

DECISION RECORD

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution) **Council's Constitution**

Subject: Change in age range of Stevenage Education Support Centre from 11 to 14 years to 11 to 16 years

Staff Contact: Kate Leahy

Executive Member: Terry Douris

Tel: 01992 555864

Portfolio: Education, Libraries and Localism

1. Decision

To extend the age range of Stevenage Education Support Centre (ESC) from 11 to 14 years to 11 to 16 years from 01 September 2018.

2. Reasons for the decision

Stevenage ESC currently provides education for between 12 and 16 Key Stage 3 (KS3) students who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded from mainstream schools. Key Stage 4 (KS4) provision for Stevenage pupils has, to date, been provided through the North Herts ESC, which is based in Hitchin.

Headteachers in Stevenage identified the need for KS4 provision specifically to serve Stevenage, to avoid a significant number of vulnerable students travelling out of town to access an ESC place. A model indicator of need analysis confirmed that providing KS4 places in Stevenage would provide a better match with demand.

It was therefore proposed by the headteacher group, supported by senior officers, that Stevenage ESC should offer provision for both KS3 and KS4 students from September 2018. To support this, Schools Forum agreed that revenue funding be re-designated to extend the age range of the existing Stevenage ESC, to include 36 KS3 and KS4 places (in total).

An option analysis concluded that refurbishing accommodation on the site at which the ESC is currently located (the former Barnwell East (Collenswood) site) was the most appropriate way to provide these additional KS4 places within Stevenage. Funding has been identified to undertake the necessary refurbishment works to ensure that appropriate accommodation is in place.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

The only other option considered was the use of accommodation at The Valley School site. This presented significant operational issues and was discounted.

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member

The Executive Member endorsed the proposal at Executive Member briefing on 13 June 2018.

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- (b) Comments of other consultees
No comments received from local members.

5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: .  ...

Title: Jenny Coles, Director of Children's Services Date: 26 June 2018

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- All members of the County Council (Democratic Services to send)
- Hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on hertfordshire.gov.uk) to the Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall; democratic.services@hertfordshire.gov.uk