

Appendix 1 – Consultation responses

Lavender Nursery / MMES Consultation

Support = 19

Oppose/against proposal = 221

	Respondent	Comments	Support / Oppose
1		Provides an essential service to working families, nearest nursery aren't not accepting any more placements, alternative private provision is 1.5 times more expensive, BAME or white European households disproportionately affected, no equality impact assessment has been made available on the site, council should be advocating affordable childcare not closing it.	Oppose
2	Past parent	Dismayed at proposed closure. It is an essential source of safe and carefully regulated nursery care of local community. Lack of local high quality children at an affordable price. Will cause massive disruption to the families of the 100 children who attend each day.	Oppose
3		One of the best services Merton Council provides in the area and it should not be sacrificed for the benefit of another. Provides high-end affordable childcare and gives children a great start to succeed. More than 150 children plus new joiners in September will be without a place.	Oppose
4		Reconsider decision – it is an excellent community resource that will be sadly missed. Excellent childcare in outstanding premises.	Oppose
5		Provides valuable and affordable care for local children. Find an alternative site.	Oppose
6	Staff	Worked here for 11 years. It was purpose built to provide childcare for a minimum of 25 years and initially funded by Surestart to support early intervention with families and this still takes place. High percentage of children with SEN that are recommended to attend due to the strategies that are put in place to help these children. Outdoor space is beneficial to the wellbeing and development of the children as many live in flats and bedsits. Nursery is full with a full waiting list of new and existing families.	Oppose
7	Current parent	Disappointed for the wonderful staff. Huge loss for local communities. Difficult to find such a professional childcare place with experienced staff.	Oppose
8	Current parent	Huge loss for community. Hard to find affordable and quality childcare. Alternative private providers are expensive, have long waiting lists, and don't offer the same opening hours. Support the need to create more space for the secondary students but not at the cost of nursery aged children. Devastated son may have to leave the nursery as he has grown	Oppose

		in confidence and learned so much in the 5 months he has been attending.	
9		Nursery is amazing and the setting perfect for the children (outdoor area and location). Shocking that you want to close it. Was bad enough closing the under 2 years' service. Can't you find an alternative space or build an extra floor on top with an independent entrance as a last resort?	Oppose
10		Great that you want to expand the secondary provision but can't you find an alternative without closing the nursery? It is a great nursery.	Oppose
11		The building was designed and built as a Surestart Centre for children under 5. Change of use would deprive the very young children of a unique facility. Have worked in hospital and mental health education and know the emphasis is on encouraging young people to reintegrate into mainstream education as quickly as possible. It is therefore often possible and indeed beneficial to use for e.g. public libraries and other council spaces to work with young people.	Oppose
12	Current parent	Devastating news for families like mine who need quality, affordable, full-time childcare. It was and still is the best Nursery in the area. Could you not close an underperforming one instead?	Oppose
13	Prospective parent	The nursery is outstanding with fantastic facilities, great curriculum as well as professional and caring staff. It prepares children well for primary school. Area lacks quality nurseries so long waiting lists and children will have to travel further for childcare. Understand MMES needs to expand but can't you look elsewhere for suitable accommodation?	Oppose
14		Disappointed at plans. It is a purpose build nursery that has won awards for design and layout. Not only a loss to current but also future parents and children. If anything the nursery should be expanding to offer care to 12 months old. It provides quality and affordable childcare.	Oppose
15	Ursuline High School	Fully supports the additional provision to provide places for students in need of support for their health and wellbeing. There is a great need for expansion and as there are places for children at the nursery at alternative venues then this is the right decision.	Support
16	Current parent	Nursery has an excellent reputation and son has developed extremely well there. Don't want to put him through the stress of settling into another nursery as he was very anxious and nervous when he joined due to the lockdown. Asks how the consultation will work in terms of votes, views etc?	Oppose
17	Previous & prospective parent	Excellent quality and affordable childcare and felt lucky that daughter got a place there. If it closes will not be able to find affordable care for our younger child and would affect our ability to work.	Oppose
18	Current parent	Daughter has benefited immensely from attending. Nursery has provided consistency and normality during this pandemic. Closure would cause more stress and heartache in these	Oppose

		difficult times. It is by far the best nursery in the area. Impact of closure will be catastrophic to staff and children.	
19		Together with the recent closure of Funky Owls parents will have limited nursery options. Could cause problems if they have older children and multiple drop-offs.	Oppose
20	Prospective parent	The suggested alternative childcare places are unlikely to be in a suitable location especially now Funky Owls has moved and the Lavender baby room closed. Please reconsider – understand the important MMES needs to be located somewhere but it should not be at the expense of an existing, much needed facility.	Oppose
21	Previous parent	Saddened by closure but appreciate the need for a site for youngsters with medical and health needs. (Also concerned for some personal reasons)	Oppose
22		Disappointed and angry. Nursery and surrounding area provides important facilities for local families. Building was funded by Sure Start to provide early years intervention for 25 years and is only in its 17 th year. Implication is that the MMES is more important and has a higher need. Proposal underestimates the need for childcare in the area and the affect it will have on working families and the current staff. Proposed centre will bring more trouble to the area and hanging around the play park – less than ideal for many people.	Oppose
23	Resident	Nursery provision in Mitcham is insufficient and I have only heard good things about his nursery.	Oppose
24		It is a purpose built nursery with wonderful indoors and outdoors provision for toddlers. Older children can be taught in another space not specifically designed for toddlers.	Oppose
25	Prospective parent	Disappointed at proposal as daughter is on the waiting list. Are the council going to consider objections to this proposal or provide an alternative?	Oppose
26		Excellent example of what a nursery should be like. Purpose built and surrounding environment is exemplary and best suited to the needs of pre-schoolers not older students. Completely underestimated in the care it provides. Increase capacity (use the empty rooms) and raise fees as an alternative to how it is operating now which will increase the desirability of young families to settle in the area.	Oppose
27	Past parent	Son attended 10 years ago and I was impressed with the level of affordable care and exemplary staffing provided. Ideal location and unsure where current standards are provided locally. It is an integral part of the community and is there any guarantee the grounds will not be affected? What will be the impact on security and safety of residents and playground users with teenagers ‘hanging’ around?	Oppose
28	Current parent	Deep concern – it is the best nursery in Merton and there is bigger demand than the nursery can offer. It is exceptional due to its facilities and purpose build design. It should be extended not closed.	Oppose

29		An alternative site should be found for MMES. There is a lack of full-time, full-day care provision for working parents in Merton, especially the Eastfields area. This will affect working parents returning to the city to work after lockdown.	Oppose
30	Resident	Suggests unused space at St George's hospital or other buildings in Merton that could be used. Staff will lose their jobs and parents will have to give up work to look after their children.	Oppose
31		It is already hard to find childcare locally. Why not improve one of the many unused buildings instead.	Oppose
32		Understand the need for the other service but don't believe closing the nursery is a suitable move. I have to travel to Streatham for childcare there are such few options.	Oppose
33		Look for an alternative site. This is a well-established nursery that contributes to child development unlike any other nursery in the area.	Oppose
34	Past parent.	It is a fantastic resource and easily accessible by bus. Excellent design and wonderful staff who picked up son's special education needs and arranged additional support for him. It is very affordable and would be a huge loss to local families.	Oppose
35	Past parent	Level of care was outstanding and all members of staff were excellent. No other nursery came close to the standard, look and space that Lavender offered. Important to give children the best start in life which is what Lavender did. Please look at alternative solutions.	Oppose
36		It is a custom built nursery, set back from the road, safe and away from pollution. For many families there are no other local facilities within a non-drivable distance. It is affordable and offers 8am-6pm provision. It is an asset to the area.	Oppose
37	Past & Prospective grandparent	Saddened by closure as granddaughter thrived at the nursery and the level of care was impressive. Surprised that consultation is called an 'expansion' when it will be reducing nursery provision. Fully support expanding the older provision but not to the detriment of nursery provision. If it is just a financial issue, please be honest, but investing in the education of children at this time should be a local government priority.	Oppose
38	Resident	Support the closure to help older vulnerable children with special needs, despite the positives of the nursery and that the closure will affect low-income families.	Support
39	Current parent	Best nursery in the area.	Oppose
40		Shortage of nursery spaces in the area and others are expensive. Helps working mums and gender equality. Could you not look at an alternative space, e.g. community centre in Taylor Road?	Oppose
41	Current Parent	Amazing staff and daughter has improved greatly since attending.	Oppose
42	Current parent	Wonderful staff, daughter enjoys attending.	Oppose

