



CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE RESOURCE PROVISION BASE FOR PUPILS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AT WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Consultation Period: Wednesday 22nd June 2016 – Wednesday 20th July 2016

To: Staff, Governors and Parents of pupils at Westfield Primary School, other local schools, Halton NHS CCG, Trade Unions, Halton Borough Council Ward Members, Diocese, Neighbouring Local Authorities and Derek Twigg MP.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Halton Borough Council is consulting on the proposal to close the Hearing Impaired (HI) and Specific Learning Difficulties Resource Base at Westfield Primary School, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn, as a result of a decreased demand.
- 1.2 This consultation document tells you the reasons for our proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read through the document and let us know your views and comments using the attached feedback form. The closing date for responses is **Wednesday 20th July 2016**. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

2.0 Reasons for the Proposal

- 2.1 Westfield Primary School has a Resource Provision Base for six pupils with hearing impairment and specific learning difficulties.
- 2.2 Demand for places at the Resource Base has decreased over recent years as parents of children with significant hearing impairment are choosing to educate their children in a local mainstream provision rather than in specialist HI provision. From September 2016 there will only be 3 pupils accessing provision.
- 2.3 Children now make greater progress by being part of a mainstream peer group with language support. As a consequence many children with a hearing impairment are now being successfully placed in their local school with a package of support.

3.0 Financial Situation

- 3.1 The Resource Base currently receives £10,000 for each of its 6 places giving it a total of £60,000. £20,623 is provided for a Signer each year and an additional £5,081.73 is allocated for each pupil placed in the base.
- 3.2 Removing the Resource Base will release this funding allowing it to be invested in strengthening and increasing the level of peripatetic specialist teaching and non-teaching support. This will allow pupils to be educated in their mainstream setting with additional support when appropriate.

4.0 When will the proposed closure take place?

- 4.1 Subject to this initial consultation, followed by the statutory consultation which is the next stage, the proposed closure if approved, will take effect from 1st January 2017.

5.0 What are the implications for children attending the Hearing Impaired Unit?

- 5.1 The pupils will remain at Westfield Primary and will receive appropriate support for the school, staff and the peripatetic specialist team.
- 5.2 Supporting pupils with a hearing impairment in their mainstream local school is more inclusive as it allows pupils to be educated within their own community.
- 5.3 This approach is supported by the Head teacher of Westfield Primary School.

6.0 How can I give the Council my views and comments on the proposal?

- 6.1 Your response to this proposal would be welcome using the feedback form attached. Please return to Catriona Gallimore, People and Economy Directorate, Halton Borough Council, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GW.

7.0 What are the next steps?

- 7.1 All responses to the consultation must be received by Wednesday 20th July 2016. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Executive Board on 15th September 2016 who will then determine whether the consultation can be developed to a formal public notice.



Proposal to close Westfield Primary School Resource Provision Base for Pupils with Hearing Impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would like your views on the proposal to close the Resource Base at Westfield Primary School. Please complete this short form to give your views and comments on this proposal.

Parent/Carer/Guardian/Governor/Staff/Halton Resident/other _____ *Please delete

Your Name

Your Child's Name (if applicable).....

Today's Date.....

Please tell us if you support the Council's proposal to close the Resource Base at Westfield Primary School as shown in the consultation document?

YES - I support the proposal

NO - I don't support the proposal

Please use the space below to give your comments on the proposal to close the Resource Base at Westfield Primary School, continue overleaf if necessary:

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All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

We will only use this information to help in the decisions made on the future of the Resource Base at Westfield Primary School.

Please return your completed form to: Catriona Gallimore, People & Economy Directorate, Halton Borough Council, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW or by email to: Catriona.gallimore@halton.gov.uk

Please return this form by Wednesday 20th July 2016

