

Notes of School Organisation Advisory Group – 17th December 2018

1. Introductions and membership apologies

Present: Councillor Masood Ahmed (chair)
Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Jane Acklam OBE (Chief Executive Officer of South Pennine Academies)

Officers in support:

Martin Wilby (Senior Strategic Manager – Education Places and Access)
Mandy Cameron (Head of Education Inclusion & Safeguarding)
Donna Jowett (School Place Planning Officer-Learning and Early Support)
Shahzia Ashraf (School Place Planning Officer-Learning and Early Support)

Apologies: Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Marielle O'Neill
Diocese of Leeds - Church of England
Diocese of Leeds

2. Overview of the meeting - Purpose of SOAG:

- Review of the statutory process 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.
- Review the process 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. Review of the statutory process using Check List 1:

- Proposal 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.

Comments under 2.5 (a & b) the implementation date that was published on the statutory notices has changed from 1st February 2019 to 1st March 2019. However decisions can be made within 2 months after representation which will end on 20/12/18 and decision-making cabinet is scheduled for 19/02/19 therefore within the permitted 2 month time frame.

4. SOAG conclusions and recommendations to decision makers:

- An appropriate non statutory consultation has been carried out.
- The published statutory notice complies with statutory requirements.
- The proposal is not related to any other proposal for any other school and is not related to any proposals published by the EFA.
- The proposal is valid and can be decided by Kirklees Council Cabinet.
- The statutory four week period has been allowed for representation.
- The decisions will be brought to the cabinet on 19th February 2019, which is within two months after the end of the statutory four week representation period which will end on the 20th December 2018.

SOAG Advice: Kirklees Council Cabinet can decide the proposals under its current decision making powers.

5. Review of factors from DfE guidance to be considered in making the decisions.

These factors are derived from the guidance issued by the Department for Education. School Organisation Maintained Schools. Annex B: Guidance for Decision Makers April 2016. Factors can vary depending upon the nature and type of proposals. The full list of factors is presented in Appendix 7, accompanied by responses to the relevant factors for these proposals. The relevant factors for these proposals are:

- Consideration of consultation and representation period
 - Education standards and diversity of provision.
 - Demand
 - School size
 - Proposed admission arrangements (including post 16 provision)
 - National curriculum
 - Equal opportunities issues
 - Community cohesion
 - Travel and accessibility
 - Capital
 - School Premises and Playing Fields
 - Changes to Special Educational Needs Provision the SEN improvement test
- The rationale for the proposals was examined against each of the above factors and associated guidance.
 - The factors, guidance and rationale for the proposals are set out in Appendix 7.

SOAG comments

- This proposal enables the legal closure of the specialist provision at Headlands CE (VC) JI&N School, there were no children remaining in the provision at the school in September 2018.
- Travel and accessibility - No children are displaced as a result of this proposal. It is intended to have a positive impact as, the transfer of resources to outreach, would make this provision more accessible, to primary aged children in their local school therefore reducing travel.

Guidance note: Type of decision

The decision maker can make one of four types of decision for the statutory proposal:

- Reject the proposal
- Approve the proposal
- Approve the proposal with a modification (e.g. the implementation date)
- Approve the proposal subject to meeting one or more specific conditions

6. Final conclusions and recommendations.

SOAG conclusions for decision makers: SOAG agreed that:

- The statutory process had enabled a full and detailed presentation of the proposals to interested parties.
- The rationale for the proposal had been clearly articulated against the factors in the decision maker's guidance (see Appendix 7).
- Issues raised in consultation had been presented for full consideration against the factors in decision maker's guidance.