43	Current parent	Excellent nursery, closure would create a vacuum in local, affordable, reliable and Ofsted rated child care provision in the area. Understand difficulty in expanding MMES provision but it should not be to the detriment of younger children.	Oppose
44	Resident	Object to closure.	Oppose
45	Current parent	Nursery is excellent in both facilities and staff – provides language intervention sessions for son. No other nurseries nearby. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
46	Resident	It provides a vital service at a reasonable price.	Oppose
47	Ricards Lodge High School	Totally support the proposal as a site for MMES. Current provision cannot provide the capacity required for the increasing need resulting in many children unable to access education.	Support
48	Nursery provider	Lack of nursery places in an area with a higher level of deprivation and this would mean more higher level 2 year funded children without a nursery place.	Oppose
49	Rutlish High School	This provision as a permanent site if very much needed to support the many young people in need of specialist education services.	Support
50	Current grandparent	The nursery is a fantastic asset for the community.	Oppose
51		The nursery is a vital asset to the local community.	Oppose
52		High demand for nursery places in this area. It is in a suitable location, has ideal facilities and has a fantastic reputation.	Oppose
53		Provides excellent childcare services.	Oppose
54	Past parent	Huge part of community and essential to early year's provision. Only local option for affordable childcare and supports SEN.	Oppose
55		An alternative site should be found for MMES. It is a vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare/early years education in one of the most deprived areas of Merton. Young children need stability and the closure may impact their development.	Oppose
56	Current grandparent	Grandson has thrived there. Purpose built nurseries are in short supply.	Oppose
57	Prospective parent	Ideal setting next to Tamworth Rec. Shortage of alternative places at the same rate and locally.	Oppose
58	Past parent	Will be a great loss to local families.	Oppose
59		Nursery is a fantastic local asset with excellent staff and childcare/early year's education. Can't you find an alternative location for MMES? Disappointed younger daughter will lose out on attending. No other local affordable options. Concerned re staff and their potential job loss.	Oppose
60		Closure would put many local families in a difficult position at an already unsettled time and deprive them of a lifeline. Merton Council has a duty of care to all its constituents.	Oppose
61		The nursery is a vital asset and affordable. Many staff will lose their jobs.	Oppose
62	Current parent	Without access to early years childcare many parents may lose their jobs. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose

63	Current parent	It is a vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and EYs education to approx. 100 children.	Oppose
64		It has excellent SEN facilities and there are limited alternative places.	Oppose
65	Current parent	Exceptional purpose build design and SEN interventions. Concerned primary school nurseries do not provide same opportunities and environment. Staff are highly professional and caring.	Oppose
66		Have sent numerous complaints about how staff treat the children when they are outside.	Support
67	Resident	This facility will be beneficial for Merton residents as it is a much needed resource.	Support
68		It will provide excellent facilities and the necessary space for the MMES students as their numbers grow.	Support
69	Teacher	Great that suitable accommodation has finally been found to create some stability and a safe environment for these vulnerable children struggling to attend school.	Support
70	Teacher	Struggling with lack of space at current MMES temporary facility. The outdoor space will be of huge benefit to the children.	Support
71	Nursery staff	Nursery was purpose built with DfE funding for the setting to remain as a nursery for 25 years. It is a big asset to the local community and we have remained open throughout the 3 lockdowns. Staff receive regular training and we support many children with SEN that have been turned away from private nurseries.	Oppose
72	MMES staff	MMES students are extremely vulnerable and need a safe, permanent, inviting environment with an outdoor space.	Support
73	MMES teacher	Current facilities are temporary and not fit for purpose. Pupil numbers are increasing and it is essential that a permanent and safe building with outdoor space is found.	Support
74		Building was built and funded for use as a nursery. Concerned re the high crime rate in Figgs Marsh and the impact on vulnerable pupils. Nursery has excellent SEN provision. Closure would have negative impact on local area, vulnerable young children, and nursery staff and drive young families away. No similar purpose built premises nearby. Financial implications for only providing funded places.	Oppose
75	FOI person	Detrimental effect on significant number of ethnic minority female staff and parents. The Equality Act requires you to consider the Public Sector Equality duty in everything you do (Impact Assessment). The paper to the Scrutiny Panel indicates that an Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried. Request proposals are suspended until this has been done.	Oppose
76	Past parent	Essential community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and EYs education. Risk to development of children, access to childcare, deficit of funded early education for 2 year olds within the local wards and long waiting lists elsewhere. Purpose built facility so concerned re suitability for	Oppose

		older children and safeguarding concerns. Loss of jobs for staff. Look for an alternative site.	
77	Current parent	Fantastic, unique, affordable nursery with talented staff.	Oppose
78	Current parent	Wonderful nursery where children thrive. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
79	Prospective parent	Nursery is highly recommended. Look for alternative options.	Oppose
80		Lovely nursery. Great early year's hub with access to outdoor areas.	Oppose
81	Past grandparent	Purpose built and closure will be a loss to Mitcham and the wider community. Consider the negative impact on generations to come as it is a rare affordable childcare support. Look for an alternative site.	Oppose
82	MMES teacher	Numbers of vulnerable young people increasing so need a building and safe outdoor space to support them all.	Support
83	MMES teacher	Need a bigger building with a safe outdoor space to accommodate the increasing number of students accessing MMES services.	Support
84		Nursery is valued part of the community in an ideal setting for a nursery (on-site parking and outdoor space).	Oppose
85	MMES Tutor	The site will be a life line to an already overstretched service where the number of vulnerable students who cannot manage in mainstream are increasing.	Support
86		Removing an affordable childcare provision will have an adverse effect on the community.	Oppose
87		Huge demand for affordable childcare in the area.	Oppose
88		Nothing but praise for this extremely affordable provision in a purpose built building.	Oppose
89		It is an essential asset for children in Merton and neighbouring boroughs. Purpose built building, wonderful staff, affordable price an ideal location. Find an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
90	Prospective grandparent	Loss would have a devastating impact on local families. Lack of alternative provision, high quality care and experience staff, community hub. Risk to early years development. Most affordable nursery in the area. Purpose built building that has been running under capacity for years. Safeguarding concerns regarding MMES students and young children in the playground. Look for an alternative site.	Oppose
91	MMES parent	MMES has provided a lifeline to my daughter who has struggled with anorexia and depression for 2 years and where mainstream school has made her feel suicidal. This site would enhance the quality of support and experiences this service offers and also increase capacity where there is a growing need.	Support
92		Unsettling for children and inadequate alternative provision.	Oppose
93		Understand the need for the other service but not at the cost of another. Nursery has good reputation. Please look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
94		Expansion of MMES should not be to the detriment of the nursery. It is one of the best nurseries in the area. Asks	Oppose

		questions from points raised at the scrutiny meeting re future demand for places, alternative sites, safeguarding concerns of young children from MMES pupils and re-deployment of staff.	
95		Lack of good quality and affordable childcare in the area – more impact on women who may have to give up their jobs to look after their children. Look at alternatives. If viability is an option, take children younger than 2.	Oppose
96	Nursery Manager	Nursery has been part of the community for 15 years. It is purpose built and offers exceptional care and education. Closure could affect up to 80 children as the 48 figure quoted is full time places and some children attend part time. Limited alternative options, unsettling for children, long waiting list, have amazing staff and good SEN provision. Look for an alternative site.	Oppose
97	Nursery staff	Building was opened and funded as a surestart centre to serve the community for 25 years. It plays a vital part in the local community and supports and develops children so they thrive. Closure will affect many families in the local area.	Oppose
98	Resident	Negative impact on local families and betrayal of children. It is a vital service in a purpose built for early year's education.	Oppose
99		Provides vital childcare support for local families in a beautiful building and local landscape. Not enough space to build a secondary school in this place.	Oppose
100	Ex-member of Nursery staff	Not a viable option to close. Purpose built to provide high quality and affordable childcare for the community. Staff will lose their jobs and parents may not be able to afford higher fees elsewhere.	Oppose
101	Prospective parent	It is a vital community asset that we plan to send our children to in the future.	Oppose
102	Current parent	Chose to live in the area due to the high quality, affordable childcare the nursery offers. It is a vital community asset. No alternative full-time all year round provision in the area. Support the need for MMES but not at the sacrifice of a much loved nursery.	Oppose
103	Past parent	Vital resource for the area – wonderful and affordable (only one providing government funded places in the area).	Oppose
104		Great provision and benefits low income families. Building and location is lovely for children.	Oppose
105	Parent	Expansion of MMES should not be to the detriment of the nursery. It provides a vital community resource and staff are caring, kind and go above and beyond their duties. Significant risk to crucial early year's development and lack of alternative funded early education locally. Purpose built and most affordable in the area. Safeguarding concerns of MMES pupils near the playground. Staff job losses.	Oppose
106		Look for another site to build a new school – what about the old Harris Wimbledon site?	Oppose
107	Past & prospective parent	Provides excellent childcare and important community resource. Impact of closure on staff and lack of suitable full time childcare locally. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose

108	Past & prospective parent	Provides excellent childcare and important community resource. Impact of closure on staff and lack of suitable full time childcare locally. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
109		It is an essential and well regarded community resource in a safe and relatively easily accessible location. It is a legacy of the previous Labour government of eliminating child poverty and unacceptable that a Labour controlled council wants to roll back the gains made. What are the local alternative childcare options? No justification for expanding one provision at the expense of another.	Oppose
110	Prospective parent	Has good reviews and lovely facilities.	Oppose
111		It is an asset to the local community.	Oppose
112	Prospective parents	Attracted to area because of the nursery. It provides the largest space, closest to greenery, good to outstanding Ofsted as well as SENCO – other alternatives do not compare. Consultation period too short. Closure will accelerate the decrease of the childcare population due to limited choice of childcare.	Oppose
113	Current parent	No suitable alternative provision. Affordable, vital to the community, historical value of good provision and purpose built. Staff will lose their jobs and children will be impacted emotionally. Suggest minimise disruption to children by delaying the changes for an academic year or looking for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
114		Expansion of MMES should not be to the detriment of the nursery. It provides a vital community resource and staff are caring, kind and go above and beyond their duties. Significant risk to crucial early year's development and lack of alternative funded early education locally. Purpose built and most affordable in the area. Safeguarding concerns of MMES pupils near the playground. Staff job losses.	Oppose
115		Understand need for MMES but not to the detriment of early year's provision. Lack of alternative and affordable providers.	Oppose
116		Good reputation, safe and good quality of care. Excellent service.	Oppose
117		Attracted to area because of the nursery. It provides the largest space, closest to greenery, good to outstanding Ofsted as well as SENCO – other alternatives do not compare. Consultation period too short. Closure will accelerate the decrease of the childcare population due to limited choice of childcare.	Oppose
118		Attended excellent baby and toddler sessions there which were invaluable.	Oppose
119	Current parent	Amazing, supportive staff in a prime location. Many lives would be affected by the closure.	Oppose
120	Grandparent	Excellent nursery. Family will suffer financially as a result of its closure. Lack of alternative provision.	Oppose
121	Parent	Highly skilled and committed staff. Unrivalled quality of EYFS curriculum and preparation for school. No suitable alternative provision exists in the area.	Oppose

122	Siobhain McDonagh MP	Support MMES expansion but not at the cost of another excellent children's service. It is highly valued with extremely skilled staff, consistently recommended by parents whose children attend the nursery, as demonstrated by the waiting list. Vast majority are from local families and concerned proposal to close will exclude most of the children from any council run scheme and will force those families to access childcare that is notably more expensive. Meanwhile new research from City Hall has worryingly revealed that almost two-thirds of nurseries are at risk of closure in the next year due to the financial impact of the pandemic. It would be inconceivable, in light of this research, to consider closing such a well-loved and high performing nursery in an area that has such high demand for this service. I hope the Council will reconsider, will keep the nursery open and will review alternative accommodation for the proposed additional service.	Oppose
123		It is an asset to both the local community and local authority. Nursery has been decimated by the closure of the baby room. Look for an alternative site for MMES. Is there adequate alternative provision for 2 year olds? Nursery has an excellent and vital SEN provision and 40 places for vulnerable 2 year olds. Purpose built. LBM will lose highly skilled and qualified staff. What about the suggestion of Steers Mead for the 2 year olds? Is there money available for alterations and equipment?	Oppose
124		Excellent nursery and loss would be hugely detrimental to the area. Believe number data is out of date and concerned re families that move into the area in the future. What alternative sites have been looked at for MMES?	Oppose
125		It is vital to the local community and closing it will have a detrimental effect on the local and wider community.	Oppose
126		Acknowledge need for MMES but not at the detriment of a purpose built nursery offering top quality childcare in one of the most deprived communities in Merton. Significantly affordable, and prepares children well for primary school. Is it sensible to have vulnerable MMES pupils in an area with a high crime rate? What about other sites?	Oppose
127		Concerned – not properly considered. Closure will impact many families and area will suffer.	Oppose
128		Purpose built with Surestart money offering the best facilities in the borough at an affordable price. Need a longer consultation period. London Mayor's report re closing of nurseries in the future. Look at alternative site for MMES. Long waiting list	Oppose
129		It is one of the best nurseries in the area and an alternative site should be found for MMES. 2018 Merton Annual report - Childcare Sufficiency – showed that Lavender Fields have a higher number of under 5s.	Oppose
130	Nursery staff	Shocked and distressed by potential closure after working throughout the pandemic. Please keep this service open for the greater good and benefit of the children, families and staff.	Oppose

131		Support a long-term site for MMES but not at the expense of the nursery which is a valuable asset to the community.	Oppose
132	Current parent	Nursery has been supportive to my family and my son when he was diagnosed with autism – without it I do not think we would have been able to carry on. Keep the nursery open in its current location and don't lose the staff.	Oppose
133		Nursery provides high quality childcare. Staff are very good, professional and trustworthy.	Oppose
134		Provides affordable and essential care for working families from 7.45am to 6pm. No alternative spaces nearby. Staff are excellent. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
135	Resident	One of the best structures in the area and has a positive impact on our community. Perfect and safe location for young children. Look for an alternative site.	Oppose
136		Object to closure.	Oppose
137		Will increase the already high demand for places in the area. Supportive of need for a site for MMES, but look for an alternative. Prepared to make a one-off donation to keep the nursery open.	Oppose
138	Prospective parent	Appreciate need for SEN provision but not at the expense of other provisions. It is the only council nursery in Merton that provides until school age and is vastly cheaper than other local provision. Other nurseries are unaffordable for my family. Look at alternative sites. Mayor of London is aware that many private nurseries are struggling financially and may close, leading to higher prices and increased waiting lists.	Oppose
139		Reconsider decision and look for an alternative site. Parents already struggle finding childcare and this will add more pressure to their lives.	Oppose
140		Look for an alternative. The nursery is doing well and helping a good number of families.	Oppose
141	Wandsworth resident	Not enough nurseries in the area already and private options are very expensive. Don't like the idea of older children hanging around in the playground. Look for an alternative site.	Oppose
142	Staff member	Object to closure.	Oppose
143		Support the nursery, do not wish it to close.	Oppose
144		Outraged at planned closure. Amazing childcare facility.	Oppose
145	Prospective parent	Recognise need for MMES but not at the cost of this affordable nursery provision. Shortage of alternative affordable childcare in the area. Hope another location can be found for MMES	Oppose
146		The nursery is a brilliant service that has been running for years with an amazing team. Should find an alternative for MMES, not the nursery. Built as a Sure Start service for 20 years. No alternative in local area that is affordable, provides wrap-around care and with vacancies. High quality preparation of children for school. Look for an alternative site for MMES that does not impact on the emotional and financial stress of an outstanding service.	Oppose

147		Support the council looking for a long term site for MMES but not at the detriment of the nursery. It provides safe, impactful childcare to over 100 children.	Oppose
148	Current Parent	Strongly say no to the proposal. The nursery provides an excellent service with long serving staff. Please consider other options.	Oppose
149		Strongly oppose closure and ask council to look for an alternative solution. Provides full time childcare which other provisions do not.	Oppose
150	Current grandparent	Strongly oppose closure and think an alternative location should be found. Staff are exceptional and children well cared for. No other childcare providers with reputation as good as Lavender.	Oppose
151	Current grandparent	Strongly oppose closure and think an alternative location should be found. Staff are exceptional and children well cared for. No other childcare providers with reputation as good as Lavender.	Oppose
152	Merton school governor	Aware of statutory responsibility and importance of providing the MMES service. However given the concerns of parents and local community re the closure of the nursery, could the nursery be located elsewhere in the local community, e.g. a nearby school with a falling roll?	Oppose
153		Disapprove plans for a secondary school to replace the nursery. It is purpose built and provides a safe haven for children. Plans will have a negative impact on the area, the new building will encroach on the allotment plots and create problems for commuters.	Oppose
154	Current parent	Believe the report was inaccurate and misleading – there is in fact a shortfall of full time, year round nursery places in the area. Nursery is popular, purpose built, has exceptional facilities, wonderful staff, is highly regarded and most affordable provision in the area. Already a deficit of places in the area. Closure will impact on my ability to work and staff will lose their jobs.	Oppose
155		Oppose closure but support the council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Closure will have a detrimental impact on local area and financial hardship for parents as it is the most affordable nursery in the area. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
156		Oppose closure but support the council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Closure will have a detrimental impact on local area and financial hardship for parents as it is the most affordable nursery in the area. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
157		Strongly oppose closure – look for an alternative site for MMES. Not enough full time provision elsewhere – impact on working parents.	Oppose

158		Strongly oppose closure – look for an alternative site for MMES. Nursery is an important asset to Merton providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare.	Oppose
159		Oppose closure but support the council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Closure will have a detrimental impact on local area and financial hardship for parents as it is the most affordable nursery in the area. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
160		Both services are needed and should not close one to the detriment of the other. Nursery provides high-end, affordable childcare – it is one of the best nurseries in the area. Alternative sites are not close enough.	Oppose
161		Object to closure but support council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Moved to this area due to the outstanding and affordable childcare it offered. Closure will have a detrimental impact on local area and financial hardship for parents as it is the most affordable nursery in the area. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
162	Previous and prospective grandparent	Object to closure but support council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Provides safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Excellent staff who will be forced into redundancy.	Oppose
163	Previous and prospective parent	Object to closure but support council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Provides safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Excellent staff who will be forced into redundancy.	Oppose
164	Past parent	Disappointed at proposal. It is an essential facility providing outstanding care with plenty of outdoor space.	Oppose
165	Current & prospective parent	Object to closure but support council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Provides excellent care and is a vital community hub. Most affordable in area.	Oppose
166		Keep it open to help low income families and protect the staff who work there.	Oppose
167		It is a successful and thriving nursery that provides excellent pre-school care.	Oppose
168		It is vital to our community.	Oppose
169	Current & prospective parent	Understand need for MMES but not to the detriment of closing the nursery. Alternatives are full or more expensive. Staff risk losing their jobs.	Oppose
170		Plays an important part in children and parents lives. A safe and secure environment.	Oppose
171		Strongly oppose closure but support council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose

172		Alternatives suggested are either far away, too expensive or don't offer full time care.	Oppose
173	Current & prospective parent	Support finding additional MMES provision but not to the detriment of the nursery, suggests Whatley Avenue or Worsfold House. Lack of alternative affordable full time childcare. Purpose built building providing excellent care. Scrutiny panel on 10 Feb was unfair and unprofessional.	Oppose
174		Little alternative provision in the area.	Oppose
175		Strongly oppose closure – look for a different site for MMES. Many of the alternative options for childcare places offered full time care. Look at ways to increase profitability of the nursery.	Oppose
176	Current & prospective parent	Strongly oppose closure but support a long term solution for MMES. Would have a devastating impact on local families. Contradicts the London Council's 5 point plan for early year education post COVID, specifically Point 5.	Oppose
177	Lavender Nursery Parents Association	Unanimously opposed to closure. Alternative options provided by the council (e.g. primary schools) do not allow children aged 2-3 to attend and are unsuitable for full time working parents. Decrease in demand is unfounded and many of the council's policies contradict this. Consultation document fails to detail adequate information on alternative sites for MMES, e.g. Whatley Ave and timescale is unreasonable in light of the pandemic. Request to see the Authority Monitoring Report. Concerned re significant social and economic impact, educational impact, impact on staff and the suitability of locating MMES to this location.	Oppose
178	Parent	It is a highly skilled, affordable and vital childcare provider. Contravenes the council's duty and goes against the Local Plan. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
179	Parent	Strongly oppose closure and an alternative site for MMES should be found. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
180		Concerned families will be put at risk financially due to closure. Amazing staff.	Oppose
181		Strongly oppose closure and an alternative site for MMES should be found. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
182	Prospective parent	Strongly oppose closure. Nursery and building is amazing and gives children an excellent start in life. Difficult to find alternative childcare providers in the area.	Oppose
183		Object to closure although understand the need for the MMES facility. It is considered to be the best Nursery in the area.	Oppose

		Building is purpose built, staff are considerate and long serving. Most affordable in the area and provides all year round care. Do not understand prediction that birth rates are falling.	
184		Purpose built, provides full day care, and has highly trained staff who are a massive part of the community. Area poses a risk to vulnerable MMES pupils – Merton census data (2020) Figgs Marsh has the highest crime rate.	Oppose
185		Saddened and mortified at closure. Purpose built, family hub that provides affordable childcare.	Oppose
186	Current parent	Strongly oppose closure and support the search for an alternative site for MMES. Grateful for outstanding care daughter has received here. No comparable, affordable local alternatives. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
187		Affordable and provides a valuable service to families and closure would have a devastating negative impact on many families. Proposed alternatives are more expensive and oversubscribed.	Oppose
188		Object but support the council in looking for an alternative site for MMES. Own children had a fantastic experience at the nursery. Concerned re the sensory room in memory. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
189		Keep it open for the positive and vital contribution it provides to our community.	Oppose
190		Look for an alternative site for MMES. Nurseries should be protected not closed. Is thriving and offers crucial government funded childcare.	Oppose
191	Current parent	Purpose built, high quality and affordable nursery serving needs of local community. Closure would be detriment to young children.	Oppose
192		Has a good reputation and is a much need facility for local families. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
193		The expansion of MMES should not come at the expense of the nursery. Nursery is purpose built and in a perfect setting. Despite less number of children under 5, the nursery still has a waiting list. Demand may increase due to the extra residential homes being built in the area.	Oppose
194		Purpose built nursery with unparalleled facilities. Concerned location is unsuitable for MMES. Look for an alternative solution.	Oppose
195		Asks what alternative sites were considered and why was Lavender the preferred option? Why is secondary school	Oppose

		numbers increasing and under 5's decreasing and will this eventually result in reduced secondary numbers and less demand for MMES? How and will the alternative provision match Lavender and will they have the same capacity?	
196	Current parent	Provides brilliant care and only affordable option in the area. Concerned re level of care other nurseries provide. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
197	Current parent	Not enough nursery provision of a similar high standard and affordability in the area. Funded from Surestart designed to bring affordable high equality early years provision to deprived areas. Currently oversubscribed. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
198	Prospective parent	Disappointed at decision. Children need more places like Lavender to avoid mental health needs in the future. Hope council will reconsider.	Oppose
199	Prospective parent	Incredible shame for it to close. Staff are truly exceptional and provides affordable and excellent childcare. It is an incredible resources.	Oppose
200		Deeply saddened as so many families in our community rely on this service and will be adversely affected by its closure.	Oppose
201		Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive. It is purpose built with unparalleled facilities. What is the impact on demand for places due to the Eastfields Regeneration programme?	Oppose
202	Current parent	Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Lovely place, highly experience caring and loving staff.	Oppose
203		Closure would result in lack of quality affordable childcare in the area and a huge loss.	Oppose
204	Current parent	Probably the best thing in the neighbourhood and children are growing happily there. A lot of families rely and depend on it.	Oppose
205		Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. MMES needs a permanent purpose built building, a not the Lavender building as a temporary fix. It provides a valuable service and closure will have detrimental impact on local children. Alternative facilities are not comparable or affordable. Look at other provisions e.g. Chaucer Centre.	Oppose
206	Ward Councillor for Lavender Fields	Should look at alternative sites for MMES, e.g. Whatley Avenue, Phipps Bridge Youth Centre. It is last remaining council-maintained nursery in Merton and provides affordable, all-year-round EYFS services to children in Mitcham with no comparable alternatives. It provides a community service that is accessible to a wide mix of families. Seems short-sighted to	Oppose

		close only council nursery when lots of private nurseries are predicted to close.	
207		Strongly oppose closure.	Oppose
208	Current parent	Strongly oppose closure. Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Only nursery that meets my need for full time childcare and is affordable. Offers high quality care from experienced staff.	Oppose
209		Has and still is providing learning and growth for many children and support to their parents. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
210	Current parent	Saddened by proposal. Provides exceptional provisions for early childcare, staff are outstanding and highly experienced. Limited services in area that meeting these standards and facilities.	Oppose
211		Early Years provision has been and remains a valuable asset to Mitcham. Provides full time provision. Preposterous to consider closure during a pandemic due to the impact it has had on children's wellbeing and development. This may have increased the need for MMES's provision so a premises larger than Lavender may be required in the future. Also moving pupils from MMES into a new premises after the disruption from COVID could be detrimental and should be delayed.	Oppose
212	Prospective parent	Object and saddened by proposal. Run by an exceptional team with excellent on site facilities and is most affordable childcare option in the local area. It is a vital resource for the local community and its closure would be a huge loss.	Oppose
213	Current parent	Strongly oppose closure. Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. It is essential for the local community providing safe, well controlled and highly sufficient childcare. Most affordable in area and provides full time care. Purpose built building with a playground close by. New housing developments nearby may increase demand. Concerned re staff losing their jobs.	Oppose
214		Alternatives are not suitable replacements.	Oppose
215		Strongly oppose closure.	Oppose
216	Related to staff member	Devastated at proposal. Mother works there and is not only a means of providing for her family, but also her passion and commitment to help children. Has a good reputation as an educational establishment. Many adults rely on its services to enable them to do their day jobs.	Oppose
217		Reconsider the proposal.	Oppose
218	Councillor for Lavender Fields Ward	Share same sentiments as other Councillor. It was a purpose built, award nominated facility to provide a deprived community with a vital resource to promote diversity and inclusivity with universally accessible places. Most children attending are average families from the local area struggling to make ends meet, not middle class families. Main concern from residents is the affordability of childcare. Lavender is not just a nursery it is a little community across the whole ward.	Oppose

