

# The Cherry Tree Centre Design Consultation report

### **Change history**

Version	Change Description	Author	Date
0.1		Rosie Burke	18/11/2022
0.2		Rosie Burke	09/12/2022
0.3		Rosie Burke	12/01/2023

### **Document sign off**

	Name	Signature	Date
Originator	Rosie Burke		18/11/2022
Input	PRS Architects, Consultation & Participation team		18/11/2022
Reviewed	Preeti Chatwal-Kauffman		
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### Purpose:

The purpose of this document is

End of consultation report for proposed changes to Cherry Tree Nursery

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### 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The current supervised contact service operates from a building in Kennington that is sub-optimal and does not meet the needs of service users. Foster carers are frequently raising issues about a lack of facilities, and the absence of a suitable place for carers to wait while contact is taking place. Parents complain that rooms are too small and that there is not adequate space for children to play. The building is situated in a residential estate with no parking spaces.

There is concern that carers' dissatisfaction will have an impact on their ability to take on placements, resulting in the commissioning of costlier independent provisions.

### 1.2 Our proposals

The proposal is to move the current supervised contact service from White Hart St, Kennington SE11 to Barston Rd, Norwood, in the old Cherry Tree Nursery. We will re-design the old Cherry Tree Nursery to accommodate the proposed contact and assessment Centre. This includes improving the facilities and spaces available at the new centre for users.

The design proposal is based on early feasibility studies, a detailed Business Plan, recently commissioned building and sitewide surveys as well as conversations with operators and end users.

### 2 The consultation

### 2.1 Consultation objectives

The objective of the consultation was to support the creation of the Cherry Tree Centre and to discuss the design proposals and spatial planning of the new contact centre. The aim of the Design consultation was to engage with a wide range of stakeholders from service users, staff, and local stakeholders to get their views on the Design proposals.

#### 2.2 Who we consulted

#### We consulted with:

- Focus group/user groups
- Foster carers and carers who currently use the existing service
- Staff who work in the existing service
- Cabinet member and the Ward Councillors
- Residents near the Cherry Tree Nursery

#### 2.3 When we consulted

The Design consultations ran between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Apart from the online consultations, design workshops were arranged with the wider focus groups and stakeholders.

Lambeth Children Services, Lambeth Capital Studio Major projects team (the Head of Capital Programme, the Project Manager along with the appointed PRS Architects) produced several presentations that engaged with Foster Carers and carers, staff, and ward councillors between August - September 2022.

### 2.4 How we consulted

Consultation meetings were held via 3 teams with staff meeting:

24<sup>th</sup> August – 7 attendees

5<sup>th</sup> September - 12 attendees

14<sup>th</sup> September - 12 attendees.

An online consultation ran between 9<sup>th</sup> September and closed 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Emails were sent to internal staff regarding the online consultation and in turn they sent emails out to their external contacts such as clients who would be using the service and external stakeholders who also have links to the service.

The consultation provided a dedicated email address if participants wished to respond through this channel.

### 2.4.1 Press activity

There was no Specific press activity

### 2.4.2 Digital activity

Participants were directed to the online consultation platform on Lambeth Councils website and a dedicated email address. The email address and link to the online consultation were shared with internal staff, ward councillors, foster carers and carers who promoted it to their own networks. Please see Appendix A, for snapshot of the online consultation communication.

### 2.4.3 Print activity

There was no specific print activity

### 2.4.4 Event activity

The Head of Capital Programme, project manager and the architects undertook several online presentations with internal staff and foster carers.

### 3 Responses from members of the public

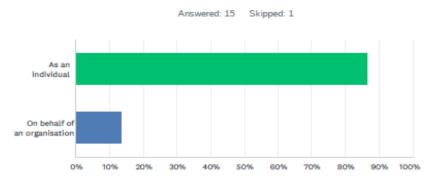
### 3.1 Summary of results by graphs/charts

The online consultation and email address provided, was answered by 17 respondents. 14 People answered the online questionnaire as individuals and 2 answered as part of the organisation. 1 person emailed directly to give their views.

