

CHILDREN'S CENTRES;
ANALYSIS OF
ACCESSIBILITY, USE AND
PROVISION

UPDATE:
JULY 2018

Children’s Centres: Analysis of Accessibility, Use and Provision – July 2018

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Introduction

Children's centres in Havering provide a community base for a number of key services delivered by Havering Council and partner agencies;

- LBH Early Help Service universal offer and tier 1 interventions
- Maternity and health visiting clinics
- Screening and support for children aged 0-5 with disabilities
- Targeted support services for support around issues such as domestic violence and mental ill health
- Private childcare provision (at four of the centres).

We know that the first five years of a child's life are critical to their future development, and there is commitment to deliver high quality, accessible, family centred services that identify needs early, provide timely and appropriate support, and ensure positive outcomes for children aged 0-5 years. Children's centres provide key hubs for multi-agency provision of services that prevent adverse experiences from happening in the first place, and prevention of escalation when they do.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) increase individuals' risk of delayed development and of developing health harming behaviours, that lead to poorer outcomes during childhood and in later life. There are three direct ACEs (physical, sexual and emotional abuse) and six indirect (living with someone who abused drugs, abused alcohol, was incarcerated and had serious mental illness, being exposed to domestic violence, and parental loss through divorce, death or abandonment). The more adversity a child experiences, the more likely it is to impact upon their mental and physical health. Investing early to give children the best possible start in life and minimise ACEs reduces the need for greater investment in the longer term.

Universal services can be accessed by anyone in the borough, and focus on school readiness, pre/post-natal support and child health. Multi-agency Tier 1 Early Help interventions are designed to provide more in-depth support to identified families for example developing parenting skills or supporting child speech and language development. Services are delivered from seven children's centres across the borough (see figure 1). At the end of September 2018, there was a total of 12,111 children aged 0-4 years registered at all centres.

The universal offer can be accessed by anyone in the borough. Services are promoted through the following:

- Promotions through GP surgeries, health centres, libraries and hospitals
- Internet Page on the Havering Family Information Directory
- E-Newsletter, Living Magazine, Twitter Profile
- Co-located with health agencies who share information and co-deliver where appropriate
- Support from family practitioners and social workers to access groups
- Information sent to partner agencies
- Pop up events in shopping centres

In 2017, an analysis of the use and accessibility of children's centres was completed. It also aimed to consider existing provision of services and how these were meeting the needs of families, offering recommendations to make the service as effective and well-used as possible. It found that attendance in terms of footfall at four out of seven centres was good, but meaningful contact with families most in need was lacking. For the three centres located in the most deprived areas (Ingrebourne, Chippenham Road and Hilldene), attendance levels were particularly low. It was

acknowledged as a result of this piece of work that the universal offer was not being accessed by a high proportion of the families living in the most deprived areas through the seven centres.

The purpose of this 2018 update is as follows:

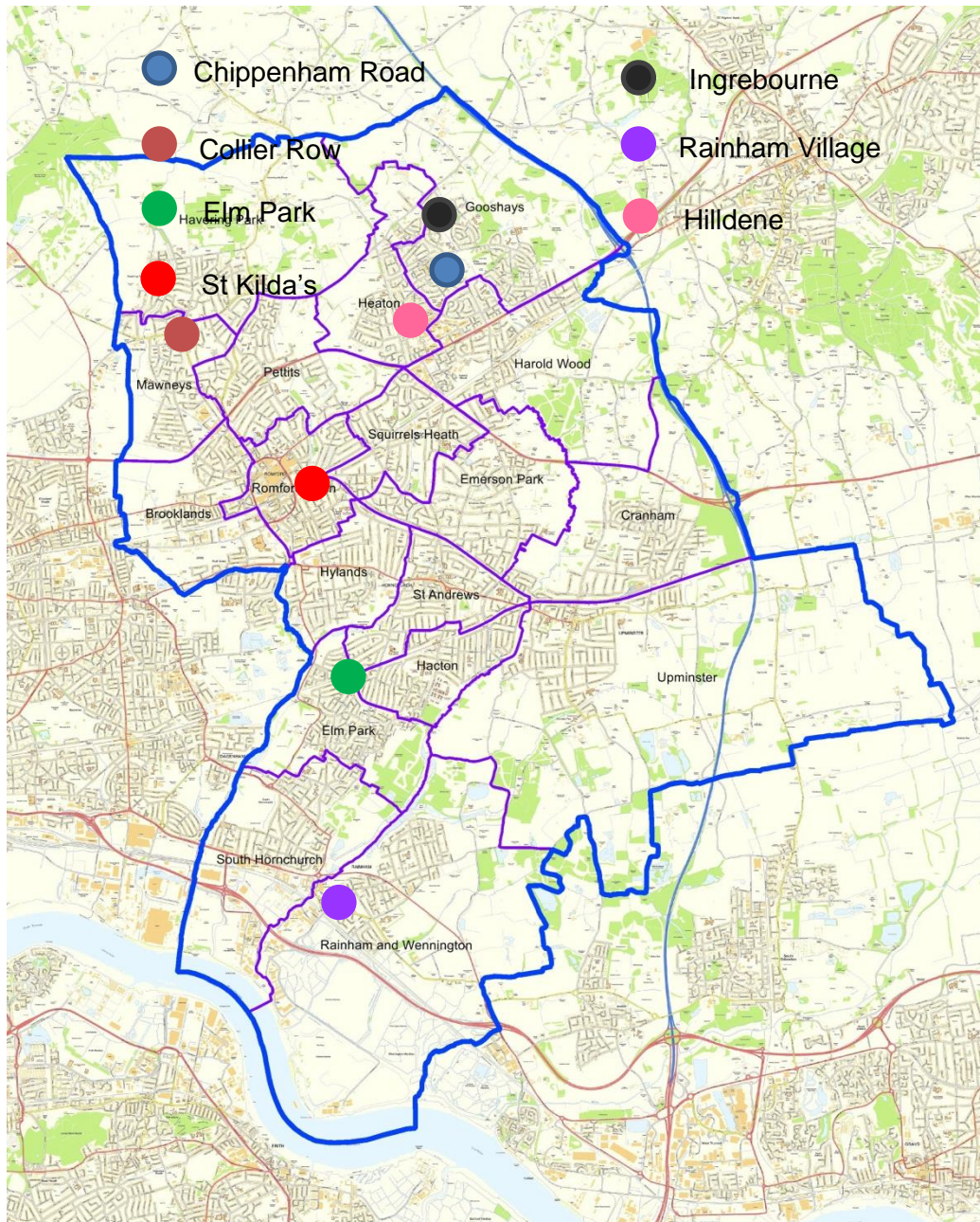
1. Analyse recent data to evaluate levels of need throughout the borough
2. Identify the reasons why families are using the centres and the levels of usage
3. Establish where the most vulnerable families are located and whether they use services
4. Inform a proposal considering where, and in what capacity, services should be delivered

The proposal will look to make services to families more focused and easily accessible, enabling the service to better direct resources where they are most needed and to work more efficiently with partners and communities. This will ensure the Council is meeting the needs of families and investing public money as effectively as possible. The delivery model should enable partners to offer coherent multi-agency intensive and evidence based interventions to families who require support.

Anticipated outcomes of recommendations:

- Efficient and effective service delivery that is well-located and accessible.
- Better outreach to families in need/hard to reach communities
- Communities become more resilient through finding own solutions

Figure 1; Havering Children's Centre locations



1. Population breakdown

The total population of Havering in 2017 was 256,309, within this there were 17,224 children aged 0-4 years old. The wards with the highest number of under-fives are Brooklands, Romford Town and Gooshays, closely followed by Rainham and Wennington. With large scale housing developments planned in the borough for the next few years, the Greater London Authority projects population changes based on housing development data supplied by Havering's Local Plan. It suggests that there will be increases in the 0-5 population of 3-10% in South Hornchurch, Romford Town and Brooklands. The remaining 15 wards are predicted to experience minor changes of between 0-2% increase/decrease.

2. Deprivation of under 5s

Based on the 2015 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), there are 1,441 children under five in Havering living in areas within the most deprived decile in England. Deprivation data makes it clear that there are children living in disadvantaged circumstances in the north, centre and south of the borough. Thus services should be located in centres and other settings throughout all localities. Providing outreach interventions in settings in the boroughs most deprived communities, instead of relying on families to come to a centre, would be a positive step towards reaching families in greatest need.

3. Reach of individual centres

Definition: *reach is the number of individuals seen only counted once, i.e. repeat visits are not reflected in the overall figures.*

The total number for centre reach is 7,265 visits. These are recorded by centre; a child could be seen in a different centre and therefore counted more than once.

St Kilda's and Collier Row had the highest number of visits, closely followed by Chippenham Road. This is a significant increase (+178%) since the 2016/17 financial year (beginning in April), when Chippenham Road had the sixth lowest numbers. This is mainly due to health reviews taking place here in 2017/18, which accounted for 74% of all attendees. All centres except Elm Park experienced an increase in reach in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17: Rainham Village (+29%), Ingrebourne (+11%), St Kilda's (+10%) and Collier Row (+3%). Elm Park experienced an 11% decrease, and Hilldene's figures were not accurately recorded last year.

In terms of areas where children came from to visit the centres, all centres had the highest number of visitors from the immediately surrounding wards. This suggests that families are generally most likely to visit a centre which is closest to where they live.

The overall figure also includes 317 out of borough children, 231 of which were seen at Ingrebourne centre. This means they visited for either midwife appointments, preparing for birth sessions or birth registrations.

4. Centre Attendance and Deprivation

In 2017/18, a total of 6,110 individual children aged 0-4 were seen across the seven centres. 10% (582) of these were resident in areas within Havering that, nationally, fall within the most deprived IDACI decile.

15% are from areas that fall within the second most deprived decile. It should be noted that we can only determine which wards people live in and the deprivation index of that ward, and not whether registered individuals are living in deprivation.

5. Activities by reach

Definition: *reach is the number of individuals seen only counted once, i.e. repeat visits are not reflected in the overall figures.*

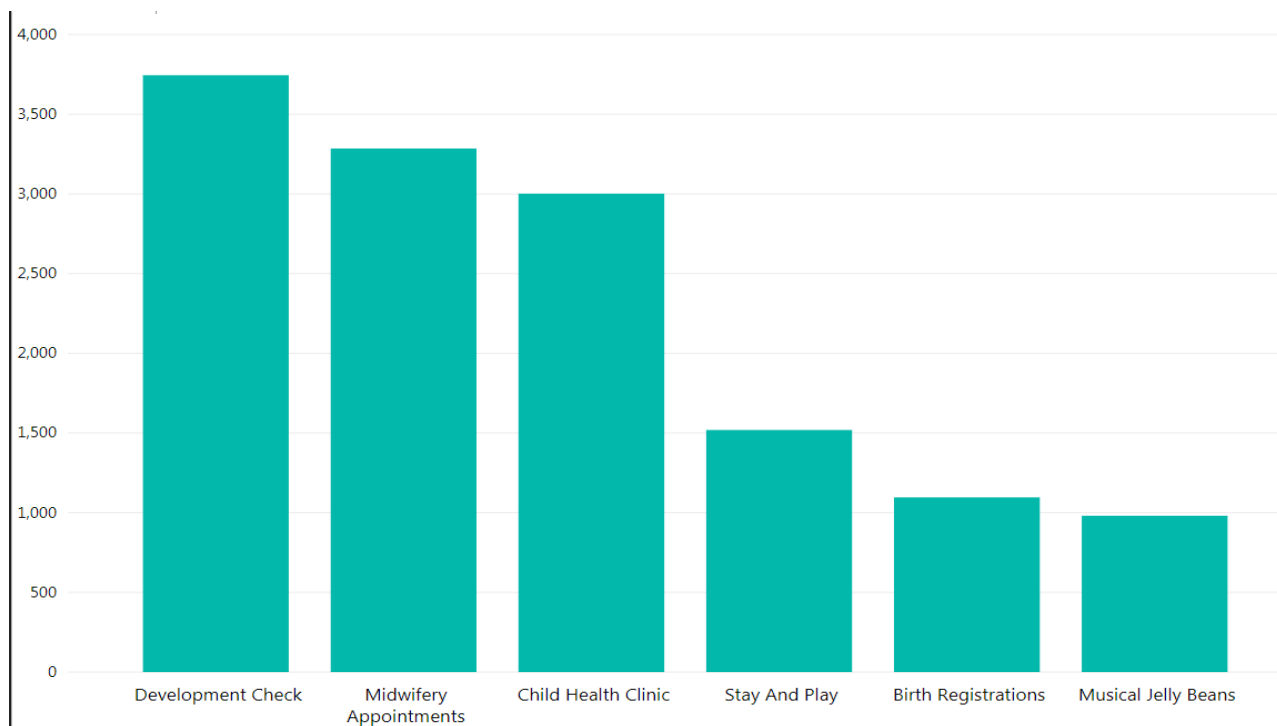
Across the seven centres between January and July 2018, there were 35 different activities on offer, delivered by a range of agencies. These include Midwives, Health Visitors, LBH Early Years Practitioners, Havering Adult College, LBH Employment and Skills, the Job Centre, Women's Aid, Solace, CAMHS, and the LBH Children and Adults Disability Team.

The 2017 usage analysis included qualitative data from an online survey and through interviews with service users. As a result of feedback, the activity programme was adapted to include an English as a Second Language (ESOL) course, perinatal mental health support for parents ('Butterflies') and a Starting Solids Workshop. Strategic time tabling has also been used, for example the Starting Solids Workshop is preceded by the Infant Feeding Café to encourage mothers to attend. In 2016/17, there was a reach of 21,536; this increased by 17% during 2017/18 to 25,890.

Between January and July 2018, 15,890 individuals attended classes and activities held across the seven centres. St Kilda's and Collier Row had the highest number of attendees (4,351 and 3,489 respectively). Ingrebourne, Elm Park and Rainham Village had similar numbers around 2,000, with Chippenham Road and Hilldene having the lowest numbers (1,650 and 286 respectively). Overall, 66% of classes and activities recorded less than 100 individual attendees during this seven month period, and 50% recorded less than 50 (note: this is not volume but individuals attending only being counted once).

Elm Park, Collier Row and St Kilda's each offer between 15-16 activities; Chippenham Road and Rainham Village offer 11; Hilldene offers six and Ingrebourne only three (which are all offered by health partners). As shown in figure two, the most popular sessions in terms of reach across all the centres were health development checks, midwifery appointments and child health clinics, which accounted for 63% of all attendees. These three activities reached at least double the number of individuals than the fourth most popular session, which was Stay and Play, closely followed by birth registrations.

Figure 2: Reach of the six most popular activities at all seven centres.



6. Activities by volume

Definition: volume is the number of visits to a centre or activity so measures the footfall, i.e. repeat visits are reflected in the overall figures.

Overall in 2017/18, there was a total footfall in the seven centres of 57,295. This figure accounts for the amount of times (volume) a child or carer attended the centres. The wards with the highest number of carers and children attending centres were Romford (13% of visitors), Mawneys (11%) and Havering Park (10%). South Hornchurch and Harold Wood both had low numbers of individual residents visiting the centres (both at 4%).

St Kilda's had the highest footfall at 15,217 (27% of overall visitors), followed by Collier Row at 13,277 (23%). This means that 50% of all visits took place at only two of the centres. Hilldene had the lowest footfall at 1,992 (3%), followed by Chippenham Road at 4,658 (8%). The most popular activities across the centres were midwifery appointments (23%), Child Health Clinics (20%), Stay and Play (16%) and Development Checks (11%). 54% of all visitors to the centres were accessing health services in 2017/18.

There were 5,353 visits from individuals who were resident in communities in the most deprived IDACI decile compared to 3,998 in 2016/17, meaning a 25% increase. These visitors mainly visited Ingrebourne (which only delivers birth registrations, midwife appointments and preparing for birth sessions), St Kilda's and Chippenham Road.

For 2017/18, 42% of the activities or events at the centres were delivered by Early Years Practitioners; 38% of all footfall accounted for attendance at these sessions. 1,734 visitors to the centres were out of borough so are not reflected in the ward breakdown.

7. Families at centres and involved with the Early Help Service

For 2017/18, there were 544 families who were involved with the Early Help Service (i.e. an intervention from a Family Practitioner). The highest proportion (both 10%) of these families lived in Gooshays and Heaton, followed by South Hornchurch (9%). There were 2,772 families who registered at a children's centre in 2017/18. The wards with the highest number of families registering were Brooklands, Romford Town and Gooshays. 335 families who registered also lived out of borough. The wards with the lowest registration numbers were Upminster, Cranham and Hacton.

Furthermore, there were 265 families who were seen three or more times (sustained contact) within 2017/18 at the children centres. This accounts for 4% of the reach of all families who were seen at the centres in this time period. Of these families, 11% scored within the top 10% most deprived. This tells us that families living in the most deprived areas who have visited centres are mostly not returning more than twice. 33% of families who sustained contact scored over 40% IDACI. The wards with the highest number of sustained contacts were Havering Park, Heaton and Gooshays. No families from Cranham or Upminster sustained contact at the centres.

8. Pregnant teenagers

Definition: *a teenage mother is classed as those aged between 12 and 17 at the time of delivery.*

Data on teenage mothers is available by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) rather than ward. This is due to the limited numbers of mothers meaning that they could be easily identified through data at ward level. In 2017/18, there were 12 young women (all of whom were aged 17) who gave birth in Havering (there were nine each in both Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge aged between 15 and 17 years). Teenage pregnancy rates in Havering have decreased from 35 per 1000 births being to mothers aged 15-17 in 2009 to 20 births per 1000 in 2016. However this reduction has been slow compared to progress nationally, and a review of Havering's overall strategy is planned. Irrespective of future success, we will continue to need to support a small, and hopefully reducing, number of teenage mothers.

Children's centres record the number of pregnant teenagers visiting the centres, and also offer the Mellow Babies course which is a parenting programme for mothers aged 16-23 years old. 16 individual mothers (reach) were recorded as attending Mellow Babies between January-July 2018.

In 2017/18, 55 visits by pregnant teenagers (reach) at the centres by a variety of services, although none were recorded as visiting Chippenham Road. 42% of these visited Ingrebourne, which only offers midwifery appointments, preparing for birth sessions and birth registrations. It should be noted that the reach is measured by centre, therefore these individuals could have visited different centres and be recorded separately. In 2016/17, there were 75 visits by pregnant teenagers recorded at the centres (27% more than 2017/18).

9. Children subject to Child in Need and Child Protection Plans and Looked after Children.

Children and their families who are in receipt of statutory safeguarding services from the Local Authority are prioritised for universal and targeted services. This is usually via a referral from a professional or through the parents self-referring. The Contact Team, who supervise and facilitate contact between children in care and their families, are based at Elm Park Children's Centre and use space at other children's centres. These services are a vital part of our statutory duty as corporate parents.

In June 2018 there were 501 Child in Need (CiN) plans and 243 Child Protection (CP) plans in the borough. For CiN plans, the highest numbers were in Heaton, Gooshays and Romford; plans in these three wards accounted for 34% of the total number of plans. CiN plans in Heaton have increased by 51% and by 25% in Romford Town compared to June 2017. Of these CiN plans, 29% (146) were for children under the age of five. Heaton was the ward with the highest amount (22), followed by Elm Park (17) and Gooshays (16).

For CP plans, 29% of the total plans were in Gooshays and Romford Town. Notable increases compared to June 2017 include Romford Town (40%), Squirrel's Heath (92%) and Elm Park (35%). No CP plans were recorded in Upminster and Emerson Park. Of these CP plans, 79 (33%) were for children under the age of five. Brooklands and Gooshays were joint highest (both with 12), followed by Romford Town (9).

10. Domestic Violence

In 2017/18 there were 715 domestic violence contacts in the Early Help Service. Gooshays, Heaton and Brooklands had the highest numbers, accounting for 36% of total contacts; these wards were also the highest for 2016/17. There has also been a 25% decrease in the number of domestic violence contacts compared to 2016/17. Furthermore, 39% of all domestic violence contacts in 2017/18 involved a child aged 0-5.

Between January-July 2018, it was recorded that 20 individual women attended sessions held by Solace; no attendees for Women's Aid sessions were recorded but this is likely to be due to the confidential nature of the groups.

11. Benefit claims

The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the DWP's benefits system. This includes Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance. The average across Havering is 1.6%, compared to the London average of 2.2%.

The wards with the highest claimant count in August 2018 were Gooshays, Heaton, Romford Town, Brooklands and South Hornchurch. Between January-July 2018, there were 43 attendees at the Employment Advisor sessions which are held at St Kilda's Children's Centre. Initial success of these sessions indicates that it would be beneficial to be able to offer this service in other areas of the borough. Parents/carers can come and access support with returning to employment, training, job opportunities/searching etc. The sessions are run by professionals from DABD and Havering Works through booked appointments or drop in sessions. From the 22nd October 2018, Peabody Trust will also be part of the sessions. Families are usually referred to the service via the Troubled Families Employment Advisors.

The wards with the highest percentage of children who are eligible for and claiming free school meals (FSM) for 2018 are Romford Town (30%), Havering Park (25%) and Gooshays (19%). Significant changes since 2017 are a 50% increase in Romford Town (15% in 2017), 50% decrease in Elm Park (6% in 2017) and 44% decrease in Heaton (13% in 2017). There was also a 38% decrease in Rainham and Wennington. Seven out of 18 wards experienced an increase in the percentage of children claiming FSM compared to 2017. The average percentage for children in reception claiming FSM across the borough was 11.9%.

12. Education

In 2018 the wards with the highest percentage of children achieving a Good Level Development (GLD) at the end of reception were Hacton, Squirrel's Heath and Hylands (unchanged from 2017). Significant changes since 2017 are a 19% decrease in Romford Town, and a 13% increase in Rainham and Wennington. This ward was the fourth lowest scoring ward in 2017 but is the fourth highest scoring for 2018. The average percentage for GLD across the borough was 70.8% and the average for London is 71.1%. Romford Town is Havering's lowest ward, scoring 58.6%.

There is work ongoing within the Local Authority to develop a partnership approach to school readiness, alongside an agreed set of indicators that could point towards a child potentially not being ready to start school. Opportunities exist in Early Years settings through the two year old education development check and via the universal Health Visiting Service two and a half year old health development check to identify development delays prior to children reaching school age. Better collation and comparison of data from the checks could enable the Early Help Service to offer targeted support and for children's centres to offer services according to need.

13. SEND

For children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), the wards with the highest numbers were Upminster, Gooshays and Hylands. All wards, with the exception of Upminster, experienced decreases compared to 2017, most notably in Emerson Park and Mawneys (both 64% decreases). It should be noted that often children are not diagnosed as having SEN until after the age of five. The average percentage for SEN across the borough was 3.7%.

