

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION IN A MAINSTREAM SCHOOL

1. Proposal relating to:

Westfield Primary School, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4TR

Proposer: Halton Borough Council, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF

2. Description of Proposed Significant Change:

The proposed significant change will lead to the discontinuance of the Hearing Impaired (HI) and Specific Learning Difficulties Resource Base at Westfield Primary School, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn.

3. Evidence of Demand for Places and Impact on Parental Choice

The Resource Base offers places for up to 6 pupils with hearing impairment and specific learning difficulties.

From September 2016 there will only be 3 pupils in year 5/6 accessing the provision. Demand for places at the Resource Base has decreased over recent years as the majority of parents of children with significant hearing impairment are choosing to educate their children in a local mainstream provision with additional Teacher of the Deaf support, in line with National Sensory Impaired Partnership recommended support levels.

4. Objectives of the Proposal and Educational Standards

The overall objective of the proposal is to discontinue the Hearing Impaired (HI) and Specific Learning Difficulties Resource Base at Westfield Primary School.

Removing the Resource Base will allow the funding to be invested in strengthening and increasing the level of peripatetic specialist support. This will allow pupils to be educated in their mainstream setting with additional support when appropriate.

5. Effect on other Education Establishments in the Area

We do not envisage any negative effects on other local schools, in fact, through reinvestment of resources, mainstream schools with HI pupils should see an increase in specialist support.

The current pupils will remain at Westfield Primary and will receive appropriate support from the school, staff and the peripatetic specialist team.

6. Project costs and Value for Money

The Resource Base currently receives £10,000 for each of its 6 places giving it a total of £60,000. £20,623 is provided for a Signer each year and an additional £5,081.73 is allocated for each pupil placed in the base.

Removing the Resource Base will release this funding allowing it to be invested in strengthening and increasing the level of peripatetic specialist teaching and non-teaching support. This will allow pupils to be educated in their mainstream setting with additional support when appropriate across the Borough.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The Resource Base will cease to operate on the 31st December 2016.

From the 1st January 2017, we will commence recruitment of specialist practitioners.

8. Procedure for Responding to this Proposal

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by Wednesday 19th October 2016, any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to the proposal may do so by sending them to:

Mr M Reaney, Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF.

Copies of this proposal can be obtained from: Catriona Gallimore, Capital Programme Planner, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn WA7 2GW or it can be downloaded from: www.halton.gov.uk/westfield

Applicable legislation: The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.