

**Alterations other than alterations proposed in foundation proposals which may be published by a Governing Body or Local Authority as specified in regulations 4 and 5**

Published in accordance with Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2016

### **1. Contact details**

The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school

Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY intends to make a Prescribed Alteration to Headlands CE (VC) JI&N School, Headlands Road, Liversedge, WF15 6PR - A Voluntary Controlled School.

### **2. Description of alteration and evidence of demand**

It is proposed:

- To decommission 6 transitional places at Headlands CE (VC) JI&N School for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and deliver the service in a different way
- To use the resources released through the decommission at Headlands CE (VC) JI&N School to enhance the central outreach offer for children with Complex Communication and Interaction Needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, to enable primary age children to access specialist support in their local school.

### **3. Objectives - the objectives of the proposals (including how the proposals would increase Educational Standards and parental choice)**

The objectives of these proposals are to

- Continue to ensure specialist support is available where it is needed and is able to have the biggest impact.
- Continue to ensure that the overall pattern of specialist resource provision in Kirklees is flexible and can support and respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences.
- Continue to provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community.
- Continue to support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and the scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for people with SEND

### **4. The effect on other schools**

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area

This proposal does not affect other schools in the area.

### **5. Project costs**

Project cost and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

- Should these proposals be implemented there would be no financial Implications arising. There would be a change to the current pattern of specialist provision, but the overall financial effect is nil.
- The education budget that the Council receives from government, known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), can only be spent on education – so the proposals have no revenue impact for the Council. Specialist school places are funded from the “high needs block” of the DSG and the number of places has to be formally agreed with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) each year.

## 6. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages. A description of what is planned for each stage, the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposed implementation date is 1 February 2019.

The LA had a duty to ensure that the parents of any children affected by a potential decision to close the specialist provision were aware of the impact this might have upon them. This involved early engagement with those parents where alternative options were discussed should the closure go ahead. These options included the right to remain at the Headlands CE(VC) JI&N School should the closure be agreed, return to local mainstream provision or to take up a placement at an alternative provision for children with similar needs. Parents of children currently in the provision chose to move their children to another provision prior to the final decision being made, with a request for transition to take place early in the Autumn term 2018.

## 7. Change to special educational need provision - the SEN improvement test.

In planning and commissioning SEN provision or considering a proposal for change, LAs should aim for a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences. This is favourable to establishing broad categories of provision according to special educational need or disability. Decision-makers should ensure that proposals:

- take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings
- take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it.
- offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people, taking account of collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream schools), extended school and Children’s Centre provision; regional centres (of expertise), regional and sub-regional provision; out of LA day and residential special provision
- take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment, where children can be healthy and be safe
- support the LA’s strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people
- provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community

- (g) ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year-olds; and
- (h) ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils. Their statements of special educational needs must be amended and all parental rights must be ensured. Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority, should be involved. Pupils should not be placed long-term or permanently in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) if a special school place is what they need.

When considering any reorganisation of provision that the LA considers to be reserved for pupils with special educational needs, including that which might lead to children being displaced, proposers will need to demonstrate how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in standards, quality and/or range of educational provision for those children. Decision-makers should make clear how they are satisfied that the SEN improvement test has been met, including how they have taken account of parental or independent representations which question the proposer's assessment.

(a) A four week non-statutory consultation has been carried out on the proposals. There were very few responses received. The responses that were received questioned the process, staff and pupil movement ahead of a decision and increased pressure on outreach services. These concerns were addressed in the consultation outcome report at <https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s25625/Item%2013.%20Headlands%20Combined%20Report.pdf>, this report was considered by Kirklees Cabinet on 13 November 2018. It is intended that the resources released through the de-commission will be used to enhance the central outreach offer for children with Complex Communication and Interaction Needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, to enable primary age children to access specialist support in their local school.

(b-c) Over the last several years, Kirklees Council has re-organised specialist provision to be more flexible to meet the changing individual needs of children, meeting the associated demand and taking account of parental preference to provide the best possible standards of care and education, and to provide it fairly to all Kirklees children with special educational needs. It is intended that this proposal would result in resources being released as a result of the decommission of 6 transitional places at Headlands CE (VC) JI&N School for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and used to enhance existing outreach support regardless of where that is delivered from. As such, this will provide a more timely response to the needs of children with SEND. Outreach support will continue to be available for both children with an Education, Health and Care Plan as well as those without. The LA will continue to work with its partner agencies. The High Needs Review recognised the importance of children's needs being met in their local school wherever possible.

(d) The proposal aims to ensure that the overall pattern of specialist provision in Kirklees maintains flexibility and has a broad range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences in a safe environment where young people can thrive and which takes full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum.

(e) This proposal relates to children with Communication and Interaction Needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Schools across the Local Authority have improved accessibility with regard to staff expertise, which has contributed towards parents and carers making a preference for their local mainstream school. Where the needs of children with SEND can be met in their local school, this provides them with a more accessible place closer to home and provides equality of opportunity to access the mainstream curriculum. A full equality impact assessment has been done and can be viewed at:- <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/equality-impact-assessments.aspx>, select the Children directorate under 2018/19.

(f) All educational support services in Kirklees for children with SEND including specialist provision and outreach enable them to receive the required level of support, either in their school or in a school with a designated specialist provision. Specialist provision staff are given the skills they need to work with schools through recognised and accredited training.

Opportunities for career development pathways are established for all specialist staff in order to recruit and retain the high quality of specialist skills and expertise we need.

(g) This proposal does not affect provision for 14-19 year olds.

(h) No children are displaced as a result of these proposals given the decisions already made by parents.

## **8. Travel and accessibility**

Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times, increase transport costs or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.

A proposal should also be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

The availability of additional outreach services supporting more children with SEND in their local school is likely to reduce travel costs as, where possible, staff will travel to the children rather than the children travelling further to specialist provision.

## **9. Objections and comments**

Any person may send objections or comments in relation to any proposals to the local authority within four weeks from the date of publication. Objections and comments must be received by 20 December 2018. Copies of the proposals can be obtained from: Directorate for Children & Young People, c/o School Organisation & Planning Team, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY

The address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent:-

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, 23 November 2018, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Director for Children & Young People, c/o School Organisation & Planning Team, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY or via Council email at:- [school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk)