

## APPENDIX

Minute CS/11/67 - Children Centres; Delivery in Central Bedfordshire

Written response to questions arising at the meeting:-

### Questions

1. Was the policy encapsulated in Option 1 Council or Government led?
2. Had there been any change since October 2011 to the Children's Minister's verbal commitment to continue the Early Intervention Grant until 2015?
3. Why a status quo option had not been included in the consultation process?
4. Why an Overview & Scrutiny Task Force had not been commissioned to review the issue?
5. In terms of advantages 4 & 6 pertaining to Option 1 (as outlined on Page 23 of the report), can greater detail be provided to explain which services and what finances would be refocused into areas of greatest need (Advantage 4), and what cost savings will accrue and what other early intervention work will it be used for (Advantage 6)?
6. Has any meaningful cost v benefit analysis been undertaken on any of the options proposed?

### Response

1. The proposal arose out of a government focus on targeting need and also out of the Council's own Child Poverty Strategy;
2. No, and the grant has come in for 2012/2013 in line with the indicative figure expected, which has allowed previous commitments to this grant to be fulfilled;
3. The consultation team advised that status quo as an option was not an option but associated meetings did recognise that members could decide not to implement any change;
4. There is a timing issue, the contracts have to be renegotiated by April 2012;
5. Up to £500k could be refocused and retargeted. This will be in line with the Council's previously agreed commissioning strategy, and outcomes and budget spend will be reported in the usual budget reports and update on the outcomes of the Children and Young People's plan; and
6. A broad cost benefit analysis leading to the notional figure of £500k refocusing of resources was considered, as were other potential budget areas that could be levered in, not only by the Council, but by other partners. In later stages the analysis focused on the preferred option as it became clear that there was to be a strong preference for the preferred option.