

**Proposal in response to the Second Children's Centre consultation by  
the Headteachers of Hamstel Infants School and Nursery, Hamstel  
Junior School and Temple Sutton Primary School**

The three schools, Temple Sutton, Hamstel Junior and Hamstel Infant School & Nursery pride themselves on being community focused and are fully committed to supporting the continuation of extended school opportunities and community based activities. To support the Local Authority the schools have developed strategies to satisfy the demands of pupil population increases:

Temple Sutton Primary School is determined to grow in numbers to admit to a 4 form entry school (120 per year) with a capacity of 840 pupils and with a Children Centre clientele of 200+.

Hamstel Infant School and Nursery are admitting 5 forms of entry (150 pupils per year from September 2013) rising to a capacity of 450 pupils plus 104 places in the Nursery. From 2016 Hamstel Junior school will be increased to a capacity of 600 pupils (150 per year group).

There are serious issues relating to the capacity of the school sites to sustain adequately all their functions and activities. Therefore we are submitting this proposal outlining the key features and functions of the schools in order for Council members to be fully informed of the views of the Headteachers and Governors of these schools who are most involved with the delivery and management of education and extended services in the deprived wards of Southend on Sea.

As the Headteachers of the schools involved we would like to put forward another solution to services being delivered within the St Luke's and Southchurch ward areas.

We believe, as Headteachers, that the consultation to save monies as outlined should not be pitched between the two schools sites of Temple Sutton Primary and the Hamstel Schools but that a further solution should be considered based on increasing needs in this area. We are of the opinion that no monies should be saved as a cost cutting exercise to the detriment of services and education.

It is apparent from the outcome of the first consultation that there is a real need for services to be provided in both the Southchurch and St Luke's wards. We do not believe that adequate services can be provided by a reduction in Children Centre services in the Southchurch / St Luke's area, as at present parents and carers have to be signposted to other providers for full access to available services.

We would therefore like the following points to be considered before any decisions are made:

1. To consider the relocation of all Health services into one central community based location – our proposal would be St Luke's Centre based at St Luke's Church where facilities have already been created and are not utilised (2 x consulting rooms, 1x waiting room and a large hall with flexible space)
2. Retain Temple Sutton Children Centre for outreach services – ie. Women's Refuge, Store House etc

3. Retain Temple Sutton Children Centre for full core offer range of extended services for example in-house adult literacy
4. To relocate the health services, this would allow best use of the Hamstel Children Centre site to satisfy the growing number of children joining the school each year. (By September 2015 there will be a further 60 children on site who need accommodating within the Infant school building.
5. To make the best educational use of the site facilities at Hamstel Infant and Junior schools to accommodate the imminent five forms of entry starting September 2013 without impinging any further upon the crowded site with current building works already taking up more outdoor space in order to accommodate more classrooms.

We are all of the opinion that following the extensive consultations that have taken place over many years, starting with the concept of a St Luke's Healthy Living Centre, that this scheme now becomes the strategic reality in the medium to long term in order to secure the best outcomes for our families, children and collective communities as a whole in the future.

In order to accommodate this proposal, not just in the short term, but for the future for all, and to ease the transition towards this goal Hamstel Children Centre could run for another year from it's current location whilst plans are being put in place for a longer term solution. There is however a tight time scale as the school is without serviceable space to accommodate another 30 children from September 2014 and a further 30 children from September 2015. The children Centre space would then be used to accommodate classrooms for the increasing numbers in the early years (under fives). This would mean no further disruption to the running of the school with future building works, the Infant School is kept as one building and the Hamstel site continues to run as an educational establishments to meet the needs of all children and families.

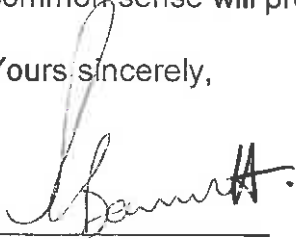
We are firmly of the belief that this is the best solution, provides the maximum services for all in a centralised, specialist location all under one roof and meets the needs of the wider growing community in providing adequate specialist provision for the local schools. There is increasing partnership working between the three schools and this proposal would allow for further growth in this aspect.

The three schools are against the closure / merging of services in our shared deprived area. We are looking for a solution to best match the needs of our families and community, not one which divides the community in a decision which ultimately does not serve to benefit all. The closure of one Children Centre will have massive impact upon the other and the community – this is not in the best interests of all. There is a huge cross over in families attending both Hamstel and Temple Sutton Schools, 38.8% of St Luke's ward families attend Hamstel Infants currently. Savings could be made by streamlining services, not cutting them. Currently many services are signposted elsewhere; this cannot be in the best interests of families. The proposal put forward would cater for more families as we know the needs of the children within our schools are increasing and becoming ever more complex year upon year.

With the fact that there is an increase in birth rate in the Central locality of Southend it would only seem sensible to expand and consolidate services for all, for both Health and the education of the children at the schools.

