



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

HILLINGDON
LONDON

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	Early Years Childcare Review
Reference No.	563
Date of decision	Thursday 4 August 2022
Call-in expiry date	SPECIAL URGENCY N/A – This decision comes into immediate effect
Relevant Select Committee(s)	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	The Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
	APPROVED That the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education approved ceasing provision of early years childcare [0-5] at Uxbridge Early Years Centre, Nestles Avenue Early Years and Children's Centre and, South Ruislip Early Years and Children's Centre with effect from 31 December 2022.
Reason for decision	<p>The Council has operated three Early Years Centres which, despite several attempts to improve their viability, have continued to operate at a loss. The Council's direct provision amounts to 1% (current occupancy) of the capacity in Hillingdon. A review of the sufficiency in Hillingdon has determined that the wider early years market can absorb the provision directly provided by the Council.</p> <p>Previous reviews of the Council's early years provision have implemented changes to service delivery, including a staffing restructure in 2020, designed to move the provision to a more viable model of operation. However, this has had limited success and the centres are not financially viable, with the service continuing to operate at a deficit across all three sites.</p>

	<p>In parallel, the market has developed sufficient capacity to meet the entire demand, 96% of which is rated good or outstanding. The impact of the pandemic on this market has also reduced the overall demand, due to alternative options for childcare resulting from changing work patterns.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficiency of childcare for residents, but there is no requirement for the Council to directly provide these services.</p> <p>Considering the report and recommendations from officers, Cabinet Members, therefore, agreed that the Council should cease operating its three Early Years Centre sites.</p> <p>It was noted that ceasing the provision of early years childcare at this particular time would ensure that a planned transition for children and families to the wider availability of childcare can be managed with minimal impact. It was noted that support will be provided by the Council to families about the types and availability of childcare.</p>
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p>Cabinet Members could have decided to continue to deliver Early Years provision from the three centres but this was not deemed viable due to their operating at a deficit and there being sufficiency in the Borough.</p> <p>Cabinet Members could have also released the services to be delivered by the private sector, but considered that this would likely be commercially feasible for one out of three of the sites, considering factors such as building conditions and high levels of existing alternative provision in their proximity.</p>
Classification	Part 1 - Public
Link to associated report	Link to report – here .
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Claire Fry – Adult Services and Health Directorate
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be	This decision was taken under special urgency procedures and deemed urgent by the Leader of the Council.

<p>implemented by officers?</p>	<p>The reason for urgency was so that as much notice as possible could be given to families that will be impacted and to prevent a further intake of children into the services in September.</p> <p>Agreement that the matter was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred, along with the waiver of the scrutiny call-in period, was also granted by the Chairman of the Children, Families and Education Select Committee.</p> <p>THIS DECISION THEREFORE COMES INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT.</p>
<p>Further information</p>	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillington.gov.uk.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate & Executive Directors, Officers and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democratic Services London Borough of Hillington Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</p>