

# **Harvey Nursery Consultation**

**Report by Consultation & Research Team**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

## **1. Background**

This is the second public consultation for the proposed closure of Harvey Nursery. An initial consultation took place in the Autumn of 2017, engaging 44 parents/carers and stakeholders of the nursery. On 13th January 2021 a new report, with a recommendation to close Harvey Nursery, was approved by the Executive Cabinet Member for consultation with service users, elected members and other stakeholders.

## **2. Methodology**

Between Tuesday 14th September and Tuesday 19th October 2021, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking to engage parents/carers and stakeholders that use Harvey Nursery, in sharing their reflections on the nursery's proposed closure. During that period a comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the proposal across the borough, with a strong emphasis on engaging parents/carers and stakeholders within the Harvey Nursery community. A letter informing parents/carers of the proposed closure and online survey was distributed prior to launching the consultation. An email was also distributed to all stakeholders, including the borough's early years sector. A digital presentation and briefing was made accessible on the Council's consultation webpages and social media was heavily utilised throughout the period to share key messages about the consultation.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of four weeks, providing respondents the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on the proposal. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the council's consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format, on request.

In addition, parent/carer face to face sessions were delivered, enabling service users to outline key concerns and ask questions relating to the proposal. These sessions took place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (refer to Appendix A).

\*A copy of the questionnaire is included at the end of this document, located in Appendix B.

### **3. Consultation responses**

A number of open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire to give respondents the opportunity to comment on the proposal, suggest alternative approaches to closure and outline the support needed if the proposal was approved.

Throughout the consultation period the following responses were received:

- 52 completed electronic questionnaires from parents/carers and stakeholders, of which 13 were submitted from professionals representing the early years sector.
- 8 completed paper questionnaires from parents/carers and stakeholders.
- 9 parents/carers and grandparents attended the drop-in sessions.

#### **Analysis notes**

- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with 'Don't know' type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 3 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.
- Due to the number of respondents, results are presented numerically rather than as percentages. Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

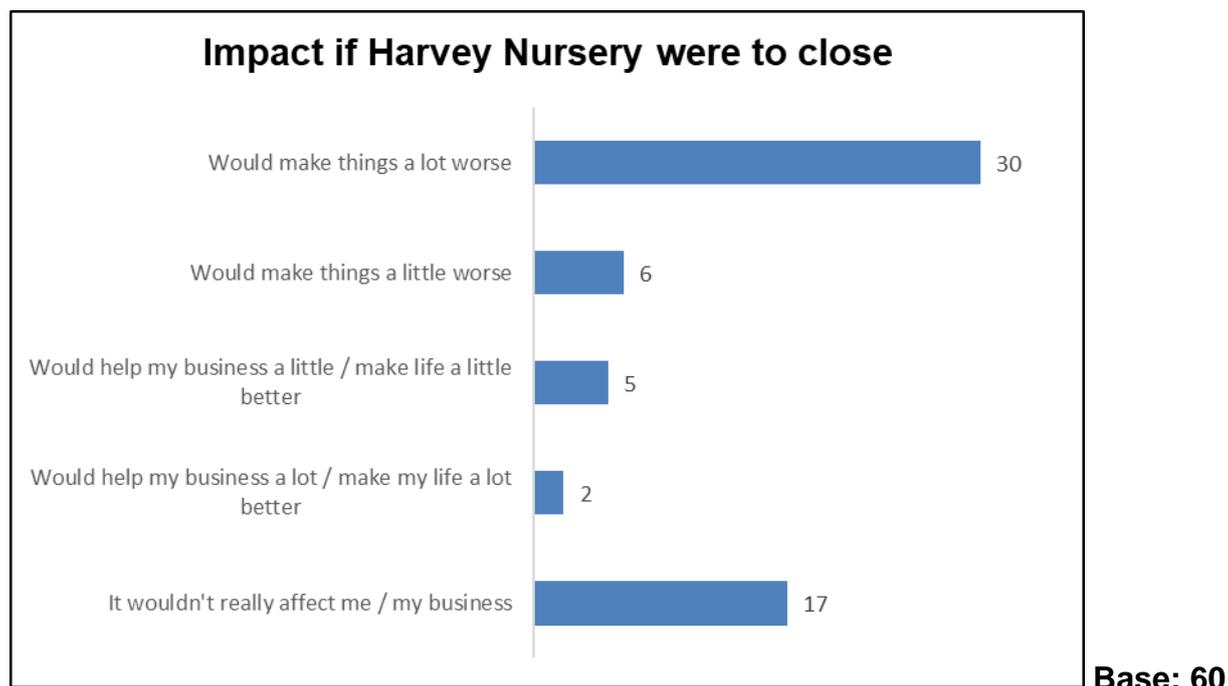
#### **Digital and paper-based survey responses**

A total of 60 parents/carers and stakeholders took part in the survey, outlining their reflections on the proposed closure of Harvey Nursery.

### **4. Impact**

Parents/carers and stakeholders were asked to reflect upon what impact the proposed closure would have on them, their children or business. 36 (60%) stated that it would make things a little/a lot worse for them. 7 (12%) responses stated that it would make things easier for them or their

business and 17 (28%) stated that they would not be impacted by the proposal to close the nursery.



When asked to expand on their answer, 39 responses were received. Comments were themed against three categories:

- The proposal will make things worse
- The proposal will help me or my business
- The proposal won't impact me or my business

#### 4a. Make things worse

Rank	Comment category	Number of respondents
a	Child's happiness, wellbeing, feeling settled, friendships	7
b	Location of nursery i.e. Town Centre, train station, work or home	10
c	Quality of service by staff	8
d	Staff knowledge, SEND awareness / provision	3
e	Parents/carers wellbeing / needs	3
f	Affordability / access to other affordable provision	3

## Verbatim sample quotes

### a) Child's happiness, wellbeing, feeling settled, friendships

Parents/carers had lots of positive things to say about the nursery, particularly when it came to the wellbeing of their children, how settled they were in the setting and how transitions into an alternative setting were a concern.

*"Harvey nursery is a very good nursery and my little girl who is under 2 is happy there and have just settled in".*

*"My child not only was born during the pandemic, but his first and only social interaction was at Harveys Nursery. Having him leave, would mean starting all over again! He has become well aquatinted with all the staff as have the parents/carers - and is definitely like his second home. It will affect not only my 18month, but us as a family as we trust all the staff and have a brilliant bond with them".*

*"My son goes to the nursery and loves it there. He is friends with all the other children and adores all the ladies who work there. During the pandemic it's been hard to keep him socialising with other children and I genuinely believe that the environment at the nursery has been a key factor in his development as he is growing into a friendly, outgoing and confident boy. I'm concerned that having to move to another nursery and a whole new group of carers will affect his development".*

### b) Location of nursery i.e., Town Centre, train station, work or home

The proximity of the nursery to amenities such as transport networks, places of study, work and home was a key theme expressed by a number of respondents. Concerns were raised about finding comparable provision in the same locality and the cumulative impact if alternative provision couldn't be found.

