incomes or are vulnerable in another way. As a teacher I think it is extremely important that you plan funding efficiently now so that you are not wasting money duplicating services. Unfortunately in the years I have been teaching I have not seen a huge benefit from Children's Centres on vulnerable families so am glad more nursery places will be funded.	1
As a secondary teacher in the Southend borough I anticipate a reduction in the learning skills of local Southend pupils, further reducing the already woeful % of local Southend students accessing our 4 grammar schools. I envisage poorer learning capabilities of peers of my daughters in their primary school classrooms who have not been equipped with the necessary speech and developmental levels to make learning accessible and achievable - this may have knock-on effects on my daughters educations as teachers have no choice but to spend time 'plugging the gaps'. I envisage the already significant gap between the more affluent in Southend borough and the poorest widening below the already unacceptable levels. I envisage encountering more young mothers and fathers lacking the skills to cope with parenthood in the High Street, making it a less attractive area to visit and spend money in. I envisage further over-crowding of classes in the centres meaning my youngest daughter will not benefit from the excellent start my eldest received. Weekly attendance at Blenheim and ad hoc attendance at Leigh centres formed the mainstay of my eldest child's early years provision - in reception she has a reading level 2 years above her age and is excelling socially and academically. The proposals will diminish the range and quality of experience for my youngest, which in my view as an experienced educational professional, will most likely have long-term ramifications for her future.	1
as before	1
As I attend Prince Avenue, no direct affect, although may be busier due to closure of other centres	1
As I have said previously Leigh childrens centre means alot to the community, and losing its present location would be a huge loss to everyone who uses it. I personally could not walk to blenheim easily, and its present timetable is not convenient to myself with this time restriction of getting there. this means i would not be able to attend any childrens centres at all. This is the case for hundreds of other local parents.	1
As I only use the Prince Avenue Centre, the merging of some of the other centres	1

would not directly affect me	
As I outlined before my family will be directly affected, since we are using Leigh center during the holidays.	1
As it stands if Sunnydays remains open this will not affect me, but if it closes Zachary my son, will lose friends and the security he feels with the staff at Sunnydays, i have also undertaken a lot of further education which could lead onto a career change, if sunnydays was closed this would be reduced.	1
As long as Blenheim childrens centre does not become too busy it should have little effect, assuming it is not sled in the future	1
As long as dads club still runs on last Saturday of the month it won't affect me at all	1
As long as sunny days stays the same it will be fine but it will cause me lots of problems if it doesnt as I have a 2 year old that I bring all the time as I have a daughter in the pre school at the school attached.	1
As long as we can attend all the remaining Children's Centres it might be ok	1
As my child attends Temple Sutton I'm concerned that merging with Hamstel will cause over subscription seriously exuding the level of service delivery	1
As previous	1
As stated previously, leigh centre offers so much support to families in the area and further afield as many people from other areas in southend I know travel to darlinghurst for the professional and welcoming advice they are given. I would have struggled to deal with parent hood if it was not for the fantastic support given there.	1
As Temple is my preffered centre , I should not be affected	1
At present these proposals will not affect me. However, when my child was born I regularly used the Sunnydays Children's centre, as well as Blenheim, and made many attempts to attend a breast feeding group at the Leigh Centre, but no-one got back to my phone calls. I attended a baby massage group along with a friend whose baby had colic at sunnydays, and both baby and mum were very distressed, the staff at Sunnydays were fantastic and helped to calm my friend and offer her advice and support enabling her to approach her health visitor with her concerns. The staff at sunnydays were very welcoming, and helped us new mums to feel that we were actually doing a good job- even though often we were unsure if we were doing the right things to help our newborns. My friend and I also attended a baby group at Blenheim, where we found the some of the staff less welcoming and the toys were not as clean as we would have liked for our children to play with. The young girl who ran this group did ask and take into account the activities that we wanted to try with out babies. But it was interesting to see the contrast between centres in the same area whilst I was able to use them before returning to work. As a shy person, entering a new place with my baby I felt like the staff at sunnydays were actually interested in my baby and I and I would definitely recommend using a centre were the staff made you feel good about yourself!	1
at the moment i have 4 children centres i can take my son too to get him weighed, chat to the health vistors and meet friends. If some of them close i will struggle to get my son weighed reguarly and any problems may not be picked up quickly enough	1
Because once you start it, it will soon be starting on my local centres	1
By closing Hamstel more people will attend Centre Place, causing a strain on our funds and space. Centre Place needs more funding if we are to take on more people	1
By closing/merging childrens centres I am concerned that my child will suffer with education and learning. The nurseries will become busier with children and there will probably not be enough places. I already pay enough for my child to attend nursery to enable me to go to work as there is not enough help. The Government	1

is taking more and more away and it is not fair.	
By making the childrens centres busier. There will be longer waiting lists for courses and longer waiting times to be seen by a health visitor, which having to wait around for hours on end is never good with a small baby to look after and think about.	1
By Sunnydays not closing this will still allow me to be able to attend the sessions with my daughter whilst she is going through the transision of nursery and then reception It will also allow me to continue with my adult learning too which will then hopefully help me to go back to work once my daughter starts school.	1
Centre will b more difficult to get to. Also feel that personal contact will b affected if the centre merges to become a bigger one, level of cleanliness at Blenheim not as good as leigh	1
Children's Centre will get more people coming in	1
Classes/groups too full creating waiting lists and less support in the local community for ALL parents!	1
Council should not try to mend what works well. Perhaps cost saving could be achieved by not wasting money on painting parking lanes wrong way around and them wasting more money by repainting! Leave children's centeres as they are.	1
different services avaiable	1
Directly unlikely to as I will have stopped using Childrens Centres after September. Indirectly people in the area of temple/Hamstel who I have a lot of contact with through a community position may struggle to gain access to a childrens centre	1
Due to the fact that many will not be able to gain access to Temple Sutton due to not driving or unable to get public transport and friendships will be lost.	1
Family development is important and you're cutting the wrong types of services.	1
Feel along as temple Sutton remains open and offers the high standard of care and services it will be positive	1
For starters I am fortunate that currently my local centre is one that is proposed to remain open, although I appreciate this is not confirmed. I realise that there are probably going to be things that are removed from the programme. I will be honest in saying that I haven't used as many of the services as have been available to me as my daughter has other services involved with her, plus she as other mainstream activities elsewhere I.e. swimming lessons . However, we have noticed in the music group my daughter attends at the centre, that, although it's only been going a couple of months, I think some of the money has already been cut. I have been lending a music dvd to the group each week and was told that they were getting a copy themselves, however, i still take this dvd in each week. This I know is only a subtle difference, but makes me nervous of bigger changes. My daughter will be three in a few months and I know I have the option of pre-school, I think I would be more nervous of how changes would affect me if I was expecting a baby/had a small baby now.	1
From September both my children will be in full time school at Temple Sutton. The team have provided a great deal of support and run courses in language development, cooking, and great toddler groups where the parents matter as much as the children. The larger these types of groups are, the more intimidating they can be and the less confident parents that may need help don't get it.	1
Further away from home - services are not the same - built up trust and friendship at this centre with both mums and staff	1
Further to go for baby weigh. To far to walk with a young child to do the activities	1
Future children in children centres	1

Greatly reduce availability of child groups were the essential play and learning of social interaction and creative play can take place. Seriously inhibit access to health care, for weighing and discussion of concerns around nurturing and early development. Social isolation, reduced opportunity to meet other parents in your local and immediate area who are experiencing similar events and sense of community and social cohesion. All of which have immeasurable benefits both in tangible cost the community and the society immediate and long term.	1
Hamster needs more space as a school and I don't think the children's centre is particularly well utilised.	1
Harder to access services if centres merge. Less services will be offered restricting choice of things to attend. There would be a loss of staff- unfair!!	1
Hopefully it will reflect in my future council tax payments.	1
Hopefully not	1
I am a parent who uses these centres and my child's development will be directly affected by the proposed changes.	1
I am a resident and parent - my child is approaching one. As I have said above, I would have been at such a loss without the support provided by the childrens centres. And now, as my son grows older, I want advice, support, activities to help him develop, learn, become an individual that contributes to society. I want to meet like-minded parents, but also, I want to support those who are the same place as I was when my son was born - I want to be available to help them, love them, support them as they start trying to be the best parent they can be. It is very isolating starting out as a parent - closing centres exacerbates that isolation. Please, please, can we find a different way to make the savings without this devastating action?	1
I am currently using Hamstel, which will be merged, so I will have to use Temple Sutton. As this is only marginally further, it does not affect me too much. I hope that by reducing the numbers of centres the budget can be met without reducing the offer - I would expect the offer at Temple Sutton to be increased compared to the current offer to accommodate the additional children / parents, who would transfer from Hamstel	1
I am hoping that Sunnydays will be unaffected so as myself and many others will be able to continue enjoying the excellent facilities that the staff there work extremely hard to provide. I can understand why the proposals regarding some of the other childrens centres are being considered as I have attended them in the past and they are quite under used.	1
I AM NOT EFFECTED AT THE MOMENT,BUT IF SUNNYDAYS WAS TO CLOSE DOWN IT WOULD HAVE AGREAT IMPACT ON MYSELF AND MY SON, TO SIT AND TALK TO OTHER PARENTS IN THE SAME POSITION,AS MYSELF, WE DON'T JUDGE ONE ANOTHER AND ARE KIDS NOT JUDGED.	1
I am only able to get to the sunnydays centre on a regular basis, due to working and my eldest being at playschool I am limited to time	1
I am part of a group of volunteers who provide breastfeeding support. Fewer Childrens Centres means fewer parents to get advice, a disaster when Govt says that more women need advice.	1
i believe these proposals will reduce my options as a payer of full council tax. if however, my council tax was being reduced or my sons nursery fees were to be made cheaper, then i would reconsider my views	1
I cant afford other groups	1
i could not visit centre what i want	1
I do not use the Hamstel centre anymore as it does not provide services for my children. If services for my children were available at Temple I could travel there.	1
I dont drive so it will be difficult to get to groups around picking up my other child from school	1

