

Blossom Federation

Daubeney, Sebright and Lauriston



Thursday 25th January 2024

Possible Changes to Sebright & Daubeney Children's Centres

Dear Parents & Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all.

This letter is to provide some further updates to the information you will have received this week.

The day before the Christmas holidays, Suzanne Carmichael (Head of Sebright & Daubeney Children's Centre) and I were informed of potential future changes to the Day Care offer at Sebright Children Centre. We were *not* expecting this information to be shared by the Council to our staff and parents so quickly, so wish to apologise for what has probably been a shock. This was beyond our control.

To be clear, there are **no immediate changes**. The care and provision for your children will be unchanged.

Currently, Hackney Council provide an additional subsidy to the Blossom Federation to run the Day Care at Sebright. Further down the line, Hackney wishes to change the way the children centres are funded by the council in delivering early education and childcare in the future.

Without this subsidy, it would be unlikely that the Blossom Federation could sustain the running costs for the centre. However, we have not yet had sufficient time to look strategically at options. With this in mind, Hackney want to explore whether any alternative providers wish to take over the management of Sebright Children's Centre from August 2025.

Suzanne and I are aware that you may have lots of questions and need reassurances. Because of the sudden communications which were required from the Council, we have not been able to be on the ground to speak to you face to face. I know Suzanne will be around tomorrow.

We have organised two sessions for parents and carers and interested parties to hear directly from us, as follows:

Thursday 8th February 4pm
Thursday 8th February 5pm

Virtual Session at this link: <https://meet.google.com/xai-madg-ocq>
In Person at Sebright Children's Centre

A reminder from the previous letter that the consultation will be open between **31 January and 24 April 2024**. Those interested will be able to find out more, obtain background information and share their views by visiting [the Council's consultation page](#) when it opens on 31 January. Printed surveys and consultation proposals will also be available at children's centres.

In the meantime, please direct any enquiries to Suzanne, Juliet or myself via the office.

You may also be aware of some changes to Daubeney Children's Centre. Daubeney has been selected to operate as a Children & Family Hub. This means that the Extended Services provision at Sebright Children's Centre will be decommissioned and moved over to one of the new Children & Family Hubs in the Hackney neighbourhoods.

As the Extended Services element of Sebright Children's Centre is being decommissioned by Hackney, this means that this element of funding will be cut and therefore further impacts on the financial viability and operational costs of the centre as a whole.

Whilst the changes to the hub are potentially exciting, our priority at the Blossom Federation is ensuring the provision for your children remains at the forefront of decision making. The Governing Body are well aware of the challenges and are behind us. This is not welcome news for us and we shall be providing challenge.

I look forward to seeing you at the two meetings outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Warren
Executive Head Teacher
www.blossomfederation.com