- The nursery is situated close to the train station where both parents/carers commute from daily.*
- Harvey's is very convenient as it is on the way from home to college and is easy to drop my daughter off. If Harvey's was to close I probably wouldn't be able study as there are no other nurseries near by.*
- Me and my partner both work and this nursery is the closest to my home for a family member to pick my child. Also no nursery close to me offers 30hours besides harvey for my child whilst me and my partner work. If this nursery is closed it will cause a lot of problems for me and my partner as no family would be able to collect her and she would be placed at a nursery away from home.*
- It's local to myself and family I am a student at the University and hospital.*

### c) Quality of service by staff

The quality of service offered by the staff was remarked upon positively by parents/carers.

*"We have built a wonderful rapport with the nursery staff that it would be such a shame to lose that and have the risk of not finding that another nursery".*

*"Our son loves the facilities, activities, the staff and the space at Harvey Nursery which would not be the same at another placement".*

*"It seems like a bad time to close such a great nursery especially after the carers there have worked so hard the last couple of years to keep the children so happy".*

#### **d) Staff knowledge, SEND awareness / provision**

The facilities at Harvey Nursery and the support from staff, including the willingness to upskill, was a service that was remarked upon by parents/carers.

- Harvey's is also amazing for children who are disabled etc and has more facilities for that than other nurseries like sensory room etc.*
- My son has multiple disabilities. I have been trying to get him into a nursery since January. This setting has been the only place willing to train and meet the needs of my son.*
- As a mum of a child that is going through of diagnose, Harvey nursery been a big help in all of his progress, he was a complete non verbal child and with the help of the key work and all the staff he improved a lot.*

#### **e) Parents/carers wellbeing / needs**

Several parents/carers and grandparents commented on the impact the proposal would have on the parent's wellbeing needs, *"Harvey is able to accommodate to our needs as working parents", "this will impact on his parents choice"* and *"with my mental health Harvey's is close and I'm able to get the break I need."*

#### **f) Affordability / access to other affordable provision**

A number of parents/carers remarked upon the affordability of Harvey Nursery, particularly in comparison to other provision offered by alternative providers. There was a perception amongst parents/carers that Harvey Nursery was a Council subsidised nursery, and the proposed closure would have a significant impact financially. In addition, concerns were raised around the perceived lack of a full-time offer from other providers in the vicinity.

- *I have no other access to affordable childcare near my home and place of work and not having this access for my under 2-year old would force me to make the decision to leave work. Although there are a number of private nurseries in the area they are widely spread, expensive and do not offer flexible arrangements. Please do not increase my hardship and take away the option of a lower cost and convenient childcare from me as well.*
- *I am in full time employment and therefore this nursery is fantastic for my son who attends five days a week. I am able to do this as the nursery is subsidised. If it were to close I won't be able to pay for another nursery as the cost is too high.*
- *Although there are a number of private nurseries in the area they are widely spread, expensive and do not offer flexible arrangements.*

#### 4b. Will help me or my business

Rank	Comment category	Number of respondents
a	Funding, sustainability, help with filling vacancies & Staff surplus / shortages	6

The majority of responses under this theme were received from private providers, all commenting on the positive impact the closure would have on surplus places within their settings, as well as supporting the sustainability of the wider sector.

*“The Harvey Nursery is situated only just over a mile from our setting, this may help with our low occupancy in the Pre School Room”.*

*“As a nearby private provider, the closure of Harvey MAY help the sustainability of my business as we have numerous 'places' to fill.”*

*“Because the LA would be saving funds to support the town, there is an abundance of private provision.”*

*“I have spaces at my nursery and also staff are in short supply so therefore maybe able to employ some of the staff.”*

## 4c. Won't impact me or my business

Eight respondents provided comments that demonstrated that the proposal would not have any impact on them or their business. These comments were split between providers that didn't operate their business within the vicinity of Harvey Nursery and from parents/carers whose child would no longer attend the nursery when the implementation of closure would take place, or that had already left the nursery.

## 5. Alternatives

Parents/carers and stakeholders were asked to suggest alternative strategies to avoid potential closure of the nursery. 39 comments were received, which have been grouped into 6 key themes. It should be noted that two comments were received in favour of the proposed closure; *"I think it should close"* and *"Many private nursery's in the area"*.

Rank	Comment category	Number of respondents
a	Raising funds	6
b	Publicity	11
c	Improving the offer	5
d	Cutting costs / generating income	9
e	Political decisions	10
f	Reviewing the timeframe / remaining open	3
g	Partnership working	3

### a) Raising funds

Six respondents referred to raising funds within their comments, these ranged from specific suggestions such as *"hold events that are child friendly. Bake sales"* to general suggestions like *"fund raising, lottery grants"* and *"we can charity fundraise, donations from businesses and help from the local community – a lot can be done"*.

### b) Publicity

Better publicity and a more effective marketing strategy were remarked upon within eleven of the comments. One of the key themes within this strand was the lack of awareness of the nursery,

with parents/carers saying they were not aware of its existence, except from referrals from existing service users.

*“By marketing the nursery properly, there has been no work done to do this, keep putting the nursery on review gives parents/carers a sense of insecurities and therefore look to take their children somewhere else.”*

*“More advertisement of nursery places where you can exceed the 75% as described in your slides, less red tape where the nursery is run privately or sold to become a private nursery run by current staff”.*

*“Re-branding and a stronger PR strategy, in showcasing this area of business”.*

*“A change of marketing strategy Improved business model.to help the organisation turn a profit”.*

*“Marketing techniques could raise the profile of the nursery”.*

### **c) Improving the offer**

Comments around this theme tended to focus on increasing the capacity of the nursery for working parents/carers, by expanding the opening hours.

- *“Increase the opening times to 8 - 6 to cater for working parents/carers. I also use another nursery as I work in Manchester. I use Harvey's for the days I work from home. I would have preferred to use Harvey's for the full 5 days”.*
- *“Improve the offer to working families, longer opening times and all year opening”.*
- *“Opening longer hours so the fee can be increased and that way the nursery will attract more working families”.*

### **d) Cutting costs / generating income**

Nine parents/carers and stakeholders suggested alternative ways of cutting costs and generating income. This ranged from changing the business model, covering the full costs of delivering the service, to hiring out rooms and facilities.

- *“Have parents/carers cover the full cost of services provided including all overheads and pay business rates at the same £/sqm as a purpose-built private settings do”.*
- *“Bring in a business manager who can make the billing process efficient and profitable.”*
- *“Start doing nursery apprenticeships”.*
- *“I understand that one of the issues is keeping children on at the nursery after they get to around 3 years old so why not concentrate just on providing care for younger children/babies?”*
- *“Look at generating income by hiring rooms?”*

## e) Political decisions

A number of comments were received around the political decision to close the nursery and using other political strategies to find a solution to avoid closure.

- *“It provides a valuable service for poorer families and the council should make any necessary savings elsewhere”.*
- *“Why is Bolton in so much debt that's my first questions. Children's education is the most important esp with COVID the children are ready behind”.*
- *“Yes I would love for it to stay open and maybe instead of the council building more and more student accommodation the fund will be there to run the nursery.”*
- *“Contact Boris Johnson and remind him about his levelling up programme, ask for more money to ensure children can attend a nursery without putting added financial burden on parents/carers where the only local nursery facilities are privately owned.”*
- *“Increase Council Tax and reduce number of councillors and town hall staff. Reduce allowances for staff and councillors. Have more Zoom meeting to reduce travel costs”.*
- *“How about placing speed cameras on this road which will a) saves lives and b) generate a revenue stream.”*

## f) Reviewing the timeframe / remaining open

Concerns were raised about using the pandemic period to gather data on the nursery to make informed decision. Further to this several comments reflected on remaining open.