I don't think they will	1
I don't think they will affect me	1
i dont think they will affect me but would like the same friendly staff as there is now at blenheim centre. I like using this centre and attend 4 times at week at the moment and use the facilities at the weekend	1
I fear the Children's Centre I use will continue with more adult based learning opportunities as these proposals will leave them unaffected and not force a change of programme upon them.	1
I feel using Hamstel children's centre has made me a more confident, informed and happy mother. The help I got in pregnancy and since has been something I will never forget. It works perfectly as a centre, to close it makes no sense to me at all when the alternative offered just would not offer the same.	1
i feel valuable support will be lost	1
I go to groups at Sunnydays to help my child socialise and have friends also with disabilities. My son has cerebral palsy Quadriplegic. If the proposal stays the way it is I will be very happy. I will be able to take my child to Sunnydays and have a wonderful time with all the staff there and all the friends we have made in the last 5 years	1
I hope these changes will increase the footfall at Summercourt Children's Centre, ensuring our future.	1
I know that stopping the midwife Service at Hamstel will greatly affect many women. Without this service, my child and I am forced to go into town, to Warrior House, and step over the drunks and druggies in the doorway as I enter and leave, which is entirely inappropriate.	1
I may have less centres to use and activities for my child. I have learnt a lot and made friends at these centres. I want them to stay open.	1
I might have to travel bit further	1
i only use sunny days so hopefully the changes wont affect me	1
I support families in these centres who will not be able to travel to other centres and I will find it difficult too. It is hard to travel between centres with young children if you are unable to drive	1
i think that i will stop using the children centres completely if they become busier than they already are.	1
I think the remaining children's centres will be very over stretched, not then enabling my children to go to much loved activities, with members of staff they have become very fond of	1
I think they may affect my daughter's education at Blenheim nursery and so will affect me as her mother	1
I use a children's centre so they will affect me in the fact that I would have to travel further which isn't always convenient with sleeping and eating times	1
I use Blenheim for child care for my daughter which I pay for as she is under 3yrs and the rooms are already at full capacity with waiting lists so by merging other centres you will be increasing demand on the centre and waiting lists, unless you provide additional rooms for each age group to cope with the demand? Car parking also would be an issue as spaces are at a minimum at Blenheim!	1
I use Leigh centre and the proposal is to shut it so we will have to walk further and I am not sure the same support will be available- Blenheim seems more anonymous when I have been there	1
I use the Sunnydays children's centre for the health visitors clinic, as this centre is not changing I don't believe the proposals will significantly affect me.	1

I visit Hamstel with my grandchildren as it is close to family. The children also visit with their mum. It was purpose built and has become successful in the less than 3 years it has been established. Temple Sutton is a mile away and I doubt very much that we will want to travel that extra distance especially as the rooms are much smaller and cramped. I also do not think this consultation on-line is user friendly. I was at a meeting at Hamstel last week when there were many parents who turned up to talk about the merger. Lots of parents were upset. It was pretty obvious that there were a lot of upset people but no notes were taken of what people were saying. everybody was told to complete the consultation on line, probably hoping that people do not bother, especially as this is not user friendly.	1
I visit the Leigh centre every week and have done so for the last 9 months. It has kept me strong and believing. If it was to close getting to Blenheim would be more difficult. I have been to Blenheim once and found it grubby, small, smelling of dirty oil from fried food and the staff unfriendly. If this had been my only option I would not have used it as a centre. Please keep Leigh...the location is perfect, the staff are fantastic and the facilities great.	1
I will be isolated, I have another child on the way and will be relying on the breastfeeding support but also to enjoy the massage for babies, given the merge the waiting list will be so long that I may attend. Another idea would be to run more classes, to charge a little more and get the money up front	1
I will be less likely to attend children's centres in the area and the support they offer if hamstel is closed. I will loose a support network which has become valuable to me.	1
I will be less likely to have the ability to access services at my chosen centre as demand will undoubtedly be much higher with the proposed merger.	1
I will be less likely to take my son to get weighed and will most likely have to go to the doctors more for any health concerns that I have therefore increasing pressure on the already extended NHS. I will also miss the social side of this centre.	1
I will be much less likely to access children's centre services if they are only offered from Blenheim in my area. Questions and advice that i have sought from the staff in the Leigh cc, I am now likely to burden my health visitor with. This will only serve to increase the demand upon other health professionals with the impact of diluting their services.	1
I will be unable to use service within walking distance. The children in my care will suffer not having centre wth fantastic resources.	1
I will feel more isolated as a parent	1
I will have a slightly longer walk to get my baby weighed.	1
I will have to re-establish myself going to a new centre. I can't be certain it will still have a twins club which I have found invaluable. I don't drive and I have twins, and Darlinghurst is a walkable distance given the ages of my twins.	1
i will lose a valuable support resource and the ability to get help and information/advice when i need it. i will become more isolated. my children will lose out on developing their social skills through the centre and all of the health related classes/courses we attend. i am a vulnerable adult with 2 small children both of whom have health issues. leigh centre provided me with a life line. without it i may have suffered PND and continued to be isolated and without support. leigh centre have positively changed my life and in that have given my children a great start.	1
I will lose the chance to get help and advice, myself and my baby will no longer be able to attend the breastfeeding and sensory baby groups. My older child will lose out on important activities like cooking and arts and crafts at the centre. This will affect our physical and mental health and remove important developmental activities for the children. The baby weigh clinic is also there for important health advice for babies. We will be devastated if the centre closes as myself and my children's lives have been enriched with it. It is so sad to think of all the children	1

that will lose out because of the government's attack on the weak and vulnerable.	
I will no longer have access to the activities offered at Hamstel children's centre unless I walk an extra mile to Temple Sutton there and back.	1
I will not attend temple Sutton children centre. My children go/will go to Hamstel school. Temple Sutton is not a nice environment so I simply will not go. There is not enough space there to expand anyway or surely it would of been done the last time you expanded? Mum 2 mum volunteers can't support in places such as church halls so it would have to be in temple Sutton. But to cover all the services offered by the two there simply wouldn't be enough time to fit that in. Which would mean a vital service being cut. Come along to any centre any time or day and you can see for yourself why they are important	1
I will not be affected as long as Sunnydays remains open.	1
I wont attend any baby classes if the leigh centre closes as that was ideal and near to me. everywhere else is too far to travel to. id like to of gone back to the leigh centre when i have my next child too.	1
I won't attend the Blenheim centre instead of Darlington as I don't feel comfortable there. I will lose the support I need for depression and my son will lose out on learning social skills with his friends.	1
I wont be able to attend anything and I am a lone parent with 2 children under 3 with no other support	1
I wont be able to go to my local centre and will have to travel further	1
I wont go to Friars as my ex lives there so me and my kids will have no support	1
I would attend a lot less as things would not be as local. Also, places will be crowded, they are already very busy.	1
I would lose the services of the Leigh Children's Centre. I would not attend Blenheim unless I absolutely had to use a service which I could not do without for the sake of my son. It would be with my hand held behind my back however. I would become more isolated and lose the community I have become a part of over the last 20 months.	1
I would to use Blenheim as it is too far to walk to, so would go to Leigh PCT for the baby weigh in as I can walk there	1
i'd have to intoduse my daughter to diffrent place anda maybe travel further	1
If centres are closed/merged the quality of services at other centres will fall leaving families struggling	1
If delivered in full the merger of Shoebury Children's Centre and Friars to the Friars site will make provision inaccessible in the central/west shoebury areas	1
If hamstel children's centre is closed, my baby son will loose out on all the groups that he currently attends there. In turn this will affect his early years development. Temple Sutton just doesn't have the space to accommodate all that is currently on offer at hamstel	1
If hamstel closes it will be too far for me to travel to another centre.	1
If Hamstel is no longer a children's centre I will be very sad. My baby is 11months old and I have been attending the centre for the breast feeding support group since my baby was 4 weeks old, and I feel that because of this support I am still breastfeeding. I have also attended many other groups at Hamstel and I have made many friends which has been a great support with being at first time mum. My husband and I are planning to try for our second child soon and I hope the same support will be available for me and that I will still be able to attend Hamstel.	1

If Hamstel is shut I will not visit a children's centre unless absolutely essential. I am a working mum without a car & temple Sutton will take too long to get to.	1
If Hamstel shuts, I become a housebound mum with no social aspects, no peer support and lack of mobility for my children.	1
If Hamstel was to close I wouldn't find it easy to get to Temple Sutton	1
If I have another child maybe in one or two years time I will not be able to attend Darlington which makes me feel sad. I felt very supported there and the staff (Carol) and volunteers are so competent, and welcoming. Although I live in Shoebury and did find staff in Friars very nice and welcoming I could not connect so much with the mums who visited the centre which meant that I travelled to Leigh as I heard from friends very positive comments. As a result I made friends in Leigh which made my life so much happier.	1
If i visit temple sutton there is likely to be less resources and too busy if joint with hamstel school as all the people from hamstal will have to go to temple sutton	1
If Leigh and Hamstel are merged with other Centres, then I may be out of a job! I have a mortgage to pay along with the usual bills in life and do not relish the fact of being unemployed! Are the staff at both Leigh and Hamstel going to be re-deployed and put into Blenheim and Temple Sutton (although NHS employees) as they already have their own teams. The staff at Leigh and Hamstel do their own outreach work to their known vulnerable families as well as running their groups and sessions. We are self sufficient in that we do not require any outside hours from the Council. We also have a number of volunteers that help during the week and this has proved invaluable to both the volunteer and many of our parents.	1
If others are shut & my local sure start is kept open it will be packed each week & won't be as enjoyable	1
If Prince Avenue and Sunnydays stay open - no change	1
If Prince Avenue was to close it would make it harder to get to a centre	1
If some centres will be merged, there will be less places for parents like myself to go to and the remaining places will get overcrowded. I think this situation should be avoided if possible.	1
If Sunny days stays open I will not be affected. But I feel it would be a shame to close Sunny days as so many children would miss out. Also the parents would miss out too. Some parents who are single need the center, to talk to other parents. If Sunny days was to close it would be like losing one of the family.	1
If Sunny days stays open I will not be affected. However if Sunnydays were to close I would be very upset and disappointed. My child would miss out on something that he enjoys so much.	1
IF SUNNYDAYS CLOSED I WOULDN'T GO TO ANOTHER CENTRE. I GET SUPPORT FOR EVERYTHING AT SUNNYDAYS AND IT HAS HELPED MY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	1
If Sunnydays closed we wouldn't get the same support as a family. I come to Sunnydays because it is so friendly and my children get a variety of experiences. I have also had support from Sarah and the staff during the break down of my marriage and feel I could talk to them about anything. My three year old attends art and craft sessions and this has helped with her educational development. The centre has also helped her settle in to nursery. It is good for the children to use the garden because we don't have one at home.	1
IF SUNNYDAYS CLOSES DOWN ME AND MY CHILD WOULDNT HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO AS IT IS THE BEST CHILDRENS CENTRE I HAVE BEEN TO AND HE LOVES IT HE GOES TWICE A WEEK SOMETIMES THREE TIMES AS HE ENJOYS MEETING NEW PEOPLE. THE ACTIVITIES AND THE TOYS THEY HAVE ARE BRILLIANT AND HE LOVES PLAYING AS THEY HAVE A VARIETY OF ALL DIFFERENT TOYS AND THEY HAVE A PLAY AREA OUTSIDE WHICH IS GREAT. ALSO WE HAVE A LADY THAT DOES NURSERY RHYMES AND IT IS GREAT EVERYONE GETS INVOLVED AND ALL THE CHILDREN LEARN NEW THINGS AND ACTIONS TO GO WITH THE RHYMES	1

