

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children & Young People

**SUBJECT:** Primary School Special Educational Needs Review

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To seek permission to proceed to formal consultation on the proposals for Special Education Needs (SEN) in Primary Schools, ultimately leading to statutory notice.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: -**  
That Executive Board:

2.1 Endorses the proposals and recommendations within the report.

2.2 Gives approval to proceed to statutory consultation on these proposals.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1 Background**

Members will be aware that the Local Authority has been undertaking a review of Special Educational Needs provision within the Borough. It was agreed that resources will continue to be allocated to pupils in existing mainstream school settings to ensure that their needs are met.

3.2 The Council is committed to providing a range of SEN services that can meet the individual needs of children and their families. This begins with mainstream inclusive services within all schools. It is then complemented by SEN Unit provision within particular Primary Schools. Finally, the Council has a range of Special Education Needs schools. Such a diverse range of provision means that schools can cater for individual needs, and the personalisation of the curriculum for individual pupils. Such a broad range of services means that the Council is in a strong position to meet both current and emerging need.

3.3 The review of Special Education Needs provision within Primary School 'Units' is therefore only one part of a broader range of provision available to young people with Special Education Needs in the Borough. This report should be seen in that context.

3.4 A number of stages to the review of primary SEN have taken place. This has included:

- The 2005 Review of SEN Unit Provision
- A Strategic Review of Autistic Spectrum Disorder Provision in Halton (*See report of 28th August 2008*)
- A local analysis of need
- A review of Secondary School SEN resourced provision with future SEN provision agreed. Statutory notices have been published with implementation due in 2011.

3.5 Informal consultation on the proposals for Primary Schools SEN units closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 with responses received and analysed. The majority of those who responded were in full support of the change of provision proposed.

There were 47 written responses to the original proposals with 36 in favour, 10 were not in full support and 1 Don't Know. There have been 11 written responses to the revised proposals of which 10 are in favour with 1 not in full support.

3.6 Of those who were not in full support of the proposals some thought that any reduction in current support places would be a negative step. Others thought there should be more places in the proposed resource bases. Careful consideration has been given to both points. Overall however the recommendation is that the proposals remain unchanged.

3.7 The reasons for the primary SEN review are:

3.7.1 To identify Special Education Needs provision that is required for Halton pupils and the number of places required both now and in the future. This is linked both to Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme.

3.7.2 Acknowledgement that Halton currently retains a significant amount of SEN Unit provision in Primary Schools, carrying a number of unfilled places.

3.7.3 Concern that the current range and scope of Special Educational Needs Unit provision in Primary Schools may not be appropriate, and

3.7.4 As a result of the above, the Local Authority is potentially not fully securing value for money in its Primary School SEN provision.

3.8 The present provision of SEN units in primary mainstream schools is shown in Appendix 1.

#### 4.0 **PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Halton Council will ensure that Pathways for learning for SEN pupils will be personalised for the child and their family.
- 4.2 This will involve the current Primary SEN Unit Provision being re-designed to provide flexible provision within a Primary mainstream school or Early Years setting, which enables the learner to participate in mainstream learning.
- 4.3 When it has been shown, through assessment, that the pupil's needs cannot be met fully in a mainstream school without the support of enhanced resourced primary provision, this specialist resourced SEN provision will be considered. Prior to this decision there will be an expectation that 'reasonable adjustments' are undertaken (i.e. the application of the Disability Discrimination Act) using the totality of resources made available to the mainstream school.
- 4.4 Within all Primary School SEN resourced provision there will be joint working with other areas of Children's Services, for example Health and Social Care. This will provide wrap around provision for children and families.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the schools listed below develop the following SEN specialisms in line with the above proposals:
- 4.5.1 **The Brow Primary School**
- Resourced provision to accommodate 7 pupils for assessment.
  - Resourced provision to accommodate 10 pupils with speech, language and communication needs.
- 4.5.2 **The Grange Infants School**  
Resourced provision to accommodate 7 KS1 pupils with a diagnosis of Autism, this includes pupils with a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome. There would also be capacity within this provision for additional outreach support for pupils in other primary schools within the borough.
- 4.5.3 **The Grange Junior School**  
Resourced provision to accommodate 7 KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autism, this includes pupils with a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome. There would also be capacity within this provision for additional outreach support for pupils in other primary schools within the borough.
- 4.5.4 **Palace Fields Primary**  
Resourced provision to accommodate 10 pupils with complex learning needs.
- 4.5.5 **Woodside Primary**

Resourced provision to accommodate 7 pupils with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

4.5.6 **Weston Point Primary**

Resourced provision to accommodate 7 pupils with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

4.5.7 **Westfield Primary School**

Resourced provision with 6 places to be made available for pupils with hearing impairment and this may include pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties.

4.5.8 **Oakfield Primary School**

- Resourced provision to accommodate 7 pupils for assessment.
- Resourced provision to accommodate 10 pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties.

4.5.9 **Simms Cross Primary School**

Resourced provision to accommodate 7 KS 1 and 7 KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autism, this includes pupils with a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome. There would also be capacity within this provision for additional outreach support for pupils in other primary schools within the borough.