Participants where asked a variety of questions pertaining to the old Family contact centre and the new Cherry Tree centre. Below are questions asked which are illustrated by graphs/charts.

Survey into proposed changes to Cherry Tree Family Centre

### Q1 Are you responding to this survey



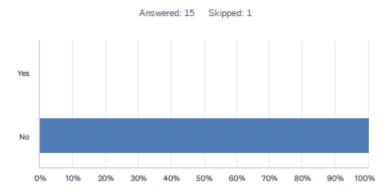
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
As an individual	86.67%	13
On behalf of an organisation	13.33%	2
TOTAL		15

### Q2 Please provide the name of your organisation

Answered: 2 Skipped: 14

#	Responses
1	London Borough of Lambeth
2	London Borough of Lambeth

### Q3 Have you visited the existing Family Centre located at 14 White Hart St, London SE11 4EP?



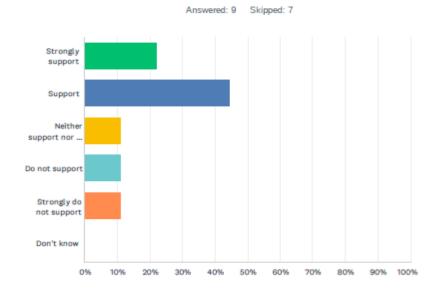
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	100.00%	15
TOTAL		15

## Q4 If you have visited the existing centre, or might visit a family centre in the future, what would make the proposed new Cherry Tree Family Centre better for you and your family?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 11

RESPONSES	DATE
It would be closer to home for contact visits and easier to drive to and park	9/27/2022 5:07 PM
The contact rooms and the whole environment look modern and welcoming and there is privacy.	9/27/2022 12:17 PM
Rooms set out like a typical family living room. Bright cosy comfortable. Good supply of toys/art supplies for all ages. Outdoor play/quiet areas. Large outdoor equipment. Kitchen area so parents can cook.	9/22/2022 11:21 PM
As a professional using it, availability to use it after 5pm, to 8pm.	9/13/2022 11:25 AM
child friendly	9/8/2022 4:13 PM
	It would be closer to home for contact visits and easier to drive to and park  The contact rooms and the whole environment look modern and welcoming and there is privacy.  Rooms set out like a typical family living room. Bright cosy comfortable. Good supply of toys/art supplies for all ages. Outdoor play/quiet areas. Large outdoor equipment. Kitchen area so parents can cook.  As a professional using it, availability to use it after 5pm, to 8pm.

### Q5 To what extent do you support the Family Centre Design proposals?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	22.22%	2
Support	44.44%	4
Neither support nor do not support	11.11%	1
Do not support	11.11%	1
Strongly do not support	11.11%	1
Don't know	0.00%	0
TOTAL		9

### Q6 Please provide reasons for your answer to Question: 5

Answered: 7 Skipped: 9

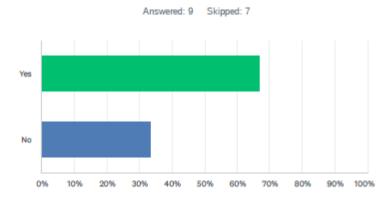
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There are no plans to accommodate special needs (autistic) families.	10/19/2022 2:36 PM
2	The Cherry Tree Centre is not easily accessible by public transport. This is essential when making and keeping appointments.	10/13/2022 3:06 PM
3	It is more central, as many foster carers live in the south of the borough or Croydon area and currently has on-street parking nearby	9/27/2022 5:09 PM
4	I would have preferred it to remain a nursery, especially given the development proposals for Norwood road which will greatly increase population density and the need for nursery places - but if that isn't possible I'm pleased it will remain a council resource with a family focus. Much needed. The renovation looks modern, welcoming, and appears to retain the scale and footprint of the current building, so I hope it will be an efficient/cost effective alteration. The nursery was purpose built only about 25/30 years ago, and as a local rate payer I would have been protesting strongly and publicly if the council had abandoned it, or pulled it down after such a short term investment.	9/27/2022 12:57 PM
5	I prefer it to a block of flats that reduces the light into our properties and a family centre can benefit the whole comunity	9/27/2022 11:52 AM
6	Important part of our social infrastructure	9/27/2022 10:13 AM
7	Looks like a comfortable environment, but it is important the soft furnishing is also comfortable, hot drinks (hot chocolate) facilities;	9/13/2022 11:27 AM