If Sunnydays is changed or closed then friends with children with disabilities would be greatly affected as well as other families. We would be isolated and would not receive the same good quality support.	1
If Sunnydays stays open we will be fine but if it were to close both myself and my kids would be heartbroken. The support from the Sunnydays staff when I split from my wife and at other low times has been brilliant. I also get great support from the other parents and the portage team.	1
If Sunnydays was to close I would feel lost, socialising, help with difficulties of my disabled child.	1
If sunnydays was to close i wouldnt be able to get to another childrens centre with having 3 children all different ages and i would feel very isolated, sunnydays gives me somewhere to get up and go to with small children and offers lots of courses i couldnt do without a creche.	1
if sunnydays was to close it would deny my child the regular help for professionals he needs and the information and support that my partner and i need and receive.	1
If Sunnydays was to close it would mean that I would have to travel further away and as I have lots of different children it could mean that I would not be able to get there by walking and I feel that the children I look after would not get the benefit of such a great place.	1
If Sunnydays was to close lots of families would struggle. The staff are very kind caring and they would do anything to help you and find information to help you. I have been supported with all my child's special needs without the centre we would become isolated again. I have been to other centres but it wasn't friendly and I felt on my own there. I didn't like how the other one was run they didn't help my girl at all. With my dyslexia I have learnt to cope with doing a lot of courses and the centre is helping me look for work. I am getting qualifications I never thought I would get. I would be very sad if the centre didn't stay open because I would become low in myself again. Also my little girl's heart would be broken. I would do anything to keep this centre open even if I have to chain myself to the walls it would be very sad for this to happen. I get very good support here for my family and I don't think I would get the same anywhere else. I am worried my little girl would go backward because she has done so well with her education and mixing with other children.. I can tell anyone I meet to come to Sunnydays and they are all supported. I can trust the staff if I have a problem they help me find a way to solve it. Even if I'm not at the centre if I don't feel good I can ring and someone will help me anytime. We love having the garden space because we live in a flat and it helps us stay healthy. I did MEND and it helped my daughter eat better and the parenting made a brilliant change to my family. Please keep Sunnydays open as my little girl would be upset and she trusts all the staff there and I know it would mess us up and would take a long time for her to trust again. Also if it wasn't for Sunnydays I wouldn't have done my maths qualification and English and I now love helping other families because I'm much stronger now and I know Sunnydays has helped me become a better person.	1
If sunnydays were to close, many children would be affected .	1
If the centre remains the same I will still be able to use all the facilities with my daughter. This centre provides a social meeting place, social interaction and art activities that are not available anywhere else local to me	1
if the centres are allowed to close i fear for the people who cant talk to nhs staff and get the right answers there and then. hamstel has the highest rate of getting new mums on breastfeeding. plz plz do not close these centres	1
If the centres are merged then I will lose the facility closest to my home, I will have to travel further which will be more difficult. The weigh in clinics will become ridiculous with people being turned away, the existing clinics often over run trying to accommodate the volume of people. I will likely miss out on courses due to them being oversubscribed.	1

If the Hamstel/Temple Sutton centre are merged to Hamstel I will still attend, although I've heard the Temple Sutton facilities are small so would not be practical for say an active mums class. I find my visits to Hamstel extremely therapeutic and social and would be saddened not to have the support network there.	1
If the merging takes place it wont affect me, but if SUNNYDAYS was to close it would affect me as i wouldnt get the support and guidance, unable to attend the courses available as i dont drive. My child wouldnt get the social and communication skills that are required to help him into nursery.	1
if the proposals go through it wont really directly affect me as i mainly use sunnydays but if the proposals dont go through and sunnydays closes i will use the only real source of support/community that is easy for me to get to	1
If the proposals stay the same I wont be affected however if Sunnydays or Summercourts close then socialisation for my son and myself will be extremely difficult. My autistic son needs to attend theses specialist activities ti improve interaction with children, these are the only places we feel free to be who we are and not judged by others	1
If the sunny days had to close my daughter wouldnt be able to interact with other children her age as we have moved here from another country and this is where we try and make friends.	1
If they merge will make them less accessible	1
If you close Leigh and move it to Blenheim I will not be able to use it on the weekly basis that I currently do. This really worries me as I find it pivotal in keeping me socialising with other mums and giving me affordable classes to attend with my baby and preschooler. It has helped me through problems after the birth of my baby with both support from staff and a place to meet and chat. I'd have been lost without it, it's a shame other mothers potentially won't have this.	1
If you close the Hamstel Centre, I won't be able to mix with anyone, I won't be able to get out. The centre is my lifeline, without it I am nothing.	1
In the long run I will pay for Children that go into care or go on the protection register as a result of shutting	1
Inconvenience Increased cost Increased time	1
It doesnt	1
It doesn't right now but if Sunnydays were to shut as my son who has no speech but when he is off school wensdays is one day we go to Sunnydays and gets very upset if we are not going and at 9 the first time he signed was at Sunnydays.	1
It may offer more choice at one centre	1
It will affect me and my child as we use hamstel for their sessions at least once a week and will struggle to find as many activities to do with her.	1
It will affect me as I am a single mother and find blenheim a very useful friendly place to take my children who very much enjoy all the activities, it is also convenient that it only a 5 minute walk x	1
It will affect my childcare arrangements and the help and support that I receive by going to these centres.	1
It will be a shame to lose the community atmosphere in the local centres, as they are small you get to know the people working there very well and feel very welcome and treated individually. If they merge and become one huge centre it will lose the atmosphere and family friendly feeling.	1
It will be more difficult to access the support I need from my children's centre and I am therefore more likely to struggle	1
It will make attending the children's centre more difficult as places are already at a premium.	1
It will take away the support that is essential to bringing up children. The centres provide a safe environment and the staff are able to assist with any problems that I have to discuss	1

it wont	1
it won't	1
It won't unless I move to a different area	1
I use Sunnydays and Blenheim and would like to carry on doing so.	1
Less available resources in my local area. Also, even in more affluent areas people are losing jobs and money is scarce so these facilities are just as important.	1
Less chance to access tools to help parents. Eg first aid courses. More babies not being weighed regularly which means more obesity which will cost the NHS money.	1
Less choice in the community.	1
Less toddler/other groups available for me to attend	1
Local sessions will be even more busy. I'm worried about some of the very good members of staff who would lose their job.	1
Many of the relationships that I have built with other families and professionals will be lost, as some families will be able to travel to Temple Sutton whilst others will not. I will not be able to get to Temple Sutton very easily at all. Unless Hamstel's existing services become more mobile or Centre Place offer services more suited to mine and my families needs, I will be unable to access the support and advice that has become so vital to me and my family.	1
May need to change the way I get support	1
may not be able to access centre	1
May struggle to access sessions due to demand. My son is familiar with the children's centre and confident therefore a nice group to take him to.	1
Me and my family think that Sunnydays children's centre is by far the best we have ever seen. The staff are amazing and so welcoming. Their toddler sessions are so full that it's hard to locate a little space sometimes. These facilities are clearly in desperate need by families why on earth would they even consider closing some down. Surely money is well spent here.	1
Merging and shutting of children's centres will leave me without support mechanism, advice, social interaction which with a 10 month old and new baby on the way will adversely affect my mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. These centres are crucial to mums when many cuts are being made to what is on offer to us anyhow.	1
Merging I assume will boil down to job losses and causing low moral among staff at all centres therefore affecting the care of children. I would think the knock on effect is obvious. Another generation of children with little hope.	1
Might lose job	1
More concerned about the effect it will have on other families in Leigh	1
More cost effective use of money. However the range of services offered should not be altered.	1
More difficulty in attending the proposed activities and less opportunity to socialise with other mothers	1
More of a strain on the Centres that remain, less capacity for families	1
More people going to other centres, they are already short staffed and need more room	1
Most certainly as a local early years provider and resident for over 50 years I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the speed with which the community of Shoeburyness (unless you live in the Garrison!) is being eroded. Some areas are areas of deprivation and these families rely heavily on the services that ALL their community buildings provide. Savings could be made in other areas - e.g do we really need 51 local councillors when only 10 are able to make decisions?	1
mums like me need a place that is easy to get to so we can meet other mums. if you shut shoebury where will I go?	1

my child would lose the chance to play in familiar surroundings and with other children his age. Also the staff do their utmost to make everyone welcome and included. if Sunnydays were to close we would lose all these oppertunities.	1
My daughter & grandson benefit from the information, support and community at Hamstel. To go to an unknown centre will cause hardship and stress. The Council will have to pick up the bill in future for the result of these closures on families who may then use more services. Short-sighted penny pinching hurting those most in need - again.	1
My family will be devastated by these mergers	1
My role is for both SHoebury and Friars so it is possible it will have an impact on my day to day duties, whether they will increase or decrease is yet to be seen.	1
My sister and nephew use the services regularly, have met many people and have accessed the great services provided to learn more about parenting and child development. I have attended a weighing session with my nephew at Hamstel Children's Centre and have seen first hand how busy these sessions can get. I am concerned if this was to only take place at the Temple Sutton Children's Centre, the demand would be so much greater that the staff would struggle to get all children weighed. This may be detrimental as staff may be too busy to notice any other potential health concerns of the children.	1
My son and I would lose a lot of our weekly activities. As I have not returned to work since having my son we do not have a lot of money to spend on attending groups so the affordability of sessions at Hamstel has been invaluble. Without attending the centre I would become more isolated as I have no local friends with children other than those I have met at the centre. I would not still be breastfeeding my son if it was not for the fantastic breastfeeding support group at Hamstel and would be upset if this resource was not available to me locally after the birth of my next child. I believe that without the warm welcome and continued support I have had at Hamstel I would have been isolated and possibly suffered from problems with postnatal depression.	1
no	3
No impact whatsoever	1
no thanks	1
No, however I work with families that do use the centres & I often feel that there is duplication of services in centres within close proximity of each other. I also believe that families tend to just go to their local one rather than explore the services in others. I also believe that people seem to think that they can only attend the one which is attached to their childrens school. I also wonder how much the centres work in conjunction with each other.	1
No, my children are older but these centres were a life line when they were younger	1
none	3
Not	1
not at all	1
Not at all personally.	1
not directly as i have a car so can, if i have to, travel further afield	1
Not hugely, everything is still very close.	1
not much	1
not sure	1
Not sure my family will ever be able to access the fine, high level of quality services they currently do at the Hamstel and the Leigh Children's Centres. The combination of health, child development, safety, parenting, etc will be hard to achieve without that staff mix.	1
Not too much	1

Of course! I know families who will not use temple Sutton because the facilities are not so good, if I find this to be the case myself I will not be using it either! You may find that numbers drop of users rather than increase, this will be a shame	1
Only attend Prince Avenue. No changes to made to this setting which i am happy with	1
Only the Hamstel one will, drastically. I don't think my middle daughter will adapt very well to going to a new children's centre	1
Only the Leigh proposal affects. Means reduced community presence and likely over crowding at Blenheim	1
only use prince avenue so wont affect me in any way	1
Our children would lose a very valuable resource if we were to lose Sunnydays. There are very few places where I could take my disabled children where I would feel comfortable.	1
Our workload will increase and no mention of extra staff has been mentioned as yet. Some re- deployment of health staff may be necessary to run all the services currently being run from Hamstel as the staff at Temple Sutton do not have the training that Hamstel staff have. Added outreach has been mention but vehicles to enable us to carry this out would be needed or costs covered for those who do drive will be required as well as costs to meet wear and tear on personal cars.	1
Our workload will increase to meet the need of 2 centre's but this will be acheivable with a higher budget and ensure sustainability and continuity for staff, families and users of the centre.	1
Outreach services will be affected as we currently use both centres	1
Perhaps read my previous comments.	1
Portage may be affected by the propasals in the location of groups that we may offer however we currently run a regular messy play and sensory group for our current families in term time and a drop in group in the holidays for current and previous portage children at sunnydays. This has been running for 5 years and the Portage team work closely with Sunnydays staff to plan suitable activites for the children attending. We have half termly planning meetings to do this and share necessary information. Part of the groups success is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of the staff to work with these families and that they go over and above their roles in order to try and help the families in any way they can such as by providing specialist equipment within the centre, training (e.g. makaton, autism awareness, sensory play), help with benifits and form filling and also just by being supportive and listening. Sunnydays have been keen to link in with Kingsdown school which is where Portage is based and have invited staff on their training days and also with the lighthouse Child Development Centre who advertise the Sensory and Messy play sessions and some of the therapists (Physio and speech and Language etc) have attended various sessions to support chldren that need it. This works particualry well due to Kingsdown, the Lighthouse and Sunnydays all being located on the same site. An example of this was when Portage and centre staff ran a couple of blocks of communication groups, a speech and langugage therapist helped with the planning and her assistant attended the actual sessions. Over the 5 years that the group has been running, I have seen relationships and friendships form and develop into strong bonds between families and the environment that Sunnydays offers has made a real difference in that it has enabled this to happen in a safe, non judgemental and emotionally supportive place.	1
Potentially there could be a greater number of children in each of the rooms at Temple Sutton and it may be more difficult to obtain ad hoc additional childcare when needed.	1
respondent did not answer this question	1
Save money	1
seems the ones merging are not in my area	1

Services available would be accessed elsewhere in the community - a more strategic choice	1
Social, economic and health related well being of the local community of Southend and the future generation of the country. Reduced crime and community awareness.	1
Southend families and children need all the help it can get to bring up children to be decent adults. Surestarts help do this. shutting them won't help	1
Sunnydays is easily accessible to my family and a change of venue of time would probably mean that we could no longer attend	1
Sure Start Centres are at the core of our community activities. Closure of Darlinghurst will mean there is no Centre we can walk to so we would need to drive everywhere, reducing exercise for me and my children and increasing petrol costs.	1
Temple Sutton has a proven record of early intervention and support for its families. We will continue to strive to serve the local community and use resources to the best value. There will be some capacity to share our expertise and utilise the skills of the NHS to further deliver aspects of the Health agenda. The school could not afford to take on new or other staff unless there was a cost neutral effect on the school resources.	1
Thankfully the centres that I access are staying open. I have accessed Darlinghurst before but it is very small and not many people turned up for the course I attended whereas whatever I do at sunnydays-Eastwood, Prince Avenue and Blenheim are always well attended.	1
The centre being over run	1
The centre will be overrun with a variety of activities to cater for all needs but with limited room and more staffing required to manage the flow of persons going through the centre. The nursery will suffer and will not achieve outstanding ofsted again! Nursery staff are always pulled out to help with the centre's sessions to the detriment of my child's welfare.	1
The children's centre is such a lifeline, I go 3 or 4 times a week. How I would meet other mums without that centre and what I would do without the support workers I think I would definitely find it harder and my parenting would suffer.	1
The closure of Centres will eventually lead to further anti-social behaviour issues. Areas of deprivation should not be targeted for budget savings. Savings could be made by cutting Councillors expenses claims	1
The community as a whole will suffer in the long term because families will not have had the support they need to function in society. Social issues, children language skills, health and mental health issues will increase.	1
The Hamstel Children's centre has not provided for children of school age since it took residence on the school site. Previously activities across all age ranges were provided and over subscribed when the centre used Whittingham Church and the canteen on Hamstel Schools site. As the centre does not provide across the age range, as it was intended to do, there will be no affect to me.	1
The less capacity you have, the less people will be able to use the centres, and you'll keep doing this until they fade out. People don't have access to transport sometimes, and so need somewhere close.	1
The only one that will affect me is the 'proposed' closure of Leigh as that is the only Centre I attend and will attend. If it shuts it is unlikely that I will attend others regularly.	1

The proposals will affect some of the families that we work with, and may have an impact on the types of groups that we are able to offer in the future. At present we work very closely with the Sunnyday's children's centre, offering a messy and sensory group during term time, and a drop in play session during the school holidays which is regularly attended by up to 70 parents, their children with disabilities and their siblings, and often extended family members also. Without this group many of the parents would not have a way of leaving the house in the holidays, knowing that their children will be safe, cared for and entertained, and allowing them to meet with others who are in similar situations and can offer advice and support to them. The centre has also provided much emotional and practical support to numerous families, and genuinely cares about each individual child and parent, knowing and caring about what is happening in their lives and always greeting each individual warmly. The local and wider community, and especially the families with children with disabilities would be lost without this centre. The Portage Team felt honoured to attend a meeting with OFSTED alongside many of the parents of the families that we work with, and many of us were brought to tears by the comments from the parents about how much they value the Sunnyday's Children's Centre and it's passionate staff, and how for many of them there is no place like Sunnydays that they feel they can take their whole family.	1
There is no proposal to close sunnydays so these proposals will not affect me as long as it remains open	1
There will be less support to many friends who I know use these centres. The closure of Darlington will have a direct impact on some of the residents in the Leigh area where vital support will be removed/made less accessible.	1
These proposals do not directly affect me now as my children are older, however, I am looking at vulnerable groups and trying to understand how they will be affected.	1
These proposals will affect my business. My First Aid Courses are very popular and are always full, plus there are waiting lists. To me this shows that these Centres are utilised exactly where they are and merging them exclude parents from attending these courses if they have no car.	1
these proposals will not effect be directly, but as a council tax payer savings have to be achieved	1
They already have. Cambridge Road childrens centre has cancelled all groups and recommended Summercourt. Summercourt is too busy, no space in buggy park and it structured completely differently to Cambridge Road.	1
They do not affect me at present as I use Hamstel Childrens centre	1
They don't in terms of use of the "Centres", but, they do in terms of the other services my local authoirty should provide and spend money on	1
They probably wont affect me personally ,although i am looking forward to using centres with my grandchildren . but from a professional point of view working in this current climate and challenging time i strongly feel that families now need these services. as one mum said at the consultation meeting ,she values the very low cost sessions available where her children can have fun ,learn, socialise and be safe .Taking children out on trips these days just isnt easily affordable for most families .	1
They will cause a reduced service in helping young children, and their parents, to lead better lives which has an impact on society.	1
They will directly affect me as I will no longer use the Childrens Centre for my toddler or for my new baby due in August.	1
They will make it more difficult to go therefore i will get stuck at home and it could harm my mental health	1

They will not affect my family as I now no longer need to use their services, my immediate concern is for children and families needing them now or in the future. Inevitably the cost to sbc will far outweigh these savings when these families and children need intervention, social care support and welfat support. This is a shirt sighted decision.	1
They will not effect me at all but I fully empathise with those you currently use existing centres and may find it more difficult to attend an alternative centre.	1
They will only affect me if I have to travel further which I won't do or if the centre is overcrowded and a long waiting time to be weighed	1
They wont	2
they won't	2
They won't affect me if not alterate. However if Prince Avenue is closed I would have no where to go!!!	1
They won't at present as I go to Prince Avenue	1
They wont because I go to Prince Avenue + Blenheim	1
They won't directly affect me but I know they will affect too many people that rely on this service	1
They won't really, I occasionally use the darlinghust centre and there and blenheim are so close it would be no trouble for most people to just use Blenheim and the services will probably end up being more coordinated with just one centre in the area. Darlinghust school needs to expand so it makes sense for them to have the extra space for that.	1
They won't, but they will affect new mothers with babies who are often isolated and need the support of local services in the community. Becoming a mother is extremely difficult in so many ways. nothing quite prepares you for the sudden change in your life and having the facilities available to you that are offered by the childrens centres is absolutely vital!	1
This will very much depend on the meaning of Merger. From a client perspective it is important that the target families are still able to access the services they require. Families in Leigh will need to be serviced by the Blenheim centre and this will require a combination of outreach and markeing to invite these families into the blenheim centre. It will be very difficult to meet the OFSTED reach targets if the reach area of leigh is added to the Blenheim reach, but it will also be important to ensure that the families needs are catered for. Out reach will be important and there are already some excellent services operating in Leigh, however, attending these services to support them and link with parents will not necessarily allow us to register the client which will affect reach figures. If we are merging services then both centres service users will be affected by the compromise that will need to be reached.	1
Travel further to get to centre and leaving extra early to make the time.	1
Very little as children's centers are very useful to parents with one child (or where they can attend with a 1:1 adult child ratio) but the activities and centers are not well planned for parents with more than one child, therefore their use to my family is very limited. This is a result of the way activities are organised as well as unnecessary rules such as refusing buggies, a rule which is said to be H&S however this link will demonstrate it is not http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/myth-busting/2013/case148-nursery-prams.htm	1
We frequently use the Sunnydays Centre and would really miss it if it was closed. My two sons really enjoy the experience of the playgroup, as do I in the support it offers by bringing carers/parents together to exchange ideas and advice to one another.	1
We refer children to support groups and activities run by Blenheim and Darlinghurst Children Centre's. I hope they will continue a similar amount of these events. I have to say that Darlinghurst activities are easier access for parents on	1

