

Public consultation: Proposal to relocate West SILC (Victoria Park) provision

Monday 4 January to
Friday 12 February 2010

Education Leeds



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1. What are we asking you about and why?

We are proposing to move the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) for young people with special educational needs (SEN) provided at the West SILC (Victoria Park) on the Farnley Park Maths and Computing College site to Bruntcliffe High School, Morley.

The final decision will be made by Leeds City Council's highest decision-making body, the Executive Board. We have to provide the Board with all the information they need to make that decision. This includes making sure we have shared the proposal with everyone involved, and given them an opportunity to comment.

So we need you to read this booklet or attend the public meetings and give us any comments you have on the proposal.

2. Why are we asking you?

The West SILC is one of five community special schools in Leeds. It provides for children aged 2 to 19 with a range of complex SEN. It does this on two main sites or in specialist bases contained within mainstream schools.

One of the SILC's two main sites, Victoria Park, has been based in modular accommodation on the Farnley Park site since 2004, when the Victoria Park site itself burnt down. In September 2009, there were 52 young people (aged 11 to 16) based in the building, which contains 15 rooms including specialist rooms for science and practical subjects.

The Farnley Park partnership was a temporary move. We would like to make permanent facilities on a single site for the young people.

Over the past few months, Education Leeds, Farnley Park and the West SILC have been developing the plans for Farnley Park's major refurbishment through the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Building work has to start on site in 2010 for the refurbishment to be completed by 2012. The plans include a new building, which will have to cover some of the space that the SILC's building sits on at the moment.

We believe that the relocation has to take place in summer 2010 for a number of reasons.

1. To make sure that the vulnerable children and young people at the West SILC (Victoria Park) continue to be educated in a safe and secure, high quality learning environment with minimum disruption.

2. To make sure that the state-of-the-art new learning environment and SILC facilities on the Farnley Park site are ready for use by September 2012.
3. To make use of the Summer holiday 2010 to physically move the modular unit to another site to minimise the disruption to pupils.

3. Why are we proposing to move it to Bruntcliffe High School?

Over the past few months, Education Leeds, the principal and chair of governors at the West SILC have explored a range of options and alternative locations. These have included moving the modular buildings elsewhere on the Farnley Park site, or on to other local secondary schools.

Education Leeds has been guided by the following principles to develop this proposal.

When we move or change school provision, we must maintain or improve the offer to young people, and seek to improve the opportunity for individuals to get all the support they need.

Learners should get the education and support they need within reasonable distance from their home and in the environment which provides them with the most inclusive opportunities to meet their individual needs.

Young people with SEN are as likely to make good progress with their academic, personal and social development in mainstream or special schools so long as there are high quality specialist teachers and a commitment by the school to create opportunities to include everyone (Ofsted 2006).

The proposed move to Bruntcliffe High School has been developed by Education Leeds with senior leadership teams of the school and the West SILC.

The move is the preferred option for a number of reasons. We believe it provides an excellent opportunity to further develop inclusive education across a mainstream school and the SILC on a co-located and permanent site.

Young people, families and staff will benefit from much better access to the site at Bruntcliffe High School than the existing access at Farnley Park Maths and Computing College.

It would keep the Victoria Park school community together in a single location with links to a highly-inclusive mainstream school which is committed to working with the SILC.

Keeping the Victoria Park school community together will provide maximum stability, security and safety. It would give the young people the opportunity to stay in their peer groups, with familiar staff in their existing buildings. This facility will remain on the site as long as it is needed, and the young people can stay there for as long as it best meets their individual needs.

This will also help to maintain the same committed staff team and standards that were judged as 'good' by Ofsted after the West SILC's inspection in December 2009.

The West SILC team will continue to promote high quality inclusive learning opportunities for young people which is tailored to each young person's individual needs.

Bruntcliffe High School is only 2.6 miles away from Farnley Park, making it the nearest secondary school with enough space on site to accommodate the West SILC (Victoria Park) accommodation.

5. How to comment on the proposals?

This consultation runs from Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2010. If you want the council's Executive Board to consider your views, we must receive your comments no later than 4pm on Friday 12 February.

We are holding two public meetings where you will have the opportunity to debate the proposal and ask questions. These will be at the West SILC's Milestone site at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19 January, and at Bruntcliffe High School at 6.30pm on Tuesday 26 January 2010.

Responses need to be made in writing, or verbally at the meeting. We minute all public meetings and place the minutes on the Education Leeds website, go to: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation.

It is important that, if you can, you give reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals so that as much information as possible is available to the Executive Board when making their decision.

Written responses can be made:

- Using the form in this booklet, which includes details of where to send it.
- By letter to: **school organisation team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds, LS2 8DT.**
- By email: educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses can be anonymous, but if you require an acknowledgement please include your name and address.

In addition further copies of this booklet and the response form are available on the Education Leeds website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisationsiation. It has also been widely distributed, including to local councillors, MPs, the Catholic and Church of England diocese, and trades unions.

6. What happens to your comments?

All your views will be summarised and presented to Leeds City Council's Executive Board, which will decide whether to proceed with the proposal or to change it in any way. We expect the Board to make this decision in April 2010.