We thank you for consideration of our joint proposal and wish that in this instance common sense will prevail.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Barrett  
Headteacher

Temple Sutton Primary



Lisa Clark  
Headteacher

Hamstel Infant School  
and Nursery



Rupert Snow  
Headteachers

Hamstel Junior School

**Detailed action to address each consideration:**

| <p><b>1. To consider the relocation of all Health services into one central community based location – our proposal would be St Luke's Centre based at St Luke's Church where facilities have already been created and are not utilised (2 x consulting rooms, 1x waiting room and a large hall with flexible space)</b></p>                    |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Action  | Success criteria   | Timescale   | Organiser/Persons involved   | Benefits   |
| <p>Location of Community based Health services in the St Luke's Centre, Southchurch wards based initially in the St Luke's Centre (Medium Term)</p> <p>A working party needs to be established.</p> <p>Location of Community based Health services in the St Luke's, ward Long Term solution in providing a permanent Healthy Living Centre</p> | <p>Maximise expertise and centralise services for all with the delivery of statutory Health services from the heart of local community.<br/>By moving the Health service delivery away from schools it would enable the schools to re-use the schools buildings to accommodate the rise in birth rates for educating children in purpose built areas.<br/>Provisions at the schools are not addressing other facility needs such as hall spaces, canteen spaces etc. – further impacting upon the already very tight space available to provide excellent educational services.<br/>For the Health authority to have a permanent Healthy Living Centre</p> | <p>To be put up and running by September 2014</p> | <p>Local Authority, SEPT, St Luke's Centre, Temple Sutton and Hamstel schools collectively</p> | <p>38.8% of current Hamstel Infant children come from the St Luke's Ward<br/>Full and better use of a facility already available within the community that is ideally suited with the accommodation that it can provide for delivery of Health services.</p> |

2. Retain Temple Sutton Children Centre for outreach services – ie. Women's Refuge, Store House etc

| Action   | Success criteria  | Timescale   | Organiser/Persons involved   | Benefits  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Retain the outreach services provided by Temple Sutton CC and build on these further. Enabling better outreach services being delivered to allow greater flexibility for both Health providers and the community.</p> | <p>Parents, grandparents, children and babies all catered for by a centralised / organised and capable staff.<br/>To continue the 'outstanding' provision as qualified by Ofsted 2013</p> | <p>To be put up and running by September 2014</p> | <p>Local Authority, SEPT, St Luke's Centre, Temple Sutton and Hamstel schools collectively</p> | <p>To enable the schools to develop the footprint for the long term benefits of the increasing schools populations that have projected.</p> |

| <b>3. Retain Temple Sutton Children Centre for full core offer and range of extended services for example in-house adult literacy</b> |   |                               |  |   |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Success criteria</b>   | <b>Timescale</b>              | <b>Organiser/Persons involved</b>                      | <b>Benefits</b>   |
| <p>To retain the in-house extended services that Temple Sutton provide and look to extend these further in the future.</p>            | <p>Extended services are a school based service worked in partnership with outside agencies to provide much needed adult support for the community.<br/>To continue the 'outstanding' provision as qualified by Ofsted 2013</p> | <p>September 2014 onwards</p> | <p>Temple Sutton Primary School and other agencies</p> | <p>Parents, carers and the wider community have direct access to supportive and targeted services.<br/>To provide much needed adult education facilities and support, especially for adult literacy and numeracy.</p> |

| 4. To relocate the health services, this would allow best use of the Hamstel Children Centre site to satisfy the growing number of children joining the school each year. (By September 2015 there will be a further 60 children on site who need accommodating within the Infant school building. |  |                   |  |   |
|--|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Action   | Success criteria   | Timescale         | Organiser/Persons involved                         | Benefits  |
| To relocate the Hamstel Children Centre to a location equidistant to both Hamstel and Temple Sutton families.  | <p>To allow better use of an already suitable site to facilitate a hub for Health services to all the local community.</p> <p>To alleviate the impact upon the schools to provide the best educational facilities for the increase in number of children attending both the Hamstel and Temple Sutton Schools.</p> | By September 2014 | LA, SEPT, Hamstel Schools and Temple Sutton School | Benefits to the whole community. Providing a co-ordinated approach to Health provision in one of the most deprived areas in Southend. |

| 5. To make the best educational use of the site facilities at Hamstel Infant and Junior schools to accommodate the imminent five forms of entry starting September 2013 without impinging any further upon the crowded site with current building works already taking up more outdoor space in order to accommodate more classrooms. |  |                          |   |   |
|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Action  | Success criteria   | Timescale                | Organiser/Persons involved                                | Benefits  |
| <p>The facilities currently occupied by Hamstel Children Centre would provide the additional classroom space needed to house the expansion in numbers agreed by the LA</p>  | <p>There would be minimal impact to the schools in relocated the Health services.</p> <p>There would be better use of the facilities at Hamstel than are currently being utilised.</p> <p>Hamstel Infant school would regain it's own entrance , thus reducing the issues of anyone being able to enter the main building.</p> <p>The school would regain one of it's main entrances currently lost by use of the Children Centre.</p> | <p>By September 2014</p> | <p>LA, SEPT, Hamstel Schools and Temple Sutton School</p> | <p><b>Drawbacks:</b><br/>It really makes no sense at all for Hamstel Children Centre to continue to be located at the Hamstel site when it will mean that the increasing numbers of children attending the school will possibly have to be housed in demountable / portacabin style classrooms (one option being discussed).</p> <p>The most affected by this decision would be the youngest children who need the best start to their school life.</p> <p>The impact of further building would decrease the already stretched facilities, including playing fields, at the Hamstel site.</p> |