

DECISION RECORD

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject:

Whether to hold a public 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.

Staff Contact: Richard Woodard, ISL Area Manager - Professional Lead for Access and Inclusion
Tel: 01442 453224

Executive Member: Terry Douris

Portfolio: Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Localism

1. Decision

Whether to hold a public consultation from 2 to 29 June 2020 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. This would entail closing the Primary Support Base (PSB) at Andrews Lane Primary School, changing the age range for Rivers Education Support Centre (ESC) from 11–16 to 5–16 years and commissioning a new primary behaviour support service for the area, including outreach support to mainstream schools and intensive short stay schooling, from Rivers ESC, Hoddesdon, with effect from January 2021.

2. Reasons for the decision

In Hertfordshire, specialist support for primary-age pupils with emotional and behavioural needs in mainstream schools is delivered 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 Borough of Broxbourne. The aim of the primary behaviour support services is to keep these vulnerable children in their mainstream school wherever possible.

Following a review of primary behaviour support services in the Borough of Broxbourne, the school, the county council and the local DSPL partnership, consider that the closure of the base at Andrews Lane Primary School and the commissioning of new services would have a positive impact for pupils and schools in the area, as it will provide enhanced education opportunities and improved facilities. Other similar behaviour services, to those being proposed here, are operating effectively in other areas of the county.

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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. The capacity of the PSB was for up to 6 pupils and the capacity of the new provision at the ESC will be for up to 12 pupils. 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 DSPL 4 Headteacher group, support, in principle, the proposal to change the provision of the service in this way.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected**

None

4. **Consultation**

(a) Comments of Executive Member

The Executive Member has concurred with the Director's intention to agree the proposals.

(b) Comments of other consultees

None

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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: 15 May 2020

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- Democratic Services, Room 213, County Hall (signed paper original). Electronic copy to: Democratic.Services@hertfordshire.gov.uk (for public inspection both at County Hall and on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk).

and following the expiry of the call-in period to:

- Executive Member(s) - Councillors Terry Douris and Teresa Heritage
- Local Member(s) – Councillors Lesley Greensmyth, Dee Hart, Dave Hewitt, Tim Hutchings, Paul Mason and Mark Mills-Bishop
- Chair (Councillor David Andrews) and Vice-Chairs (Councillors Kareen Hastrick and Lynn Chesterman OBE) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- The Headteacher and Governing Body of Andrews Lane Primary School
- The Headteacher and Management Committee of the Rivers ESC
- Office of the Schools Adjudicator (osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk)