

## SAVE HAMSTEL CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRE

We, the undersigned, petition Southend Borough Council not to carry out the proposed merger of Hamstel Children's and Temple Sutton Children's Centre and to keep Hamstel Children and Families Centre open, maintaining its current level of funding.

As part of a proposed 16% cut to children's centre services across the borough, Southend Council have proposed merging Hamstel Children's centre with Temple Sutton Children's centre, closing down the purpose built centre at Hamstel Infant School and moving all services to the Temple Sutton site.

Hamstel Children's Centre and its staff provide vital services to the Southchurch area of Southend, including, as the only health lead children's centre in the area, midwifery clinics, immunisation clinics, breastfeeding support and health education programmes. Merging onto one site will lead to a reduction in availability of all programmes and activities and many families being unable to access oversubscribed services. Furthermore, the closure of Hamstel Children's Centre will geographically isolate many families from these services as travelling an extra mile to access Temple Sutton Children's may not be possible.