

Decision made by the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning on 18 May 2020 – Consultation on the Establishment of Resourced Provision at Maintained Primary Schools

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning
Date of decision	18 May 2020
	Signed 

Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning agrees to the undertaking of a statutory process as part of the establishment of Resourced Provision to cater for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Paddox Primary School (Rugby), The Canons CofE Primary School (Bedworth) and Weddington Primary School (Nuneaton)

Reasons for Decision

In line with the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools' any proposals to establish, remove or alter SEN provision (including Resourced Provision) at a mainstream school requires the local authority to undertake a statutory process including a consultation period of at least 4 weeks.

The Local Authority are looking to establish specialist provision for a maximum of 10 primary aged pupils with special educational needs and disabilities at Paddox Primary School, The Canons CofE Primary School and Weddington Primary School.

The proposed resourced provision will meet the needs of pupils with an education health care plan, who are cognitively able to access the curriculum and will benefit from being located alongside a mainstream school environment where their additional needs can be met through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs. The resourced provision at Paddox Primary School and Weddington Primary School will be for those

children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, and the resourced provision at The Canons CofE Primary School will be for those children with Communication and Interaction Needs.

Admissions to the resourced provision would follow a different process from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into resourced provision will be through the WCC process for specialist admissions. This will not impact on pupils who are in the mainstream setting at the school.

Background information

Over the past five years, Warwickshire's special school growth has outstripped mainstream school population growth by around three times the rate. There has been significant growth in both generic and specialist special schools. The main growth and investment has been in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. The demand for specialist educational provision is expected to continue to rise, with the level of demand anticipated to be highest in Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby.

In order to meet forecast demand and build on the local offer of specialist provision the local authority is continuing the development of resourced provision across the county whereby pupils, who are cognitively able to access the curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located on site alongside a mainstream school environment.

There are currently 7 resourced provisions attached to mainstream primary provision in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 2 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 1 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 1 in the Stratford on Avon area.

It is anticipated that the resourced provisions would open during 2020/2021 academic year.

In line with the timing of provision it is anticipated that the consultation to establish the resourced provision at Paddox Primary School and The Canons CofE Primary School would need to take place between May and June 2020 with a decision by Cabinet in July 2020. Parents at the school will be consulted using the school's established form of communication and further information will be placed on Warwickshire's Consultation and Engagement Hub.

Consultation on the establishment of resourced provision at Weddington Primary School will not need to take place before September 2020 and will be dependent on the outcome of further feasibility work.

Financial implications

There are no additional costs for the Authority from undertaking this consultation.

However, if after the consultation, there is a decision to go ahead with the specified resourced provision there will be additional capital costs to the Authority in order for

additional teaching and ancillary space to be provided to accommodate the learners attending the resourced provision. Education capital funding would be used to fund the required capital works. In April 2019, approval for £413,819 was given for the provision of accommodation to facilitate the establishment of resourced provision at Paddox Primary School. There is sufficient capacity in the remaining Education capital programme, subject to Cabinet approval, to fund any additional works required at The Canons CofE Primary School and Weddington Primary School.

Pupil places in the resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that pupils additional learning needs can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

The establishment of resourced provision is part of the strategy to limit the overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allowing learners to be placed in more cost effective provision, reducing the pressure on in county specialist provision and reducing the need to place learners in more expensive independent specialist provision.. The establishment of resourced provision across the county increases the range of SEND provision available to meet the needs of children, particularly those children with significant additional needs but able to access a mainstream curriculum.

Environmental implications

Anticipated to be minimal with the additional accommodation requirements involving small scale extensions/alterations or a modular building.

There is also the positive impact with the increasing development of resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.

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Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield

Corporate Board – Yes

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors –

Local Member(s): Cllr Jerry Roodhouse, Cllr Keith Kondakor, Cllr Richard Chattaway