*“The council can't use data from 2020 and 2021. We went through a global pandemic and the figures are not a true reflection. I think to improve any means to avoid this happening in the future i think reachable goals need to be set and proper timeframe needs to be given.*

*“There is no alternatives for us, it leaves me unemployed and my son with limited support. We have had our care package hours cut to the minimum and I as a single mum need support to give my son the best”.*

## g) Partnership working

Several comments were received on the theme of working collaboratively with a range of partners. This included an offer from one early years provider, offering to explore a Federation Model.

- *“We would be prepared to explore ways in which our federation model could make the centre more sustainable. this might enable us to work together to develop a more sustainable leadership model for EYFS”.*
- *“Perhaps you could partner with the university/colleges and town centre businesses that have staff who may want access to affordable child care in decent facilities near to their place of work”.*
- *“Maybe you could go into a partnership with the nursery at Bolton College as it already has connections to Bolton Council?”*

## 6. Support

Parents/carers and stakeholders were asked to reflect on the possible implementation of the nursery’s closure and what support they and their children would require. 42 comments were received, focusing predominantly on finding alternative provisions and asking for financial support.

Rank	Comment category	Number of respondents
a	Help finding alternative provision	16
b	Supporting staff	4
c	Financial support	8
d	Rather it not close	7
e	Support from other EYFS settings	4

### a) Help finding alternative provision

The majority of comments from parents/carers and stakeholders were around accessing support to find alternative provision of a comparable nature, within a similar locality, which would meet the needs of the children and the needs of service users, particularly working families.

- *“Finding a suitable nursery that would take my older child on for the month before he goes to school and one with the same space and facilities for my second child”.*
- *“To find a nursery as good as Harvery with staff who care about our children like their own just like Harvey staff do”.*
- *“A nursery place that is convenient to get to accessible due to my working times and time for our son to adjust as will not be going to pre-school and is still very young”.*
- *“An alternative setting that will be willing to take a very medically complex child and have accessibility for disabled service users”.*
- *“I would like a nursery close to me that offers 30 hours funding for my child”.*

## **b) Supporting staff**

Concern was raised about the support for staff accessing new roles in other settings; *“I would like to see the staff also “rehoused” locally”* and *“deploy all staff.. i dont think its fair to have these fantastic key workers unemployed”*.

## **c) Financial Support**

Eight parents/carers and stakeholders reflected on the financial support needed in order to access a place at another early years setting.

- *“Subsidised placement at another nursery nearby until nursery is no longer needed”.*
- *“Pay for all children entitled to attend to attend private nurseries! This would be more expensive as the site is remaining open anyway!!”*
- *“It shouldn't close however financial support should be provided for current parents/carers using the facilities to attend other nurseries and the Council should also consider the detrimental financial impact on future parents/carers whose sole local nursery option will be private nurseries”.*

## **d) Rather it not close**

Seven respondents chose to reflect on enhancing their key concern for the nursery to remain open; *“you could support us by not closing the nursery”* and *“we still request you not to close the nursery”*.

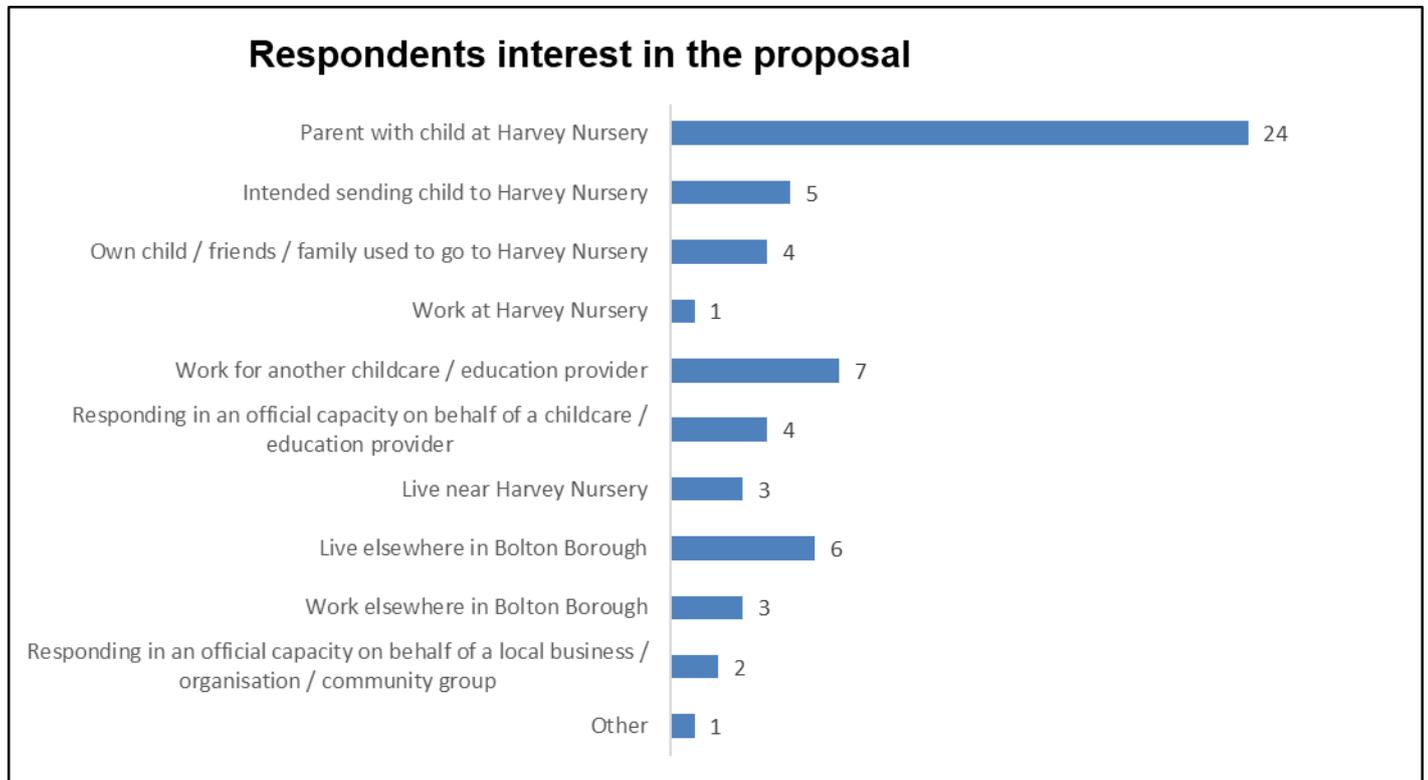
## **e) Support from other EYFS settings**

A number of early years providers used this part of the survey to offer their services to support parents/carers that may need to relocate their children.