Facebook and on their designated website. While Blenheims activities are less accessible to anyone trying to find them electronically	
We will not be able to engage with the volume of families that we are currently doing.	1
We won't be able to provide this service with our present volunteers @ Temple Sutton as it is too far for them to walk or get back in time for their children attending pre-school etc.	1
we would miss the support of the sunnydays team	1
Weigh in at Hamstel is already very busy - if we all had to use Temple Sutton the queues would be horrendous. Parking at Temple Sutton is poor - no option if its wet/cold/snowing to drive.	1
Well the warrior house weigh clinic was already moved to the Kursal estate so I transferred to hamstel and now if it changes again I will not be moving to a new one. My children will not get the interaction with other children and I will be home with them alone all the time	1
Will not affect me if Sundays is left alone	1
Will not affect really, still close.	1
Will not be able to use the childrens centre in Temple Sutton as it is too far away - I don't have car and there is no bus that goes directly there. Hamstel is within walking distance for us.	1
Will not directly affect me, but may have serious impact on some of the children in my care & their families	1
will not effect me if sunnydays stay open very happy with the center	1
Will use Blenheim centre instead	1
will have to go different places	1
Without these facilities I would not be able to work & would therefore be claiming benefits. The "savings" that keep being mentioned would not be savings at all if the cost of the benefits bill rises because people are unable to obtain adequate childcare to go to work.	1
Yes	2
Yes and in a bad way. This is the closest centre for my daughter and I and we have attended many groups including delta, baby yoga, massage, mum2mum, little explorers, first aid course along with half term activities of which the sure start are the only ones that run activities during school holidays for the under 5's. I have recently trained as a breastfeeding supporter and Hamstel is where I volunteer and where there has been great success in an antenatal pilot scheme to get more women breastfeeding and so saving the NHS money in the long run and has good attendance. I am unhappy with the proposal and yet do not know where the money is spent that you want to save	1
yes as Hamstel is the nearest centre to us and we have used since birth and daughter is under 2. Temple sutton is further out for us and not as large as hamstel i am upset at this suggestion.	1
Yes as per my previous comments	1
Yes as you plan to close my centre I won't be able to go weigh in or other classes! Not happy at all. Hamstel has helped me and my friends so much and walking distance for me and her grandparent.	1
yes it will affect the community aspect of our centre and the people we serve.	1
yes of course i use hamstel childrens centre on a very regular basis and if it was no longer there i wouldnt have the use of the centre and groups would be busier and less safe to take my child to	1
Yes of course they will. We will struggle to engage with those families in the Shoebury CC area as there is an apathy in travelling and bus fares are expensive.	1

We need to be able to attract families in by having more space to deliver services. We need more space not less.	
Yes the centres in Shoebury are different but both important. I feel Shoebury CC should be bigger not taken away. Give them the Youth Centre!!!	1
Yes, I use Prince Avenue. Even now I have noticed Monday's group becoming increasingly busy. If it continue rise I migh have to consider stop attending it on Mondays	1

Step 2:25.00-1:Do you have any further feedback to add?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 307 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Absolutely ridiculous to suggest merging temple and Hamstel. Serious rethink needed.	1
All Children's centres offer a very good and valuable service to those living the closest to them. All members of families can access services and benefit from them. Some of the early years work completed gives our youngest community members a great head start in their schooling and the centres offer a lifeline for a diverse cohort of our community. Like our libraries, these are not services which should be compromised.	1
As a new mum the childrens centres are important to me - both to get advice and to meet other parents.	1
As a sufferer of post natal depression and other extreme illness in our family our daughter has benefitted hugely from these fantastic centres. They are a great benefit to the health and wellbeing of all ethnic and religious groups in Southend and the areas around	1
As I have said throughout I am happy to partake in fundraising to keep these centres open, maybe a summer bbq or an event in Priory park over a weekend may help, I know several parents who are likely to attend to stop any proposed changes.	1
At Friars we are reaching 46.8% of our 0-30% as it stands at the moment in Shoebury CC we are reaching 34%. To engage with these families we need a venue that is close, convenient and large enough to welcome all those new families in which at present we do not have. Please do not take away more opportunities for the families that need it the most.	1
blenheim childrens centre is one of the best i have visited and continues to deliver support on all levels from the coffee shop to management that is caring, efficient and goes that step beyond every time, it would be a shame if this is squashed beneath the merging of two centres,	1
Blenheim children's centre ones vital work and has a significant role to play in the local community	1
Bring back Cambridge Road Children's centres groups!	1
By closing centre you might isolate parents who are not confident in going to a new centre	1
Children Centres are an absolute asset to the community and I would be lost without it.	1
Children Centres provide valuable resources for parents across the County, providing parents for somewhere to go and meet people, go to play groups, get their babies weighed, have help with breastfeeding and attend Courses. Shutting them down in certain areas would prevent parents from doing this and some parents would feel isolated and in need of support.	1
Children's centres have made a big impact on me and my families life. I can see how they can encourage good parenting and support those in need. Surely these	1

attributes are a complete necessity to our next generation of adults!	
Children's Centres provide a fantastic range of resources and I feel strongly that the range and quality of these services should not be affected negatively by these cuts. The impact on vulnerable families is outstanding and Chns Centres should be able to continue to offer this for the long term. Uncertainty around funding and services undermines the importance of these services. It would be helpful to have an element of certainty for the future for families and staff.	1
Closing centres should only happen if all other options have been considered. Southchurch library and a children centre combined at Hamstel? Closing centres is detrimental to families well being. More 2yr old funding is not the answer to improved outcomes!	1
Consolidate Centres' even further	1
Continued from the Darlington/ Blenheim merge... The parents of Darlington have expressed their dismay and that they will not use Blenheim CC. If Health were to become the lead body we will ensure these identified vulnerable families are not lost and their much needed support would be continued. Equally a transition period would be provided to allow for a hand over of the families currently accessing Blenheim so their identified families would not be lost either.	1
Crazy!	1
Darlington is the best thing that has ever happened for new parents. This resource was not available when my eldest was first born and I struggled with depression and breastfeeding. The support from Carole and the rest of the staff at the centre has been invaluable. Blenheim is not the same and many parents I know just wouldn't go and would end up without the support they need. It is amazing there and we need this in our community.	1
didn't like this cos not easy to understand and my friends couldn't fill out cos they didn't know about money.	1
Distribution and allocation of funds should be looked at again.	1
Ensure this is also publicised well on social media - I'd not seen this so far and I use social media A LOT	1
Families in Southend need safe places to meet to stop parents/carers feeling isolated in their own homes	1
Families need children's centres, they deserve to have one close to them that is of a high quality	1
Giving early access to the children for play and learning as well as the social personal health of their parents is significant both economically and socially. Instance it seems counterproductive to spend health care money on promoting breastfeeding, a well documented economic benefit in child care but then reduce the area for community support this. These places provide great access to health care professionals without the rigidity and uninviting process of seeing a GP. Enhancing the learning potential and behavior at early stage will pay dividends to community and schools in future generations and a deficit if not. The health benefits are clearly there for the children and adults of our community. Lack of planning and book balancing by the council current and previous, is making this a problem plus government failure in policy. Budget allocation is disproportionate. Cuts in this department at the cost of the mental and physical health of the young children and their parents. Should be compared to other inefficient and wasteful spending in other departments which disproportionately sucks money out of the council purse. (sea walls, a huge library) There are other areas that council can simplify & be efficient. Suggestion Perhaps some fee could be introduced at the centers Renegotiate your contract for maintenance, and monitor what they are doing, repetition of jobs etc. How often do you see 2 standing to 1 working! Get organized for enforcing fine, adequately check single occupancy council tax relief. Sort out your planning department so you can get revenue from them. Reallocate	1

<p>budget from other wasteful departments and projects. Close some centers part week. levy a £1.50 per tax on all incoming and leaving flight from southend Airport. levy a £1 tax on all freight coming from the air port levy a 0.25% fee on all luxury flats sold in southend area. Buy back the car parks around southend. Reduce the number of ineffectual middle</p>	
<p>Hamstel childrens centre ask for contributions for all toddler sessions where does this money go if the council are funding them £64,000 also?</p>	1
<p>Hamstel cc and their staff were a life line for me filling the traumatic birth of my baby. The support I receive there was outstanding. It worries me deeply that other women in my situation will miss out on these excellent services as the cc will become to Farr between and therefore inaccessible</p>	1
<p>Hamstel centre does not provide enough services for the local community and I feel the space could be better used by the adjoining school which is not big enough for the bulge being forced through by the council so you have two instant classrooms for the kids - winner!</p>	1
<p>Hamstel Childrens Centre is a small, Friendly place that offers lots of support and activities for all ages. The smaller the group the more time the staff have got to sit and interact with parents/carers and children. The Staff at Hamstel Childrens Centre are friendly, caring and always offer support when needed and always ask how my child is everytime I go in. They are always smiling and laughing and it is a good environment to be in. To shut this centre and to loose these members of staff will be a loss to Southend Borough Council. Also if they shut and Temple Sutton get more children and parents they ahve surely got to have more staff? I hope that with this 'amalgamation' all staff have to reapply for jobs from these two centres??</p>	1
<p>Has there been a debate or understanding about how Children's Centres should be funded, going forward? Many of the services provided by Children's Centres were traditionally those provided by GPs. Is there a way for example that these services could be funded or provided by local GPs reducing the cost to Children's Services?</p>	1
<p>Having health facilities at children's centers should be useful, e.g. allergy nurse at Blenheim, however, it is often difficult to access the resource, in this situation the Blenheim staff were unable to advise on how to access the service and therefore the service is useless to me. Value of donations should be increased by requesting gift aid. The cost of providing food/facilities/resources should be high on the priority of the centers. In a discussion with a center manager she advised me that the cost of providing food was irrelevant when I pointed out there was a cheaper and healthier option, this was disappointing to hear in a time of cuts.</p>	1
<p>Having seen the alterations made at the Civic Centre and thinking of the cost, I think it is about time the Council showed us an example - cut down on the ridiculous salaries paid to the Leader of The Council and his executive, cut right down the expenses and privileges paid to councillors, who should be volunteers only in these times of hardship.</p>	1
<p>High quality services should not be made and then withdrawn, families are dependent on these services</p>	1

Hmmm maybe the council should look at themselves and maybe find some parents to have a look at the books, I'm sure I personally could have a look and see where they are overspending!! I have a budget to feed a family of 5 and sometimes that means going without!!!!!! The children are our future and as far as I can see currently there will be none with the state of this country!	1
How are people supposed to get to those centres?	1
I Agree that some cuts need to be made to enable the Centre's to run efficiently and effectively and believe that this can be achieved if right decisions are made and we all work together as one team.	1
I also would argue this is a very biased survey which attempts to persuade the participants to agree with the proposals and will not actually give a fair picture of public opinion.	1
I am grateful for Prince Avenue, its clean, spacious and friendly. Also a very helpful service for me and my family.	1
I asked a question at the Leigh Childrens' Centre consultation meeting? How is the Blenheim Centre going to accommodate the weigh in when both the Blenheim Centre and Leigh Centre are struggling to cope with volume at present? This was not answered but I was told cuts need to be made. I appreciate that, but it didn't answer the question. Baby weigh in is used as much for supporting parents emotional needs and concerns for their baby as it is for the actual weight of the baby. Parents would be pushed out quicker and would lose that much valued time they need to talk to a professional. The clientele at Leigh can't be accommodated at Blenheim.	1
I attend the 'milky Mondays' Breastfeeding support group on Monday mornings at hamstel children's centre. This is within walking distance of my home and I do not have transport to get further afield. This group has enabled me to continue Breastfeeding my baby son and their support is vital to new mums experiencing Breastfeeding problems. In a country where Breastfeeding rates are so shockingly low, these support groups are essential to boost Breastfeeding rates and help more mums/babies continue feeding. Essentially if you close the centre and we loose the feeding support, then you are denying new mums support with breastfeeding. The NHS midwifed do not have the time or resources to support new mums above and beyond simple Breastfeeding issues; so the mum to mum volunteers and the Breastfeeding support groups are vital to increasing Breastfeeding rates. I know for a fact that the Breastfeeding rates in Southend have increased recently (seen paperwork and figures) and if you close the centre, this taking away the support, I guarantee the figures will drop again. Shame on you for taking more away from the people of Southend. Perhaps the big bosses should have pay cuts and you should pawn them god awful fancy lights that are on the seafront. It sickens me to pay thousands in council tax (band d) a year and yet the council seem more interested in spending money on trying to make the town look nice (it ain't fooling no one!!) whilst cutting services for Southend residents; left right and centre.	1
I could have done without a new food bin and free recycling sacks - surely this was an incredibly large, unnecessary and ongoing expense?	1
I do not agree with the current way savings are being made that affect the children and their families	1