Your comments are treated equally, whether you put them in writing or say them at the public meetings.

If the Executive Board decides to proceed a statutory notice confirming the details of, and inviting comments on, the final proposals will be published after February 2010 half term in the Yorkshire Evening Post, and on the Education Leeds website, at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation

If you want to make sure the Executive Board considers your comments when making their final decision, you should make them again at this stage. This applies even if the comments are the same as you have contributed to this consultation.

The Executive Board must make its decision within two months of the statutory notice period, so the final decision on this proposal is likely to be made at their meeting on Wednesday 19 May 2010.

If objections are received, the School Organisation Advisory Board will sit ahead of the Executive Board meeting to make its recommendation on the proposals.

The School Organisation Advisory Body is made up of representatives from the area's education community. It has been established by the council's Executive Board to consider responses and make recommendations on the final decision regarding any proposals to change the size or organisation of schools.

Public consultation response form

Please read the consultation booklet on the proposals and tell us what your views are. The questions on this form are provided to help you do so, but you do not have to respond to all of them. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter. Letters and forms should be sent to the address at the bottom of this form. Extra copies of this booklet and response form are available on the Education Leeds website, go to:

www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation

You may also respond by email: **educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk**

Responses must be received by **4pm** on **Friday 12 February 2010**. All responses will be reported to a meeting of Leeds City Council's Executive Board on **Wednesday 7 April 2010**.

Questions relating to the proposals

1. What are your views on the proposals? (please use extra pages if needed)

2. Have you found this booklet useful?

3. Have you found the consultation process useful?

4. Do you have any other comments or views?

Your personal details (so that your response can be formally acknowledged):

Name:

Address:

email address:

Which school are you associated with?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parent/carer of present pupil(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of staff | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/carer of primary school child | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local resident | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other adult relative | <input type="checkbox"/> | Elected member | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community representative | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Data Protection Act 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Education Leeds and Leeds City Council are seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Please send your reply to:

**The chief executive, Education Leeds, FAO school organisation team
9th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds, LS2 8DT**

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If you do not speak English and need help in understanding this document, please phone **0113 224 3311** and state the name of your language. We will then put you on hold while we contact an interpreter. We can assist with any language and there is no charge for interpretation.

अगर आप अंग्रेजी नहीं बोल सकते और आप को यह दस्तावेज समझने के लिए मदद की आवश्यकता है, तो कृपया **0113 224 3311** के उपर टेलीफोन करे. हम आपको टेलीफोन पर ही होल्ड कर के एक इन्टरप्रिटर (दुभाषिये) का संपर्क करेंगे. हम आपको कोई भी भाषा में मदद कर सकते हैं और दुभाषिये की सेवा के लिए कोई खर्च वसूल नहीं किया जाएगा.

আপনি যদি ইংরেজিতে কথা না বলেন এবং এই দলিলটি বুঝতে সাহায্যের দরকার হয় তাহলে দয়া করে **0113 224 3311** এই নম্বরে ফোন করুন এবং আপনি যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন সেই ভাষার নাম বলুন। তারপর আমরা আপনাকে ফোন ধরে রাখতে বলে একজন ইন্টারপ্রিটারের (দোভাষী) সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করব। আমরা যে কোন ভাষায় সাহায্য করতে পারি, এবং বিনামূল্যে ইন্টারপ্রিটেশনের (ভাষান্তরন) ব্যবস্থা করা হয়।

凡不懂英語又需要協助了解這份資料內容者，請致電 **0113 224 3311** 並說明本身的母語名稱。當我們聯絡傳譯員時，請稍候切勿掛斷電話。我們可以提供各種語言的傳譯服務，而且毋須收費。

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ **0113 224 3311** ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਦੱਸੋ। ਫਿਰ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਉਦੋਂ ਤਕ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹਾਂਗੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਤਕ ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰਿਟਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰਿਟੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਫੀਸ ਨਹੀਂ ਦੇਣੀ ਪੈਂਦੀ।

اگر آپ انگریزی زبان نہیں بولتے اور اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کے لیے آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی **0113 224 3311** پر فون کریں اور اپنی زبان کا نام بتائیں۔ ہم آپ کو انتظار کرنے کے لیے کہیں گے اور اس دوران کسی انٹریپرٹریٹری یعنی ترجمان سے رابطہ کریں گے۔ ہم کسی بھی زبان میں آپ کی مدد کر سکتے اور ترجمانی کی خدمت کے لیے آپ سے کوئی رقم نہیں لی جاتی۔

This publication can also be made available in large print, on computer disc and audio cassette. Please phone: **0113 224 3311**.

Public meeting

Your chance to find out more and have your say on proposals to relocate the West SILC (Victoria Park) provision from Farnley Park Maths and Computing College to Bruntcliffe High School.

Tuesday 19 January, 6.30pm
West SILC Milestone site

4 Town Street, Stanningley,
Pudsey, LS28 6HL

Tuesday 26 January, 6.30pm
Bruntcliffe High School

Bruntcliffe Lane, Morley,
Leeds, LS27 0LZ

Education Leeds