- *“Depending on the ages of the children requiring a place, we can check availability and more than happy to accept transferring children should the decision be made to close the Harvey Nursery and our availability allows”.*
- *“I would hope that parents/carers from Harvey Nursery would be signposted to assist with our own sustainability”.*
- *“I would like you to suggest our provision to parents/carers needing alternate childcare”.*
- *“Our nursery could take some of the children affected by the closure”.*

## 7. Interest in the proposal

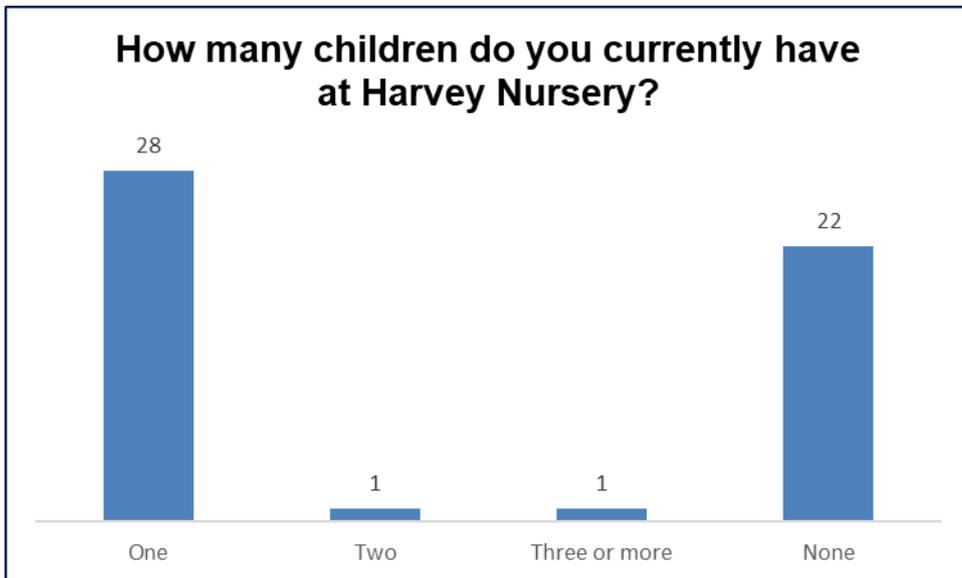
Parents/carers and stakeholders were asked what their interest in the proposed closure of Harvey Nursery is. Just under half of the respondents are parents/carers of children at the nursery (24). 13 of the respondents work for or took part in the survey in an official capacity from another early years provider. 5 respondents are prospective parents/carers of the nursery.



**Base: 60**

## 8a. Number of children at Harvey Nursery

There are 62 children who attend Harvey Nursery, 23 of whom attend full time, all year round. Of the parents/carers and stakeholders responding to this survey, 28 have one child at the nursery. One respondent has two children at the nursery and another respondent has three or more children at the nursery.

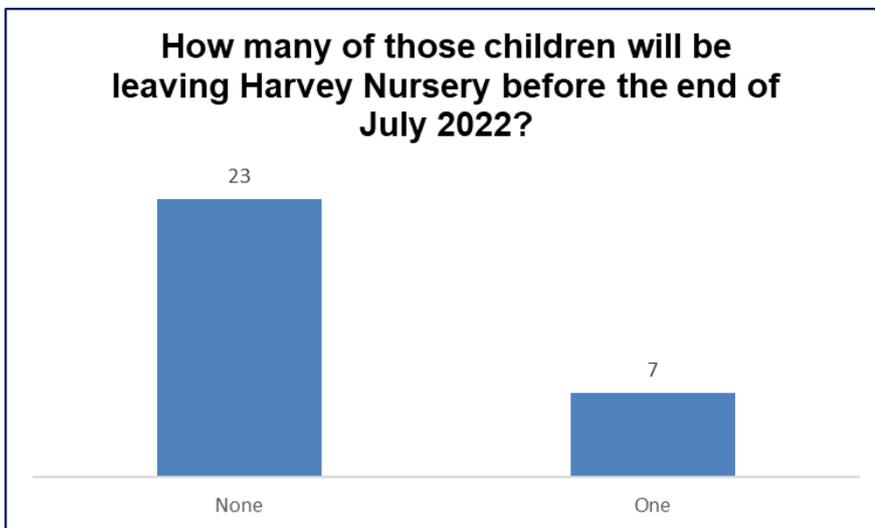


**Base: 52**

**8b. Number of children leaving Harvey Nursery before the end of July 2022**

7 parents/carers stated that their children will be leaving at the end of July 2022. 23 parents/carers stated that their children are not due to leave before the proposed closure date.

It should be noted that 5 ‘full-time’ children are due to start school in September 2022. A proposed closure of July 2022 could result in families having to find alternative care for a period of a month, prior to the child starting Reception class in the Autumn term.

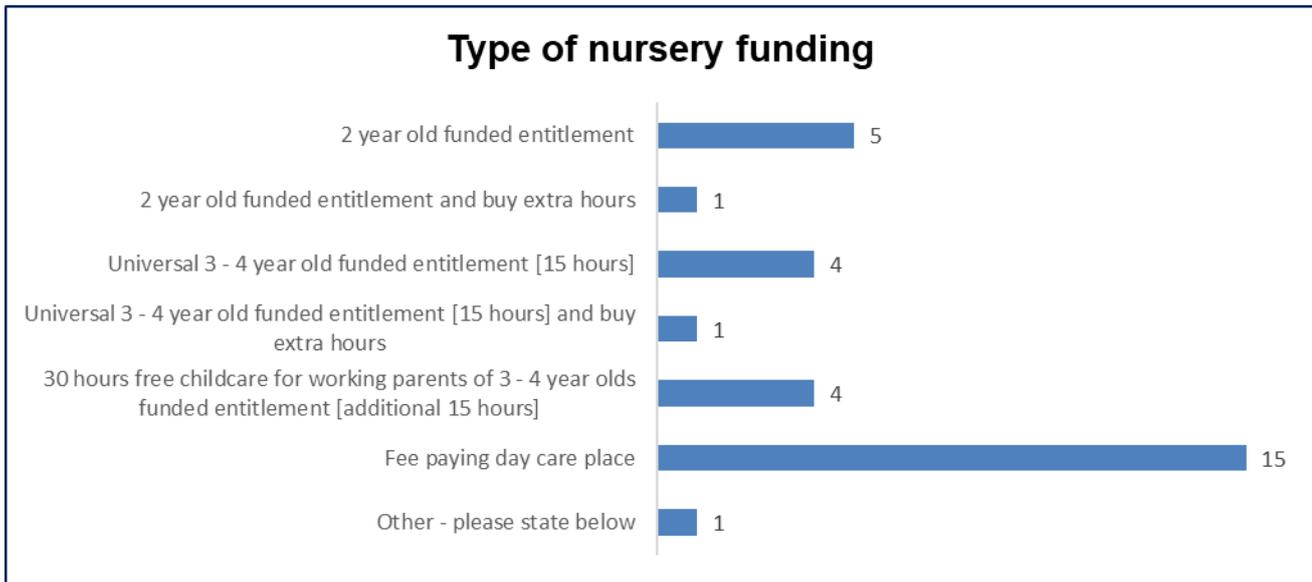


**Base: 30**

**8c. Type of nursery place (other)**

One-quarter of parents/carers and stakeholders are fee paying customers of Harvey Nursery. 6 parents/carers access the two-year old funding entitlement. 5 parents/carers access the 3–4-year-old funding entitlement. 4 parents/carers access the 30 hours free childcare for working

parents/carers. One service user, who selected ‘other’, accesses university funding to support their childcare needs.



