

**REPORT:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 9 April 2009  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Young People  
**SUBJECT:** BSF Secondary Re-organisation  
**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report summarises the outcome of the consultation on the review of Special Educational Needs Unit Provision and seeks approval to discontinue the current provision at Halton High and The Grange Comprehensive and establish new resource provision at The Grange Comprehensive, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College and The Bankfield. It also seeks to revise the number of resource provision at Wade Deacon High School.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the**

**2.1 that the proposals to discontinue SEN provision at Halton High and The Grange Comprehensive as set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report be approved and implemented on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011; and**

**2.2 that the proposals to establish SEN Resource provision at The Grange Comprehensive, The Bankfield and St Peter and Paul's Catholic College and to continue to offer provision at Wade Deacon High School as set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report be approved and implemented 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.**

## **3.0 SPECIAL UNIT PROVISION**

3.1 The statutory consultation on the SEN Unit proposals commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and the representation period ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.

3.2 The proposals recommended the discontinuance of the 7 place EBD Unit at Halton High (Community School) and the discontinuance of the 14 place EBD Unit at The Grange Comprehensive (Community School). It also recommended the reduction in the provision at Wade Deacon for Hearing Impaired pupils from 8 to 6 pupils.

- 3.3 It was then proposed to establish the following secondary SEN resources provision:

**The Grange Comprehensive (Community School)** – The school will provide resource provision for 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 will be resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College (Voluntary Aided Catholic)** - The school will provide resource provision for 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)** - The School will provide resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

**Wade Deacon High (Community School)** The school will provide resource provision for 6 pupils with hearing impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties.

- 3.4 Five responses were received during the representation period. Four of these responses supported the proposal and one of the responses asked to see some form of provision for Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) pupils transferring to High Schools. The responses supporting the proposal were received from The Bankfield School, Wade Deacon High School, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Sports College. The fifth response which referred to the MLD provision available at High Schools was received from the Headteacher of Hallwood Park Primary School.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council's "Strategy for Inclusion of Pupils with SEN" provides the policy content and framework by which Halton intends to meet the Special Educational Needs of young people in the Borough.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The revenue funding for the Resource Units will be through the Dedicated Schools Grant and it has been agreed that the school formula budget be revised to reflect the changed provision. Each school's delegated budget will then provide them with the resources to support the provision. Any additional capital costs required for remodelling in advance of BSF will be met from the appropriate capital budgets.

## **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A comprehensive review of the transport and access across the borough is currently being undertaken to ensure there is safe, accessible and sustainable provision to all schools following the re-organisation of secondary provision.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **7.1 Children and Young People**

By undertaking a secondary school re-organisation and entering into the BSF Programme the authority aim to transform secondary provision for all children and young people and improve the facilities for the secondary workforce.

### **7.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

Through access to an excellent secondary school for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

In developing its secondary schools for the future the authority will demonstrate how it will enable schools to meet the school sport Public Service Agreement through its capital investment and achieve high nutritional standards and encourage healthy eating.

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

Schools for the future will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

### **7.5 Halton's Urban**

Through the BSF Halton schools will become a major resource for communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 The SEN unit proposals must be agreed prior to the submission of the Outline Business Case.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 The proposals for SEN unit provision aim to enable pupils to have the opportunity to the most appropriate provision to match their needs.
- 9.2 The proposals for the re-organisation of Halton's secondary and secondary special provision seek to provide choice and diversity, promote inclusion and access.

## **10.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

The proposals for Secondary and secondary special provision must be agreed prior to the submission of Outline Business Case.

## **11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Alternative options have been considered and assessed during the consultation process.

## **12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The proposals for SEN unit provision must be agreed by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and will be implemented by September 2011.

## **13.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Documents	Place of Inspection	Contact
<u>OFSTED Inspection of LEA – January 2004</u>	Grosvenor House	Judith Kirk – Operational Director –Universal Services
Strategy for Inclusion of Pupils with SEN – 2006/2007	Grosvenor House	As above
SEN Consultation letters, minutes and feedback forms	Grosvenor House	As above
BSF Secondary Consultation	Grosvenor House	Daniel Hennessy – BSF Programme Director