<p>I do not feel the consultation has been very clear. You ask if we agree with x and y being merged but have not defined what merge is nor have you referred to closures. in the questions you ask if we agree that budgets for one centres remain the same but we do not know what the budget to know if they are using it wisely. I believe a better model for the delivery of Children's Centres would be to have one main centre for each locality and then to have a number of locations where they run services. There would be one manager per locality and then service delivers in each location who are responsible for the planning and deliveryof service on a day to day basis. Service delivery should be considered from a Southend wide perspective, to ensure that we have availability of service. in central Southend Cambridge Road should be sold and instead CC services should be run out of the old cinema building would could combine fun child focused activities as well as the more targeted work so families become familiar with Southend children's Centre services. Southend should invest in a CC play bus which could do out to fetes and also to the hard to reach estates to promote the cc services</p>	1
<p>I do not feel this proposal is really looking at what happens to the under 5's now and in the future, yes we need school spaces but i feel let down that the council has not prepared for this before as must have been known about for the last 3-4 years and that now the sure starts are well established are cutting them. Toddlers will need places to socialize and learn and experience just as much as when there reach school age. I feel this is detrimental to the future of my community and of Southend and the toddlers. As a whole the sure starts have been a positive experience in mine and my childs life i am upset about this suggestion and hope that there will be a more detailed and easier questionnaire proposal to go through at the next stage as the system " by people matter network ltd" you have used for this and the questions asked seem one sided as many people must have been put off answering when all you ask for is suggestions on how to raise thousands of pounds if you disagree with your proposal!.</p>	1
<p>I don'd use the children's centres as often as i would like, the changes wont affect me as it would others</p>	1
<p>I feel that Friars has a bigger area to deliver groups however I beilieve that Shoebury should be utilised with more targeted groups such as Counselling, JCP etc and maybe only use Shoebury for these sorts of groups rather than spread them across 2 centres, at least there will be continuity for the public in knowing they can access one particular centre for one reason only whihc may stop confusion that is sometimes apparent now.</p>	1
<p>I feel that I can come to Sunny days if I have any problems, as the staff are supportive and caring towards both myself and my son. It is convenient being so close to school.</p>	1
<p>I feel that the proposals are heading in the right direction - but I hope that the savings WILL be used for the remaining centres as I can think of several parents that these facilities have literally been a life saver for them as their home situations have been very difficult.</p>	1
<p>I have 3 children of very different abilities, one who is severely disabled, one with downs and a normal child aged between10 and 4 years. Sunnydays caters for us all. I can spend a few precoius hours knowing all of my children are safe and happy</p>	1
<p>I have always found the staff very approachable and helpful at Suunydays</p>	1
<p>i have been going to sunnydays for nearly 5 years and i have never known anything like it! it is not just a childrens centre it is like peoples second home.</p>	1
<p>I have been to other centres and really love this sunny days in eastwood as it is clean and well run, staff are so lovely and they really do enjoy to be here with the children.</p>	1
<p>I have found sunny days centre a great help over the months and my daughter has taken useful steps in her devolpment and confidence</p>	1

I have no family and only have three friends. I have no-one who helps. Due to being blind, I have developed a resistance to other people's insecurities. If this centre is closed my world that I have gotten to know will be taken away. People see blindness as a weakness, strange, they don't know how to deal with it. It took a lot of intense support to encourage me out of the house, if this goes I will end being lonely again.	1
I have other children with special needs and all my kids get alot from Sunnydays all the staff get very involved and have made effort to know all children and siblins very welcoming to all that go there	1
I have tried many of the centres and Hamstel and Cambridge Road are by far the best, the staff, facilities and provision are outstanding. Infact Hamstel is so good I walk with my baby 30 mins to get there!! Outstanding centres should not be closed especially as the community try to fundraise and support to keep these going to provide additional resources. They really are a sanity lifeline!!!!	1
I have witnessed the warmth that the centre staff welcome new and old families alike and its a privilege to work in partneship with them When sunnydays had ofsted we had 1 days notice to invite the families that attend the sensory and messy play group to come and tell of their experience of it. The response was overwhelming and 9 families attended with several others that sent in letters of support and were disappointed that they couldn't be there in person. There was 1 father who took a day off work and commented that 'the sunnydays staff have become like my family and I wouldn't have got through my dark time without them', a mother who changed an important medical appointment to attend and another one who cut a meeting short. One Mum who suffers from depression said that 'without sunnydays I wouldn't leave the house in the holidays' and another who has 2 children with disabilities and another daughter said 'sunnydays is the only place we have ever found that offers something for all of us at the same time'. The sibling of a child with cerebral palsy who attends in the holidays wrote a letter to the inspectors and drew a picture of how happy his family are at sunnydays and a mum with a son diagnosed with autism said 'when your child has a disability the world closes in and sunnydays opens that back up again'. The ofsted inspector said that it was the first time she had ever cried in such a meeting and that they had never had such a response with as many parents attending. If sunnydays had to close I can't express how much of a detrimental effect it would have. We have up to 70 family members attend the holiday group who often say there is no where else they are able to all go and feel welcomed and not judged. As a Portage service we would be devastated as we have built such a strong partnership with centre staff & seen them take our families into their hearts, offering support both emotional & practical, even attending hospital appointments to support.	1
I hope that you think about the families this will be affecting and not just the money.	1
I love Shoebury CC and so do my kids please don't close it.	1
I only use Hamstel. i have to say that the staff are exceptional. they always make time for you and are so welcoming. the range of activities for kids is great. more should be done to bring this centres attention to the local area as i think not enough locals are aware of its existance.	1
I think another Health visitor should be weighing at Prince Avenue on a Tuesday	1
I think decisions have already been made and the first any of the Children's Centre staff knew about these proposals were via email to all and sundry. Not appropriate!	1
I think it is such a shame - these childrens centres are a life saver for many people - they rely on childrens centres. they support less fortunate parents and give them guidance how to be good parents. Dont Do It!!	1

I think out local council need to look into other areas where to save money as this is going to affect alot of children and their family's. this is a save haven for a lot of parents and to take them away would be wrong. And if you merge them then they are going to be over run and will not be enough room for everyone	1
I think Sarah and Gemma and the staff given us the best care and support if I ever went anywhere else Id never get the best help that I could possibly get it dont matter if its tiny or a trivial thing even if when theyre busy a member of staff will always take time out for you. So for that reason please keep Sunnydays open otherwise you will see me chained to the wall.	1
I think that this survey is not very accessible to the general public. The section asking for people's views on the proposals is not worded in a way that is very easy to understand for the every-day parent/carer. Asking everyone to answer with either "yes" or "no" as to whether they agree with proposals for each of the Children's Centres is not appropriate. Southend is a large area with hugely varying needs. Not everyone will have a clear idea of what each proposal means for each community and so will be unable to give an informed answer. This will cause a huge misrepresentation of people's views when collating the data from this survey. There should have been a third option on each of these questions to answer "I do not know". The wording of the questions following these tick boxes are highly inappropriate for the general public. Asking how a parent (who is unlikely to have had experience in managing large sums of money like this) how they would make savings on a budget that they know nothing about is merely designed to silence the participant and strongly suggests that this proposal is in fact a fait accompli. How is the voice of those "œhard to reach families" being heard in all of this?!	1
I think the childrens centres are a worth while investment	1
I think the children's centres websites are probably some of the worst I have ever used. It is so hard to find anything. All pages are cluttered and terrible to look at.	1
I think these proposals are valid and understandable in the current economical climate.	1
I think this would be such a shame if the leigh centre closes. it really would. its such a popular centre and brings alot of mums together and i know so many people who have made friends there too.	1
I understand that local authorities are in dire financial situation at the moment - we all are, but I think that funds should not be taken away from children centers as ultimately children are our future.	1
I understand the need for change but I think Children's Centres should remember their remit, to provide services to children of pre-school age. Not to educate their parents to the point this is over shadowed.	1
i use blenheim centre for nursery school and other activities. the staff are all great. friendly and helpful. i spent alto of time there whilst on my maternity leave and sometimes felt lonely but never when i was there. even if i was there for a quick coffee the staff always found time for a little chat and a little chat and a kind smile. i am devastated you are thinking of taking these places away from us.	1
I was on the way to depression and having the breast group every week really helped me with the depression	1
I would be interested in hearing how the Council propose to cope with the capacity issues if the centres are merged.	1
I would be more than happy to help as a volunteer at the events I have suggested to earn fees, other Mum's may feel the same & this would keep staff costs down.	1
I would hate to think that any services will be cut, however I understand if the current level of services need to be run from one, rather than, two buildings.	1
I would have liked more data on CC usage from local areas (as given with Princes Avenue) & information on impact e.g. redundancies and how cost savings were calculated.	1

