

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	5th February 2014
3.	Title:	Proposal to Close Rawmarsh Thorogae J & I School SEBD Unit.
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young Peoples Services

5. Summary

Statutory consultation by public notice on proposals to close the SEBD Unit at the School have stood from 6th December 2013 to 17th January 2014 and the matter can now be determined by Cabinet.

6. Recommendations

In the absence of any objections to the proposals it is recommended that:

- a. Cabinet approves the closure of the SEBD Unit at Rawmarsh Thorogate J & I School with effect from 14th February 2014.**
- b. The Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly by the School Organisation Section.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Governing Body at Thorogate J & I School have requested that the Local Authority should commence due process to formally close the Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) Unit attached to the School.

Following discussions with the Department for Education (DfE), the closure of an EBD Unit attached to a School is classed as a 'prescribed alteration' under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. It is therefore necessary to consult on the proposals including a 6 week representation period prior to implementation.

Although pupils have been relocated to an alternative location prior to formal closure, the Governing Body have been informed that they will remain the accountable body until formal closure is approved by Cabinet under the requirements of the above Regulations.

8. Finance

Although there are no cost implications to this proposal, the Local Authority will need to establish a new provision as part of the restructuring of PRU provision within the Borough.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Over provision at one school could influence pupil numbers at other schools. Local Authorities are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental preference. (Ref: CYD0015/018 - Corporate risk register).

A final decision should be determined by Cabinet within 2 months of the end of the representation period. If this fails to be done, then the matter is referred to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'.

Rotherham School Improvement Mission:

- ~ All children will make at least good progress
- ~ There will be no underperforming cohorts
- ~ All teachers will deliver at least good learning
- ~ All schools will move to the next level of successful performance

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Reports to Members in relation to the proposals:

18th September 2013

27th November 2013

Minutes of meetings and correspondence

Public Notice period 6th December 2013 to 17th January 2014.

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