



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Sue Chandler  
Members Desk  
County Hall  
Sessions House  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME14 1XQ

Reference No. HW53889

20 March 2023

Dear Sue

**Re: Faversham Children's Centres**

I'm writing to you about Kent County Council's plan for children's centres in Faversham.

Thank you again for agreeing to meet with me last Friday, and to your team for hosting me at St Mary's earlier in the month.

As we discussed I am concerned about the possible closure of St Mary's children's centre. While Bysing Wood is a good location for families living in west Faversham, it isn't easy to get to for lots of families living in the centre or east of the town.

I know that in KCC's consultation you have looked at where the area of greatest need is, but there's a real need in the area currently served by St Mary's too and I'm reassured that you recognised this.

If KCC needs to reduce the cost of managing buildings, one option could be to share the St Mary's facility with other organisations supporting children and families.

As a town we're concerned about relinquishing a purpose-built facility for children, which is a precious community resource to have. I know that many of the families and mums who go to St Mary's are worried about how they will get the help and support they need.

I understand the challenge that KCC faces. Space has to be made across the county to allow for new Family Hubs which will be a huge win for so many children and parents. But I'm sure you can understand my wanting to make sure no one loses out as a result.

I'd be very happy to bring some local voices together to talk this through if that would be helpful.

Best wishes

Helen Whately MP  
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent