

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in or provided in relation to proposals

### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details** **an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Not applicable the Local Authority is publishing the proposal as part of a borough wide review of SEN Unit provision for primary aged pupils.
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### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local education authority who are publishing the proposals.

#### **Part 1:**

Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF proposes to discontinue special unit provision from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 from the following schools:

- **The Grange Comprehensive (Community)** Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX
- **Moore Primary School (Community)**, Lindfield Close, Moore, WA4 6UG
- **Palace Fields Primary School (Community)**, Badger Close, Runcorn, WA7 2QW
- **Weston Primary School (Community)**, Lamsickle Lane, Weston Village, Runcorn, WA7 4RA
- **Oakfield Community Primary School (Community)**, Edinburgh Road, Widnes, WA8 8BQ
- **Simms Cross Primary School (Community)**, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QS

#### **Part 2:**

Halton Borough Council proposes to make prescribed alterations to establish resource provision units at the following schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011:

- **The Brow Community Primary School (Community)**, The Clough, Halton Brow, Runcorn, WA7 2HB
- **Weston Point Community Primary School (Community)**, Castner Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 4EQ

- **Palace Fields Primary School (Community)**, Badger Close, Palace Fields, Runcorn, WA7
- **Westfield Primary School (Community)**, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, WA7 4TR
- **Woodside Primary School (Community)**, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn, WA7 5YP
- **Oakfield Community Primary School (Community)**, Edinburgh Road, Widnes, WA8 8BQ
- **Simms Cross Primary School (Community)**, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QS

**Note:**

The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010. The Grange Comprehensive will change its age range from 1st September 2010 to offer places for pupils aged 3-16 years and become known as The Grange School. As part of the BSF Programme and PCP The Grange School will be rebuilt, however until the rebuild is completed the school will continue to operate on a split site basis. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 The Grange School will provide a resource unit base with seven places for KS1 pupils and seven places for KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There will also be capacity for outreach support for pupils in other primary school in the borough

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Implementation: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 for closure and new provision to be opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 The Grange School will provide a twenty four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2 pupils.

**Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
  - a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

a) Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending representations to Halton Borough Council

The Notice will be published on **14<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

b) Any representations should be sent to:

Mr M Reaney,

Operational Director (Legal and Democratic Services)

Municipal Building

Kingsway

Widnes

WA8 7QF

#### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

##### **Proposed alteration of SEN unit provision**

- **The Brow Community Primary School (Community)**, The Clough, Halton Brow, Runcorn, WA7 2HB - will provide a resource unit base with seven places Key Stage 1 for speech and language and communication needs and ten places for Key Stage 2 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.
- **Weston Point Community Primary School (Community)**, Castner Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 4EQ - will provide a resource unit base for seven pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- **Palace Fields Primary School (Community)**, Badger Close, Palace Fields, Runcorn, WA7 2QW - will provide a resource unit base for ten pupils with severe learning needs.
- **Westfield Primary School (Community)**, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, WA7 4TR - will provide resource unit provision for six pupils with hearing impairment and specific learning difficulties.
- **Woodside Primary School (Community)**, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn, WA7 5YP - will provide resource unit provision for seven pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- **Oakfield Community Primary School (Community)**, Edinburgh Road, Widnes, WA8 8BQ - will provide a resource unit base with seven places for Key Stage 1 for speech and language and Communication Needs

and ten places for Key Stage 2 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

- **Simms Cross Primary School (Community)**, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QS - will provide a resource unit base of seven places for KS1 pupils and seven places for KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There will also be capacity for outreach support for pupils in other primary schools within Halton.

In addition, it is proposed that from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 The Grange School will provide a twenty four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2 pupils.

### School capacity

5. (1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —
- a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Not applicable – falls under paragraph 5 of Schedule 4

- b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Not applicable

- c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

- d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

- (2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Not applicable

### **Implementation**

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

### **Additional Site**

7. —(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

Not applicable

- (2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not Applicable

### **Changes in boarding arrangements**

8. —(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 2 or 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 –

a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

c) the current number of pupils for who boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision

Not applicable

d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision

Not applicable

2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 7 or 14 of Schedule 2 or 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 –

a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

### **Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information ...

a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Not applicable

b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not applicable

c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not applicable

d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not applicable

e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site

Not applicable

f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in area will be discouraged.

Not applicable

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

To provide flexible provision within mainstream schools that will allow pupils to spend as much time as possible learning alongside their peers, depending on their individual needs.

Through these proposals pupils with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder will be able to access new improved provision.

The proposals will provide resourced provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Hearing Impairment in line with the locality footprint. This will enable more pupils to attend a school in their local area.

Where necessary transport will be provided to access resourced provision.

## Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted;

- d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Primary Schools  
Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all Special Schools  
Primary SENCOs  
Staff and pupils  
Parents/Carers of pupils currently attending SEN Unit provision  
Trade Unions  
Diocesan Authorities  
Neighbouring Local Authorities  
Voluntary Agencies  
Parent Partnership Service  
Halton and St Helen's Primary Care Trust  
All schools nursery, infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools.

b) The minutes of the public consultation meetings on the following dates are attached:

Informal consultation meetings on original proposals held 04.3.09, 11.3.09, 12.3.09, 18.3.09.

Informal consultation meetings on revised proposals held 08.6.09, 10.6.09, 11.06.09, 16.6.09.

c) In addition to the feedback received at the consultation meetings, as detailed in the notes of the meetings, written feedback was also received.

This consisted of the following responses:

There were 47 written responses to the original proposals with 36 in favour, 10 were not in full support and 1 Don't Know. There have been 11 written responses to the revised proposals of which 10 are in favour with 1 not in full support.

d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals have been complied with.

e) Copies are attached the two Executive Board reports, two flyers sent out as part of the consultation, letters and extracts from the e-circular sent to all schools.



## Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Any additional costs will be covered by the Primary Capital Programme and through LA Capital Programme. The formula for allocation for resource provision units will be revised in line with the new provision.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable

## Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not applicable

## Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5 ...

Not applicable

## Changes to sixth form provision

16. (1) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will ...

Not applicable

- (2) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school will provide sixth form education, the proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not Applicable
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### Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs ...

- a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

#### The current primary special unit provision is as follows:

- **The Brow Community Primary (Community)**, The Clough, Halton Brow, Runcorn, WA7 2HB – a twenty place Speech, Language and Communication Needs Unit
- **The Grange Comprehensive (Community), Latham Avenue, Runcorn WA7 5DX** – a twenty four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2 pupils. (see note)
- **Palace Fields Primary School (Community)**, Badger Close, Runcorn, WA7 2QW - a twenty- four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit.
- **Woodside Primary School (Community)**, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn, WA7 5YP - a fourteen place Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2.
- **Weston Primary School (Community)**, Lamsickle Lane, Weston Village, Runcorn, WA7 4RA - a twelve place Infant MLD Unit for Key Stage 1 and a twelve place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2.
- **Weston Point Primary School (Community)**, Castner Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 4EQ - a seven place Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2
- **Oakfield Community Primary School (Community)**, Edinburgh Road, Widnes, WA8 8BQ - twelve places Infant MLD Unit and a twenty- four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit.
- **Simms Cross Primary School (Community)**, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QS - twelve places Infant MLD Unit and a twelve place Moderate Learning Difficulty Unit.
- **Westfield Primary School (Community)**, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, WA7 4TR – eight place Hearing Impairment Unit

**Note:**

The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010. The Grange Comprehensive will change its age range from 1st September 2010 to offer places for pupils aged 3-16 years and become known as The Grange School.

The Grange School will provide a twenty four place Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit for Key Stage 2 pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011

**The proposed primary special unit provision will be follows:**

- **The Brow Community Primary School (Community)**, The Clough, Halton Brow, Runcorn, WA7 2HB - will provide a resource unit base with seven places Key Stage 1 for speech and language and communication needs and ten places for Key Stage 2 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.
- **Weston Point Community Primary School (Community)**, Castner Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 4EQ - will provide a resource unit base for seven pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- **Palace Fields Primary School (Community)**, Badger Close, Palace Fields, Runcorn, WA7 2QW - will provide a resource unit base for ten pupils with severe learning needs.
- **Westfield Primary School (Community)**, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, WA7 4TR - will provide resource unit provision for six pupils with hearing impairment and specific learning difficulties.
- **Woodside Primary School (Community)**, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn, WA7 5YP - will provide resource unit provision for seven pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- **Oakfield Community Primary School (Community)**, Edinburgh Road, Widnes, WA8 8BQ - will provide a resource unit base with seven places for Key Stage 1 for speech and language and Communication Needs and ten places for pupils with speech and language and communication needs.
- **Simms Cross Primary School (Community)**, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QS - will provide a resource unit base of seven places for KS1 pupils and seven places for KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There will also be capacity for outreach support for pupils in other primary schools within the borough.

**Note:**

The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010. The Grange Comprehensive will change its age range from 1st September 2010 to offer places for pupils aged 3-16 years and become known as The Grange School. As part of the BSF Programme and PCP The Grange School will be rebuilt, however until the rebuild is completed the school will continue to operate on a split site basis. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 The Grange School will provide a resource unit base with seven places for KS1 pupils and seven places for KS2 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There will also be capacity for outreach support for pupils in other primary school in the borough

b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable

c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The total proposed provision is for 92 places.

d) details of how the provision will be funded

The revenue funding will be through the Dedicated Schools Budget – the school formula budget will be revised to reflect the changed provision.

e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

In some instances pupils on roll at other mainstream schools may be placed in resourced provision to access specialist teaching and ongoing assessment.  
In addition, there will be outreach support and advice from this provision for pupils registered in other mainstream schools.

f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

Each school's delegated formula budget will provide them with the resources to support the new provision.

g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not applicable

- h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children;

These proposals will respond to the changing needs for specialist resourced provision in mainstream schools for learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and will lead to improved support for primary aged pupils.

This has involved the current Primary SEN Unit provision being re-designed to provide flexible provision within Primary mainstream schools and settings, which enables the learner to participate in mainstream learning.

When it has been shown, through assessment, that the pupil's needs cannot be met fully in a mainstream school without the support of enhanced resourced provision, this specialist resourced primary SEN provision will be considered.

Currently designated specialist resourced provision is not provided in mainstream primary schools for pupils with Autism. These proposals will lead to improved support in line with the locality footprint.

Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties will be supported in their mainstream primary school or will be allocated more specialist provision as and when required. A review of formula funding will reflect this support.

- i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places;

The current number of special unit places in mainstream primary schools across the borough is 193.

Ongoing analysis of local need and the Local Authority specialist provision has led to the proposals. There are a significant number of unfilled places, particularly in primary SEN Units for Moderate Learning Difficulties and this has been the trend over a period of time.

The proposed number of places for specialist resourced provision in mainstream primary schools is 92 places with additional outreach support for other primary schools in the borough.

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs

- a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

There are currently no pupils on roll at Moore Primary and Weston Primary SEN units, therefore no pupils will be displaced

Any pupils who may be affected by the change of provision will have their needs reviewed regularly and met through the most appropriate provision in line with parental views and preference.

- b) details of the **number of pupils** for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

In total across the authority and across the sectors the following provision has been made (this data refers to pupil numbers not places).					
Provision Source	2005/6 SEN2	2006/7 SEN2	2007/8 SEN2	2008/9 SEN2	2009/10 LA data
Halton Special Schools	350	306	279	246	244*
SEN Units - all	164	129	106	76	53
SEN Units -Primary	142	115	94	64	46

\*244 Halton pupils – 273 pupils including pupils who live in other LAs but attend Halton Special Schools.

- c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision.

Not applicable

- c) a statement as to how the authority believe that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

The review is designed to provide flexible provision within mainstream schools that will allow pupils to spend as much time as possible learning alongside their peers, depending on their individual needs and will ensure that Pathways for Learning for pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities will be personalised for the child and their family within the locality footprint.

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of ...

- a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- d) improved supply of suitable places.

- a) The proposals for designated resourced provision and outreach support for pupils in mainstream primary schools in both Runcorn and Widnes will allow more local access to mainstream specialist resourced provision for primary aged pupils. The facilities will be improved and provision for Autism will be in line with National Autistic Society accreditation and as outlined in the Accessibility Strategy.
- b) Proposals will lead to a more inclusive education for pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and include extended outreach support to mainstream schools.
- c) Improved accommodation will be developed in line with Building Schools for the Future plans and the Primary Capital Programme.
- d) The proposals will lead to an increase in more suitable specialist places in mainstream primary schools for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Hearing Impairment.

### **Sex of pupils**

- 21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes ...

Not applicable

- 22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only ...

Not Applicable

### **Extended services**

- 23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations ...

Not Applicable

### **Need or demand for additional places**

- 24.** If the proposals involve adding places—
- a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;
  - b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;
  - c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable



**25.** If the proposals involve removing places ...

- a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal including and assessment of the impact on parental choice.

There are a significant number of unfilled places particularly in primary SEN Units for Moderate Learning Difficulties. This has been the trend over a period of time indicating that current resourced provision is no longer fit for purpose.

The proposals for the redesigned resourced provision will be better aligned to meet the needs of pupils and families in the borough. The proposals will increase choice for pupils and parents and will provide resourced provision through all key stages enabling more pupils who need specialist resourced provision to attend a school in their local area.

- b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

### **Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this...

Not Applicable