### Q7 If you have any other comments about the design please provide them here

Answered: 3 Skipped: 13

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The proposal to some extent is about the design, but more importantly how easy it is to get to the centre. The Cherry Tree centre is not easy to get to.	10/13/2022 3:06 PM
2	My house backs on to the site and two things might affect our environment negatively: 1 When the nursery was built the beautiful trees were cut down- there are now three or four mature trees regrown which are an asset to us and I think would be to the centre's environment- would hate to lose those again. (One fairly mis-shapen sapling has been allowed to grow up very near the storage building at the back of the site however, and I would be happy to discuss paying for/donating a nicer tree, maybe a blossom or fruit tree if the council wished to replace that one, which could benefit everyone? 2 While the nursery has been closed there has been some noise, from a generator possibly, which has been disturbing us when using the garden and especially on nights when we have to have windows open. Some people have mentioned this before to the local councillors but we have not had a response. I hope the heat pump which is planned will be quiet and sited so that there is no noise interference to people living nearest.	9/27/2022 12:57 PM
3	Address tree line to rear of chancellor grove. Trees in poor condition and of a height that risk damaging properties on CG and the family centre.	9/27/2022 10:13 AM

### Q8 Do you live within walking distance of the Cherry Tree nursery site?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.67%	6
No	33.33%	3
TOTAL		9

### Q9 If you have any concerns about how the proposed new Cherry Tree Family Centre will impact the local area, please tell us about them here.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 12

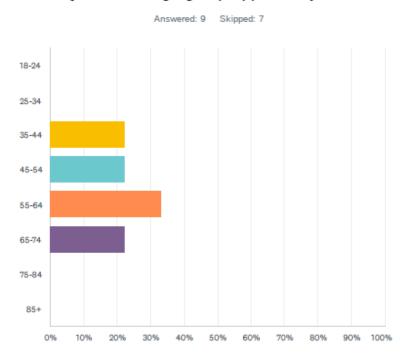
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The proposal will not impact the area, but in my opinion it should just stay as a nursery for the immediate local area and not as a centre for the wider Lambeth community. It is not easily accessible to all.	10/13/2022 3:06 PM
2	It could create parking problems for local residents nearby	9/27/2022 5:09 PM
3	I have written two possible negatives in the previous box re the design itself. In addition parking and car use will probably increase so the impact on local streets needs to be considered and monitored properly.	9/27/2022 12:57 PM
4	No none	9/27/2022 11:52 AM

### 3.2 Summary of results from free text

The summary of results from the free text questions are included above in 3.1 for questions 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and demonstrates the themes of responses. Broadly, the answers provided suggest that those who responded were in favour of the proposals. Several people felt the new Cherry Tree site may not be easily accessible. A few people were concerned about the trees located in Cherry Tree and would not like them to be cut down.

### 3.3 Summary of post code analysis and demographics

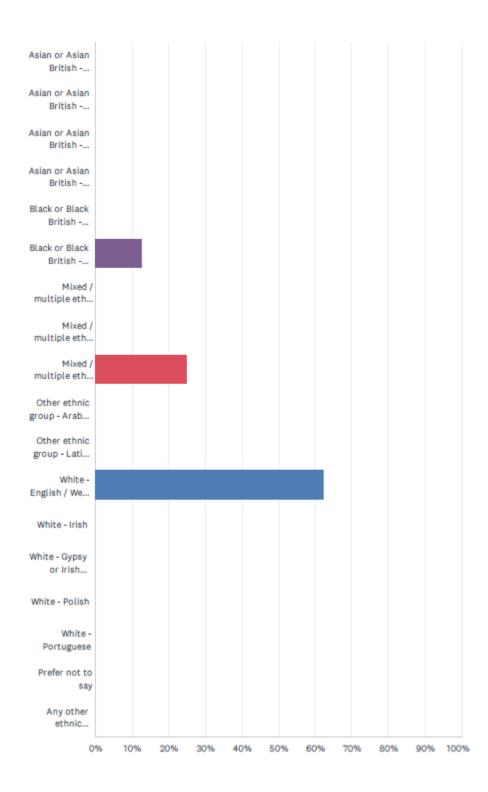
### Q10 Which age group applies to you?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18-24	0.00%	0
25-34	0.00%	0
35-44	22.22%	2
45-54	22.22%	2
55-64	33.33%	3
65-74	22.22%	2
75-84	0.00%	0
85+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		9

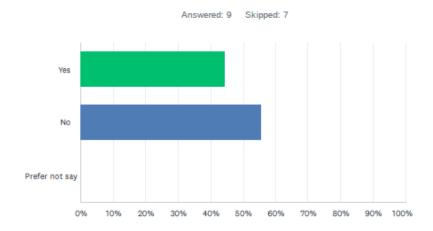
### Q11 What is your race or ethnic group?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 8



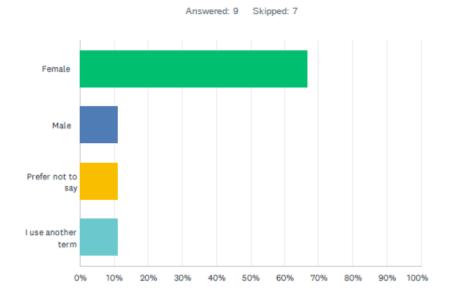
AROMEN GIOTOLO	NESI ONSES	
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0.00%	0
Black or Black British - African	0.00%	0
Black or Black British - Caribbean	12.50%	1
Mixed / multiple ethnic background - Asian or Asian British and white	0.00%	0
Mixed / multiple ethnic background - Black or Black British (African) and white	0.00%	0
Mixed / multiple ethnic background - Black or Black British (Caribbean) and white	25.00%	2
Other ethnic group - Arab or Arab British	0.00%	0
Other ethnic group - Latin American/ Latinx or Latin American and British	0.00%	0
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	62.50%	5
White - Irish	0.00%	0
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
White - Polish	0.00%	0
White - Portuguese	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	0.00%	0
Any other ethnic background not listed above (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		8

### Q12 Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term health condition?



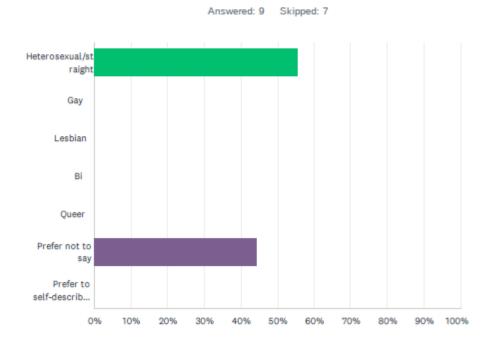
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.44%	4
No	55.56%	5
Prefer not say	0.00%	0
TOTAL		9

### Q13 What is your sex?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	66.67%	6
Male	11.11%	1
Prefer not to say	11.11%	1
I use another term	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

### Q14 Which best describes your sexual orientation?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Heterosexual/straight	55.56%	5
Gay	0.00%	0
Lesbian	0.00%	0
Bi	0.00%	0
Queer	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	44.44%	4
Prefer to self-describe (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		9

### 3.4 Summary email response

One email was received in the Cherry Tree email inbox for views on the proposed cherry tree centre. The respondent made 3 points as outlined below: -

"I may have more comments to provide in the future, however three points for now:

- There appears to be no cycle parking proposed, contrary to London Plan and Lambeth policy
- Is a location in the very south of the borough distant from even buses (let alone rail) appropriate to serve the whole borough especially given that those who will be using the centre may well not have a car and could have disabilities?
- It seems like a waste opportunity not to redevelop the site to deliver much needed housing especially affordable housing alongside the Family Centre use (subject to the query above as to the location for this use).