219		Supports proposal. The capacity of MMES should be increased as more young people are becoming vulnerable to mental health difficulties. For many years it has been one of the most effective arms of Melbury College providing opportunities for success to some very vulnerable students despite being housed in temporary accommodation. Moving to a permanent and purpose-adapted home will allow the service to improve even further.	Support
220	Current parent	Daughter attends and has grown in confidence and developed beautifully as a result of the hard work of the amazing staff members. It has also played a pivotal role in the upbringing of multi-cultural Merton children.	Oppose
221	Staff member	Best interest for children for the site to remain open. Setting is excellent and has had a great impact on children's physical and learning development. Most impacted will be fee paying parents. Our nursery is very specialist and caters for children with special needs. Any change to routine may have a detriment effect on children.	Oppose
222	Current parent	Strongly oppose closure. Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Vital community hub providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and has around 40 children on the waiting list. Alternatives are full or more expensive.	Oppose
223		Oppose closure due to: no information provided on other sites; why can't Whatley Ave accommodate them – it has been allocated for SEN but only 90 places, it has enough capacity for both; alternative settings are not applicable to vast majority; predicted decrease in numbers is unfounded and short-sighted; it is an extremely popular, high quality nursery.	Oppose
224	Current parent	Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. As a parent cannot speak highly enough about the nursery staff. Council has also grossly underestimated the demand for places at Lavender.	Oppose
225	Current & prospective grandparent	Lovely nursery with excellent staff who provide a very good education. Also the most affordable.	Oppose
226	Current parent	It is a magnificent establishment.	Oppose
227		Would have a detrimental effect on nursery provision in the local area in terms of quality of education and affordability. Excellent nursery, brilliant staff in a purpose build building.	Oppose
228	Current parent	Staff are caring, dedicated, committed and patient. Prepares children for school. Reduced demand for places in inaccurate as more families are moving to Mitcham as it is more affordable than neighbouring areas/boroughs. Eastfields is also being regenerated so population may increase. Alternative providers are more expensive and do not offer the same experiences or full time care.	Oppose
229	Current & prospective grandparent	Look for an alternative site for MMES. It is a fantastic nursery. There are no other nurseries nearby and affordable for younger grandchild to attend.	Oppose

230		It is purpose built and excels in meeting its purpose. Provides high quality, affordable, full time childcare with high demand.	Oppose
231	Current parents	Challenging to find a nursery place in the area. Staff would be made redundant. Look at alternative sites for MMES. Eastfields regeneration will encourage more young families to the area increasing demand for places.	Oppose
232		Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Already lack of nursery provision (let alone affordable options) within local area . It is an excellent, well run nursery where children thrive.	Oppose
233		Protest against the closure. It is a vital asset for children in a purpose built building that will deprive low income families of 80 government funded places. It will also lead to excessive traffic in the area – site is not set up for a secondary school.	Oppose
234	Current parent	Object and in fact support an expansion of early year's services. Convenient location for commuting into London and affordable. Concerned re detrimental impact on staff. Council should be investing in services required by young professionals like myself and not closing them. The scrutiny meeting was biased towards Melbury College as two councillors were chairs there. Also question viability of report presented at the meeting. Unclear what other buildings have been considered and questionable if a setting with a playground for young children in front of it is the best location for anxious students.	Oppose
235	Current parent	It has an excellent reputation and am extremely happy with the childcare my child receives there. Anticipate an increase in demand for childcare resulting from the Eastfields regeneration project.	Oppose
236	Current & prospective parent	Son has thrived at the nursery and we are grateful for the level of care. The closure will have a negative effect on the staff. 2019 report identified an undersupply of places for 2 year olds – this will only get worse if Lavender closes. Look for an alternative site for MMES.	Oppose
237	Past parent	Support the council in looking for long-term site for MMES but not to the detriment of Lavender Nursery. Nursery provides huge value to local families. It is more than just a service facility, it creates a sense of family. (For specific reasons) am truly grateful for the support we received from Lavender. Also concerned re the suitability for MMES of the location, the increased demand for childcare places due to the Eastfields regeneration and staff redundancies.	Oppose
238	Past MMES parent	There is no other provision in our borough that supports children with their mental health issues or who are unable to manage mainstream education. There is such a need for this provision and it needs to be recognised for the work they do and the need for it to be in place in an appropriate setting, to be able to fully support their children in a safe and nurturing environment like they did for my child. Children are struggling more and more in mainstream and they are just not equipped to care and nurture these children and that is why we need the MMES in place.	Support

239	Past MMES parent	The children in the school are vulnerable and in need of intensive support and care. They require lots of input from different agencies to help them to reconnect and find a place in the community. Lavender is a safe and ideal building to house a medical support school. It has the right facilities and is vital to the whole community.	Support
240	Past MMES parent	MMES is an important facility with excellent staff. It is therefore so important that MMES have the right space and facilities to be able to nurture these wounded children back to good mental health - now more than ever in light of Covid.	Support

Lavender Nursery Parents Association Consultation Response

Summary

The Lavender Nursery Parents Association [LNPA] is a group of parents and carers of children at the Nursery, former pupils, and children on the waiting list. We have considered the current proposal put forward by Merton Council and have concluded that we are unanimously opposed to the proposal to close Lavender Nursery, London Road, Mitcham, in August 2021.

Merton Council's proposal to close Lavender Nursery shows a clear misunderstanding of the requirements of childcare for local parents and the suggested alternatives are not applicable to the vast majority of the children. The local authorities admission criteria does not allow children aged 2-3 years old to attend nursery classes within primary schools, which is where we understand the majority of the vacancies outlined in Merton Council's proposal are highlighted to be (and even when they turn 3 they cannot attend until the term after their third birthday). Additionally these nursery places are unsuitable for working families who require childcare from 7.45-6pm and all year round [school nurseries are only available term time only]. Although some schools provide wrap around & holiday care, the majority of these are not available for the 3-4 years age group. The council's proposal also fails to consider the financial, logistical, emotional and environmental impact of uprooting those children to alternative childcare providers, for which this report evidences an average 30% increase on childcare costs as a result of this displacement.

The LNPA have found that the suggested decrease in demand for affordable, safe, purposeful, and forward thinking Early Years childcare is unfounded and in fact many of the council's policies [The Local Plan, Childcare Sufficiency in Merton (2020)] contradict the proposal to reduce the number of Early Year childcare places in the local area. Merton Council's continued regeneration ambitions, in particular to encourage young people to move to the area, will inevitably require enhanced Early Years education facilities and whilst the LNPA recognise the validity in the need for young people's medical educational services, it is very likely that an increase in the young family population will demand a higher ratio of EYFS childcare, over that required to support the number of pupils across the local area with medical educational needs. It is the LNPA's opinion that the council's proposal is, in this case, short sighted and fails to future-proof the local area and its own budget requirements.

The council's consultation document fails to detail adequate information on alternative sites that have been explored for the relocation of Merton Medical Educational Services [Canterbury Road Campus]. Merton Council note in their proposal, that MMES 'have outgrown their previous accommodation at the Canterbury Road campus, Morden. They are currently in temporary provision but require a permanent, suitable home'. However it is evident from the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021, that Merton Council have failed to fully consider alternative sites within the borough, including the Whatley Avenue site. Whatley Avenue is currently unoccupied, having most recently been utilised as a temporary site for Harris Academy Wimbledon for its 360 students. The LNPA understand that Merton Council propose to use this site for specialist SEN provision for up to 90 pupils and therefore the LNPA suggest the site has enough capacity to house both this SEN provision and the requirements of MMES, while still ensuring appropriate segregation of the two services and their individual needs. This also leaves space for both these provisions to grow in future years, unlike the current Lavender Nursery site. Merton council's solution to the rehousing of MMES will subsequently deplete and disperse a fully functioning, highly in demand and successful Early Years childcare facility which serves its own residing families. It is not clear from the current proposal what other alternative sites have been analysed for the relocation of MMES and therefore why the proposal is to relocate

MMES some 2.5 miles across the Borough. It would be reasonable to assume that this drastic relocation will inevitably have an impact on its current families who will be required to incur additional upheaval in transportation to get to the Lavender Road, London Road site, should the proposal go ahead.

In addition and in light of the current global pandemic, the LNPA believe Merton council has been unreasonable in the time scale provided for this consultation, given the gravity of the impact of the nursery's closure on families and its own staff. The LNPA believe that the council have deliberately failed to effectively inform other groups that are directly impacted and, more generally the wider community, of the consultation proposal, assuming this will be a matter affecting only those families currently on-roll. Again this approach is short-sighted and divisive, excluding parents who were previously on the waiting list, who may well be expecting their child to attend and have Lavender Nursery earmarked as their local nursery, as well as all those families whose children have received the wonderful care and education provided at Lavender Nursery, who will be personally affected.

Whilst the LNPA appreciates the councils position in needing to find an alternative site for MMES, we fail to understand why this must come at the enormous cost of the closure of Lavender Nursery and how the council have justifiably arrived at the position that the only alternative site across the entire borough is a hugely in demand, incredibly successful and vital early years childcare provider.

The LNPA urges the council to reconsider its position on targeting Lavender Nursery as the only appropriate site for Merton Medical Education Services.

Introduction

This response is written on behalf of the LNPA with regards to the recent proposal and consultation for the closure of Lavender Nursery [London Road] to allow for the expansion of Merton Medical Education Service provision.

Firstly, we would like it noted that the approach and timing of this consultation period by the Local Authority feels much like an 'afterthought'. Lavender Nursery is a vital community hub, providing safe, regulated and highly impactful childcare and Early Years Education to approximately 100 children of Merton borough. It does appear from the short natured and short sighted approach to this consultation, that the importance of the nursery's impact on its local community has been neglected by the Local Authority and it is the LA's intention to forcibly escalate this matter without due care and consideration on the impact this poses to its own community.

Formal consultation should in any case, allow open, unbiased discussions for all affected parties and as such we expect that this response is given appropriate consideration when reaching a decision.

