



**County Hall  
Hertford, SG13 8DF**

**Tel:** 0300 123 4043

**My ref:** School Planning

**Date:** 20 May 2019

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on the proposal to relocate the Stevenage Primary Support Base (PSB) at The Leys Primary school to The Lodge Farm Annexe, Mobbsbury Way, to be managed by Peartree Spring Primary School (as lead school for the Stevenage Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL) partnership).**

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

The relocation of the Primary Support Base (PSB) currently at:

- The Leys Primary School, Ripon Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 4QZ to:
- The Lodge Farm Annexe, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 0DN, managed by Peartree Spring Primary School, Hydean Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 9GG (as lead school for the Stevenage DSPL partnership)

### **When would this happen?**

It is proposed that the PSB would be relocated from January 2020, following the Christmas break, to minimise any disruption to pupils, parents/carers and staff.

### **What is a Primary Support Base?**

PSB's are part of the county council's strategy to improve the behaviour and achievement of primary pupils with emotional and behavioural needs in mainstream schools.

The PSB provides education for early years, KS1 and KS2 (years Reception - 6) students who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded from mainstream schools from Stevenage town in Hertfordshire, as well as an outreach service to primary schools in those areas. Although the number of pupils attending the PSB can fluctuate throughout the academic year, it offers provision for a maximum of 12 pupils on site at any one time.

### **Would the provision change?**

The provision would remain as at present with the same range of advice and support, outreach services and a small number of pupil places in the PSB.

### **Why is this relocation being proposed?**

This PSB is currently hosted and managed by The Leys Primary School in Stevenage. The Governing Body of the school has advised that it is no longer able to host the PSB. Consequently, Children's Services have been working closely with local Heads, from the DSPL Partnership, to identify an alternative host for this essential provision.

An opportunity has arisen to relocate the base to The Lodge Annexe. It is proposed that, once relocated, the PSB will be managed by Peartree Spring Primary School, as lead school for the DSPL partnership. The Head and Governing Body of Peartree Spring Primary School support this proposal.

The building is a County Council-owned property which has previously been used as a health centre and more recently by an early years provider for children with autism. Now vacant, the building is the correct size for a PSB and is in the right place to meet the needs of pupils across Stevenage.

The county council is of the view that the relocation of the PSB, and its management by Peartree Primary School, as lead school for the DSPL partnership, will ensure that this essential provision can continue to support local children with significant emotional and behavioural needs, whilst providing enhanced education opportunities in improved facilities.

### **What does this mean for pupils, parents/carers and staff?**

The proposed new location would offer a positive opportunity for the PSB to continue its work with young people in an enhanced learning environment in the centre of Stevenage. The premises would be refurbished prior to the proposed relocation.

The resources will transfer to the new site. The DSPL Board will be closely involved in the planned move. We will seek to transfer and move all contracted staff to the proposed new base as they will remain HCC employees.

Pupils who currently attend the PSB come from across Stevenage. The proposed new site is 1.3<sup>1</sup> miles away from the existing site and is readily

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<sup>1</sup> Straight line distance between locations

accessible by public transport allowing families to access the centre by bus, bicycle or on foot. Bus stops are located close to the new location. Vehicular access for the PSB will be via The Glebe.

## Have your say

The county council believes that the proposed relocation of the Stevenage PSB, will ensure that the provision can continue to improve the outcomes for local pupils with significant emotional and behavioural needs in enhanced specialist accommodation.

You have until **16 June 2019** to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online form on our website at; [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/About-the-council/Consultations/Consultations.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/About-the-council/Consultations/Consultations.aspx) 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, you can email [hertsdirect@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hertsdirect@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or alternatively you can call us on **0300 123 4043**. If you need help to understand this information, please contact the customer service centre on **0300 123 4043**. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by **26 June 2019**. 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 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:

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings.aspx>.

Process	Date
Public consultation	20 May – 16 June 2019
Education Panel*	8 July 2019
Cabinet*	8 July 2019
Implementation	January 2020

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Coles .". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jenny Coles  
Director for Children's Services