There has been a 4% increase in the number of children aged 0-5 with disabilities known to the Local Authority between June 2017 and July 2018. This list includes children who are in pre-school, nursery and reception settings. Gooshays, Romford Town and Heaton had the highest numbers, with Gooshays seeing a 21% increase compared to 2017.

Services for children with disabilities at children's centres include a sensory group at Elm Park, which is delivered by the Children and Adults with Disabilities (CAD) Team with the focus on children with additional needs, as well as sensory play sessions at Collier Row and Chippenham Road delivered by an Early Years Practitioner. In addition, CAD screenings are offered at Elm Park, Chippenham Road and Collier Row, and a sign language class is also offered at Elm Park. It should be noted that Elm Park, where the majority of these services are delivered from, is not located in the areas with the highest numbers of children aged 0-5 with disabilities. There is scope in the future to expand this offer to further locations across the borough.

Conclusions

This document has analysed Havering's population, the level of usage of the centres, where families who access the services are coming from and whether the services are being accessed by the families who are resident in the wards where there is the most deprivation.

- Centres which are most used are Collier Row and St Kilda's
 - Accounted for 41% of the total reach of all seven centres, and they are also the largest centres
- Footfall was particularly low at Hilldene and Chippenham Road, both located in Havering's most deprived wards. It should be noted that these are particularly small centres with a limited range of provision on offer.
- Population projections show that there are expected increases in South Hornchurch, Romford Town and Brooklands, all of which are categorised as deprived wards
- Data suggests that families are attending the centres that are closest to where they live
- Significant amount of activities had a reach of less than 50 individuals over a seven month period in 2018
- Centres are primarily used by families for health services
 - 54% of all those who visited (volume) the centres in 2017/18 accessed health services
- Most families involved with the Early Help Service were in Gooshays, Heaton and South Hornchurch
 - Indicates areas where earlier intervention at a universal level could have been effective to prevent escalation of need
 - Gooshays, Heaton, Elm Park, Brooklands and Romford Town are the highest wards with children aged 0-5 on CiN and CP plans.
 - Currently, the only provision to help parents with employment is delivered from St Kilda's (located in Romford Town). However from November 2018 Havering Works will be collocated Hilldene, Collier Row and Rainham Village.
- For child development, Romford Town, Heaton and Gooshays are significantly below the London average
 - These wards also have the highest levels of children aged 0-5 with disabilities

It is positive to note that the footfall at Children's Centres has increased since the last analysis. The majority of visitors attending centres are accessing health services, such as development checks and midwifery appointments. Strategic planning has been undertaken over the last 12 months to align activities with health sessions, such as Infant Feeding Café and Starting Solids Workshop. There has also been a focus on implementing groups and activities that focus on positive child development, for example Ready Steady Talk Groups have started at five of the centres.

The data shows that there is potential for us to ensure that centres are being used to their full capacity, thus ensuring that we are targeting services to our most vulnerable residents. 40% of children under 5 who are resident in the wards within the 10% most deprived areas in the country were seen at Children's Centres in 2017/18. Work needs to continue to ensure that we reach the vulnerable residents within these areas who would benefit from our services. We also need to be more creative in our promotion of activities, for example reaching out to NCT groups, GP surgeries and providing knowledge to community representatives of services on offer. Exploration is also being given to delivering services out of alternative venues, thus increasing accessibility within the community. When promoting activities, we also need to take into account the literacy levels in different areas of the borough. Data from The National Literacy trust shows that eight wards in Havering score 3 or less on the indicator of need (1 being the greatest need and 9 being the least need). These wards correlate with those areas which are categorised as the most deprived.

Going forward, we now have nine volunteers that have been trained and DBS checked and will support with the continued increase of the 0-5 offer. A further proposal will be developed to look at how

we deliver the children's centre offer in the future, ensuring that we are providing efficient and cost effective services that have the most benefit to our residents.

July 2018