

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL AGE LEARNING

DATE: 17 JULY 2018



LEAD OFFICER: DAVE HILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING

SUBJECT: CHANGING THE AGE RANGE AND INCREASING PUPIL NUMBERS AT THE SPECIALIST CENTRE AT WEST EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

During the summer of 2015 Surrey County Council undertook a consultation to consider changes to primary schools in the Ewell area of Surrey. It was proposed that West Ewell Infant School would become a 2 form entry primary school from September 2018. West Ewell has an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating. The proposal was approved by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement in July 2015 and the first cohort of Year 3 pupils will be at the school from September 2018.

Officers are proposing to extend the age range of the specialist centre for pupils with Communication and Interaction Needs (COIN) in conjunction with the school's transition from an infant to primary age range. This means that Year 2 pupils who are already placed at the specialist centre can continue to receive specialist provision throughout Key Stage 2 (KS2), alongside their mainstream peers. It is proposed that numbers in the centre increase from 15 to 21.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This paper is for information only.

Surrey County Council issued the statutory notice and as a result of the consultations would be recommending that the change is approved. However, West Ewell Primary School has converted to an academy and as a result the decision making for this proposal now sits with the Regional Schools Commissioner at the Department for Education. Officers will work in partnership with the school to complete this process.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Increasing the age range at the COIN centre would aim to enable the specialist centre to have an age range aligned with the rest of West Ewell Primary School. This will enable greater integration, a smoother transition between key stages, increased efficiency and improved sustainability of the provision.

Demand for specialist centre provision in the north east area for pupils with COIN needs is high. The provision of additional key stage 2 places in a specialist COIN centre will help support local families who otherwise have to travel further afield. This will enable a decrease in home to school travel times and costs.

DETAILS:

Proposal

1. Officers are proposing to extend the age range of the specialist centre for pupils with COIN in conjunction with the school's transition from an infant to primary age range. This means that Year 2 pupils who are already placed at the specialist centre and are appropriately placed can continue to receive specialist provision throughout Key Stage 2 (KS2), alongside their mainstream peers.
2. It is proposed that the number of infant aged pupils in the centre changes from the current model of notionally 5 per year group to notionally 3 per year group in Key Stage 1 (KS1) and that there would be 3 new places per year group in the centre for key stage 2 pupils. This will take the total number of planned places at the centre from 15 to 21.

Rationale

3. Due to the change made to the school to become a primary provision it is appropriate to give centre pupils an equitable opportunity to continue attending the school for the next key stage of their education. In line with their peers, centre pupils will be able to remain at West Ewell Primary School from September 2018.
4. Increasing the age range at the COIN centre would aim to enable the specialist centre to have an age range aligned with the rest of West Ewell Primary School. This arrangement would allow pupils to integrate when possible with their mainstream peers but also will enable the school to provide adequate resources to provide the appropriate level of specialist support. The school seeks to ensure these pupils receive a fully inclusive education within the COIN centre of excellence which allows them to thrive and progress through the school in a supportive environment and be fully prepared for a smooth, confident transition to their next phase of education.
5. Demand for specialist centre provision in the north east area for pupils with COIN needs is high and other provision in the local area is operating at high levels of occupancy. The school reorganisation provides an opportunity to increase provision for KS2 pupils in this area of Surrey to provide a local offer. Currently appropriate junior aged pupils have to move to provision located in other areas of Surrey, which increases home to school travel times and costs.

Pupil Placement

6. Pupils who attend the centre in KS1 where this type of provision remains appropriate will transfer directly into KS2. Dependent upon the number of pupils that move from Year 2 to Year 3 there may be transfer years when additional places may be available to pupils not on the year 2 roll at West Ewell.
7. Currently there is a larger group of pupils moving through from KS1 to KS2 than is indicated in the proposed table on page 2. For those affected pupils currently in KS1 that continue to require KS2 COIN centre provision it has been agreed that they will continue to make their way through KS2 alongside

their peers. This will mean that the number of pupils attending the COIN centre will exceed the planned place numbers for 4 years.

