



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 17th May 2006

SUBJECT: Horsforth West End Primary School – Outcome of consultations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the recent consultation process about a proposal to close the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School and to seek approval to publish a statutory notice for the removal of the resourced provision for Deaf children at the school.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The resourced provision for deaf children was established at West End Primary School in 1984. This enabled children to have full access to a mainstream primary school curriculum and social environment as well as access to a deaf peer group and specialist teaching and support from the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service staff based at the school.
- 2.2 This provision at West End Primary is one of two additionally resourced primary schools for deaf children, the other being Cottingley Primary School. There is also an additionally resourced nursery at Shakespeare Primary School and secondary age provision at Allerton Grange High School. In addition the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team support nearly 250 deaf and hearing impaired children in their local mainstream school.
- 2.3 The provision for Deaf children at West End Primary successfully promoted a bilingual British Sign Language / English approach to communication and education to match each Deaf child's individual needs. The provision has been very successful for over 20 years and has been praised in the school's Ofsted inspections.
- 2.4 In September 2005 a report was submitted to the Education Leeds Board to seek permission of Executive Board to consult with interested parties (including parents, Head Teachers, Health, Social Services, Voluntary agencies and the Deaf community) about a proposal to close the additionally resourced provision

for Deaf or hearing impaired children at Horsforth West End Primary School and in so doing remove it from the range of choices available to Deaf children.

- 2.5** Executive Board gave permission to consult on the above proposal in September 2005 and the summary of the consultations is attached. Following the consultation period permission is now sought to publish a Statutory Notice for the removal of the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End School Primary School.

3.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1** Executive Board is asked to:

i) approve the publication of a Statutory Notice for the removal of the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School .



Agenda Item:

Originator: Joan Haines

Telephone: 3951035

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Electoral wards Affected:
Horsfoth

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

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- 2.5** Executive Board gave permission to consult on the above proposal in September 2005 and the summary of the consultations is attached. Following the consultation period permission is now sought to publish a Statutory Notice for the removal of the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End School Primary School.
- 3.00 MAIN ISSUES**
- 3.1** Patterns of parental preferences have changed over the years and these changes are beginning to impact quite rapidly on provision for deaf and hearing impaired children. Increasing numbers of parents are requesting that their deaf child be educated in their local mainstream school.
- 3.2** Because of these changing parental preferences no new admissions have been made to the provision for deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School for a number of years. Commitments to pupils already in the provision have been honoured and the last 2 pupils left the resource to move to high school in July 2005.
- 3.3** Deaf children are known to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service from a very early age and there are no children currently known to the Service whose parents have expressed a preference for the provision at West End Primary School.
- 3.4** One of the reasons a parent might choose additionally resourced provision such as that at West End is the access to a deaf peer group. At least two parents would have to choose the school at the same time to make this possible. Given the pattern of parental choice over recent years this is judged to be highly unlikely.
- 3.5** It was proposed therefore that the provision for deaf children at West End Primary School be removed from the range of choices available to parents of deaf children. The choice of a place at Cottingley Primary School provision for the deaf will remain as this has proved a more popular choice for parents with 15 pupils on the roll in July 2005.
- 3.6** This proposal has been consulted upon and the following consultations have taken place:
- 3.6.1** The consultation period began on 1st February 2006 and ended on 15th March

2006. A consultation document outlining the proposal and background to it was widely distributed (800 copies were sent out) to the following individuals or agencies:

- all parents/carers of Deaf children in Leeds
- Health
- Education
- Social Services
- Voluntary agencies
- Head Teacher and governors of West End School
- Head Teachers of other resourced provisions for Deaf children in Leeds
- Neighbouring Local Education Authorities
- Children’s Hearing Services Working Group
- Elected Members of LCC

3.6.2 During this period the following consultation meetings were held:

Date	Meeting
1 February 2006	Consultation period begins
9 February 2006	Meeting with Head Teacher and governing body of West End Primary School
13 February 2006	Meeting of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team, Education Leeds staff
15 February 2006	Public meeting at West End School
15 March 2006	Consultation period ends

3.6.3 All meetings were facilitated by the following Education Leeds Officers:

Joan Haines Team Leader, The Sensory Service
 Catherine Rutherford Assistant Team Leader The Sensory Service
 Paul Barker, Team Leader Inclusion and SEN Development Team