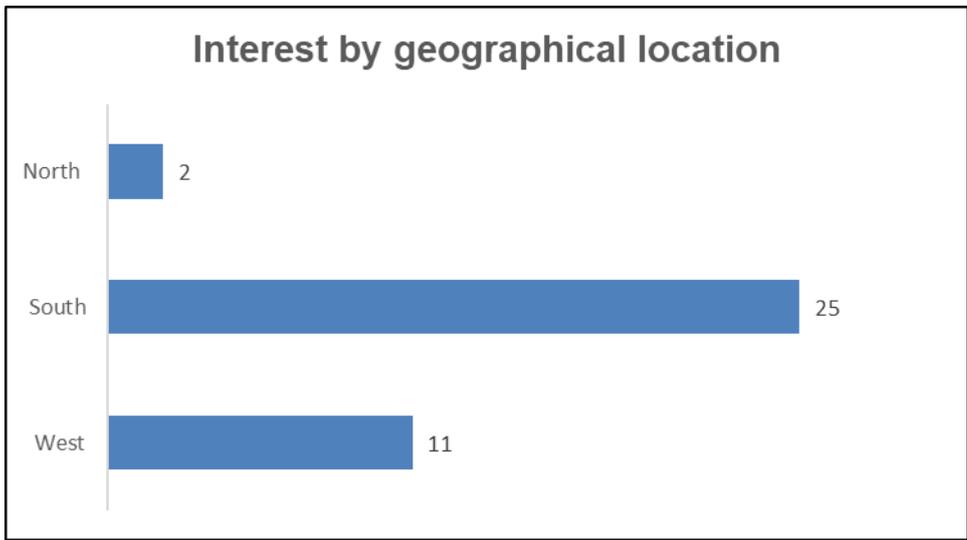
**Base: 31 (Respondents could tick multiple answers)**

**8d. Number of children due to start prior to March 2022**

Eleven parents/carers stated that they had children due to start of the nursery prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**9a. Demographics: Geographical location**

The table below outlines the demographics of respondents by geographical district. A total of 38 respondents provided their full postcode. Harvey Nursery is located in the South of the borough (Great Lever), from which 25 responses were received. 6 respondents are located in Central/Great Level, 17 are located in Rumworth and 2 located in Kearsley/Farnworth.



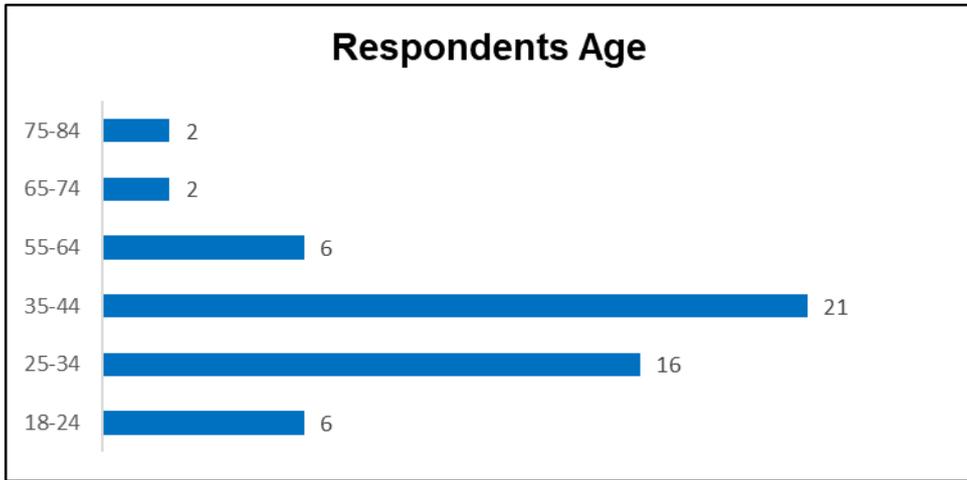
**Base: 38**

**9b. Gender**

52 responses were received providing the respondent’s gender. 42 respondents identity as being female, 9 as male and one respondent identified as ‘other’.

**9c Age**

Responses were received from individuals in all age categories. 22 respondents were under the age of 34 years. 27 respondents were aged between 35 – 64 years. 4 responses were received from individuals above the age of 65 years.

