## COUNTY COUNCIL - 17TH OCTOBER 2017

## **ITEM 5 – PETITIONS**

## Text of a petition containing 3,836 signatures presented by Nicky Shepard

"We the undersigned call upon Cambridgeshire County Council to halt its review of children's centres. This review is being driven by a misguided council decision to cut £1 million from children's centre budgets. There are wide gaps in the achievement of children in Cambridgeshire, and children's centres have for many years provided support and guidance to families which can help narrow these gaps. They provide good value early help services, which can prevent children from needing more expensive services later. They also provide crucial support to parents and other care-givers: knowing that a local children's centre is there when it is needed can be a life saver. The current proposals will lead to a significant reduction in support for families across Cambridgeshire. They are being driven by pressure for budget cuts, and we call upon councillors to oppose them and to ensure parents of young children get the support they need when they need it."