Appendix A: Options considered and rejected

Option	Advantages	Risk	Mitigation
1. HCC commissions a countywide home visiting service with revised service specification for families with a child - 9 months to five years, to include more stringent referral criteria and increased consistency across the county. Providers will be required to link with children's centres to avoid duplication, and all referrals for the service will come through children's centres	Families continue to receive a service Infrastructure is in place to complement this service, including onward pathways for parents Open and transparent procurement process which current providers could be part of	Potential reaction from the community and media if Home-Start are not successful	Clear communications are needed about the process for selecting providers
2. HCC commissions a service to provide support to vulnerable families, to include expanded age range (-9 months to 11 years) and increased targeting (services will be targeted at the 3 or 4 most deprived districts)	Families in some areas continue to receive a service Open and transparent procurement process which current providers could be part of	Potential reaction from the community and media if Home-Start are not successful	Clear communications are needed about the process for selecting providers
		Risk to service users and providers of alternative services due to changes in scope of service	Would need to implement clear communications with current referring agencies to signpost to other services.
		Risk of duplication of services due to changes in age criteria	Engage with other services delivering services to families with children 5+ to ensure any future services are complementary
		Limited framework of services is currently available for 5-11 age range, therefore this could limit the impact of this service	
		Cessation of service in less deprived areas	Review which alternative services are available, and implement clear communications with current referring agencies to signpost to other services

3. HCC commissions a countywide service to provide support to vulnerable families, to include expanded age range (-9 months to 11 years)	Families continue to receive a service	Potential reaction from the community and media if Home-Start are not successful	Clear communications are needed about the process for selecting providers
		Risk of duplication of services due to changes in age criteria	Engage with other services delivering services to families with children 5+ to ensure any future services are complementary
		Limited framework of services is currently available for 5-11 age range, therefore this could limit the impact of this service	
		Risk of resources being spread too thinly to be fully effective	Service specification will state the referral criteria and the number of families to be worked with
4. HCC continue to fund a countywide home visiting service with revised service specification for families with a child five to 11 years, to include more stringent referral criteria and increased consistency across the county.	Families continue to receive a service Current services (schools) are likely to be in favour of additional support for families Would increase transition services from children's centres once children turn five	Limited framework of services is currently available for 5-11 age range, therefore this could limit the impact of this service and offer limited onward pathways	Engage with other services delivering services to families with children 5+ to ensure any future services are complementary
		Possible fragmented timings between when parents need support (evenings and weekends) and when volunteers offer their time (daytime) – if volunteers are used	Potential providers to be aware of the needs of families and deliver services to meet the needs
		Risk of resources being spread too thinly to be fully effective	Service specification will state the referral criteria and the number of families to be worked with