### 4 Responses from statutory bodies and other stakeholders

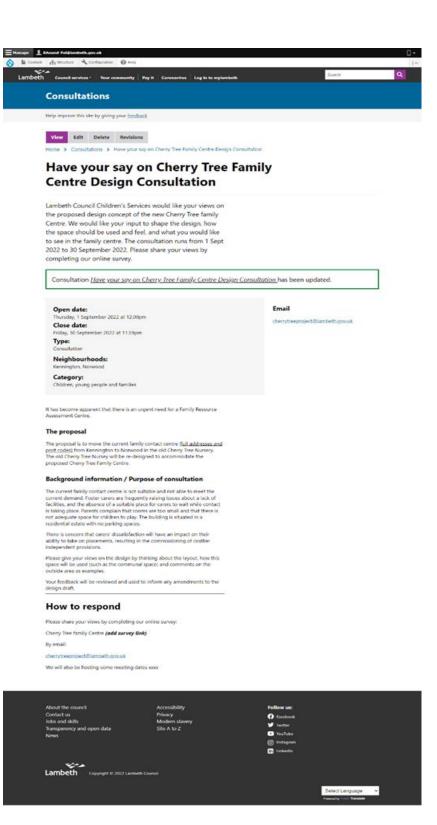
### 5 What happens next

The report will be submitted to [meeting/officer] together with a final Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) and covering report making final recommendations on the preferred approach.

### **Appendices**

### Appendix A – Consultation communications

Press releases, stakeholder emails and letters, posters, leaflets, the consultation document, the consultation questionnaire, website screen grab, etc.,]



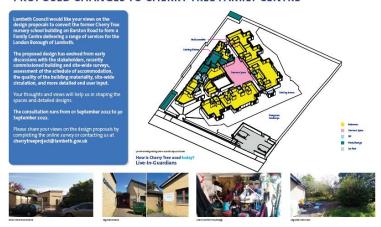
### Senior management onsite focus group







### HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHERRY TREE FAMILY CENTRE



### HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHERRY TREE FAMILY CENTRE



6.5. APPEARANCE: ASSESSMENT ENTRANCE













Photo's courtesy of PRS Architects

### Appendix B – Collated notes/points from all stakeholders' meetings, online consultation & foster carers meetings

### 1. Change Name of service

No:	Comments	Notes:
1	CE - BD - Not keen on calling the centre "Contact". States that family hub is a good story however "contact" has stigma attached to it.	Children's services to consider change of "Contact Centre" name
	a) Contact centre – rename. Contact centre has a stigma attached to the name	Children's services to consider change of name of contact centre

### 2. Changes to Cherry tree centre on a whole

No:	Comm	ents	Notes:
2	a)	Cherry Tree Design needs to be Child Friendly	MM to work with SL to
	b)	Is there a space for the panel to meet VOSS	make cherry tree child friendly
	c)	Need to relax and enjoy the space	
	d)	Acoustics in the building. Are we looking at carpet or carpet tiles for flooring as this will absorb a lot of the noise. Children will have complex needs, sensory need.	
	e)	Do we need double height rooms, acoustic paneling.	
	f)	Need trauma informed design (Flow, light colours). Nice to keep bricks but may have to breakup with things such as felt notice boards to absorb elements of sound.	
	g)	Regarding the trauma informed design, is there a particular approach which you follow?	
	h)	Will there be enough space to work without it being overcrowded?	
	i)	Need to take on board if another service (3rd service) can be added to make better use of the space. I don't want to under utilise buildings as it would be too expensive to run and operate.	
	j)	Does rooms have 2-way mirrors	
	k)	Hope Heat pump which is planned will be quiet – there is currently a generator noise which disturbs residents when they are in their garden.	