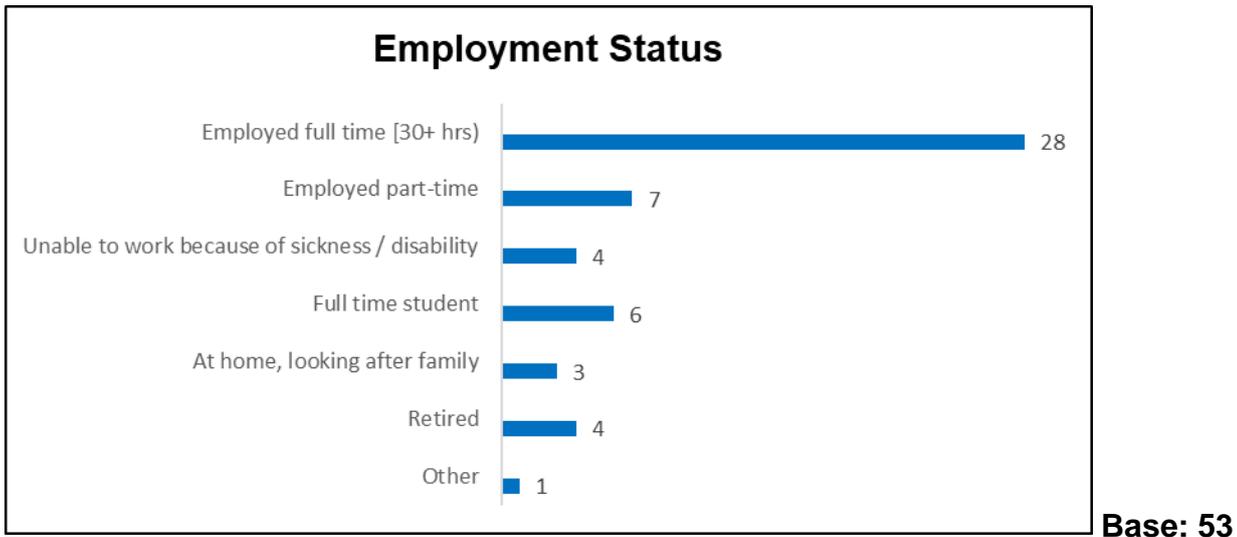


**Base: 53**

**9d. Employment Status**

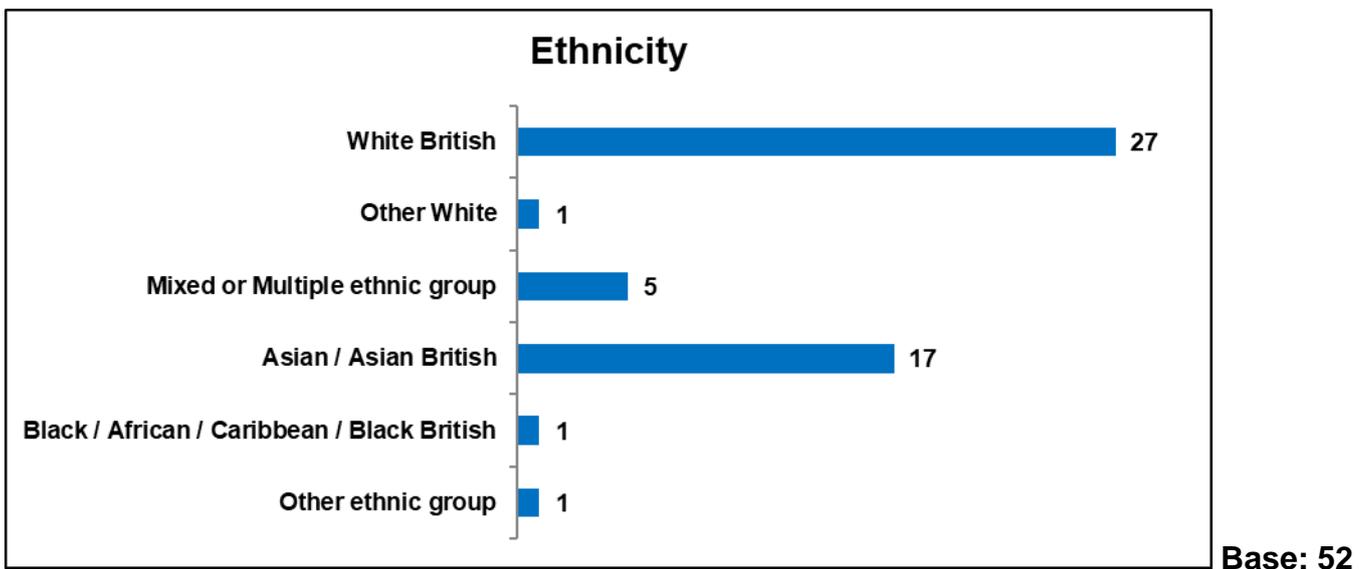
Over half of the responses received were from individuals in some form of employment (35). Six responses were from individuals in education. Four responses were received from individuals unable to work due to sickness or a disability. 3 respondents stayed at home to look after the

family and four individuals responded as retirees. The person who stated 'other' is a full-time carer.



### 9e. Ethnicity

The respondents that took part in the survey were evenly represented, from those that identified as being white British to those that identified as being from another ethnic group. 27 respondents identified as white British and 25 respondents identified as being from another ethnicity, 17 of which identified as Asian or Asian British.



## 10a. Responses from parent/carer one-to-ones

Parents and carers from Harvey Nursery were invited to participate in one-to-one reflective sessions, providing an opportunity for families to share key concerns that they wanted to be included within the consultation process. Nine parents/carers attended one-to-one sessions on the 30th September and 4th October 2021.

The responses from parents and carers are located in Appendix A. Representation from these service users were from across the nursery; one set of parents/carers had a child in the 3–4-year-old provision, 6 parents/carers had children in the 2–3-year-old provision and 2 parents/carers had children in the ‘under 2s’ setting.

## 10b Comments

All parents/carers were overwhelmingly positive about the nursery provision and the relationship with staff. A phrase repeatedly used was *‘they’re like a family’*.

*“Harvey Nursery provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and families. They are like a family.”*

*“The staff provide an attentive service to these children”.*

*“My child isn’t labelled by his needs, but is treated equally, with warmth and care. The whole team have been amazing. They really do build good routines and structures.”*

*“The staff here are like a family, they have a great respect for the children and families, and we do for them.”*

*“The staff here are absolutely wonderful and their interactions with children is magnificent”.*

*“My child started in the summer, and we feel like we’ve found a family”.*

## 11c Key concerns

The parents and carers attending the session highlighted nine key concerns:

- **Financial impact:** Parents/carers had the perception that Harvey Nursery was a subsidised Council provision and were particularly concerned by the increase in fees should they have to access an alternative provision.
- **Provision type:** Parents/carers were concerned by a lack of comparable settings in the Great Lever area, particularly providers that could offer full-time places throughout the year.

- **Location:** Several parents/carers were concerned by having to find another provider in the vicinity of Harvey, to support family members dropping off and picking children up.
- **Transitional concerns:** Parents/carers were particularly concerned by the transitional impact starting a new setting would have on their children. This was a particular concern for service users who had children starting Reception class in September, as the closure at the end of July would leave several weeks where an alternative setting would need to be accessed, resulting in children going through two transitions.
- **Standard of facilities:** The standard of the facilities was commented upon by a few parents/carers. The integration of the nursery into the Start Well Centre was also remarked upon for providing additional resources to families.
- **SEN offer:** The support for families and children with special education needs was remarked upon as a positive feature of the nursery and families were concerned what impact the closure would have on these children.
- **Wider community:** Several families were concerned about the impact on the wider community, particularly as the nursery has been a valued part of the community for over forty years.
- **Political position:** Several families remarked upon the wider political impact. One stated that the proposal was juxtaposed to the national recovery position for the Early Years sector. Another felt the proposal went against the Government's political stance on retaining women in the workforce, as the financial impact of the proposed closure could force women out of work.
- **Parents/carers wellbeing:** A couple of parents/carers highlighted the impact on their wellbeing.

## 11d Alternative options

Several options were proposed by parents/carers, offering an alternative to closure:

- **Directorate Funding:** Suggestions were requested to take a holistic look at the wider organisation and proportion budget cuts based on need. In addition, some parents/carers suggested looking at alternative revenue streams to support keeping the nursery open; speeding fines being a primary suggestion.
- **Opening longer:** A couple of parents/carers suggested opening longer hours to attract more working families.
- **Promotion:** A suggestion was received to review the marketing plan for the nursery.

Appendix A



# Harvey Nursery Consultation Parent Sessions

**30<sup>th</sup> September & 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**  
**Consultation & Research Team**

**Parent A** (child in 3-4yr provision)

My main concern is around childcare for my baby, who is due to start nursery in February. The provision available in other local nurseries is term-time only, which doesn't help working parents/carers like myself. I need a nursery setting that is close to where I live, so myself and family members can do drop-offs and pick-ups. (\*The council's childcare brokerage service was highlighted for support if needed).

Harvey Nursery took children in during the Covid lockdown period. It is a fundamental nursery that provided an invaluable service during a period of crisis. This should be acknowledged.

My eldest child will start school in September. If the nursery closes in July, it will cause transitional issues for all those starting school in Sep 2022, as we will have to find alternative childcare for 4-6 weeks. There is no option of keeping my child at home during this period due to work commitments. Other family members have disabilities, so won't be in a position to support me.

Harvey Nursery provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and families. They are like a family. The staff are welcoming, providing regular updates on what the children have been doing during the day; they are really well looked after. Other nurseries can be 'hit and miss', which results in increased anxiety when I think about the proposed closure, especially when having to look for a new setting for my baby. The staff really nurture our children, providing care for them within the Harvey Start Well setting, which enables us to access additional services.