8. Appropriate pupils for this provision would be identified and placed at West Ewell Primary COIN centre using the Education Health Care Plan and subsequent review pathways. The document 'SEND admissions processes for referrals for specialist placement for school age children' describes how this process works and is available on the Surrey Local Offer website.

Benefits of the proposal

9. Aligning the age range of the SEND provision to the mainstream school will improve the offer for SEND families, providing more consistency and ensuring the provision is more sustainable. Enabling SEND pupils to integrate when possible with their mainstream peers will also be a benefit for these young people.
10. There are also likely to be cost savings as more pupils can be educated closer to home in maintained provision rather than being placed in costly NMI settings.
11. Meeting local demand and therefore enabling more pupils to be educated closer to home will provide an improved resident experience.

CONSULTATION:

12. A 4 week informal consultation period has taken place, where parents at West Ewell Primary School and other stakeholders were provided with a consultation report and the opportunity to attend a public meeting. Four parents attended the consultation meeting and there were 2 responses to the consultation, both respondents agreed with the proposals.
13. This informal consultation period was followed by a 4 week statutory consultation period. This informal consultation period was followed by a 4 week statutory consultation period. The Statutory Notice period ran from 4 June to noon on 3 July 2018 and generated 1 further response to the proposal which agreed with the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. One risk of expanding the provision at West Ewell would be if there were insufficient pupils to fill the proposed new places. Given the significant demand for COIN places in the north east area and as additional capital resources are not required to create the additional places, this risk likelihood is considered low and the impact would also be low.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

15. Due to the increase of places there will be an additional annual cost for the number of planned places. Each planned place will be funded at a base level of £6000 in addition to the usual pupil funding, age weighted pupil unit (AWPU). For each pupil that attends the centre a top up sum is also applied.

Should there be under occupancy in the centre the Local Authority incurs an additional cost of £4000 per vacant place.

16. Due to the increase in places there will be an additional annual cost to ensure that additional speech and language therapy is available to the extra pupils accessing the centre. This additional therapy required equates to an annual cost of £16,284.
17. In order to support the creation of additional places for KS2 pupils capital resources are not required. The development of the school site relating to the change to a primary school has incorporated the appropriate amount of space required for 21 pupils in the COIN centre across both KS1 and KS2.
18. By increasing provision in a Surrey state maintained school more pupils with SEND will be able to be educated in maintained provision, thus saving on otherwise more costly placements in non-maintained independent settings (NMI). Transport costs are also likely to be lower with more pupils educated closer to home.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

19. This paper is for information only.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

20. This paper is for information only.

Equalities and Diversity

21. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed for this proposal as since the academy conversion the decision making for this proposal now sits with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Other Implications:

22. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Environmental sustainability	Set out below
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

23. For vulnerable pupils with SEND, the provision of additional places, closer to home, will be beneficial. This may reduce travel time for many families and will also limit the number of school transitions as pupils will be able to stay in a single school throughout the primary phase.

Environmental sustainability implications

24. The provision of additional COIN places closer to home for residents with SEND will enable shorter travel distances and therefore a positive impact on environmental sustainability.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

25. The School will now need to submit a business case to the Regional Schools Commissioner for the proposal to be approved. If approved, the change in age range and number of places will take place from September 2018. The centre will admit a reduced number of pupils into Year R and those pupils in year 2 will be able to transition into year 3 at West Ewell Primary School rather than moving to a different junior centre. The usual SEND admissions process will be applied.

Contact Officer:

Julie Beckett, School Commissioning Officer (SEND), 01483 518109

Consulted:

Cabinet Member for All Age Learning
Headteacher and Governing Body of West Ewell Primary School
Parents and carers at West Ewell Primary School
Surrey Primary Schools
Liz Mills Assistant Directory Schools and Learning
Eber Kington Local County Councillor
Local Borough Councillors
Dioceses
Unions

Annexes:

Equality Impact Assessment

Sources/background papers:

School Organisation consultation paper
<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/west-ewell-centre/>

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