



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 17th June 2009

SUBJECT: Proposal to add Specialist Community Provision at Whitkirk Primary School for pupils with complex physical difficulties and medical needs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 This report describes the proposal to establish specialist community provision at Whitkirk Primary School for pupils with complex physical difficulties and medical needs, and seeks permission of Executive Board to conduct consultation on the proposal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 This proposal addresses the issue of making provision locally to include children with special educational needs within mainstream settings and builds upon the partnership developments from the East SILC.
- 3 Data available indicates the need for additional specialist primary provision for pupils with complex physical difficulties (PD) and medical needs. The number of children with PD have risen from 223 in 2006 to 258 in 2009, an increase of 16%, and most parents expect that their children will be educated in mainstream schools with the appropriate level of resources and facilities. In addition 12 pupils at the East SILC have been identified as benefiting from increased mainstream placement. The demand for mainstream provision for primary age children with PD can be best met by establishing additional resource provision in an appropriate primary school.

THE MAIN ISSUES

- 4 A number of primary school sites have been considered in the East of the City for the development of specialist resource provision. Whitkirk primary school is the preferred option because of its proximity to Temple Moor High School and the fact that it has available accommodation. This proximity will allow access to additional specialist facilities over and above those planned for the primary

school and will enable parents to have access to primary as well as secondary level mainstream resourced provision. Provision here alongside high school provision planned at Temple Moor High and primary provision at Meadowfield, Osmondthorpe and Seacroft Children's Centres would complete a continuum of provision 0-19 consistent with the locality model to meet identified need in the East locality.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5 Revenue funding for the support of pupils with SEN is expected to be broadly neutral, and there are anticipated savings to the Education Leeds transport budget associated with this development. Further work is required to finalise the amount needed from the Schools Access initiative.

There will be staffing implications for the school to manage through pupils basic funding plus additional FFI funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 The Executive Board is asked to approve consultation on a proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Whitkirk primary school so as to establish a resourced base for primary age children with complex physical needs.

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Electoral Wards Affected:
 Alwoodley
 Burmantofts & Richmond Hill
 Chapel Allerton
 Cross Gates & Whinmoor
 Harewood
 Garforth & Swillington
 Gipton & Harehills
 Killingbeck & Seacroft
 Kippax & Methley
 Moortown

Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in
 (Details contained in the Report)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report describes the proposal to establish specialist community provision at Whitkirk Primary School for pupils with complex physical difficulties and medical needs, and seeks permission of Executive Board to conduct consultation on the proposal.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 This proposal addresses the issue of making provision locally to include children with special educational needs within mainstream settings and builds upon the partnership developments from the East SILC.

2.2 Data available indicates the need for additional specialist primary provision for pupils with complex physical difficulties (PD) and medical needs. The number of children with PD have risen from 223 in 2006 to 258 in 2009, an increase of 16%, and most parents expect that their children will be educated in mainstream schools with the appropriate level of resources and facilities. In addition 12 pupils at the

East SILC have been identified as benefiting from increased mainstream placement. The demand for mainstream provision for primary age children with PD can be best met by establishing additional resource provision in an appropriate primary school.

3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

3.1 A number of primary school sites have been considered in the East of the City for the development of specialist resource provision. Whitkirk primary school is the preferred option because of its proximity to Temple Moor High School and the fact that it has available accommodation. This proximity will allow access to additional specialist facilities over and above those planned for the primary school and will enable parents to have access to primary as well as secondary level mainstream resourced provision. Provision here alongside high school provision planned at Temple Moor High and primary provision at Meadowfield, Osmondthorpe and Seacroft Children's Centres would complete a continuum of provision 0-19 consistent with the locality model to meet identified need in the East locality.

3.2 Executive Board have already agreed an increase in the admission limit at Whitkirk Primary School from 45 – 60, utilising available accommodation within the school. There is sufficient accommodation to also allow the proposed SEN provision.

3.3 To secure the efficiency and effectiveness of the provision a Service Specification will be written on which the school will be consulted. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the service will also be contained in the document.

3.4 Further discussions will be held regarding the implications for the strategic management of the resourced base and training and professional development of staff in advance of any facilities being opened . Once the arrangements have been agreed future arrangements will be secured and agreed with the Local Authority through the Service Specification and Service Delivery agreement

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 The LA has a statutory duty to plan appropriate places for the education of children in the city and the development of Specialist Community provision is part of this. Planning primary school places is relevant to a number of key priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan, in terms of managing the supply and demand of school places and school improvement.

4.2 The development of Specialist Community provision is relevant to the Narrowing the Gap agenda, with the planning of appropriate school places taking consideration of wider socio-economic factors and regeneration.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Statutory implications

5.2 The recommendation of this report is to proceed to consultation. Any objections

received will be reported back to the Executive Board, and would then be followed by a further statutory process before any final decision is made.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Revenue funding for the support of pupils with SEN is expected to be broadly neutral, and there are anticipated savings to the Education Leeds transport budget associated with this development. Further work is required to finalise the amount needed from the Schools Access initiative.

There will be staffing implications for the school to manage through pupils basic funding plus additional FFI funding.

6.2 A business case will be produced that will highlight all additional costs.

6.3 Any capital costs identified for the Local Authority will to be met from within the capital programme.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Executive Board is asked to approve consultation on a proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Whitkirk primary school so as to establish a resourced base for primary age children with complex physical needs.

8.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS

8.1. Executive Board April 2009 – Admission Arrangements.

