



## 5. Developing a Children's Centre : When to engage with the health sector

**What:** a tool to assist you in planning your Children's Centre

**How:** by showing you when to engage in the right way - highlighting the activities that should involve joint LA/Health working at each stage of the Four Stages to Developing a Children's Centre

# Developing a Children's Centre: when to engage with the Health Sector?



<b>Understand the needs of your local community</b>	Make use of relevant data sources such as local childcare capacity audit, child health mapping data and local JCP of DWP data
<b>Engage with the right people</b>	Engage with director for public health  Engage with mental health practitioners in CAMHS and with clinical and educational psychology services  Engage with health practitioners at strategic PCT level and at operational levels  Talk to local health professionals
<b>Consult with Local partners</b>	Consult with local parents  Consult with local children  Consult with local voluntary and faith groups.
<b>Agree your local priorities</b>	Look at Children and Young Peoples Plan  Select appropriate health related services on offer  Agree appropriate targets together
<b>Plan for Delivery</b>	Identify who will be used to get the services up and running eg a delivery group



<b>Focus on the customers</b>	<p>Consider the user experience or pathway of services – ensure what is being ordered fits</p> <p>Consider access routes and make them seamless for the customer</p> <p>Consult with local parents and children</p>
<b>Focus on what is going on already</b>	<p>Identify programmes that are local and timely, into which CC could interface</p> <p>Put your Children’s Centre into context with existing locality teams or clusters</p> <p>Consider the existing workforce’s skills and competences – ensure these fit with planned services</p>
<b>Develop</b>	<p>Implement a training and development plan for employees to ensure that any gaps in skills and competencies are addressed</p>
<b>Make it happen</b>	<p>Plan appropriate joint or integrated services</p> <p>Commission those services</p> <p>Put in place the appropriate governance arrangements to manage those health services</p> <p>Initiate an integrated service improvement process, through an accredited quality assurance framework</p>

**Stage 3**  **Operate**

<b>Communicate</b>	<p>Let your local community know what is being offered</p> <p>Keep people up to date if services, timings or locations change</p>
<b>Understand the impact of your services</b>	<p>Create a baseline</p> <p>Establish a performance management framework – the TfC Performance Management Toolkit can be of assistance</p> <p>Evaluate your services</p>
<b>Improve your services</b>	<p>Integrate your service practice</p> <p>Develop and deliver joint or integrated training for your staff</p> <p>Ensure your governance mechanisms are working</p>

**Stage 4**  **Improve**

<b>Always focus on improvement</b>	<p>Develop a continuous improvement plan for your centre and your services</p> <p>Review, evaluate</p> <p>Respond to your evaluation; make the changes that are necessary</p> <p>Share your good practice with neighbouring CCs, LAs, PCTs...</p> <p>Use other people's models of good practice to improve your services</p> <p>Consider the development needs of your staff and ensure they get the training they need</p> <p>Continue to consult with parents and children: are we still doing what we said we would?</p> <p>Does what we do continue to meet need?</p>
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