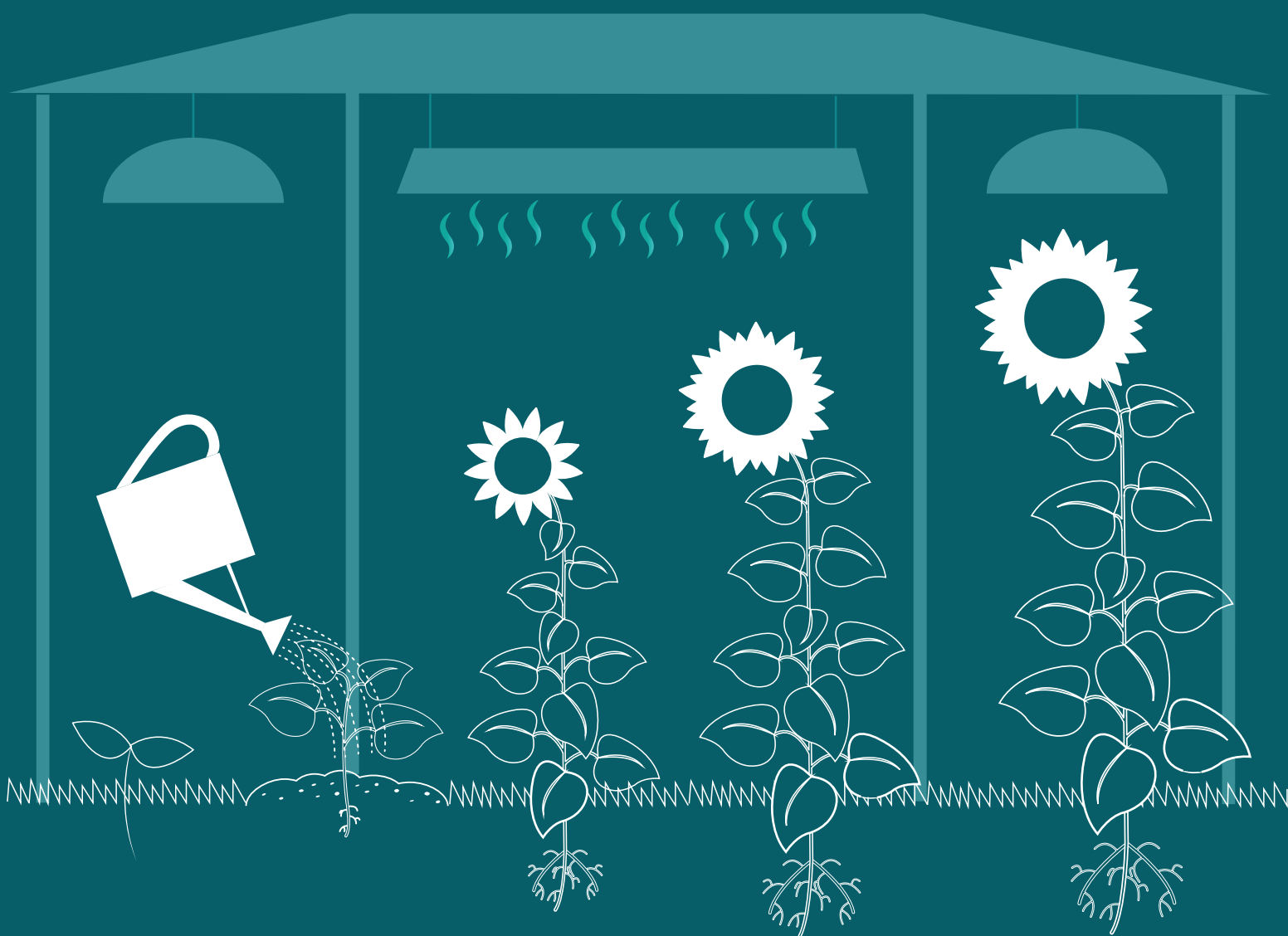


# Summary of proposed changes to Children's Centres in Stoke-on-Trent



## **Summary of proposed changes to Children's Centres in Stoke-on-Trent**

Stoke-on-Trent City Council is proposing to develop a 'family hub' model to deliver services for children and families. This means delivering services for families from a range of buildings within local communities, providing outreach support and delivering some services online.

We think this will allow us to focus our resources on those services that make the most difference to families by reducing spend on the administration, maintenance and management of our buildings. The proposal also aims to build on the changing ways that people use our services.

We are committed to continuing to deliver the best quality services in local communities using different facilities and through different means of delivery to ensure that families most in need of help and support can still access it easily. The number of services available in other local venues will increase as part of this proposal to ensure children of all ages continue to receive the right support when they need it most.

We are proposing to retain five centres and develop them into family hubs within the government's definition. They are:

- Stoke North
- Tunstall
- Thomas Boughey
- Westfield
- Stoke

We are proposing to transfer two of the current centres to third party organisations no later than April 2023. They may or may not remain legally designated Children's Centres, subject to negotiation with third sector organisations. They are:

- Burslem
- Treehouse

Finally, we are proposing to close three Children's Centres and relocate the services currently offered within them into other local facilities which may include schools and community centres situated in close proximity to the current Children's Centre site. They are:

- Blurton Children's Centre
- The Crescent Children's Centre
- Norton Children's Centre

### **What will happen to the services in those centres?**

Services will not be reduced. It is proposed that services will move to alternative venues including remaining children's centres, schools, community centres and other local venues close to the current Children's Centre.

### **What does this mean for me if I use Blurton, The Crescent or Norton Children's Centres?**

Services will continue to be delivered by different means and from different venues close to the existing sites. You may have to go to a different local venue to access some services. You may need to speak to your lead professional (midwife, family support, and speech and language therapist) to ask about outreach support or alternative locations.

### **Why are we planning to close these centres?**

So that we can bring together more services, in fewer venues and increase the amount of outreach work and online support we are able to provide. So that we can spend the limited money that is available to us on delivering better services and less money on maintaining buildings. So that we can deliver more services across a broader range of venues and increase the support available online to reflect the changing ways that families use our services.

You can read about the proposals in full at [www.stoke.gov.uk/childrencentresconsultation](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/childrencentresconsultation)

**We would like to hear your views about these proposals to help us make sure that services for families are delivered in the right way to best meet local needs.**

**To share your feedback you can get in touch in the following ways:**

- You can write to us at the below address:

**Budget 2021, Civic Centre, Glebe Street, Stoke on Trent, ST4 1HH**

- You can call 01782 234234 and ask for more information about the proposals.
- You can email us at [ChildrenCentreFeedback@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrenCentreFeedback@stoke.gov.uk)