

Name of meeting: Cabinet - Date: Tuesday 10th February 2015

Title of report: Proposal to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years.

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No impact on spending Yes – this impacts on all wards across Kirklees
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is it eligible for “call in” by Scrutiny ?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Alison O’Sullivan 26/01/2015
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith 27/01/215
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring?	Julie Muscroft (John Chapman) 29/01/215
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Shabir Pandor

Electoral [wards](#) affected: All wards

Ward councillors consulted:

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

This report provides an overview about the pilot scheme at Ravenshall School, in place since September 2011, which has developed a provision that prepares disabled young people with complex needs for adulthood. It is proposed to formalise this arrangement by increasing the age range of the school to up to 19 years through a statutory process.

2. Background : Development of the Pilot

2.1

In August 2010 the Local Authority commissioned an independent report to investigate the routes of progression for young people with special educational needs (SEN) in Kirklees. The report highlighted a number of issues affecting a small number of young people moving into Further Education at 16 years of age, and the greater risk of such students becoming a NEET statistic.

2.2

The report made the following recommendations:

- Special schools and Kirklees College should work together to develop better transitional arrangements for these young people
- Parental concerns about the vulnerability of these young people in large college should be addressed
- The limited availability of placements other than Kirklees College for those with lower academic levels should be considered, along with the provision of greater choice for parents.

2.3

An analysis of need of the Key Stage 4 cohorts at Longley, Lydgate and Ravenshall Special Schools demonstrated that while the majority of young people were able to make the transition to Kirklees College, there was a very small minority who did not have the social and emotional maturity to engage in further education at the end of Year 11, and who would benefit from a personalised transition programme in a smaller, nurturing environment before moving on.

2.4

The pilot at Ravenshall was developed in order to address some of these issues. It opened in September 2011 in partnership with Kirklees College and has been reviewed each year. Careful consideration has been given to the placement of students in the pilot, and the expectation is that the majority of young people would attend Kirklees College, and only a very small cohort would attend Ravenshall. Numbers of pupils in the provision at Raven shall has remained consistently low.

2.5

The pilot's focus has been the transition to adulthood, and the majority of those learners now attend Kirklees College. With this outcome in mind, the pilot offers a bespoke package of support that includes work-based learning, access to leisure activities, independent living skills, and work within the community.

3. The Children and Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Act has led to changes in the way in which provision is made for children and young people with SEN, in particular:

The Act recognises the importance of a successful transition to adulthood for young people with SEN, and the need for a personalised approach with each young person in order to achieve this.

A child or young person with more complex special educational needs may have an Education Health and Care Plan (this replaces the statement of special educational needs) from 0 and up to 25 years of age. This will include a comprehensive transition plan to prepare that young person for adulthood.

Education, health and social care must work in partnership to promote positive transitions to adulthood for young people with SEN.

Any decisions about provision must be made with the child or young person and their family.

4. Recommendations

The LA proposes that this provision for transition to and preparation for adulthood for a small number of particularly vulnerable young people continues, and as a result a statutory proposal to change the upper age range of the school from 16 to 19 years is required.

This provision will continue to work in partnership with Kirklees College, Longley School and Lydgate School to offer a personalised package of support for this group of young people.

Whilst the proposal is to increase the age range of the school to up to 19 years of age, the aim of the provision is to support these young people to move on to further education and other activities as soon as they are ready.

This proposal to change the age range of Ravenshall School would be subject to a statutory process for School Reorganisation. New School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 came into force on 28 January 2014. Therefore should Cabinet grant permission to develop proposals to change the age range of Ravenshall School, the proposals would be subject to a four stage statutory process for school re-organisation, set out below.

1. Publication
2. Representation
3. Decision
4. Implementation

The new regulations removed the statutory requirement to carry out a 'pre-publication' consultation for the alteration of the upper or lower age limit at a special school, however given the significance of these changes it is proposed to carry out a non –statutory consultation on the proposals. This would provide any opportunity for stakeholders to review the proposals and comment on them prior to formal publication, if approved by Kirklees Council Cabinet.

NOTE: This is not a proposal to establish a general sixth form provision at Ravenshall School. This will be emphasised in consultation materials and reports to decision-makers.