Consultation Concerns

The LNPA have noted that your consultation was published on Monday 24th January 2021 and is due to close on 22nd February 2021. This allows, in a time of national lockdown, for 30 days in which families have to receive, digest, understand, research alternatives, collate and respond to your consultation. This is assuming that all those impacted are in fact able to access the resources required to take the aforementioned steps. It is highly likely that there are very many within the groups impacted by this proposal who may be the vulnerable, clinically shielding, those for whom English is not their first language or those from deprived households with little access to the current platforms used for this consultation [internet and email correspondence], they will have less opportunity or may find it difficult to respond to the

consultation. The only people in the local wards who have been directly contacted about the consultation are the parents & carers of Lavender Nursery, the consultation could have been better promoted by the Council through ward Councillors or the local MP as there may be many other people who will be impacted who are unaware .

In addition, and most concerning, we understand there to be a number of legal documents that have been omitted from the consultation. We request to see the Authority Monitoring Report [AMR] as a matter of urgency and understand this is a legal matter that must be adhered to before any decision can be made on this consultation. It is also noted that the published Merton Council Local Plan, held on your website was out of date until part way through the consultation window. Given the proposed changes are to buildings and that this is a planning matter, we are extremely concerned that the proposal consistently contravenes your borough's Statement of Community Involvement [SCI] June 2020. Your SCI states its agenda to;

Be transparent in the way that consultations are carried out.

We would argue that the short natured timeframe to the consultation suggests that the council's perspective on this consultation is one merely of formality and is not in the true 'spirit' of a consultation. One which protects and promotes the community's voice and allows for feedback to be received and given and for true consideration be applied at senior level to the points raised. Our feeling is that the LA will not have sufficient time within the current timeframe [22nd February 2021] in which to demonstrate they have fairly considered all of the objections points raised in this document and by those received from the wider community.

Be clear and helpful in guiding people through the process

The consultation documents were emailed to parents of the nursery on Monday 24th January. Parents were informed that they should email any thoughts to a generic consultation email address. As previously stated, the LA have made an assumption that families will all have access to the resources which will allow them to respond to the consultation appropriately. No adjustments or adaptations have been made to ensure that all families will be able to access the consultation documents. More worrying is the council's short sighted approach in failing to share this with the other groups who may be impacted and more generally to the wider community. Whilst it is the case that the families currently on role at the nursery are acutely affected, we are aware of an overwhelming number of young families in the area who had anticipated sending their younger children to the nursery when they reached appropriate age or when the nursery had availability to take them. This document details the number of families who have expressed an interest in attending Lavender Nursery since the nursery was sadly forced to close its under 2 year old provision in 2018 and subsequently closed its waiting list to all other class groups since November 2020.

Seek views at the earliest possible stage and throughout the consultation

The LNPA would argue that the short turn around for the consultation feedback suggests that the LA are merely carrying out the consultation as a matter of course. It is felt that that the LA have made the deadline unreasonably short as this was either a part of the planned MMES 'take-over' of the Lavender Nursery site that was forgotten entirely or was strategically left to the last minute to ensure that there were as few responses as possible. Either way, we would argue that this approach entirely contravenes the borough commitment to its own SCI. Those impacted could also have been involved at an earlier stage, before the formal consultation started.

Section 9.9 of the borough's SCI stipulates;

'For such consultation to be meaningful, it should be held towards the beginning of the pre-application process, while there is still a realistic opportunity for the local community to help shape proposals before they are submitted as a formal application. If consultation is held just

before submitting the application, the designs are likely to be more fixed and there are fewer opportunities for community engagement to influence the proposals.'

The current proposal suggests that the LA intend to close Lavender Nursery with effect from August 2021. This suggests that a planning proposal has already been submitted and therefore no such pre-application consultation has taken place.

Social & Economic Impact

The LNPA believes there would be a significant social and economic impact from closing the nursery. Closure of the Lavender Nursery will leave up to 120 families currently on roll, without adequate access to early years childcare, which the LNPA believe would cause an insurmountable strain on the ability of parents to work. Merton Council's Childcare Sufficiency in Merton Annual Report 2019, states;

"Sufficient, high quality childcare is not only a vital component of the local economy and can support regeneration, but ensures that families can access the right type of childcare to meet their needs that enables them to seek work or maintain their employment. In addition, a market that can offer high quality, accessible and affordable childcare has the potential to contribute to the reduction of child poverty. Evidence shows that high-quality Early Years provision has a positive and lasting effect on children's outcomes, future learning and life chances - regardless of the economic circumstances of their parents. Therefore, high quality childcare supports the Local Authority in its role to improve the wellbeing of young children and reduce inequalities between them."

The Department for Education's "Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local authorities, states:

"Parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high quality settings. To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities are required by legislation to: secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14"

Working families require full-time childcare in order for them to continue meeting the demands of running and maintaining their household in London. The part time hours currently offered as funded places do not provide sufficient hours for parents to work the hours full-time jobs demand. Adequate childcare facilities have become particularly crucial during the uncertain times of the global pandemic, which continues to cause job losses. The Merton Council proposal fails to appreciate the importance of enabling people back into work and for working parents to continue to be able to work their full hours. The cost of alternative nurseries in the area is notably higher than Lavender Nursery (see Alternative Childcare Providers below), which would cause significant financial strain on its current families and could result in parents being unable to work, with no choice but in to provide childcare at home, forcing families in to a situation of further financial difficulty. This increase in cost for alternative childcare is particularly relevant for Lavender nursery given that it is in Lavender Fields ward, noted as one of the poorest in the borough. Stripping this affordable childcare provision would be particularly damaging to low income families.

LNPA believes the financial viability of the nursery has been impacted by its own downsizing in previous years. Fee paying parents keep nurseries viable. In 2018 Lavender Nursery closed the 'baby room' resulting in a significant decrease in the number of fee paying families. This meant that the natural flow of children from the "baby room" up to the "preschool room" was interrupted, which will inevitably have resulted in a decrease in profit to the nursery.

Many parents require their child to attend a nursery from much younger than the age of 2 and so regrettably they have been forced to find alternative arrangements, which would then make them hesitant to move their child back to Lavender Nursery when they reached the age of 2 years. As such, many current Lavender Nursery families are forced to send their siblings to two different nursery settings, resulting in two nursery 'commutes' and missing out on the nursery sibling discount.

It is LNPA's belief that the council has been undermining the financial viability of the nursery by cutting back the intake of the nursery in previous years, in order to be able to justify its closure now. By increasing and supporting the fee paying children in the nursery by reopening the "baby room" and maintaining fee paying places in older classes (and if required increasing the fees to prevent the nursery being loss making) the LNPA believe's the nursery would be revenue generating again. As it stands there is a significant waiting list with around 40 families on the list at the time Lavender Nursery was forced to close its waiting as a result of the global pandemic. We are informed that the nursery receives daily enquiries from prospective parents looking for a range of childcare, from 6 months to 5 years.

Lavender nursery is notable in the area for its diversity. The mix of full time paid for places with government funded places supports the local area's diverse demographic, enabling children from different backgrounds to mix. This was a particular feature of the Sure Start programme, under which the facility was built. The Sure Start programme focused on areas of high deprivation that would benefit from the early years facility but with universally accessible places, ensuring that the children who received funding were able to mix with fee paying children promoting diversity and inclusivity. Closing Lavender Nursery would take this away, sending the children from more deprived families to facilities only offering funded places and children from other families to paid for facilities elsewhere.

The Childcare Sufficiency in Merton Annual Report [2019 & 2020] clearly identifies that there is already a deficit of funded early education for 2-year-olds, within the wards surrounding the nursery.

	Variance in availability of 'funded places available' to 'eligible children'	
	2019	2020
Colliers Wood	-13	-14
Figges Marsh	-47	-45
Graveney	-38	-14
Lavender Fields	18	-12
	-80	-85

The report states that the Figges Marsh ward currently has: "significantly fewer places in the ward than there are eligible children". These families are forced to source alternative childcare providers outside of the ward in which they live.

We believe one of these places noted is Lavender Nursery and by removing this facility there would be further strain on available places. It must also be noted Lavender would be the second local nursery to close, following the closure of the independently run Funky Owls, St Barnabas Hall, Gorringe Park Avenue, CR4. Although the council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report shows that the population of Merton's under-fives has decreased in recent years and suggests that this is expected to continue to decrease over the next five years, the

LNPA believe that this is unlikely to be the case given the council's commitment to regeneration in the local area, thus increasing the number of children being born. There is anecdotal evidence of a Covid 'baby boom' on the horizon which would bring further need for nursery places.

Alternative Childcare Providers

There are 2 key considerations for alternative childcare arrangements for the children who are currently at Lavender and who were on the waiting list and expecting a future place.