4.6 Following the closure of the informal consultation period in June 2009 it is proposed that the formal consultation process commences, ultimately leading to Statutory Notice if required.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The funding formula for Primary SEN provision will need to be revised to reflect the change in provision. Provision will need to be made within the Capital Programme for adaptations for schools to reflect the change in provision.

The purpose of the SEN review is to make provision fit for purpose and to meet current and future need. It was agreed, when embarking on the Primary Review that funding saved would be recycled, so that resources would be made fit for purpose. The funding for the revised provision was to be found from within the existing Budget, this would come from surplus places currently funded within existing SEN resourced provision.

The Strategy for Inclusion for Pupils with SEN Review 2008 states one of the aims is to **'agree a process to recycle the resources in under used provision** to best meet low incidence needs within the mainstream school community. To achieve this we will involve and engage with Head Teachers throughout the process.'

## 6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The current model represents a potentially inefficient use of resources and this review will create a more efficient use of funding for SEN unit provision.  
The Councils 'Strategy for the 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.

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

### 7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Proposals if agreed would:

- Increase the choice, diversity, inclusion and high standards in the Borough
- Reduce the surplus capacity within units in Halton schools.
- Improve access to education facilities and equipment
- Improve access to specialist staff, in Education and Health through Speech and Language Services
- Develop outreach support to mainstream Primary Schools in the Borough.
- Extend access to suitable accommodation
- Establish the supply of suitable places within a mainstream setting in the Borough
- Enable all pupils to have the opportunity to experience provision to match their individual need.

### 7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Educational attainment of children and young people will have a significant impact on their future employment, learning and skills.

### 7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All pupils will have access to appropriate health provision.

### 7.4 **A Safer Halton**

All schools prioritise safeguarding in their provision.

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

Schools are central to urban regeneration.

## 8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 Provision for SEN within mainstream units does not match the needs of the Boroughs young people. The present provision for units within schools does not provide value for money due to the number of surplus places.

## 9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 Educational attainment is central to reducing inequalities and ensuring the best outcomes for all children and young people in Halton with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

The Review of SEN Unit provision must be inclusive and reflect the contribution of all schools. The Review aims to increase diversity, access and choice, address under performance, and provide more integrated local services.

10.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

To formally consult on Section 4 of this report.

- 10.1 At present, there are surplus places within Primary mainstream SEN Units.

- 10.2 Mainstream Primary SEN Units are not matching the present and future requirements of the Borough.

11.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 11.1 To leave provision as it is. This would potentially leave the Council vulnerable to challenge on the basis of need and value for money.

12.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

- 12.1 The proposals for Primary SEN resourced provision must be implemented by September 2011 to be in line with the implementation of the agreed Secondary resourced provision.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
OFSTED Inspection of LEA – January 2004	Grosvenor House	Judith Kirk
Strategy for the Inclusion of Pupils with SEN – 2006/7	Grosvenor House	Judith Kirk
Building Schools for the Future/ Primary Capital Programme	Grosvenor House	Judith Kirk / Ann McIntyre



**PUPILS ATTENDING PRIMARY SEN UNITS - SEPT 2009***(inc Statements and Enhanced)**Does not include any cushioning payments*

KEY STAGE	SCHOOL	SEN UNIT TYPE	NO OF FUNDED PLACES	Average Funding per place	Funding allocated	NO OF PUPILS ATTENDING	SURPLUS PLACES	SURPLUS
KS1	Oakfield CP	Inf Ass	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	1	11	£ 69,201
KS1	Simms Cross CP	Inf Ass	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	4	8	£ 50,328
KS1	Weston CP	Inf Ass	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	0	12	£ 75,492
		<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>		£ -	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	£ -
KS1/2	The Brow CP	SPAL	20	£ 7,401	£ 148,020	18	2	£ 14,802
		<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>		£ -	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	£ -
KS1/2	Westfield CP	HI	8	£ 9,066	£ 72,528	4	4	£ 36,264
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>		£ -	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	£ -
KS2	Weston Point CP	EBD	7	£ 10,255	£ 71,785	3	4	£ 41,020
KS2	Woodside CP	EBD	7	£ 10,255	£ 71,785	4	3	£ 30,765
		<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		£ -	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	
KS2	Moore CP***	MLD	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	2	10	£ 62,910
KS2	Oakfield CP	MLD	24	£ 6,291	£ 150,984	5	19	£ 119,529
KS2	Palacefields CP	MLD	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	1	11	£ 69,201
KS2	Simms Cross CP	MLD	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	4	8	£ 50,328
KS2	The Grange Jnr	MLD	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	1	11	£ 69,201
KS2	Weston CP	MLD	12	£ 6,291	£ 75,492	1	11	£ 69,201
		<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>			<b>14</b>	<b>70</b>	
	<b>Primary Total</b>		<b>162</b>		<b>£1,119,038</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>£ 758,242</b>

Pupils attending - 41 have Statements + 7 SA+ Enhanced on assessment basis