5. Funding arrangements

Funding for High Needs post 16 students is made up of two allocations. A flat rate allocation of £10,000 funds the special school 'place' and then a top-up amount is allocated based on the needs of the student. The Education Funding Agency allocates place funding as a separate payment and then top-up funding is provided from the Council's overall DSG High Needs budget for all children and students with High Needs. When students attending further education colleges are identified as having High Needs, the same funding arrangement exists. The college receives an equivalent £10,000 from the EFA (known as Element 1 and 2 funding) and then the Council allocates the top-up allocation from the DSG budget.

The Council has to make a formal request each autumn for the number of post-16 high needs places required for the following academic year. If the proposed change to the age-range at Ravenshall is agreed, a request will be made to the EFA in October 2015 for additional place funding for August 2016.

6. Implications for the Council

6.1 Council priorities:

Council policies affected by this proposal include the Children & Young People Plan. The proposals will support the Council priorities which are to;

Enhance life chances for young people: Working in partnership to improve health and educational attainment to enable them to reach their full potential. The proposal increases the opportunity for some young people with SEN to make a successful transition to adulthood and reduces the risk of these young people becoming NEET.

Support older people to be healthy, active and involved in their communities: Focusing on preventative work, while empowering those with long term conditions to live independent lives to the full and be in control of making their own decisions.

Business growth and jobs: Creating the right conditions for business to sustain the Kirklees economy, facilitating investment in skills, jobs and homes and providing pathways into work.

Provide effective and productive services: Ensuring services are focused on the needs of the community and delivering excellent value for money. The proposal provides a greater choice of further education provision for families

6.2 Human Resources implications

There are no HR implications as a result of these proposals.

6.3 Financial Implications

6.3.1 Revenue

Funding for the proposed post-16 places at Ravenshall will depend on approval from the Education Funding Agency. Top-up funding can continue to be provided from the Council's DSG budget. The basis on which top up is calculated in special schools and general FE colleges is currently different but work is underway to secure a common approach by 2016.

Transitional funding for the academic year 2015-16 will be sought through the proposed extension of the existing arrangements with Kirklees College until EFA funding has been secured.

6.3.2 Capital: There are no capital implications as a result of these proposals

6.4 Equalities implications: An initial equalities impact assessment has been carried out to assess the implications of the proposals. The screening tool indicates that the proposal would have a continued positive impact on the young people who would access the provision as part of their preparation for adulthood.

7. Next steps

Subject to decisions made by Cabinet, the indicative timeline for the next stages of the statutory processes are set out below:

Activity	Date
Consultation (non-statutory)	March-April 2015*
Outcome report to Kirklees Council Cabinet	May 2015*
Representation (formal consultation on statutory proposals)	May-June 2015*
Kirklees Council Cabinet take a decision regarding implementation of the proposals	July 2015*
Planned implementation	September 2016

** These dates are outline and subject to Cabinet approval and may change.*

8. Consultees and their opinions

Discussions have taken place with Kirklees College, the EFA and Ravenshall School. Original consultation to develop the pilot at the school took place with parents/carers.

9. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that Members:

- Acknowledge the positive impact that the pilot has had in supporting the progression of young people to prepare them for adulthood.

- Authorise officers to develop plans for a non- statutory consultation about proposals for changing the upper age range at Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years of age.

10. Cabinet Portfolio Holders' Recommendation

We, the Cabinet Members for Children's Services endorse the recommendations set out by officers in the previous section of this report.

We welcome feedback following the re-organisation of specialist provision for children with special educational needs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ravenshall School for its crucial role in making this pilot a success. We recognise that there are further changes that would be needed to continue to ensure our resources work hard to deliver even better outcomes for our children and young people. It is for these reasons that we support the officer recommendations to carry out a non-statutory consultation to make the necessary changes at Ravenshall School as described in this report.

We will consider any further material matters that are brought to our attention in advance of, and during, the Cabinet meeting on the DD/MM/YY and will make our final, oral, recommendations at the end of the discussion of this item at the meeting.

11. Contact officers

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12. Background papers

Research into Post 16 Progression Routes for Young People with Special Educational Needs in Kirklees