### 3. Commercial Kitchen

No:	Comments		Notes:
3	a)	Commercial kitchen being removed – can this stay for the children	
	b)	Need the kitchen as need to serve food	
	c)	Kitchenette in every room. Not clear on the specification of the kitchenette and need to know about fire compliance.	
	d)	There is foster support group in the evening or training. Want to have refreshments provided for those types of events. So would be helpful to have a kitchen for foster carer or staffing events	
	e)	The kitchen needs significant investment, so can we agree not to keep the kitchen as it is and think about having small scale catering facilities with the staff kitchen	
	f)	Consider moving kitchen for flexibility and how space flows	
	g)	Going back to the kitchen area, we have all contact rooms with kitchenette. It is a bit of a distance to carry hot food to the central area. Would be better to make one of the contact room kitchens more flexible so you can double up on space and use it if you had an event. This would minimise the distance to carry hot food etc.	
	h)	Will the kitchen be accessible for families during contact if parents need to warm food up or prepare food?	

### 4. Entrance/reception area

No:	Comm	ents	Notes:
4	a)	If we have a receptionist in the blue area, will there be a buzz entry for the clients accessing the assessment centre.	
	b)	Will the receptionist walk over and let people in?	
	c)	Does not make sense to have 2 receptionists (1 at main entrance and 1 in communal area). Not figured it out yet but would like to know how we use this functionality with the IT and security system which would be put in to manage that.	
	d)	Makes sense to keep areas separate – functionality for having cameras to see who's coming in, buzzing them in and informing staff member that their client has arrived – that staff member can pick them up at door and let them in.	
	e)	Is there funding for a fulltime receptionist in the operational budget?	
	f)	Is the Courtyard area to be used by everyone? As it is two separate service will be used by one part of the centre?	

g)	Reception area – can you create one reception for both service?	
h)	One of the issues that seems to come up quite regularly is around the drop off point for foster carers and birth parents who have seen the foster parents, and this can cause an issue.	SL – Separate entry maybe needed for safety
	Has this event been taken into consideration for a safe handover?	
i)	Will there be separate entrance for different groups	
j)	Contact reception is quite an open desk. What was the thinking around not having it as more like an office with a hatch like the assessment reception just around confidential information or taking phone calls. How that kind of positions	

### 5. Toilets/Changing Facilities/storage

the person on reception in the room.

No:	No: Comments		Notes:
5	a)	Are there designated toilets for disabled and baby changing facilities	
	b)	Where is the cleaner's store	
	c)	Is there storage for the toys	
	d)	Will there be an enclosed buggy park area?	
	e)	Parents will need to have storage space to put buggies for up to 2 hours. You may need room to hold at least 6 buggies at one time	
	f)	Is there going to be an actual room dedicated to baby changing or will it be as part of the toilets, something male carers wanting to change children	
	g)	In supermarkets They have dedicated areas for baby changing I don't know if we can incorporate something like that. It would also be nice if mothers need to breast feed, they can do it in this room. It would be more pleasant to undertake this in a dedicated area more than a toilet.	

### 6. Contact /Assessment Rooms

No:	Comm	ents	Notes:
6	a)	Why would the contact room and assessment room be	
		different? if rooms are busy can they be used by the other service	
	b)	In contact, things can sometimes get strained, and both parents might need some time out. Will there be room separate from the contact room like a cooling off room? Room away from everyone else and not in reception area because sometimes meetings does not always go smoothly.	
		Contact can be difficult for the parent and the child as contact can be an emotive situation.	
	c)	Need a bit of space if things get fraught because there's always going to be other families, where emotions are running high	
	d)	Would like to know it there will be sensory rooms and facilities for children with disabilities	

### 7. Facilities for teenagers and Children with disabilities

No:	Comm	ents	Notes:
7	a)	Would like to know if there are facilities for teenagers? I ask this question as a lot of young people or teenagers; they don't want to go to contact as it is boring and there's nothing for them to do there and they don't want to sit down in a room and talk.	
		In terms of facilities for them such as pool table, table tennis table or anything that they can interact with or have better interactions with their family members with.	
	b)	We have a lot of children with disabilities like autism etc – would like to know it their will be sensory rooms and facilities for children with disabilities	

### 8. Courtyard area/Garden/landscaping/Parking spaces

No:	Comments		Notes:
8	a)	Are all the trees staying?	
	b)	If people are in the garden and the fire alarm went off, they cannot go back into the building, how would this works	
	c)	Summer events - Foster carers picnic would be good to have. Can invite foster carers to barbecue. It would stop us using other sites (savings).	

- d) Has the drainage been looked at, is there any risk of water coming in if we had heavy downpour? Is the drainage sufficient to take any surface water away?
- e) The garden space would be used by the service user and would be a good opportunity for the garden to be enabled as a trauma informed physical space
- f) Contact centre and garden it would be good to have separation as don't want an escape route for children – but doesn't block the garden view.
- g) Concern if it is low fence as it would be easier for intruder to hop over fence. Problem will be out of hours
- h) May want to consider child safe very hardy plants
- i) Foster carers will drop the child off and for safety reasons. the birth parents can't see their cars and their registration numbers. How we can build that and in, in relation to a safety perspective?
- j) Low level fences. Can another parent come in from the street and take a child from the garden. Concerned about security
- k) MM mention decking over tarmac (foster carers meeting) this did not sit well with one of the carers. He states – Would prefer rubberized composite which is used in schools.
- A Mis-shaped sapling has been allowed to grow near to storage building – would be happy to have discussions to pay for or donate for a nicer tree
- m) There appears to be no cycle parking proposed, contrary to London Plan and Lambeth policy.
- n) Is a location in the very south of the borough distant from even buses (let alone rail) appropriate to serve the whole borough especially given that those who will be using the centre may well not have a car and could have disabilities?

o)

### 9. More important comments from stakeholders

NO	Comments		Notes
	a)	Current accommodation, there is nowhere for parents to wait. No sitting area at all on current site.	
	b)	When waiting have to wait in kitchen area	
	c)	if you've got, say, a 7-year-old who likes to bolt and run, is the site secure enough? Can you drop your guard and relax for a minute?	

- d) In the current site, there's a lack of space. There are things like glass tables and hard edges and really inappropriate materials and surfaces. – Has this been taken into consideration for new site
- e) We need fabrics and things that we can wash and clean. At current centre, it is disgusting at times.
- f) What about a soft play area? Will there be something like that?
- g) It's not a room that's dedicated to soft play. I think we kind of need not a sort of waiting room that tries to do everything.
- h) With some children particularly with specific kind of needs. We need like a secure room. That's a soft play and ideally possibly sensory as well because if you look at the number of children that we have in Lambeth. We have more children with special education needs more than any other local authority in the country. If you start breaking down the statistics of their abilities and their needs. You can see some really profound special kind of needs and things, so I just wanted to sort of see
- i) We have small children under 9 and will be at centre for a length of time. If they are not held onto, they will bolt and they will even throw themselves at a brick wall. Where can we put them? I'm not saying I want to padded room, but I just want spaces where we can feel that they've been appropriately designed for the needs of kind of that, that particular group of young people.
- j) The architect mentioned decking over tarmac this did not sit well with one of the carers. He states: -

I used to have lot of decking at home. I don't anymore because it gets slippery, slimy. You have to jet wash it. All sorts of nonsense and then eventually you get splintering and all sorts of things. I don't like decking as a surface. I think it's high maintenance and it's a bit too temporary, but quite a lot of schools now using this sort of **rubberized composite** type thing, which means that it's solid.

It also means that if you fall on it there's some resistance in the impact of the fall. So, I'm just going to sort of maybe play devil's advocate at some other point with you and say, do we really want to have wood decking that's going to have?