

CLOSURE OF EXISTING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS UNITS (SEN) IN HALTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS UNITS IN HALTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A review of secondary special unit provision has been undertaken within Halton that has resulted in a set of proposals designed to provide flexible provision within mainstream schools that will allow pupils to spend as much time as possible learning alongside their peers, depending on their individual needs. Through these proposals pupils with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder and pupils with difficulties in the areas of speech and language and communication needs, specific learning difficulties and hearing impairment will be able to access improved provision.

The proposals detailed in this notice replace the current unit provision within the Borough. Resources will continue to be allocated to pupils in existing mainstream settings to ensure that their needs are met. The additional costs for remodelling the current provision will be met from the local authority capital budget, LCVAP and the BSF Programme.

Part 1:

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Halton Borough Council, intends to discontinue special unit provision at Halton High School (Community School), Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP from 31st August 2011. Halton High School has a seven place EBD Unit for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. Provision will also be discontinued at The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX from 31st August 2011. The Grange Comprehensive has a fourteen place EBD Unit for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils.

There are currently no pupils in the Halton High EBD Unit. The pupils at the Grange Comprehensive EBD Unit will remain at the school and the pupils will continue to receive the same level of support as they do currently in the unit within the school.

There would be a positive impact on travel as the authority will be offering more locally based provision.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children and Young People. Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2WD. Telephone 0151 471 7543. A full copy of the proposals can be found on <http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf>. Details of special unit re-organisation proposals for Halton can be found in the Executive Board report on 12th February 2009.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr M Reaney, Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources), Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

Part 2:

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Halton Borough Council intends to make prescribed alterations to establish special unit provision at the following schools from 1st September 2011:

The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the Borough. In addition, there would be resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College (Voluntary Aided Catholic), Highfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7DW. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the Borough.

The Bankfield (Community School), Liverpool Road, Widnes, WA8 7HU. The school will provide resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Wade Deacon High (Community School), Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD. The school will provide resource provision for 6 pupils with hearing impairment and specific Learning Difficulties.

The special unit provision will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

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Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr M Reaney, Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources), Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

Signed:



Publication Date: 19th February 2009

Explanatory Notes:

All written comments received at the above addresses will be acknowledged and comments will be submitted to the Executive Board of Halton Council in the form of a report, copies of which will be made available to the public on demand. It will not be possible to send detailed responses to individual letters. After a report has been submitted to the Executive Board, all written responses to the consultation exercise will become available for inspection by the public.