

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Education Services
2.	Date:	Monday 12th January 2015
3.	Title:	Proposal to make prescribed alterations to Milton School
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The Children and Families Act 2014 promotes a new approach to special educational needs and disability (SEND) 0-25. The Local Authority retains duties to commission and ensure a sufficient range and amount of good quality specialist provision. The objectives of the proposed prescribed alteration support this new approach and continuing duties as it aims to:

- empower young people and their families, increasing their options whilst sustaining efficient use of resources
- raise aspirations, improve achievement and establish better support for some of our most vulnerable young people
- secure specialist provision located within mainstream settings, improving and extending the partnerships and pathways between special and mainstream
- enable better targeting of multi-agency support and provision to identified need

The DfE School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 require a formal pre statutory and statutory consultation process to be undertaken where expansion is above 10% of an existing Special school roll or there is a change of age range or type of SEN provision. The proposed expansion of Milton School by addition of the Kilnhurst Unit satellite exceeds this threshold.

6. Recommendation:

- **It is recommended that pre statutory consultation should commence on the proposal to make prescribed alterations to Milton School and that a further report be brought to Members at the end of this period detailing the outcome.**

7. Proposals and Details

The proposals to be considered and further consulted upon are to make prescribed alterations to the school as follows:

- To re-designate Milton School as a school for pupils with learning difficulties. The purpose is to extend its remit beyond its current role for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. This will support greater diversity and parental choice as well as enable the Local Authority to provide more flexibility in, and targeting of, placement decisions.
- To increase the Admission Number at Milton School from 100 to 120 pupils by placing the specialist unit at Kilnhurst Primary School under its management and governance.

The proposal is intended to contribute to the re-shaping of SEND provision across Rotherham in order to:

- enable the local authority and its partners to secure a sufficient range of good quality provision to meet existing and projected increases in need
- improve the support, educational experience and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and their families
- strengthen partnerships and multi-agency support, based on a common purpose shared by specialist and mainstream provision, to improve inclusive practice
- enhance the capacity of mainstream schools and other providers to support co-located specialist provision

8. Finance

Specialist provision continues to be funded from the High Needs Block. The overall cost of specialist provision is not anticipated to change as a result of this proposal.

The proposal will improve the Local Offer and consequently may realise savings on current out of authority and specialist provider expenditure.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on a combination of current knowledge of need, gaps in provision and estimations of future need. Local Authorities, however, are obliged to provide sufficient places, to promote diversity and to increase parental choice.

The timetable for a pre-statutory and statutory phase is set out below. Formal objections may be lodged during the representation period following the publication of the statutory notice. A final decision should be determined by the Decision Maker within 2 months from 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

Key priorities supported by the proposal include:

RMBC CYPS Priorities 1 and 4:

- We will focus on lifelong learning to improve the qualifications, skills and economic wellbeing of children, young people and their families
- We will focus on the supply and allocation of School places to meet the demographic changes within the Borough.

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

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

School Organisation (Maintained Schools) guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014)

Consultation will be undertaken with the Governing Body of the School, Parents and Carers of Pupils attending the school, staff and union representatives, Parliamentary, Borough and Parish Elected Members, All schools within the Borough and any other pre identified interested parties / stakeholders.

Consultation timeline for the proposed prescribed alteration:

Report to Cabinet Member Seeking approval to consult	12 th January 2015
Pre statutory consultation period	
Report to Cabinet Member Seeking approval to proceed to Statutory consultation phase	9 th March 2015
Publication of statutory notices	WC 13 th April 2015
4 week period for representations and objections closes	WC 4 th May 2015
Members to determine LA decision	8 th June 2015
Implementation	1 st September 2015

This proposal is linked to the proposal to discontinue the attached Resource Unit at Kilnhurst Primary School.

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