<p>I would just like to say that the 2 children centres that I have used hamstel road and Cambridge road have been absolutely brilliant. The staff are always excellent and very friendly and welcoming. I have gained so much information and advice that i have needed to help me learn how to look after my baby in the best way possible. The courses that I have taken part in have been amazing to help with the bond between me and my baby. I have also made a lot of friends through the courses who I meet up with on regular occassions. It is great to be able to have friends with babies that are similar ages, I was quite nervous when I went to my 1st class, but they soon disappeared due to the friendly staff and people that i met and it was great to share stories and hear that other people are going through similar experiences with their babies.</p>	1
<p>I would like to take the opportunity and thank the staff at Darlinghurst for their efforts. I was present when the mayor celebrated the centre's first anniversary and as far as I can see Darlinghurst did not receive much of a chance to show its potential. As a Social Worker I am aware of necessary cuts; however I am also aware how short sighted certain cut backs are. I think resources such as child and family centres are so vitally important in the community-even for me and I say even for me as I have a good social and family support network. As a new mum you can feel very vulnerable (sleep deprivation, new family member, changes to your body, a growing child, lots of advice; difficulties with breastfeeding, isolation, hormonal changes, financial problems, tensions with your partner...) and a place where you can just relax and get support is worth sooo much!</p>	1
<p>i would rather some centres merged than losing them all, they really are needed for all children especially those vunderable and disabled</p>	1
<p>If centres are to 'merge' or shut down more money has to be put into remaining centres to help with more people coming into them</p>	1
<p>If darlinghurst needs the space for classrooms I want to see outreach sessions south of A13 in church halls or something</p>	1
<p>if every year 2 childrens centres are closed down, in 5 or 6 years time they wont exist. childrens centres were brought in for a reason. this country has very high levels of child abuse mailnly caused by parents who are stressed under pressure and without the support which they need. if child abuse is to be reduced then childrens centres NEED to be kept open. there is a huge population of children in our town. the centres are a life line for many people. socializing children gives then confidence and security therefore developing happier calmer and secure adults which will in the long run reduce child abuse figures for the future</p>	1
<p>If Sunnydays was to close I would not get the same help anywhere else and would feel isolated with my three children and they would not have the variety of toys to play with.</p>	1
<p>If the proposed changes do take place, i would like to see closer partnership work between the existing centres. More promotion to others outside of the area. More support for isolated families & families that find it hard to attend such centres. I've worked with families who have said they do not feel welcome & that they feel 'out of place' because there are lots of middle class families in attendance. Particularly teenage parents & families who have Social Care involvement.</p>	1
<p>If there is a principle to transfer children centre services into childcare then the Temple Sutton/Hamstel proposal is the wrong way round. Temple Sutton nursery is always full and could be expanded. The children centre at Hamstel is well supported</p>	1
<p>I'm delighted that you have a consultation on this. Thank you for considering our views - I really hope you reconsider.</p>	1
<p>In my opinion, as a first time mum, I think the problems at Temple Sutton (the small entrance and manual door and the small buggy park and the size of the building) will put alot of first time mums off returning, especially while their baby is so young. Therefore mum's won't get the support to breastfeed and may stop sooner. I am just so grateful to Hamstel for providing such a relaxed and informal</p>	1

atmosphere from the moment you walk in, because being a first time mum is hard and it's very scary the first time you venture out with your new born!	
In researching my local Childrens centre it showed that many more families from out of the area choose to use Hamstel Childrens centre as the staff are so helpful & friendly. It is a lifeline for a lot of families where they receive support that they are unable to get anywhere else, I think it will be more of a drain on health to remove this facility as mothers will need to seek help elsewhere such as their doctors surgery which I am sure are far more costly than a Childrens centre.	1
It is never an easy decision to make when cutting services, particularly those affecting children or the elderly. In a time of baby boom, there is an even greater need for children centres. If children don't attend, mix with others, etc the nursery schools may struggle with pupils who have not learnt the basics of social interaction, sharing, etc.	1
It would be an absolute shame to close the Sunnydays Centre and it would be really missed.	1
its really sad for southend this is happentning	1
I've gained caring staff, expertise portage, social skills, help with disabled child.	1
Just sad to lose some centres	1
Keep all childrens centres, they benefit communities, find the money some where else or let the childrens centres start becoming its own business, charge very small amounts for tea, coffee etc	1
keep the centres with nhs staff and lose the ones with non nhs staff and this will save the councils wage bill and save money to help keep centres open. hamstel saved our ems life, as all her organs were packing up when she went to hospital, due to leukaemia	1
Maybe centres could be opened more and have subsidised exercise classes. Obesity is becoming a big problem and many parents can't afford gym memberships so offering this would be beneficial to parents and in the long term their children. Martin Buckleys healthy eating cooking programme is excellent and I would recommend this to all parents including those who can cook as everyone can learn from martin. I think the Attunement classes were airy fairy and this could be a way to cut costs. The children centre staff could be trained in makaton and deliver singing classes combined with makaton. This will enhance childrens learning and this helps with the mother baby communication bond.	1
Maybe someone should take a long hard look at the millions wasted on various rejuvenation projects (high street, seafront and victoria roundabout) and then tell me and all the parents that rely on the children centres that its okay to cut back on our children's learning. I have worked in the high street since 2004 and what a waste of money that was, now you want us to pay for a bids.	1
Merging the leigh and blenheim centre because of localilty will work and the reasons for are clear, however to compramise on the services that are provides must not happen.	1
My children are still young and I would really miss the facility and staff here in the next few years to come.	1
No	77
no thanks	2
No, but would reiterate that closing Hamstel would be a great shame - I have been so impressed with the surestart centres I have visited since becoming a parent and was looking forward to my next child - now I feel that there will not be adequate support if centres are closed.	1
No, only that it's not only parents of under 5s who need services.	1
No.	2

No.	1
none	9
none	1
None.	1
nope	1
nOT AT THE MOMENT	1
Not at this time	1
Not st the moment x	1
of all the centres we have visited, this centre is the friendliest, busiest and has the best facilities. Staff are always available to help and really care about us families.	1
Only that as a resident I do appreciate being asked about which services should be cut and why.	1
Only these centres do a great job at supporting families but especially vulnerable ones, Save our Children's Centres	1
Only what was said previously: If money has to be saved, why not keep Hamstel CFC and merge Temple Sutton in with Hamstel. Hamstel is a much nicer Children's Centre.	1
People from non disadvantaged families and areas need these services too!	1
Perhaps a holistic look at the services required in each community could offer opportunities - thinking specifically of the closure of the business centre, housing office and under utilisation of sites such as Cluny IYSS coupled with the chance to specifically target sections of the community outside of core hours could reap benefits.	1
PLEASE do not just look at the cost saving figures on your financial spreadsheet. Use Six Sigma, listen to the voice of the customer, look at the stats, are they meaningful to the customer, talk to the staff about the changes, what additional costs will this create to the centres being merged. Will buildings need more heating, cleaning? Are you just moving a cost saving from one centre to increase it at another? Will they need building work to accommodate increased numbers ie portacabins. Timetable of events to be merged need to be factored in. Families would probably attend more than one centre for variety. I don't think for Â£86k saving this s good enough.	1
Please do not merge Leigh and Blenheim. If the money is really needed then look at charging 50p / Â£1. Fundraising etc	1
Please don't get rid of Hamstel, I know the decision has already been made because quite often these questionnaires are just to appease people into thinking that we have some say in what goes on in our community when in reality the little people never do	1
please don't shut hamstel.	1
Please dont shut shoebury as i dont know what i will do without it.	1
Please keep all the centres open. Without them people will not have the opportunity to meet other parents in similar situations. Without the help and support I received by going to the centres I may well of done something I would've regretted in my early days of being a parent.	1
Please leave hamstel centre alone :)	1
Please reconsider this consultation and look at what services are best used, most accessed, and recognised by inspectors as being the most useful and successful. THEN make some considered decisions about how we're going to save those services and provide them for the most needy in our community. Thank you.	1
Question:- Will it really do the same job? Just merging isnt the answer. Its cutting away at our community again	1

respondent did not answer this question	1
Rethink the Hamstel proposals. Speak to people who have used the centre.	1
Save money elsewhere, this is not about money for us. The Leigh childrens centre alters peoples lives, with their constant friendly advice and "nothing is too much" attitude. I would be lost without them.	1
Save Shoebury Children's Centre!!!	1
Savings could be made in senior/middle management areas of the department. I understand salaries are much higher than civil servants of similar grades.	1
Should we be involving the groups of GPs who now hold the majority of the health budget, as children's centres could provide a lot of the services needed to prevent people needing primary or secondary care? And therefore reducing the burden on them? These savings appear very short-sighted.	1
Speak to people who use and work at this centre. Not thought out well in the slightest!!!!	1
Sunnydays allows parents and children with special needs to meet and access different areas and get advice.	1
Sunnydays has been a godsend with 2 young children providing a network of support and fantastic facilities	1
Sunnydays has given us a family (second family) with the staff that are so welcoming and helpful there is always a smile on my arrival. There's always a shoulder to cry on, someone willing to listen and also having a lot of time to sit down and relax with other parents who are in the same situation as I am. I feel that my child and his brother can play and be with other children that understands the kind of life we live. Do please keep Sunnydays open!!!	1
Sunnydays helps tremendously with encouraging children with special needs to overcome boundaries and explore a wide range of activities in a friendly and relaxing environment.	1
Sunnydays is a life saver for myself too as I find similar parents in the same situation. Support is given emotionally and physically. My son can be himself without being judged. I recommend Sunnydays messy play to all parents who are just discovering their child's disability	1
sunnydays is a very good childrens center and many parents make a long journey to come to this center	1
sunnydays is an important part of development and support.	1
Sunnydays is the greatest place I have been to in Southend. My children always ask to go there even on Sundays. I have attended for four years and it really has been like a lifeline for me. The staff always go that extra mile to support you I have no family in England so it is very important to us.	1
Sunnydays is too good a setting with toys, a lovely building and friendly staff to lose. I bring my grandson who I look after 3 days a week and it also gives me the chance to talk to other people.	1
Temple Sutton children's centre has been very supportive and useful with becoming a first time mum. I enjoy visiting the centre and the staff are lovely.	1
The centre at Hamstel seems obsessed with baby provision and nothing more - making it lacking when compared to other centres such as Temple Sutton & Summercourt	1
The centre is a really good resource offering support and friendly faces, it is a lifeline to a lot of mums who would otherwise be quite isolated. It is very important that the centre remains open and unaltered	1
The council could consider private sponsorship of some activities to reduce running costs	1
The council have already made their decision. Like all their consultations, the questions are loaded from the outset. Let us see ALL the questions before we start to answer so as we can best decide where to put relevant comments.	1

