



**Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Hertford
SG13 8DF**

Tel: 0300 123 4043

My ref: School Planning

Date: 15 May 2018

Dear Consultee

Consultation on a proposal to alter the current provision of the primary behaviour support service in the Dacorum area.

We are consulting you on the proposal which will require:

The closure of the Primary Support Base at Reddings Primary School, Bennetts End Rd, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 8DX; and

The commissioning of a new a new service for the area, including support to mainstream schools and short stay provision, from the Dacorum Education Support Centre, 30 Tenzing Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4HS.

When would this happen?

It is proposed that the PSB would close on 24 July 2019. A new way of delivering the service will start at the beginning of the Autumn term in Sept 2019.

Why is this being proposed?

Hertfordshire's strategy to improve the behaviour and achievement of primary pupils with emotional and behavioural needs in mainstream schools is met through a range of services. They include advice and outreach to support children in mainstream schools; a small number of short term places and 6th day provision for permanently excluded children; and where necessary, longer term places for pupils with particularly significant and complex emotional and behavioural needs. In some areas these services are provided by primary support bases and this has been the case, to date, in the Dacorum area.

The primary support base in Reddings Primary School is no longer able to meet the needs of the area. The school, the county council and local headteachers consider that the closure of the base at The Reddings School and the recommissioning of new services would have a positive impact for pupils and schools in the areas, with the opportunity of providing enhanced education opportunities and improved facilities. It is proposed to commission a range of outreach services, advice and support and a small number of pupil places available for in reach work from the Dacorum Education Support Centre. The Education Support Centre is rated by Ofsted as Outstanding. It is designated as a provider for children of all ages, although to date it has not been commissioned to provide on-site services for primary age pupils. New separate accommodation would be provided on its site for the respite; 6th day, and other longer term provision required, with designated outside space, offices and meetings rooms as well as class bases.

DESC is located within Dacorum District so is accessible to students from the area (it is approximately 0.7 miles from The Reddings School) and it has a suitable and large enough site for new accommodation. The Head and Governing Body of both The Reddings and the Dacorum Education Support Centre support in principle 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?

Outreach services to local schools will continue to be available via the Education Support Centre, with a clear specification of requirements developed in line with the Herts Behaviour Strategy and views/needs of local stakeholders. It will be reviewed and monitored by both the Dacorum Primary Board (consisting of local primary headteachers, the Education Support Centre head, and the local authority) as well as centrally by the Local Authority.

There is currently one pupil with an Education Health Care Plan at the base. Four more pupils, on roll at other local schools, are planned to attend on short term placement. Should any pupils remain at the base at the point of change, their needs will be assessed and the Education Support Centre will continue to provide for them.

What would happen to staff?

Should the proposal go ahead, staff currently at The Reddings will transfer under the delegated employ of Dacorum Education Support Centre. The staff will remain employees of the county council and contractual changes will take account of the change in place of work. It is not anticipated that there will be any staffing reductions directly related to the proposal

Have your say

You have until 2 July 2018 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. 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. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email contact@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 02 July 2018. 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.

The process/timetable includes for the publication of a statutory notice, depending on the outcome of this consultation, which is a necessary legal step in relation to the proposal to close the primary support base.

Process	Date
Public consultation (7 weeks)	15 May – 2 July 2018
Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel*	13 Sept 2018
Cabinet* (for approval to publish a statutory notice)	24 Sept 2018
Statutory Notice period	2 Oct 2018 – 29 Oct 2018
Final decision (if no objections in Statutory Notice period)	8 Nov 2018
Cabinet (if objections received in Statutory Notice period)	17 Dec 2018
Implementation	1 Sept 2019

Yours faithfully

Sima Newlad

Jenny Coles
Director of Children's Services