3.6.4 Bridget Mork Parent Partnership Service attended the public meeting on 15th February 2006.

3.6.5 The Head Teacher and all of the governors of West End School attended the meeting of the 9th February 2006. The second meeting was attended by 4 members of staff from the Deaf and HI Team. The public meeting was attended by the following 6 people :

Consultant for Deaf Ex- Mainstreamers (DEX)
 Head Teacher of West End Primary School
 2 Assistant Heads of St John’s School for the Deaf Boston Spa
 2 Parents of a Deaf student in Leeds

3.6.6 In addition to the above meetings responses to the Consultation document were invited in writing. 5 written responses were received. Finally, at all Consultation meetings those present were invited to encourage anyone else they know who might be interested to take part in this consultation

process.

3.6.7 The full summary of the consultations is attached.

3.6.8 The minutes of consultation meetings and the written responses are in the members library.

3.6.9

Issues arising from the consultations :

1. The issues raised during these consultations reflect national debates about whether it is most effective to educate Deaf children in mainstream schools or in resourced provisions for Deaf children.

2. There is no one answer to the issue above and different parents/carers choose differing types of education provision according to their child's needs. It is important to note that Education Leeds still retains choice for parents/carers in the provision for Deaf children in local mainstream schools and in resourced provisions for Deaf children at Shakespeare School, Cottingley School and Allerton Grange High School.

3. There are currently no Deaf children attending West End School and this is as a result of changing patterns in parental choice. Increasing numbers of Deaf children in Leeds are choosing an inclusive place in their local mainstream school for their Deaf child and this is a pattern reflected nationally.

4. During the consultation period no parents/carers of Deaf children requested that West End resourced provision for Deaf children remain open for their Deaf child to choose in the future.

5. The Head Teacher and the governors are in agreement with the proposal to close the resourced provision for Deaf children.

6. Two parents of a Deaf student wished that their Deaf child could have attended their local mainstream school with hind sight. The choice of mainstream school or resourced provision for Deaf children is retained in Leeds.

7. There are currently no parents/carers who have chosen for their Deaf child to be educated at West End School and parental choice has directly led to this consultation about closure of this resourced provision for Deaf children.

4.00 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 Deaf children are considered to have a disability. Closure of the provision would remove a choice from this group. However it is a choice that no parents have exercised for a number of years.

5.00 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As no pupils will attend the provision at West End Primary School in September 2005 all the staff and the resources which were deployed there have been

redeployed by the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service to further improve the support which deaf children receive in other settings. The only ongoing expenditure of the provision remaining available is the host school allowance of £11602.

- 5.2** Should the provision for deaf children remain available at West End Primary School and a parent were to choose to send their child there then the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service would be committed to an appropriate level of staffing. Based on current costs this staffing would cost in excess of £60k. Added to the host school allowance this would mean that the cost of that child's education would be in the region of £75k. This compares with a cost per pupil at Cottingley Primary School of £9k.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.3** An LEA has a duty to make appropriate provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The removal of the choice of the provision for the deaf at West End Primary School represents a significant change in the character of Horsforth West End School and will require the publication of statutory notices.
- Paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 of schedule 1 of the Education (School Organisation Proposals) Regulations 1999 as amended require that the establishment or discontinuation of provision which is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs is a prescribed alteration for which proposals must be published under Section 28 of the SSFA.

6.00 CONCLUSIONS

The consultation meetings provided some very helpful feedback about provision for Deaf children in Leeds.

A good range choice of educational provision for Deaf children is retained in Leeds with both resourced provision for Deaf children available at Cottingley School, Shakespeare nursery and Allerton Grange High School. and opportunity for all Deaf children to attend their local mainstream school if they wish.

No parents/carers requested that West End resourced provision for Deaf children remain open for their Deaf child in the future. The Head Teacher and the governors of West End School are in agreement with the proposal to close the resourced provision for Deaf children at the school.

7.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** Executive Board is asked to:

i) approve the publication of a Statutory Notice for the removal of the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School .

APPENDICES

- 1) Summary of Consultations Proposal to close the resourced provision for Deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School

CONTACT DETAILS

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