1. The proposed alternative arrangements for funded places for eligible 2-year-olds (part time, term time, free provision)

Of proposed locations Steers Mead Children's Centre is the only one within walking distance of Lavender (10mins walk). Acacia Children's Centre (20mins walk) and Abbey Children's Centre (30mins walk) are too far for families to travel by foot given the round trip journeys would be between 40-60 minutes from Lavender. This will prevent these nurseries being an option for some families or require those families to travel by car to the locations which is impractical (no parking facilities at the nurseries) but also adds to the pollution in the borough which Merton has pledged to reduce. This also goes against the councils Good Growth Strategy which includes the 20-minute neighbourhood policy ("The council will seek to create 20 minute neighbourhoods where feasible - 20-minute neighbourhoods are places where communities can access most of their daily needs within a 20-minute (about 800 metres) return walk from home.)

The requirement to fill 80 funded places could not be met by the current proposal. Acacia and Abbey offer 24 and 20 places respectively and are currently full. Steers Mead will need to be fully refurbished in order to function as a nursery and will only have the capacity for an additional 29 spaces.

2. Places for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds for fee paying families (full time places)

Although there are other nurseries within 1 mile of Lavender there are many reasons why parents have chosen to send their child/children to Lavender and not those nurseries. Key factors within this are price and location. This is summarised below:

Nursery	Distance from Lavender (as crow flies)	Walking time	Round trip time (walking)	Ward	Avails	Fees: Under 3s	Fees: Over 3s	Fees: Over 3s inc 15-hour funding	Fees: Over 3s inc 30 hours funding
Lavender Nursery				Lavender Fields		£1,174.00	£1,140.00	£935.00	£697.00
Flourish Day Nursery	0.63 miles	21min	42min	Colliers Wood	Yes	£1,625.00		£1,411.25	£1,197.00
Funky Owls Nursery	0.69 miles	20min	40mins	Colliers Wood	Yes	£1,776.00		£1,495.00	£1,256.00
Nursery on the Green (Colliers Wood)	0.72 miles	21 mins	42mins	Colliers Wood	Yes	£1,517.00	£1,300.00	£1,001.00	£702.00
Love Lane Day Nursery	0.81 miles	20min	40mins	Cricket Green	Yes	£1,517.00	£1,473.00		
Kingswood Daycare Nursery	0.81 miles	24mins	48mins	Cricket Green	Yes	£1,540.00	£1,430.00		
Jigsaw Day Nursery	0.82 miles	22mins	44mins	Cricket Green	No	£1,457.00			
Nursery on the Green (Mitcham)	0.82 miles	25mins	50mins	Cricket Green					
Haslemere House Day Nursery	0.86 miles	22 mins	44mins	Cricket Green	Yes	£1,170.00	£1,126.00		
Kiddies Kottage	0.87 miles	30 mins	60mins	Longthornton		£1,213.00	£1,083.00		
Lucky Beans (Wandsworth)	0.58 miles	12 mins	24mins		No	£1,531.00	£1,336.00		
Woodlands (Wandsworth)	0.66 miles	15 mins	30mins		Yes	£1,627.00	£1,411.00	£1,223.00	£942.00
Average price						£1,497.30	£1,308.43	£1,282.56	£1,024.25
% higher than Lavender						27.54%	14.77%	37.17%	46.95%

It is clear from the above that Lavender is significantly cheaper than all but one of the other local nurseries, which is a significant distance from the current Lavender Nursery setting. The council's proposal for the above nurseries to be regarded as suitable alternatives, is unreasonable due to the added impact of the commute to the nursery settings, as well as the incomparable fees the families will be forced to pay, in a time where many families' budgets are stretched. This could result in many children being forced out of suitable childcare provision.

The practicalities of journeys to nursery must also be considered, to ensure journeys are taken on foot rather than by car (to prevent further pollution) the distance to and from nursery is key. The data above clearly shows that many of the nurseries would not be practical to walk to and from and this would be a significant factor in whether parents can use these nurseries in place of Lavender.

Nursery classes in primary schools have been given as an alternative to full time places, however this is not a comparable option. Nursery classes within primary schools are only for children aged 3-4 years, with no options for the children aged 2-3 years currently provided by

Lavender Nursery. Places are not available until the term after the child turns 3 (or in some local Wandsworth schools we've enquired at, they are only available the September after they turn 3). This is critical to considerations of appropriate alternatives, if a child turns 3 on the 1st April (and onwards) they would not be able to start at a school nursery until the following September, thus requiring a further 6 months of childcare elsewhere. Lavender Nursery is open from 7.45-6pm providing parents with the ability to work a standard full-time working day, while their child is at nursery. The provision within primary schools does not cover the full day and more worryingly not all primary schools offer wrap around care to the nursery age group. The LNPA believes that nursery classes within primary schools are not a like-for-like viable option.

There are a number of childminders in the area, however the services provided by childminders vs nurseries are not comparable. This is particularly key in the pre-school age group where social and emotional development is core to the EYFS and therefore being in a nursery setting with a larger number of children and getting prepared for the school environment is critical. Nursery and childminder provisions cannot be compared to nursery settings, as the parents who chose nursery do so because they are looking for full rounded childcare which supports the research on early years development.

In addition to travel and cost implications of choosing Lavender Nursery, parents note that they chose Lavender Nursery for its setting. Lavender Nursery provides a purpose built building for EYFS with unparalleled facilities (nominated for 2006 Better Public Building Award) including floor-to-ceiling windows offering natural light in all rooms, large separate rooms for all age groups, a huge, secure, well equipped garden and is set back from the main road. No other council run or private nurseries in the area offer comparable facilities, which were specifically designed with young people in mind. The high quality care and experience of the staff, many of whom have been with the nursery for many years, results in excellent relationships between the children, parents and staff which fosters the high quality learning experience across the nursery. Within the local community Lavender Nursery is consistently recommended by parents to future parents as is demonstrated by the waiting lists for places.

Educational Impact

The council's "Children & Young People Plan" agreed to *"continue to provide good or outstanding nursery provision and actively promote access to 2 year-old funding"*. The report states;

'by removing this provision all parents in full time work who cannot use the reduced hours of the 15/30 hours funding will have the nursery provision taken away from them and despite the offer of relocating the funded places there will still be many parents who are unable to use those sites due to their location and as such are also having the option of funded places removed from them.'

The council's 'Childcare Sufficiency in Merton' report 2020 notes;

Evidence shows that high-quality Early Years provision has a positive and lasting effect on children's outcomes, future learning and life chances - regardless of the economic circumstances of their parents. Therefore, high quality childcare supports the Local Authority in its role to improve the wellbeing of young children and reduce inequalities between them.

Given this evidence the LNPA believes the closure of Lavender Nursery would lead to significant risk to the development of local children. This is particularly important in the most deprived areas of Merton. In the council published document: Merton Wards Health Profile - Lavender Fields it states only *"55% of children in Lavender Fields are "school ready" by the age of 5"*.

This is far fewer than the borough, London and national averages and so closing Lavender nursery within this ward will only impact this further

The LNPA highlighted that there are around 40 children on the waiting list and more who were unable to join this waiting list when it was closed in November 2020. These children may now find it difficult to find places at other nurseries as many in the local area are already over subscribed and could be left without a nursery place or have to wait longer than planned before starting nursery. These children have spent a significant portion of their young lives in isolation during the Covid pandemic and without access to baby classes or socialisation the developmental importance of joining a nursery is even more critical.

Ancillary Concerns

The LNPA have raised concerns regarding the suitability of the location of MMES at the Lavender Nursery site. Lavender Nursery is situated on London Road, the entrance to which is adjacent to Tamworth Recreation. Tamworth Recreation ground is a playground owned and managed by Merton LA. It's equipment and play space are suitable for and attract children under the age of 10 years old. As such the playground lends itself well to its location next to Lavender Nursery. The play space is a shared community space where families of all social and economic backgrounds convene together in a safe and calm environment.

The proposal for MMES to relocate to the Lavender Nursery site raises real concerns about the uptake and usage of Tamworth Recreation Ground. The suitable footfall will be drastically reduced in and around the recreation ground area, due to the reduction in the numbers of young children [under 10's] accessing the playground on a daily basis. This could well render the playground a wasted community space, which will require greater long term upkeep and expense by the LA. It is also possible that in its significantly reduced state, Tamworth Recreation ground could become a space inappropriately used by those demonstrating anti-social behaviour, as is the case for some neighbouring outdoor space such as Edenvale. The playground and splash park can also get particularly busy during the summer and this may not be suitable for anxious or high risk children to have to pass through to enter or leave the facility.

We believe that the LA's commitment to providing safe outdoor space for all may be compromised by the repositioning of MMES to the Lavender Nursery site.

Future-proofing the community

The current Lavender Nursery site, was a purpose-built award winning site designed specifically for the under 5's. The single-story premises currently comprises 4 separate rooms, 4 bathrooms all designed with low level accessibility facilities specifically for young people. The substantial outdoor space lends itself to allow children to fully develop the EYFS curriculum and development. For many families who attend the nursery without their own personal outdoor space at home, the access to large, purposeful and safe outdoor learning space will be a lifeline for personal development.

