

Other options considered

In designing our preferred model, other models were considered, but not found suitable for the following reasons:

- a) Other option considered A: retain one hub centre delivering a full service with six spokes delivering reduced services

This option may result in families not having access to local services and support when they need it. Children's centre services work closely with other services in the localities including the local early years settings, local community and voluntary sector partners, early help, health visiting and midwifery services. This model would not be able to achieve this. Children's centres need to be visible and welcoming in their local area to enable families to take up and engage with services. We know from the consultation on the Croydon Renewal Plan how highly valued children's centres provision is by families with young children and of the concern of losing valuable support and resources. Availability of children's centres would be reduced to a level where families who are facing difficulties may find it difficult to access support, through capacity of the service and the distance from their home.

- b) Other option considered B: retain three hubs and stop services from six designated children's centres

As with option A, this model would not provide the enough access to services to meet the need of Croydon families. It would result in people having to travel too far from home for services therefore increasing the risk of them not using the services.

- c) Retain the current model of nine designated children's centres with a full service delivery

Due to the council's financial position it is not financially possible to continue the current model with the reduced budget.