

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT

EARLY YEARS IN

SHEFFIELD

Over the last few years more and more funding has been taken from Early Years services in Sheffield and as a result there has been a reduction in services for young families in the city.

During 2011 the council undertook a review of Early Years services but omitted looking at their Multi Agency Support Teams and largely ignored the views of the professionals working in the field who took part in this review in good faith. They have finally put forward recommendations which if they are accepted will destroy much of the remaining effective early years practice while claiming it will improve services. In practice these recommendations will mean:

Quality is undermined with a lack of training opportunities for Early Years Practitioners, no training in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage and 6 of Sheffield's "Outstanding" settings being put under threat of closure

Current contracts to providers of essential services for vulnerable families e.g. Homestart and advice services are ending with insufficient time to procure new services before the start of the financial year.

Children's Centres will be reorganised into areas making them less accountable to their local communities and further reducing a service that is already a shadow of the original vision.

100% of funding will be cut from the nurseries in the most deprived areas forcing a number to close and leaving parents who want to work and train with no support. Other nurseries will be forced to be less flexible.

In summary, these cuts will hit the most vulnerable the hardest. The council want to know your views about these cuts to services please take the time to tell them that this is not an acceptable way forward and that alternatives must be found. Go to the meeting for parents at the **Town Hall, Reception Room B on 11th January** or fill in the online questionnaire at

www.sheffield.gov.uk/earlyyearsreview

Parents and Carers Please Go Along and Have Your Say About Early Years in Sheffield

Where and When?

11th January 2013 from 10.00am—6.00pm

Reception Room B, Town Hall, Pinstone Street

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