

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

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Not applicable the Local Authority is publishing the proposal as part of an borough wide review of SEN unit provision for secondary aged pupils.

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.

Unit Closures

The Grange Comprehensive

Latham Avenue

Runcorn

WA7 5DX

Community School – Federated with The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School

Halton High

Barnfield Avenue

Murdishaw

Runcorn

WA7 6EP

Community School (Secondary)

Units to be Opened

The Grange Comprehensive

Latham Avenue

Runcorn

WA7 5DX

Community School – Federated with The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School

The Bankfield

Liverpool Road

Widnes

WA8 7HU

Community School (Secondary)

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College
Highfield Road
Widnes
WA8 7DW
Voluntary Aided Catholic (Secondary School)

Unit Size to be altered

Wade Deacon High
Birchfield Road
Widnes
WA8 7TD
Community School (Secondary)

Local Authority Contact

Ann McIntyre
Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Children and Young People Directorate
Grosvenor House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2WD
e-mail ann.mcintyre@halton.gov.uk

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 date is 1st September 2011

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
- (a) the date 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 the Halton Borough Council

The Notice will be published on Thursday 19th February 2009.

Any representations should be sent to:

Mr M Reaney,
Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources)
Municipal Buildings
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.

It is intended to discontinue special unit provision at Halton High School (Community School), Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP from 31st August 2011. Halton High Schools has a seven place EBD Unit for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. Provision will also be discontinued at The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX from 31st August 2011. The Grange Comprehensive has a fourteen place EBD Unit for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. In addition, the number of places offered by Wade Deacon High (Community School) Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD. The provision for Hearing Impaired pupils will be reduced from 8 to 6.

It is intended to establish the following secondary SEN unit provision:

The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA75DX. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the borough. In addition, there would be resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College (Voluntary Aided Catholic), Highfield Road Widnes, WA8 7DW. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the borough.

The Bankfield (Community School), Liverpool Road, Widnes, WA8 7HU. The school will provide resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Wade Deacon High (Community School), Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD. - The school will provide resource provision for 6 pupils with hearing impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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 or paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, 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 to 4, and 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 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 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 whom 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 and pupils with difficulties in the areas of speech and language and communication needs, specific learning difficulties and hearing impairment will be able to access improved 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 Secondary Schools
Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all Special Schools
Secondary SENCOs
Staff and pupils
Parent/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 and special schools

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

25th November 2008, 9th December 2008, 10th December 2008 – no attendees, 14th January 2009 and 15th January 2009.

- (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:

13 responses were received to Part A of the consultation on the type of provision:

- 12 were in support of the proposals
- 1 in support but with reservations

5 responses were received to Part B of the consultation on the location of the provision all were in support of the proposals.

Attendance at the consultation meetings:

8 attendees	25 th November 2008
4 attendees	9 th December 2008
0	10 th December 2008
6 attendees	14 th January 2009
3 attendees	15 th January 2009

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

(e) Copies are attached of the two Executive Board reports, two flyers sent out as part of the consultation, letters, an extract 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.

Additional costs for remodelling the current provision will be met from the local authority capital budget and LCVAP.

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—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school;

Not applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

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—

- (a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (b) increase participation in education or training; and
- (c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area.

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.

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 secondary special unit provision is as follows:

Halton High (Community School) Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP – There is a 7 place EBD unit for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils

The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX – There is a 14 place EBD unit for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils

Wade Deacon High (Community School), Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD – There is an 8 place unit for Hearing Impaired Pupils

The proposed secondary special unit provision will be as follows:

The Grange Comprehensive (Community School), Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA75DX. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the borough. In addition, there would be resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College (Voluntary Aided Catholic), Highfield Road Widnes, WA8 7DW. The school will provide resource provision to accommodate 11 pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), 5 of these places will be reserved for outreach support for pupils in other high schools within the borough.

The Bankfield (Community School), Liverpool Road, Widnes, WA8 7HU. The school will provide resource provision for 10 pupils with speech and language and communication needs.

Wade Deacon High (Community School), Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD. - The school will provide resource provision for 6 pupils with hearing impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties.

(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 48 pupils

(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 the provision for assessment purposes. In addition, there will be outreach support from this provision for pupils registered in other 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;

Currently resourced provision is not provided in mainstream high schools for pupils with ASD and Speech and Language needs. These proposals will lead to improved support for secondary aged pupils.

EBD pupils will be supported in their mainstream high schools or will be allocated more specialist provision as and when required.

- (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 across the borough is 29. The proposed number of special unit places is 38 with an additional 10 places for outreach.

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 in the EBD unit at Halton High. Hearing Impaired Provision will continue at Wade Deacon High and no pupils will be displaced through these proposals. The Pupils at the Grange Comprehensive EBD Unit will remain at the school and the pupils will continue to receive the same level of support as they do currently in the unit within the school.

- (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 (source SEN 2)

Provision	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Halton Special Schools	343	350	306	279	218
SEN Units (all schools)	188	164	129	106	76
SEN Units (Secondary)	28	22	14	12	12

- (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

- (d) 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.

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 secondary schools in both Runcorn and Widnes will allow more local access to mainstream resourced provision for secondary aged pupils with ASD, Speech and language and Communication needs. This will include access to speech and language therapy services. The facilities will be improved in line with NAS accreditation and as outlined in the Accessibility Strategy.

(b) There has been capacity building and upskilling of staff, which is ongoing, to meet the requirements and the NAS standards, in order to deliver the provision. The proposals will lead to staff development with accredited training to deliver external support through the outreach service, which has not previously been available in secondary mainstream schools.

(c) Accommodation will be more fit for purpose with therapy and withdrawal rooms for use as and when appropriate. The proposals will lead to an improved supply of suitable places as there has not previously been any designated resourced provision in secondary mainstream schools for pupils with:

- ASD,
- Speech and Language and Communication needs
- Hearing impairment and Specific Learning Difficulties.

(d) The proposals will provide a continuum of provision from mainstream through to special school provision for pupils with these needs. The availability of proposed designated resourced provision would also increase choice for parents and pupils, with mainstream resourced provision able to meet the needs of those pupils who require this type of provision.

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—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex education in the area;

Not applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education;

Not applicable

(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

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—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area;

Not applicable

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

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;

Not applicable

- (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;

Not applicable

- (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 an assessment of the impact on parental choice;

There will be an increase in resourced provision as a result of the proposals and provision will be better aligned to meet the needs of pupils and families.

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

There are currently pupils in both The Grange Comprehensive and Wade Deacon units. These schools will continue to provide SEN unit provision for pupils there will therefore be no pupils displaced as a result of the re-alignment of provision.

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.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 and paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 2 to Schedule 2; ;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 4.

of the Prescribed Alteration regulations.

(3) Whilst not required by regulations to provide this information for any LA proposals to expand a voluntary or foundation school, it is desirable to provide this below.

Not applicable

Additional information in the case of special schools

26. Where the proposals relate to a special school the following information must also be provided—

- (a) information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of the pupils (distinguishing boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school;

Not applicable

- (b) information on the predicted rise or fall (as the case may be) in the number of children with particular types of special educational needs requiring specific types of special educational provision;

Not applicable

- (c) a statement about the alternative provision for pupils who may be displaced as a result of the alteration;

Not applicable

- (d) where the proposals would result in the school being organised to make provision for pupils with a different type or types of special educational needs with the result that the provision which would be made for pupils currently at the school would be inappropriate to their needs, details of the other schools which such pupils may attend including any interim arrangements and transport arrangements to such schools;

Not applicable

- (e) where the proposals relate to a foundation special 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