

Outcome of the statutory notice on a proposal to decommission the Resource Provision at Gledhow Primary School

Date: 22nd June 2022

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report details the outcome of a statutory notice on a proposal to decommission the Speech and Language Resource Provision at Gledhow Primary School with effect from August 2022.
- A statutory notice was carried out in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The 5-week formal statutory notice period took place between 28 March 2022 to 29 April 2022. The statutory notice yielded no responses from stakeholders during this time.
- This report summarises the process undertaken in relation to the proposal and seeks approval from Executive Board on the recommendations below.

Recommendations

- a) Exec Board are asked to review the outcome of the statutory notice and approve the proposal to decommission the Resource Provision from end of the academic year 2021/22.
- b) Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Inclusion.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Over the last few years, the nature of SEND provision for speech and language communication difficulties within Leeds has evolved. Previously specialist Speech and Language provision was only available through the limited number of Resource Provisions within mainstream primary and secondary schools.

- 2 The NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) offer now allows children to access direct support from a Speech and Language Therapist whilst being on roll at their local mainstream school. The children can remain within their local community rather than transporting them across the city to receive the support that they need.
- 3 This has led to speech and language specific Resource Provisions in Leeds schools reducing in number, due to the lack of demand for these specialist school places. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the new offer and the confidence of parents and families in choosing their local mainstream school for the delivery of SALT provision.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: Roundhay Ward

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 4 At its height, the number of pupils on roll at the Gledhow Resource Provision was 12. This has reduced over time. Currently there is only one pupil attending who is due to transition into secondary school at the end of this academic year, ahead of the proposed decommission. Therefore, no pupils would be directly affected by this change.
- 5 In ceasing the provision at Gledhow Primary School there would be no impact on the types and amount of provision children with speech and language communication difficulties in the city would receive, due to the improved SALT offer within Leeds schools.
- 6 The Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening (EDCI) form is attached as an appendix to this report.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 7 The process in respect of this proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 8 An initial informal consultation took place on the proposal. Ahead of this public consultation, the school governing body and headteacher confirmed their support for the proposal to decommission the Resource Provision.
- 9 Stakeholders were consulted through a variety of methods during a five week period from 6 January 2022 to 3 February 2022. These stakeholders included; all parent/carers at Gledhow Primary School, Staff and governors at Gledhow Primary School, parent support groups, local Leeds schools, all Leeds SILCs, local ward members, local MP, the Diocese and other relevant stakeholders.
- 10 A total of 18 consultation survey responses were received during the consultation period of which 55% either strongly or somewhat supported the proposal, 28% either strongly or somewhat opposed the proposal and a further 18% neither supported nor opposed it.
- 11 The outcome of this consultation and a summary of the views were detailed in a report presented to Executive Board at its meeting on 16 March 2022 who approved the recommendation for the LA as proposer to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.
- 12 A formal statutory notice period followed between 28 March 2022 to 29 April 2022 and was promoted to all stakeholders using the same methods as the consultation, with the addition

of the statutory notice being published in the Yorkshire Evening Post. During this five-week period, anyone could raise views / concerns that had not previously been raised or addressed during the public consultation.

- 13 The statutory notice on the proposal did not yield any responses from stakeholders.

What are the resource implications?

- 14 There are no resource implications in the proposed decommissioning of the Resource Provision. The provision will naturally end when the last remaining pupil transitions to secondary school. There are no funding implications in closing the resource and the school will not be financially disadvantaged. There is no impact on the existing staff as a result of this proposal. The school does not have accommodation and assets that are dedicated to the sole use of the provision.

What are the legal implications?

- 15 This proposal has been brought forward by Leeds City Council with the support of the School and Governing Body. Consultation was carried out in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The regulations set out that with any reorganisation of specialist provision at a community school, such as Gledhow Primary School, the local authority is the proposer and the decision maker.
- 16 There are no legal implications as the specialist support provided to pupils with Speech and language difficulties in Leeds will continue to be available in all mainstream schools to those pupils who are identified as needing to access it.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 17 There are no identified high risks with this proposal. It is not considered a contentious proposal as pupils in Leeds are benefitting from an improved SALT offer within their local mainstream school.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 18 Approval of the proposal supports the Child Friendly City aspiration to 'improve educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'.
- 19 Pupils being able to access the SALT support within their local community in an inclusive learning environment, also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to 'improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school'.
- 20 The proposal supports the council's climate agenda by reducing the need to transport children across the city to attend a Resource Provision. Reduced travel also positively impacts on health through reduction in the city's carbon footprint and could be attributed to improving a child's wellbeing through a shortened home to school journey time.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

21 No other options were considered. The specialist provision is no longer required at this school beyond the 2021/22 academic year. The statutory process to decommission the Resource Provision is therefore being followed.

b) How will success be measured?

22 The lack of demand for these specialist places over recent years, demonstrates the effectiveness of the new NHS pathway and the confidence of parents and families in choosing their local mainstream school for the delivery of such provision rather than choosing a Resource Provision.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

23 If Executive Board approval is granted to progress with the proposal, then the provision would be decommissioned at the end of the academic year 2021/22, when the last child transitions to high school.

Appendices

24 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form

Background papers

25 None