The council really doesn't give a shit about anyone, just about how to get extra money into their pockets.	1
The hamstel center does not cater for a wide enough audience so the merger should improve	1
The local centres are vital for mums. Getting out and about with very young children is difficult and knowing there is a centre close by offers a lifeline. It is easy to say that an extra 20 minute walk makes no difference but it really does, the time I have attended Blenheim instead of Leigh was very stressful and the 40 min round trip walk was exhausting.	1
The MUM2MUM Breastfeeding support is a well-established service in Leigh and Hamstel CC and will be a disastrous cutback as the long term health of mother and baby will be affected for those who have not been able to breastfeed and therefore will cost the NHS more money with other health issues they are at risk from if they do not breastfeed.	1
The staff at Sunnydays always make you feel welcome and are always there to help you with any problems that you may have	1
The staff at Sunnydays are so amazing and fantastic with the children and I feel safe in the knowledge that I can sit and have a coffee knowing my son is in good hands, and I can talk to people in the same position as me. I have made lifelong friends and so have are children,we are strong for each other.	1
the staff, volunteers and other users of the services are friendly and inviting and i would be most upset if they were no longer there. furthermore they have seen my son grow from days old to almost a year and we feel safe at the centre and if i need extra support even if there are no groups i know i have somewhere to go for it so my son gets the best in every way possible.	1
The support these centres offer to the community are absolutely invaluable. The staff at the centre are knowledgeable and supportive and the activities they offer are varied and stimulating. Any cuts to these services in the next few years will only lead to an increase in costs in other areas such as health, social services, education and crime as the centres do such great work in helping parents to prevent health, emotional, behavioural issues etc becoming a problem at a young age. Far from cutting the services, Southend Council should be looking to increase the money available to the centres so they can reach a larger number of families and offer an even wider range of services. I know there are many people in the area who would like to assist at the centres on a voluntary basis and the centres should take advantage of this.	1
The Surestart Initiative is the strongest and most cost-effective strategy at our disposal to address parenting issues which affect all classes of parent, and ultimately to tackle the root cause of poverty - educational under-performance. Any attempt, be it piece-meal (as in this case) or wholesale, to dismantle this outstanding service shows that our Council does not have the life chances and quality of life of its residents at heart.	1
There are a lot of young children on the Woodgrange Estate that would benefit a place at Centre Place. so if anything the centre should be made bigger	1
There is a real community at the hamstel children's centre and we will do whatever it takes fundraising etc to save our centre.	1
These centres have a valuable service which can not be replicated easily . without knowing more about costs it is hard to give more reasons, but without them there will be a higher cost! Childrens centres - keep children in school, keep people healthy and help people work!	1
These centres should not be built and then closed. A lot of families, especially with children use the high quality facilities that are offered	1
Think of other ways of keeping the centres rather than just merging them. Maybe conduct a focus group with parents and staff and get ideas on what could be done to raise the money.	1

think sunny days should be left as it is	1
This consultation is a farce as decisions have already been made!	1
This seems very short sighted if as you state that birth rates are increasing. Support for new mothers and new children should surely be a priority for the borough	1
This survey is not user friendly anyone that fills this out could be put off by asking how you are going to save money. That is you job not ours! A lot of my friends were put off and did not complete this.	1
This survey should be publicized more. save money.in other areas children are important and need learning and support as do their parents.	1
To be kept informed of what is happening with this and the findings of the consultation and how people using the centres can input it the future plans for them!	1
To cut funding for children's centres targets savings at the most vulnerable section of our community. To claim there is no money for these centres whilst simultaneously revamping the seafront, providing free blue bins and building a new multi-million pound library in the town centre is deplorable, and all those involved in this process should hang their heads in shame.	1
Totally agree with merger of temple and hamster, others agree as savings need to be made although have no direct knowledge of the other centres	1
We are already in consultation as a schgool to seek to use facilities including some designed for basic health consultations and this could add a further community dynamic to the services provided on the children's Centre site.	1
We have tried as a team to run groups in many other Children's Centres and feel that the groups at Sunnyday's Children's Centre have been so successful because the centre's staff really are passionate about the children with disabilities and their families, going out of their way to source information, products, toys and where possible have offered training for staff and families to help their situations and personal development. They truely are a caring centre!	1
We really dont want Shoebury to close	1
We're brand new blue bins really necessary? I'd rather have the library and children's centres in Leigh left alone. These are places for our children, I'm shocked and saddened that my baby may not know the fun and enjoyment my elder son has had from both.	1
what are the vacant premises then going to be used for?? shouldn't you have thought of the long term when you built them!!	1
When this consulation is complete funding should be assured for the 8 centres to continue to offer a stable service to users.	1
While SBC is cutting bushes and grass in Thorpe Bay it is cutting vital services to vulnerable children that is a disgrace. Leave the Childrens Centres alone and get the priorities right. Childrens Centres have been a huge success and are improving all of the time.	1
Whilst noble in what they attempted to do, Children's Centres are a duplication of what should be available elsewhere. I note the Council is trying to save money by placing everything it can into the Civic Centre, yet it has several "children's centres" across the borough. I understand that some clinical services have been offered at these Centres - even though the NHS has opened walk-in centres (e.g. North Road; Cluny Square). Most areas have churches or other religious buildings that have say, church halls - if there is such a requirement to bring services locally (when after all, demographically we are small) why not re-use what is already available?	1
Why build all these centres, make people reliant on their services, then take away a life line for many people.	1

Why consultation times are during office hours? What about parents who are working part time or full time and can't get to the consultation?	1
Why did they build so many so close together? A waste of taxpayers' money!	1
Why not use some of the saved airshow budget! It's hard enough being a new parent so stop making cuts for the children's centres! Cut the fireworks all summer!!!	1
Will the staff from the centres which close be re-deployed, I would be very sad to think that such a wealth of experience could be lost to the children's service	1
With the areas population growing rapidly it is vital that the centres don't get over-crowded and those families that do need extra help and advice have somewhere to go to.	1
Would just like to say what a life saver over the last few years since having my children Sunney Days has been. Not sure how I would have managed without it.	1
yes	1
Yes I do, think about the preventative work these centres do, fight for the mothers and fathers of southend and dont forget us like the rest of the world does from employers, to coffee shops. we do exist, we are nurturing the next generation of tax payers	1
yes i would like to say that hamstel is unique in the area it serves and the health provision provided.(should this centre close then no CC's in Southend will be led by a health provider service) I know you are going to argue that the health care will be offered from other venues .But i have been there at venues in dark ,unsuitable buildings pitching up week after week with few or no clients attending .that surely is a complete waste of public money! Where would the midwife ante natal session be held?the no's of clients attending each month is so good - many of these are attending due to ease of access .If this service moves to the hospital then DNA's will be high. regarding the consultation i attended at Hamstel CC on 30th april i was dissapointed that Cllrs from local wards were not in attendance .Maybe they should visit for themselves and see Hamstel CC services in action .I would be horrified if they have agreed the closing of hamstel and merge with temple sutton without ever seeing and knowing exactly how these services currently support families living in their ward . Thank You	1

460 respondents accessed the campaign

Step 1:1.00-1:Which of the following are you responding as?

This single response question was answered by 460 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Parent of guardian of a child currently using a children's centre	312	67.83%
Parent or guardian of a child not currently using a children's centre	40	8.7%
Southend on Sea resident	45	9.78%
Voluntary organisation	4	.87%
Community group	2	.43%
Educational body/organisation i.e. Early years setting, further/higher education	12	2.61%
Training provider	1	.22%
Health body / organisation	4	.87%
Local authority / town council	4	.87%
Children's centre staff	20	4.35%
Children's centre management organisation	5	1.09%
JobCentre Plus	1	.22%
Other	10	2.17%

Step 1:2.00-1:Specify which organisation you represent

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 51 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Blenheim	1
Blenheim Primary School and Children's Centre	1
Childminder using childrens centre	1
Church Minister, Belle Vue Baptist Church	1
Early years worker	1
Friars Children's Centre	1
Friend of parent who uses the center frequently	1
Grandparent	1
hamstel children and family centre	1
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery	2
Health	1
I am a Portage Home vistor and work with children with disabilities under 5 in the southend area under the Early Years Special Needs Team.	1
i work across SEPT provider services and also the LA and other agencies .	1
independent music	1
JCP	1
Little Acorns Pre-school, Leigh on Sea	1
Mum 2 mum breastfeeding supporter based at hamstel children's centre. Parent to three children who use the centre.	1
Mum2Mum Breastfeeding Support/SEPT	1
NO	1
Ofsted Registered Childminder	1
Pink Cross Training Company	1

Portage Home Visiting Service- working with children under 5 years old with disabilities and their families.	1
Primary school Nurture unit	1
Prince Avenue Children's Centre	1
Ready Teddy Go Pre School	1
Registered childminder	1
SEPT	4
SEPT as Mum2Mum Breastfeeding support	1
Shoebury & Friars CC	1
shoebury children centre	1
South Essex Partnership Trust	1
Southend CC employed by SBC	1
Southend Council	1
Summercourt Children's Centre management	1
Summercourt Children's Centre.	1
Temple Sutton Children's Centre	1
Temple sutton childrens centre	1
Temple Sutton Primary School and Children's Centre	2
Temple Sutton School	1
Voluntary Breastfeeding advice Mum@Mum	1
Volunteer at Hamstel children's centre. Parent to three (almost four) children who use the centre and one who attends Hamstel infants school	1
West Leigh Infant School SS9 2JB	1

Step 1:3.00-1:How often do you access a Children's Centre in Southend?

This single response question was answered by 296 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Weekly	240	81.08%
Monthly	47	15.88%
Less often	7	2.36%
Never	2	.68%

Step 1:4.00-1:Which of the following Children's Centres are you currently using?

This multiple response question was answered by 291 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Blenheim Children's Centre	69	23.71%
Cambridge Road Children's Centre	10	3.44%
Centre Place Children's Centre	10	3.44%
Hamstel Children and Family Centre	90	30.93%
Leigh Children's Centre	64	21.99%
Prince Avenue Children and Family Centre	31	10.65%
Friars Children's Centre	7	2.41%
Shoebury Children's Centre	15	5.15%
Summercourt Children's Centre	20	6.87%
Sunnydays Children's Centre	59	20.27%
Temple Sutton Children's Centre	41	14.09%

Step 1:5.00-1:What is your main reason for using a centre?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 282 respondents.

The responses to this question can be found in Appendix 1

Step 1:6.00-1:What is your postcode?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 365 respondents.

Of the 365 respondents, 326 provided a post code that could be mapped to the wards within Southend.

Ward	
Kursaal	26
Leigh	21
Milton	13
St Luke's	46
Shoeburyness	11
Thorpe	20
Eastwood Park	18
Westborough	10
Blenheim Park	27
Belfairs	28
Southchurch	27
Victoria	12
Chalkwell	15
St Lawrence	16
West Leigh	14
Prittlewell	16
West Shoebury	6

Step 1:7.00-1:What is your household income?

This single response question was answered by 364 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
£0 - £9,999	19	5.22%
£10,000 - £24,999	80	21.98%
£25,000 - £39,999	72	19.78%
£40,000 - £54,999	57	15.66%
More than £55,000	55	15.11%
Would rather not say	81	22.25%

Step 1:8.00-1:What is your age group?

This single response question was answered by 361 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Under 18	1	.28%
18 - 29	94	26.04%
30 - 44	216	59.83%
45 -64	37	10.25%
65 and over	5	1.39%
Would rather not answer	8	2.22%

Step 1:9.00-1:which ethnic group best describes you?

This single response question was answered by 358 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
White British	314	87.71%
Black or Black British	2	.56%
Asian or Asian British	4	1.12%
Mixed	7	1.96%
Chinese		
Prefer not to say	14	3.91%
White other	17	4.75%