**Parent B** (child in 2-3yr provision)

Concerns raised about trying to access an alternative childcare provision (the council's childcare brokerage service was highlighted for support, if needed).

The reasons we chose this nursery was due to the facilities it has available to children and families and the daily routines and structure it provides to all children. We looked at alternative provision in the area and the standard at Harvey is far better. A number of children come to Harvey for the support it can offer children with special educational needs. The staff provide an attentive service to these children, and I'm concerned about the impact the closure will have on children and families needing additional support.

My child has formed attachments to the staff at the nursery, which will cause significant issues for readjustment if we have to look for alternative childcare. My child is really happy at this nursery, he is developing social skills and building friendships.

The proposed closure will be a great loss for the whole community, not just a having a significant impact on the children and families that come here, it will have implications for the wider community.

Parent B suggested that alternative funding streams should be explored.

**Parent C** (child in under 2s provision)

My child has recently started at Harvey. We were quite hesitant about starting nursery, as my child has additional needs, however, we knew it would be good for his development. On starting nursery my child was not socially interactive and didn't have many opportunities to engage with children his own age. The nursery open day gave us the confidence to put our child in a setting which we knew he'd develop well in.

During the short period we've been at Harvey, we've noticed a huge difference. My child no longer cries when arriving at nursery and his social skills are developing as he forms relationships with staff and other children. We've seen a development in his speech, he plays happily and the rapport with staff is fantastic. The staff are really supporting him in working towards his milestones, for example, when he started nursery, he couldn't feed himself and he's started to do that now. We're so pleased with the progress he's making.

My child is treated the same as all the other children. My child isn't labelled by his needs, but is treated equally, with warmth and care. The whole team have been amazing with my child, and I have recommended the nursery to my friends. They really do build good routines and structures, which helps at home and the communication with parents/carers is excellent.

It is heart breaking to think the nursery could close. I feel really overwhelmed by the prospect of having to put my child in another nursery and having to form relationships with new key workers. I would seriously have to consider whether to continue with nursery education if the nursery closes due to the disruption it would cause. If the nursery remains open, I would be looking to increase the days he attends, as I have the confidence that he is settling in and his needs are being met.

**Parent D** (child in 2-3yr provision)

Closing the nursery will be of great detriment to the staff, children and families. Locally, we were already behind in numeracy and literacy and the gap has only increased due to the pandemic. Social skills development is also suffering, so to close the nursery doesn't seem appropriate given the challenges children are facing. I really don't feel these budget cuts should be made at our children's expense.

Harvey Nursery is a subsidised nursery. When looking at other settings locally, their fees are a lot higher, in some cases by 40%. Some settings only offer term-time only, I need a nursery that offers full-time provision. Closing the nursery may mean that I can't afford to work. The Government talks about retaining women in the workplace, but then our local council looks to take our childcare provision away. How can I provide my child with the best start in early education if I have to quit work because I can't afford the alternative provision available? I work from home, and I need my child to attend nursery in order for me to carry out my work.

Could the funding not be recouped from other places, such as from speed cameras on roads known to have people racing down them or by reducing cycle/bus schemes? I have real concerns that budget cuts are being made to education, which directly impacts children and families. The council should be looking holistically at budget cuts and bringing in income, not pushing targets on individual departments. Could opening longer hours be an option of attracting more working families to Harvey Nursery?

Our children have made emotional connections and relationships with staff and their peers. The staff here are absolutely wonderful and their interactions with children is magnificent. The children are settled and are making progress. I can see the progress my child is making, particularly in numeracy. We really don't want this nursery to close.

**Parent E** (child in 2-3yr provision)

This nursery has been running for over 40 years, surely this demonstrates the need for the provision in this area! The staff here are like a family, they have a great respect for the children and families, and we do for them. Putting my child in another nursery, should the proposal be taken forward, is extremely unsettling. I'm halfway through my midwifery degree and the closure will come when I'm due to graduate. This will have a significant impact. It's already causing me stress just thinking about looking for an alternative nursery.

The impact of the proposed closure will affect myself and my family. I study, live and work locally and have chosen this nursery as it is centrally located to the University, my home and my workplace. My child can also attend here throughout the year, where some other providers only offer term-time places.

Could the nursery not open longer hours, opening earlier and closing later. This may attract more working families and those that work shifts (e.g.: 7am-6pm).

I feel really at home at this nursery. The staff are really approachable. It will be such a disappointment to the whole community if it closes.

**Parent F** (child in 2-3yr provision, with twins starting under 2s provision in 2022)

I'm really upset that the consultation is taking place again!

My child started this nursery in 2020 with a number of medical conditions and I cannot stress how positive the one-to-one support has been. This consultation is really personal for me, as the nursery has really helped me nurture my child, providing support and guidance in administering medication and calling me regularly to give feedback on progress.

My child is still under paediatric care and the nursery have supported her in reaching so many milestones. The transition into nursery did take a while, but she is now settled and talks about the nursery all the time. I worry about how she will cope having to start another nursery. It causes anxiety for me just thinking about it. I have a really nice bond with the staff here, they're like a family. The staff really are so warm and welcoming. They offer consistent support to children and feedback to parents/carers regularly.

This consultation really pulls at my heartstrings. If the proposal is accepted, it is going to be such a loss to the community and future generations that would have accessed the provision, such as my twin babies, due to start next year. Proposing to close this nursery will result in there being a great loss, not only for me and the other parents/carers, but for the wider community too. So many people recommend Harvey as a fantastic nursery for children to attend.

£100,000 is only a small loss, a drop in the ocean, when you consider the wider impact. The closure of this nursery will not make a massive saving, compared to the impact it will cause. This nursery compliments the wider Start Well offer and should be saved.

**Parent G** (Child in 2-3 provision, term time only)

I have visited many nurseries in Bolton, prior to putting my son in Harvey Nursery, and have experience of working in childcare. When looking for a nursery we wanted somewhere that offered high standards, showed social diversity and good engagement from the staff. This nursery offers all of that, it is very good, and the centre is beautiful. Resource wise, it is fantastic, particularly with the links to Start Well and the Toy Library. The parental engagement is brilliant too. The communication is extremely efficient, showing that children's needs are being met.

This nursery also serves the community. It would be extremely sad if it closed. My child started in the summer, and we feel like we've found a family.

We are concerned about the financial expense, in comparison to other nurseries, if we have to look for an alternative nursery. We're also concerned about the transition to a new nursery, as my child may find this difficult as he only sees us, the nursery staff and his nursery friends. He has a really close bond with them.

Can you not raise awareness of the places that are available at the nursery, perhaps to staff in the Town Hall or through the libraries?

**Parent H** (Child in 2-3 provision, term time only, with occasional place out of term time)

Parent H had a number of questions:

- Why doesn't attendance meet the required level to make the nursery sustainable?
- The nursery fees are a lot cheaper at Harvey Nursery compared to other providers, is there a reason for that? Surely this would make it more competitive, do you advertise the nursery, as it is in a good location for parents/carers?
- Could the nursery be used to support social needs, directing families that need a place and supporting those that are impacted by social problems in the community? Perhaps the nursery shouldn't be profit making but be a community provision.
- Have you looked at a private provider take-over?

Additional comments

Harvey Nursery is a great nursery, nothing is ever too much trouble for the staff. It is a great shame that the council feel the need to put this proposal forward again. It should be looking beyond the deficit to having a greater impact on the community.



My grandchild really enjoys coming here, it is a happy and friendly nursery. We know that he is safe and well looked after. This is one less stress for my daughter as she is studying. We're also very concerned about the transition if he has to move nurseries, as well as the impact on the staff.

**Parent I** (Child in Under 2s provision)

My child started in the Spring, and he loves it here, particularly playing with the other children. The proposed closure will have a big impact, as Harvey is our nearest nursery, enabling other family members to support drop-offs and pick-ups. (The brokerage service was outlined, should support be needed).

Both parents/carers and children have an affiliation with the staff, so the transition into other nurseries is going to be difficult. It will have an emotional impact.

The staff at Harvey Nursery are really very good. They're so caring, looking after the children like they were their own. Their teaching is very good too. They really are wonderful and helpful. The children look forward to coming to this nursery and the building is very good too.

We have family members that came to this nursery over 30 years ago. This nursery means a lot to our family. This nursery looks after our children really well. It's a nursery that should be for our children, they are our future, and it should remain open.

## Harvey Nursery proposed closure survey

Please complete this survey online if possible, by searching for <https://bit.ly/3AeJBxB> or scanning this QR code



We are proposing to close Harvey Nursery and would like your views. If the closure goes ahead, Harvey Nursery would not take any new starters after 31st March 2022, and would close completely at the end of July 2022.

Harvey's is the only nursery that's still run by Bolton Council, and has been running at a loss for many years.

With the need to make budget savings of over £39 million, Bolton Council can no longer afford to heavily subsidise a service that only caters for a small number of children from one part of the borough.

There are a number of private nurseries in the area, and we would offer support to make sure the move is as smooth as possible for any children transferring from Harvey Nursery.

Harvey Nursery is situated within the Harvey Start Well Centre site on Shaw Street, Bolton, BL3 6HU. The proposal to close Harvey Nursery does not affect the Start Well Centre. The Start Well centre will remain open and continue to offer services to local children and families.

### Your response - keeping your data safe

All questions are optional, so please feel free to skip any that you prefer not to answer.

If you're responding as an individual you won't be identified in any report; your responses will be anonymised and grouped together with those from other people. Reports may be made public. If you are responding in an official capacity your response may be published, but no personal details will be made public.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy, which can be found online here: [www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notices](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notices)

We use professional software called Snap Surveys to collect and process your data. As data processor, Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation [GDPR]. You can view their privacy policy online: [www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/](http://www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/)

## The impact

Q1 How would your family / business be affected if Harvey Nursery were to close?

- Would make things a lot worse
- Would make things a little worse
- Would help my business a little / make life a little better
- Would help my business a lot / make my life a lot better
- It wouldn't really affect me / my business

Q2 Why do you say this?

## Alternatives

Q3 If you would prefer that Harvey's remained open, can you suggest any alternatives that meet the difficulties we face?

## Support

Q4 If Harvey Nursery closes what support, if any, would you like us to offer?

## Your interest

Q5 What is your main interest in the proposed closure of Harvey Nursery?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Parent with child at Harvey Nursery - please go to Q6   | <input type="radio"/> Live elsewhere in Bolton Borough - please go to Q6   |
| <input type="radio"/> Intended sending child to Harvey Nursery - please go to Q6  | <input type="radio"/> Work elsewhere in Bolton Borough - please go to Q6   |
| <input type="radio"/> Own child / friends / family used to go to Harvey Nursery - please go to Q6                                       | <input type="radio"/> Study / have children at school in Bolton Borough - please go to Q6  |
| <input type="radio"/> Work at Harvey Nursery - please go to Q6  | <input type="radio"/> Visitor to Bolton Borough - please go to Q6  |
| <input type="radio"/> Work for another childcare / education provider - please go to Q6   | <input type="radio"/> Responding in an official capacity as a Parish / Bolton borough Councillor / Elected Member - please go to Q5b       |
| <input type="radio"/> Responding in an official capacity on behalf of a childcare / education provider - please answer Q5c to Q5e below | <input type="radio"/> Responding in an official capacity on behalf of a local business / organisation / community group - please go to Q5b |
| <input type="radio"/> Live near Harvey Nursery - please go to Q6  | <input type="radio"/> Other - please explain below at Q5a  |

Q5a Please say what your interest is

Q5b Please say which ward, business, organisation or community group you represent and in what capacity. That is the end of the survey, please do not complete any further questions.

Q5c Which nursery / childcare setting do you represent?

Q5d Please give the postcode of the setting

Q5e Please give your job title / role at the setting. That is the end of the survey, please do not complete any further questions.

## Children

Q6 How many children do you currently have at Harvey Nursery?

- One                       Two                       Three or more                       None - please go to Q9

Q7 How many of those children will be leaving Harvey Nursery before the end of July 2022?

- None                       One                       Two                       Three or more

Q8 Are your nursery places...?

- 2 year old funded entitlement  
 2 year old funded entitlement and buy extra hours  
 Universal 3 - 4 year old funded entitlement [15 hours]  
 Universal 3 - 4 year old funded entitlement [15 hours] and buy extra hours  
 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3 - 4 year olds funded entitlement [additional 15 hours]  
 Fee paying day care place  
 In receipt of Early Years Inclusion Fund  
 Other - please state below  
 Not sure

If other, please state

Q9 How many of your children are due to start Harvey Nursery before 31st March 2022?

- None                       One                       Two                       Three or more

## About you

Your answers in this section help us to make sure that we are getting views from different types of people. They will not be used to contact you.

Q10 What is your postcode?

Q11 Are you ...?

- Female                       Male                       Other

Q12 Which age group are you in?

- |                                |                               |                                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> 35 - 44 | <input type="radio"/> 65 - 74    |
| <input type="radio"/> 18 - 24  | <input type="radio"/> 45 - 54 | <input type="radio"/> 75 - 84    |
| <input type="radio"/> 25 - 34  | <input type="radio"/> 55 - 64 | <input type="radio"/> 85 or over |

Q13 Which most closely describes you?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Employed full time [30 hours or more a week]    | <input type="radio"/> Full time student             |
| <input type="radio"/> Employed part-time [up to 30 hours a week]      | <input type="radio"/> At home, looking after family |
| <input type="radio"/> Self employed / freelance                       | <input type="radio"/> Retired                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Unemployed, available for work                  | <input type="radio"/> Other - please explain below  |
| <input type="radio"/> Unable to work because of sickness / disability |   |

If 'other' please explain

Q14 What is your ethnic group?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White British                  | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British                     |
| <input type="radio"/> White other                    | <input type="radio"/> Black, Black British, Caribbean or African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed or Multiple ethnic group | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group                         |

**Thanks for giving your views. Please return your completed form to Harvey Nursery, or post to Freepost RTTT-YTEL-YSXS, Consultation & Research Team, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RU.**