

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

FACTORS	STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLOSE WESTFIELD PRIMARY RESOURCE BASE FOR PUPILS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
Complies with requirements	Published statutory notice in line with the advice DFE Guidance and Legal advice
Prior Consultation	Two rounds of consultation have been held 22 nd June 2016 to 20th July 2016 21 st September 2016 to 19 th October 2016
Take account of parental preference for particular types of provision or education settings	A specialist teacher for Hearing Impairment has spoken to parents and carers of pre-school children and there are currently no parents expressing a preference for Westfield Resource Base. Parents are opting to have their child educated in a mainstream setting with support.
Ensures sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils – including future demand for places	The three current pupils in the Resource Base will continue to receive the same support they do currently with support from the Signer, teaching assistant and peripatetic specialist teacher in line with NatSIP. There have been no new admissions to the Resource Base for a number of years. The level of demand will be monitored on an annual basis.
Consider the travel and accessibility for all	Providing support for pupils with a hearing impairment in their local mainstream school increases accessibility for all by allowing children to remain within the local community and be educated alongside their peers. It reduces the need for pupils and parents travel to one provision. Where a specialist out borough placement is required transport support will be provided in line with the transport policy.
Take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it	The resources available to support pupils with a hearing impairment will be ring fenced and invested back into the service so that additional peripatetic teaching and non-teaching staff can be employed and specialist out of borough provision commissioned where appropriate. Parents and carers of pupils currently accessing the Resource Base would like to see it continue parents of younger children prefer their child to attend mainstream provision with support. This support would need to be funded from the Resources previously allocated to Westfield.

<p>Offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people taking account of collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream) extended school and Children's Centre provision; regional centres (of expertise) and regional and sub-regional provision; out of LA day and residential special provision Take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe</p>	<p>There will be a range of provision available for primary pupils with HI. Parents can opt for their child to be educated in a mainstream setting with support. In cases where pupils have a range of complex needs including HI but this is not the primary need pupils may be educated in one of Halton's Special schools with support from the specialist peripatetic team. Where a specialist HI provision place is required this will be commissioned from a neighbouring authority. Through increasing the investment in the peripatetic team, recent technological developments and minor adaptations to the schools accommodation where required most pupils will be able to work in a mainstream school alongside their peers accessing the full curriculum.</p>
<p>Support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people</p>	<p>As part of the Strategy all schools are required to increase the extent disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum. The work of the peripatetic team will be to ensure that HI pupils receive the support they need to access the school curriculum. Schools are also required to improve their physical environment – advice and support can be provided to schools on the adaptations required. The Local Authority continues to invest in improving access, holding a small budget which can be used as a contribution to approved applications for support. Information is provided on services through the local offer and the peripatetic team support advise and support on the equipment needed its maintenance and funding.</p>

<p>Provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community</p>	<p>The funding released from the closure of the Resource Base will be reinvested in increasing both teaching and non-teaching peripatetic staff. The increased capacity of the team mean that their expertise can be used to support more pupils and schools. By supporting pupils in their local mainstream school they will have the opportunity to be educated alongside their peers and develop close links within their local community.</p>
<p>Views of interested parties</p>	<p>Extensive consultation has been undertaken and all stakeholders have been given the opportunity to respond during the first phase and second phase of the consultation.</p>