

Report to: Children and Young People's Panel / Cabinet

Date: 12 March 2009 / 19 March 2009

Subject: Review of Provision and Use of Resourced Schools:
Outcome of Consultation on the Provision of Resourced
Places at Tyldesley Garrett Hall Primary School and
Withdrawal of the Proposal

Report of: Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Trish Anderson – Head of Service Participation & Provision
Commissioner : t.anderson@wigan.gov.uk

Contact officer: Elaine Baulcombe – SEN Commissioning Manager :
e.baulcombe@wigan.gov.uk 01942 486127

Purpose / summary: The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the situation regarding resourced provision. It includes the outcome of consultation on the proposal to provide resourced places at Garrett Hall Primary School, and current issues which would support the recommendation to withdraw the proposal.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Contained within the report.

Recommendation / decision: Members are requested to consider the content of this report and, in light of developments, as outlined, ratify the recommendation of the Executive Director of CYPS to withdraw the proposal.

Key Decision: This report involves a key decision within ground(s) 1.
The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 31 March 2009

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial: Savings would be redirected to further enhance specialist provision in other areas.

Staffing:

Policy:

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? Yes

Wards affected: All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

N/A

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **N/A**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x		x
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	x
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
12/03/09		19/03/09	

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title of document	Which meeting did it go to	Date of meeting	Copy available from
Review of Provision and Use of Resourced Schools: Consultation on the Provision of Resourced Places at Tyldesley Garrett Hall Primary School	CYPP Cabinet	06/11/08 13/11/08	Children and Young People's Services Progress House Westwood Park Drive Wigan WN3 4HH

Proper Officer



Date

26th February 09

1 Background

In May 2007, a report was presented to Cabinet to inform Members of the position regarding resourced provision at that time, and the following proposals were agreed:

- To identify, through self-referral, a primary school in the east of the borough to offer resourced provision for pupils requiring observation and assessment, support for specific speech and language difficulties, and those with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). The proposal would include the discontinuation of the resourced nursery facility at Meadowbank School if the school was not to self-refer;
- To discontinue the Speech and Language Development Centre at Hindley Green Primary School;
- To identify, through self-referral, a secondary school to offer resourced mainstream provision for pupils with ASD.

- 1.1 As Meadowbank School did not self-refer, consultation was conducted on the proposal to discontinue both the resourced nursery facility at Meadowbank, and the Speech and Language Development Centre at Hindley Green Primary School. In January 2008, Cabinet agreed that the proposal be implemented.

Consequently, Meadowbank's resourced nursery facility closed at the end of the Summer term 2008, and the Speech and Language Development Centre will close at the end of the Summer term 2009.

- 1.2 Whilst there was a delay in identifying a primary school to become resourced, Hawkley Hall High School expressed an interest in taking developments forward in the secondary sector. The proposal that the school would provide resourced places for up to 15 pupils with low severity autism was consulted upon, and agreed by Cabinet in September 2008.

Developments at the school are well underway, and the resourced provision at Hawkley Hall High will come into place on 1st September 2009.

- 1.3 Towards the end of the Summer term 2008, Garrett Hall Primary School expressed an interest in becoming the resourced primary school in the east. Following discussions between the LA, headteacher, staff and governors, their expression of interest was confirmed.

Stage 1 consultation was conducted and reported to Cabinet in November 2008. The response had been positive, and Cabinet resolved that the consultation should proceed to the next stage.

2 Consultation Stages 2 and 3: Publication and Representation

On 8th January 2009, the Garrett Hall proposal was published, in accordance with statutory requirements. The Notice (Appendix A) invited comments and/or objections to be received within a six week representation period, ie by 19th February 2009. The complete proposal (Appendix B) was circulated as directed, and made available on request.

- 2.1 During this time the Executive Director of CYPS received no comments on, or objections to, the proposal.

3 Current Issues

It is recognised that the headteacher, staff and governors of Garrett Hall School are keen to progress the proposal. However, the delay in identifying the school, and consulting on the proposal, has allowed for a further 15 months in which to monitor, review and consider resourced provision in Wigan; during that time, the following issues have arisen, which will need to be considered before a final decision is made.

