

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	25 May 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Wildground Schools proposed opening of resource provision for pupils with complex social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties
<b>Reference:</b>	7461
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the outcome of the public consultation regarding the proposal to provide a new resourced provision for eight children with complex social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties at Wildground Schools, Dibden Purlieu. This paper sets out the background to the consultation, discusses the responses and recommends that Public Notices be published to make this prescribed alteration.

### 2. Consultation

2.1. Informal consultation took place between 25 January and 11 March 2016. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below. A copy of the consultation letter is included in Appendix 1.

2.2. Letters were sent to;

- Parents attending Wildground Schools (via the school)
- Headteacher, school staff and governing body of Wildground Schools
- Headteacher and chair of governors at neighbouring schools
  - Hythe Primary
  - Waterside Primary
  - Orchard Infant and Orchard Junior Schools
  - Noadswood Secondary
  - Applemore College.
- Local Church of England Diocese and Local Catholic Diocese
- Human Resources (HR) HCC and via HR to Trade Unions
- MP Julian Lewis
- Parish Council

- County Councillors
- New Forest District Councillors
- Local residents
- Direct access to the consultation was available from the HCC website

### **3. Consultation responses received**

- 3.1. A total of eight written responses were received. Most comments were positive for example:
- 3.2. *Our child is bright and articulate. However, X was unable to access standard mainstream education without support. The specialist support provided at Wildground has made an incredible difference and our child is now successfully in full time education and with the proper therapeutic support at Wildground, is happy and thriving. This provision totally meets our child's needs and we are so grateful this kind of resource exists.*
- I sincerely hope this proposal will go ahead and we support it entirely.*
- 3.3. Some queries were raised by parents/local residents and professionals:
- The resources provided to support the resource provision
  - Perceived potential impact on local property
  - Transport and traffic issues
  - Quality of staffing and training

### **4. Comment on the responses to consultation**

- 4.1. The following response is made to the concerns expressed in Section 3:
- 4.2. The total number of additional children proposed as part of the new resourced provision will be eight across the two schools, with a phased entry over three years. It is likely that most will be entitled to free transport and would travel to school by taxi. These journeys are usually combined, so the actual impact on traffic at the school would be minimal.
- 4.3. There is no suggestion that this proposal would have any impact on local property. As the schools are Primary Phase Schools the vast majority of children are supervised by their parents on their way to and from school or arrive by taxi direct to the school gate. The Resource Provision will offer an additional maximum 4 places per school.
- 4.4. The additional financial resource provided for the SEMH resource provision will ensure that all teaching staff are trained to support children with a range of difficulties. It also provides for additional trained staff to work in the school. This is of benefit to all the children. Any instances where children are experiencing difficulties are dealt with quickly and appropriately by skilled staff. All staff are mindful that the school is a learning environment for all the children in the school. The funding for the resource provision is held separately from the main school budget.
- 4.5. The Ofsted framework is clear on the expectations of the School Leadership and staff in managing behaviour and ensuring that all children have access to

high quality teaching and learning. All schools are inspected under this framework.

## **5. Capital Implications**

- 5.1. There are no capital implications for this as the school has identified space in the school for the resource provision and no further changes to this are required.

## **6. Revenue Implications**

- 6.1. Funding to support this resourced provision has been identified from within the existing schools block high needs budget for 2016/17 onwards.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those who have special educational needs and or a disability. There is a gap in provision in the New Forest area for primary age children who have social, emotional and mental health difficulties and who require a modified school environment and some adaptations to the curriculum but can still access a mainstream school.

## **8. Other options considered and rejected**

- 8.1. Not to approve the proposal would mean that there are insufficient places in the area to meet demand.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services agrees that public notices be published, in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to make prescribed alterations to Wildground Schools, by providing a new Resourced Provision for eight children with complex social, emotional and mental health difficulties, with effect from September 2016.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	No
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

Copies of consultation responses

Children's Services Department

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Equality and diversity objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

### **1. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

Crime and disorder objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

### **2. Climate Change:**

How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

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Consultation Letter



# Hampshire County Council

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<i>Date</i>		<i>E-mail</i>	Christine.jones2@hants.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

## **Proposed opening of Resource Provision for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties at Wildground Federation**

I am writing to invite your views in respect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to increase the agreed place number at Wildground Infant and Wildground Junior School.

Hampshire County Council are proposing to increase the capacity of Wildground Infant and Wildground Junior School in order to offer 8 places across Key stage 1 and 2, with a phased entry. This expansion will allow Wildground Infant School to cater for a total of 184 pupils, (the school currently caters for 180 pupils) and Wildground Junior School to 244, (the school currently caters for 244 pupils).

### **Reason for proposal**

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those with special educational needs. There has been an increase in the number of children with a Statement/Education, Health and Care Plan for Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties in the New Forest and surrounding areas of Hampshire, and proportion of these have needs deemed to be severe and complex enough to require specialist provision. The Local Authority has four successful Primary SEMH resource provisions across the county. These provisions offer support for children who have difficulty accessing mainstream education on a full time basis and require additional support to do so. However with this additional support children with social and emotional needs can successfully overcome their difficulties and learn alongside their peers. The Local Authority is proposing to open an additional resource provision at Wildground Schools to meet increased need.

## Consultation Letter

Where a Local Authority proposes to establish a new special educational needs provision at a mainstream school, they must follow a statutory process set out by The Department for Education.

**The Consultation**

The primary purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of stakeholders on any educational impacts they think this proposed provision might bring. Whilst we are happy to hear about other concerns you may have linked to this proposal, at this point in the process we may not be able to answer your questions fully. This consultation will run from 25 January to 11 March 2016. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to enlarge the school. It is anticipated that subject to the above this will be published during June 2016.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by 19 July 2016.

**Further Information**

If you wish to make a comment then please write to Mrs Christine Jones, Education Officer SEN Western Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Children's Services Department, E11 Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail [Christine.jones2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.jones2@hants.gov.uk) by 11 March 2016.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Christine Jones**  
**Education Officer SEN West Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**  
**Children's Services Department**