The LNPA feel that Merton council overlooks the very fact that the space was specifically identified and designed and built at much expense, following the needs assessment of its' community and local area and that the local authority is deliberately disguising the continued level of demand and in fact the likely increase in demand for affordable nursery in the local area, given the mass scale residential development and regeneration that is detailed in Merton Councils local plan. LNPA understand that Merton Council's Local Plan sets out the following;

1.2.10

Good quality housing could encourage young professionals into Mitcham bringing increased spending power. More people using the town centre will have knock on social and environmental effects, including greater support for existing local businesses, allowing them to expand and create new jobs.

1.2.11

In order to accommodate the significant increase in new housing in Mitcham and the surrounding neighbourhood, in particular from large key development sites, we will also ensure that community services such as education and health meet the needs of existing and new residents.

The LNPA understands that the current Eastfields Regeneration programme proposes 800 new homes, many of which will be targeted towards the council's 'local plan' of encouraging young professionals to the area. As such we anticipate an increase in the demand for nursery places, as young professionals and couples start families. Whilst the LNPA recognise that there may be a small increase in demand for medical education services, the ratio of demand for this type of service is heavily outweighed by the likely demand for 'mainstream' affordable, safe and purposeful childcare, which supports the council's current Local Plan, it's economical objectives of increased income to the area and its environmental agenda 'Good Growth Strategy' of creating a minute-community - where communities can access most of their daily needs within a 20-minute (about 800 metres) return walk from home).

The council's current proposal suggests one of the alternative sites for the deposition of Lavender children, will be Acacia Nursery. However given its proximity to the Eastfield Regeneration site, the likely increase in demand for places on the waiting list as a result, will mean fewer places available for those families dispersed from Lavender Nursery. It is also possible that with such demand for Acacia Nursery, the LA could chose to impose a 'catchment' area to the nursery, which would force those previously attending Lavender Nursery even further down a waiting list, rendering them without any alternative childcare option, other than the cripplingly expensive independent options. It is very clear from the fee structure's evidence in this document, that independent nurseries do not currently offer a like-for-like alternative to local authority run nurseries. It is LNPA feeling that the proposal entirely fails to take into account the additional and significant financial burden these types of settings would place on young families. Naturally, this would only lead to further marginalising of families on the income spectrum, with only those from more wealthy income households able to continue to access childcare.

The council's proposal papers suggest that approximately 120 families will be affected by the nursery closures proposal. The short-sighted nature of this implies a deliberate attempt to undervalue the importance and demand for Lavender Nursery. The LNPA understands that, regrettably, Lavender Nursery was forced to close their formal waiting list for new children in November 2020 as a result of the global pandemic, at which time the nursery had 40 families on the formal waiting list, with interest across all age groups. We are aware that since closing its formal waiting list, the nursery continue to be contacted via telephone and/or on a daily basis by new families in need of quality childcare and so we anticipate that should the waiting list have remained open, this figure of 40 families would see a 100% increase, with approximately 80-100 waiting families. The council's proposal fails to take into account the continued demand for spaces at Lavender Nursery, which we would suggest would impact a higher proportion of local families, than is currently in demand for MMES places. In addition, since the closure of the "baby room" in 2018 there are a significant number of families who would seek to put their child into nursery care from a younger age who have now had to find care elsewhere, there could be a significant increase in attendance if this room were to be reopened.

The council should now seriously consider its commitment to its own Local Plan of encouraging young professionals to the area, ensuring that it thoroughly 'future-proofs' its education provision. The LPNA believes it would be short-sighted and reactionary of the council to close a highly effective, safe, purposeful, happy and affordable EYFS childcare setting, which will subsequently leave insufficient, inadequate provisions for those that the

area intends to attract over the next few years. It should be recognised that young families will also take into account factors such as access to childcare provisions, transportation, ease of commute around childcare, when choosing to move to a new area. The lack of quality nursery will undoubtedly render Mitcham a less desirable area than its counterparts. As such, Mitcham will continue to see a decrease in its external income and local spend and will continue to demand more financially to support its maintenance and regeneration proposal, and this will be a financial and time consuming burden to Merton Council.

A recent study carried out by the Early Years Alliance in collaboration with Ceeda, suggests that 64 percent of nurseries and 56 percent of childminders consider their services to be at immediate risk of closure or to be facing potential closure in the next 12 months. 70 percent of nurseries in disadvantaged areas of London class themselves as 'struggling' compared with 59 per cent in more affluent areas. In a press release from the London Mayor Sadiq Khan's office, Neil Leitch, Early Years Alliance chief executive, said;

"It is deeply concerning to see that, despite the crucial role that nurseries, pre-schools and childminders in London have played supporting local children and families throughout the pandemic, an ongoing lack of adequate government support - combined with years of underfunding - means the majority will struggle to survive the next 12 months. What's more, given that we know early education is crucial to ensuring that all children are given the best possible start in life, it is particularly worrying that providers in more disadvantaged areas are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing financial difficulties than those in more affluent areas".

In light of the above considerations, the LNPA would strongly argue that the proposed closure of Lavender Nursery presents 'false economy' in the long term and does not seek to future-proof itself economically, socially or environmentally.

Impact on Staff

The LNPA understands that the impact on the staff at Lavender Nursery is a legal matter and that there is a full process of separate consultation required, which will impact on at least a third of the staff being forced into involuntary redundancy. The LNPA would like to note however, that in a time of national lockdown, there is an inevitable challenge for finding re-employment and as such any consultation of redundancy should take reasonable steps to support its staff in offering an acceptable level of time for staff to be consulted on the proposal. It is the LNPA's feeling the local authority should consider allowing additional time for the consultation period, in order to reasonably support the re-employment of its workforce in any way possible. The LA will be aware that failure to follow the due consultation process may result in a legal challenge, through an Employment Tribunal.

It is entirely regrettable that the local council has chosen a time of such employment uncertainty to force a third of the Lavender Nursery workforce into a situation of unemployment. The council and those reading this report, of which many will be parents themselves, will know that the single most important resource to the success of any education setting is its staff. The staff at Lavender Nursery are among the highest calibre of educators and childcare providers that any parent could ask for, any OFSTED inspector could assess and any child would wish to be cared for by. Many of the staff have been with the nursery since it opened in 2005 and many families have had all their children attend, some of whom are now at secondary school age and still hold such close regard for the staff at Lavender Nursery.

The LNPA have been astounded by the numbers of ex-families in the community who have reached out to support the objection to the consultation and this is a testament to the long term impact that the staff at Lavender Nursery have had on their children and families. The community support to oppose the closure of Lavender Nursery is evident in the numbers of

the local community, who have been in contact with the LNPA and with the consultation team directly. It is entirely remiss of Merton Council to regard the staff at Lavender Nursery as 'dispensable'.

Since the pandemic and national lockdown, the team at Lavender Nursery have so gracefully supported the local families, by ensuring the children are able to continue to attend the nursery setting that they love so much. The team have continued to put themselves on the front line, they have maintained consistency and stability when it is certain many families would have been left turned upside down in their personal lives. The children of LNPA truly love their nursery. It is no exaggeration to say that the staff provide a life-line for families to continue, not just in a time of global pandemic, but have done since the Lavender Nursery opened its doors to the community in 2005.

Conclusion

The LNPA believes the council's proposal is poorly argued, lacks evidence, and is short-sighted in its attitude to the local community (both currently and in attracting new families to the area). There is no justification that the expansion of the MMES provision should also require the closure of Lavender Nursery. The impact of this closure on the families and children of Lavender Nursery (both current and future) has been ill considered and undervalued. The alternative childcare options being proposed by Merton Council are not comparable to that offered by Lavender. Families will be forced into further financial difficulty as a result of high fees charged by independent nurseries and childminders. The quality of EYFS childcare provision and the suitability of the settings offered is not comparable to that offered by Lavender Nursery and therefore the local authority is not fulfilling the consultations requirements to support families in sourcing alternative suitable childcare provision. The council have failed to provide a detailed viability report on the alternative options for the relocation of the MMES site, which calls into question the integrity of this consultation.

We therefore urgently require and expect that the timescale is extended for more detailed consultation and that Councillors are involved in this. A number of questions have been raised in this document, and we await a detailed response to them, including addressing the needs of those who use the nursery but for whom English is not their first language, who are currently confused and anxious (in a time where mental health problems are increasing).

Source List

Merton Council, Local Plan

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan>

Childcare Sufficiency in Merton [2020]

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/Documents/Childcare%20Sufficiency%20Report%202020%20FINAL.pdf>

Statement of Community Involvement [June 2020]

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Statement%20of%20Community%20Involvement%202020.pdf>

Children & Young People Plan [2019-23]

<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/documents/s28508/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Plan%202019-23%20Final.pdf>

JSNA & Health of the Borough Merton Health Profile
Merton Data – JSNA and health of the borough

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/jsna/health-profiles#:~:text=An%20overview%20of%20health%20and,as%20main%20causes%20of%20mortality.>

Good Growth Strategy

https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Stage2_2_GoodGrowthStrategy_FINAL.pdf

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/two-thirds-of-londons-nurseries-risk-closure>

[12th February 2021]

The Business Support Needs of London Early Years Sector and How They can Be Met, Early Years Alliance and Ceeda [November 2020]

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_business_support_needs_of_londons_early_years_sector_and_how_they_can_be_met.pdf

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