3.1 Pupil Numbers

The needs of all pupils accessing Hindley Green Speech and Language Development Centre have been comprehensively reviewed, and meetings have been held with school, Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT), SEN Officer, parents and children to discuss options.

All of the 14 children on roll there at the end of the Summer term will be transferring to their local mainstream school, and will not be accessing places in other resourced schools.

At present, there is surplus capacity within the two existing resourced primary schools. Westfield and Platt Bridge currently have 5 and 8 pupils respectively, but both are funded at 18 planned places. Whilst it is anticipated that more referrals will be made as the schools develop their skills in meeting the needs of pupils with ASD and speech, language and communication difficulties, it is doubtful that all 36 places will be required in the short term. Garrett Hall will have an additional 10 resourced places, making a total of 46 across the borough.

3.2 Training and Development

A Resourced Schools' Development Group has been established, initially, to support Westfield and Platt Bridge in widening their remit. Training needs have been identified and whole school Inset training provided. Hawkley Hall joined the group following Cabinet's approval in September 2008, but Garrett Hall have not had the opportunity to begin, as the proposal has yet to be determined.

3.3 Resources

As part of the discussion with the headteacher of Garrett Hall, it has been identified that some supplementary accommodation will be required to provide for the additional pupils and their needs. A mobile class base which will be surplus to requirements at Leigh Sacred Heart PC Primary School from October 2009 can be re-located to the Garrett Hall site at a cost of £62k. Funding is available within the contingency budget which has been set aside to establish the third resourced school. However, in view of 3.1 above, discussion is needed before committing to this resource.

3.4 Area-based Provision

Until 2008, area-based provision centred around three inclusion areas, in the west, centre and east of the borough. As a result of re-structuring within the Council, the borough will provide services across five areas. Developing a third school at this time will not, therefore, result in the equality of provision which was envisaged when the proposals were made.

4 Re-allocation of Resources

If the proposals for Garrett Hall were not to go ahead, resources could be re-directed to enhance SEN provision in other areas, which may include:

- Outreach support for children and young people with Emotional, Behavioural and Social Difficulties (EBSD) in mainstream schools;
- Support for children and young people with EBSD transferring from special back to mainstream schools;
- Provision for children and young people with learning difficulties and EBSD;
- Increase in statement funding for mainstream schools.

Options for re-allocation of resources would need to be considered by Schools' Forum.

5 Summary

Proposals for provision of resourced schools in three areas across the borough were first presented in May 2003. These were updated in May 2007, to include a new proposal to develop a resourced secondary school for young people with ASD.

5.1 During the time taken in identifying the primary school to become resourced, and consulting and reporting on the proposal, the following issues have arisen:

- Current and projected surplus capacity across the existing primary resourced schools;
- Unavoidable delay in training and development for staff at Garrett Hall which will be operating as resourced from 1st September 2009, if the proposal is agreed;
- Additional cost of providing supplementary accommodation at Garrett Hall;
- Imminent change to delivery of area-based provision;
- Current financial climate.

6 Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to consider the content of this report and to support the recommendation that the proposal to provide resourced places at Garrett Hall Primary School is withdrawn.

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Children and Young People's Services

Policy/Service Area: Care and Inclusion Branch

Person Completing Form: Elaine Baulcombe

Date: 20.02.09

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		x	Disability		x
Ethnicity		x	Gender		x
Age		x	Religion		x
Class		x	Sexual Orientation		x

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

There is no evidence of disadvantage or associated problems.

There is sufficient capacity within existing provision to meet the current level of need. Funding not used for the development of this proposal will be re-directed to provide support for other types of SEN, in areas where there is a current lack of provision.

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

The LA keeps its SEN provision under constant review.

Consultation will take place on future SEN developments, which will be made possible by the redirection of funding.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

No disadvantages have been identified, as the current level of identified need can be met within existing resourced schools.

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Yes. Equality legislation has been taken into consideration and an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

The proposal supports SEN policies and is in line with the SEN Code of Practice.

Timescale

Responsibility

Comments

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans? N/A

Departmental Service Plan	
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	

Date for further review N/A
