Pinner Wood Children’s Centre and The Pinner Centre

Consultation 2017/18

4 December 2017 – 22 December 2017

Asking for public views on proposed changes at the:

Pinner Wood Children’s Centre and The Pinner Centre

This consultation is available to fill out online via Harrow Council’s consultation webpage https://consult.harrow.gov.uk/consult.ti

Alternatively, you can complete the attached form and hand it in to Pinner Wood School or Pinner Wood Children’s Centre, or send to Pinner Wood Consultation, C/o Communications, Civic Centre 1, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2XY.

Closing date 4pm on Friday 22 December
Introduction

Harrow Council is seeking your views on proposals to changes at the Pinner Wood Children’s Centre and The Pinner Centre.

The Pinner Wood Children’s Centre was relocated to The Pinner Centre as part of the relocation of Pinner Wood Primary School in April 2017 on a temporary basis. The relocation was necessary to enable the Council to stabilise the ground following the discovery of extensive chalk mines across the site. The work is progressing well and Pinner Wood Primary School will return to their site in January 2018.

During this period the Council and Pinner Wood School have worked together very closely and both wish to build on this partnership in the future. The proposals will establish and increase the services provided by the Early Support Service and increase services and support for local children and their families at Pinner Wood School. We believe that by taking these proposals forward together there are benefits for the children and families of Pinner and we would like your views on our joint proposals.

Pinner Wood School and Pinner Wood Children’s Centre

Current Arrangements

Pinner Wood Children’s Centre delivers a range of services including facilities for the children of adult learners, family learning and speech and language therapy. The centre works closely with extended services and schools to provide activities in the summer term and holidays to support children with their transition to Pinner Wood School.

Pinner Wood Primary School values the work of Early Support and would welcome the opportunity to continue to build upon their working relationship even if they are not on site. The School would promote courses to parents and would support the ‘School readiness work’ which is a core activity for children’s centres and Early Support.

Proposals for Pinner Wood School

Pinner Wood Primary School would like to achieve the following at their school site to meet the needs of their local children and families. This would require the use of the Children’s Centre’s accommodation:
Extending breakfast and after-school provision

Currently, there are breakfast and after-school clubs on site. These clubs help the many working families that need support with childcare. The clubs currently have capacity for forty pupils and with over 600 pupils at the school there are insufficient spaces with a waiting list of 70 pupils.

The plan is to double the number of places offered and organise the children into two age groups (younger and older). The Children's Centre building would provide an age-appropriate environment for the younger children and there is a kitchen so food could be provided to meet Ofsted requirements.

Nursery provision

Pinner Wood School has a 52-place nursery offering 15 hours which is either morning or afternoon. This year there has been a reduction in children attending the nursery because 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 30 hours and the current provision does not suit the needs of the local community.

Pinner Wood School would like to remodel their offer to include flexible hours and the 30-hour offer. This will require accommodation with separate access and flexibility to provide lunches and nap times required for all-day nursery provision. Using space at the Children’s Centre will enable this to happen.

Therapeutic support

There is a range of additional support available to children and their families to enhance their learning and achievement. These include support from professionals such as Education Psychologists, as well as speech and language therapy, play therapy and a learning mentor. These will be based within the Children’s Centre space.

Proposal at The Pinner centre

As a temporary arrangement the operation of a single Early Support delivery site in Pinner has been a positive experience. To realise the vision for Early Support the intention is to sustain and build on the current offer for local families with the opportunity to develop a range of new services for families of children and young people aged 6 – 19/25years. In addition, by working in partnership with Pinner Wood School, the services for young children and their families will be provided and the Pinner Centre will be able to provide a wider range of services.

Whilst services continue to be delivered at the Pinner Centre for under 5s, including accommodation of a pre-school, the Council has recognised that there is an opportunity to further develop services at the site from 3.30pm onwards and into the early evenings. This is coupled with what is understood to be a growing
demand for targeted youth activities and a noticeable increase in the numbers of young people frequenting the local area and park surrounding the site. The Pinner Centre offers a more suitable venue for the wide range of Early Support activities with large and small spaces suitable for both older and younger children.

The Early Support Youth Offer is currently in consultation with partner agencies and young people to explore what types of services could be delivered to young people from the Pinner Centre. The services being considered are those which are centred on improving opportunities and the wellbeing of young people including services around mental health, education and employment.

How to respond

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Next Steps

All the comments will be considered by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services and a decision will be made about the future arrangements. We will publish the outcome of the consultation on the council and schools websites.