

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Hertfordshire County CouncilCounty Hall |
|  | Hertford SG13 8DF |
|  |  |
|  | **Tel:** | 0300 123 4043 |
| **Fax:** |  |
| **E Mail:** education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk |
| **Postal Point:** CHO136 |
| **My ref:**  | School Planning |
| **Your ref:** |  |
| **Date:** | 10 June 2020 |
|  |  |

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on a proposal to alter the way that primary behaviour support services, including intensive short-term schooling provision for pupils at risk of exclusion, are delivered in the Borough of Broxbourne.**

We are consulting you on the proposal which will require:

* the commissioning of a new primary behaviour support service for the area, including outreach support to mainstream schools and intensive short stay schooling, from Rivers Education Support Centre (ESC), Old Essex Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0AA with effect from January 2021;
* a change of age range for Rivers ESC from 11–16 to 5–16 years (i.e. an alteration of the lower age limit); and
* the closure of the Primary Support Base (PSB) located at Andrews Lane Primary School, Andrews Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN7 6LB.

**Why is this being proposed?**

In Hertfordshire, specialist support for primary-age pupils with emotional and behavioural needs in mainstream schools is delivered through a range of services[[1]](#footnote-1). They include advice and outreach to support children in mainstream schools; a small number of short-term places and 6th Day Provision[[2]](#footnote-2) for permanently excluded children; and where necessary, longer term places for pupils with particularly significant and complex emotional and behavioural needs. The aim of the primary behaviour support services is to keep these vulnerable children in their mainstream school wherever possible.

In some areas the intensive short stay schooling services are provided by a PSB. This has been the case in the Borough of Broxbourne, where these services had been delivered from a PSB, located at and managed by Andrews Lane Primary School. From 1 April 2019 these services have been managed by the local DSPL group[[3]](#footnote-3), as The Phoenix Centre PSB.

Other areas have successfully enhanced provision by moving to a model where primary behaviour services are provided by the local ESC. Following a review of primary behaviour support services in the Borough of Broxbourne, the county council and the local DSPL partnership, consider that moving to the ESC model would have a positive impact for pupils and schools in the area, as it will provide enhanced education opportunities and improved facilities.

The Andrews Lane PSB was established with a capacity of 6 pupils. The capacity of the new provision at the ESC will increase to 12 pupils.

It is proposed to commission a range of outreach services, advice and support and a small number of pupil places available for intensive short-stay schooling from Rivers ESC, which is rated by Ofsted as “Good”. It is currently designated as a provider for children in the age range 11-16 years; however, it is proposed to change the age range to 5-16 years so that primary-age pupils can be provided for.

New separate accommodation would be provided on the ESC site for intensive short-stay schooling and 6th Day Provision as required, with designated outside space. The capital cost will be met by the Local Authority. Project costs are not yet finalised but will be once a competitive tendering process is complete.

The proposal, should it go ahead, would offer improved opportunities for all children, including:

* access to enhanced outreach behaviour support for local mainstream primary schools;
* access to local intensive short-term schooling placements for pupils at risk of exclusion, at Rivers ESC;
* improved outcomes for pupils in the short and longer term with improved potential for young people to remain in the mainstream setting;
* intensive therapeutic support during short-stay schooling;
* where a pupil is permanently excluded from a mainstream school, they will be placed on roll at Rivers ESC and provided with full time education.

Rivers ESC is located approximately 4.3 miles, measured in a straight line, from Andrews Lane Primary School and is accessible to families living in the Borough of Broxbourne. It has a suitable and large enough site for locating new accommodation.

The Governing Body of Andrews Lane Primary School, the Management Committee of Rivers ESC and the local DSPL Headteacher group, support the proposal to change the provision of the service in this way.

**What does this mean for schools in the area and any pupils currently attending the base?**

The proposal will provide support for primary schools in the Borough of Broxbourne who are supporting children with challenging behaviour needs.

Since 30 September 2019 there have been no children receiving intensive short-stay schooling at the PSB at Andrews Lane Primary School (The Phoenix Centre).

The proposal will provide enhanced education opportunities and an improved learning environment, in new facilities, for vulnerable pupils at risk of exclusion in the Borough of Broxbourne.

There will be no reduction in revenue investment for primary behaviour support for the Borough of Broxbourne.

**What would happen to staff?**

There are currently no staff employed at the PSB at Andrews Lane Primary School (The Phoenix Centre).

**Have your say**

You have until 7 July 2020 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online response form on our website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents[[4]](#footnote-4). Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk or alternatively please call us on 0300 123 4043. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 7 July 2020. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments, but they will be taken into account as explained below.

**How the decision will be taken**

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All comments received to this consultation will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with \* will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Process** | **Date** |
| Public consultation (4 weeks) | 10 June – 7 July 2020 |
| Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel\* | 8 September 2020 |
| Cabinet\* (for approval to publish a statutory notice) | 21 September 2020 |
| Statutory Notice period (4 weeks) | 29 September – 26 October 2020 |
| Final decision (if no objections received in Statutory Notice period) | 13 November 2020 |
| Cabinet\* (for final decision if objections received in Statutory Notice period) | 14 December 2020 |
| Implementation | January 2021 |

Yours faithfully



Jenny Coles

Director of Children’s Services

1. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/policies-and-procedures/hertfordshire-emotional-wellbeing-and-behaviour-strategy-2020-23.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For permanent exclusions, the local authority must arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil to begin no later than the sixth school day of the exclusion. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The DSPL 4 (Delivering Special Provision Locally) area group serves Hoddesdon, Broxbourne and Cheshunt. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/education-support/delivering-special-provision-locally-dspl.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Please note that during current Covid-19 conditions, access to libraries may not be available. Best endeavours will be used to publicise the proposal as widely as possible. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)