**Additional information provided by Wales Council of the Blind**

We have received additional comments since the letter of 28th January (attached as reference) was sent which we feel merits your attention.

The letter details pre school support (0-3 years). We would like to stress that these playgroups are specifically for children with sensory impairments and may be the first and only regular opportunity for families to meet other children and families with a sensory impairment.

In addition to this, SenCom’s facilities at the service centre are designed specifically for children with sensory impairment, including an independent living skills kitchen with rise and fall worktops a washing machine and ironing facilities, a mock bedroom for young people to learn how to look after their bedroom and clothes, a ball pool, sensory room and large indoor and outdoor play rooms. We have fielded a number of calls from parents who have highlighted the additional benefit that such support has given to their child’s confidence, independence and wellbeing.

WCB has received concerns that parents with sensory loss themselves have not received information from the Council in their preferred format or with sufficient notice to arrange communication, and other, support. We believe that this has put an additional barrier in place that may have prevented parents from raising their concerns to this change in service.

Has Newport CC received any specific requests in relation to information and communication needs?

Were the letter that was sent to parents, the questionnaire and newsletters also made available in Welsh and other languages? We have heard concerns that parents from BME communities were not consulted in the language of their choice and thereby may not be aware of the changes.

Were all parents invited to attend meetings to discuss the new proposed service model?