

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	20 January 2016
Title:	Proposed opening of Resource provision for children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties at Wildground Schools
Reference:	7110
Report From:	Interim Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek permission to consult on the proposed opening of resource provision for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties at Wildground Schools.
- 1.2. 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.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Over the period 2010-2015 there has been a significant increase in the number of children with a Statement/Education, Health and Care Plan for SEMH in the New Forest (62-110), Winchester and Eastleigh (149-175) and Test Valley (88-102).
- 2.2. A proportion of these children have needs deemed to be severe and complex enough to require specialist provision.
- 2.3. For this group of children additional resources are required over and above that provided in a mainstream school, specifically specialist training provided to staff, increased staffing ratios and a specially equipped space for the children to access throughout the day.

- 2.4. Children in the resource provision access mainstream lessons alongside their peers and therefore are educated close to their local community.
- 2.5. The further development of these resource provisions is considered essential if we are to enable children with complex SEMH needs to lead successful lives in the future. Early intervention and support, particularly in the Primary years is known to be a key factor in this.
- 2.6. It is proposed to formally consult on the opening of resource provision for children with SEMH at Wildground Schools in Dibden Purlieu. The resource will provide up to 8 additional places across the 2 schools.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Revenue costs already accounted for within the 15/16 financial year budget and in subsequent financial years if agreement to consult is agreed. The cost of this provision is 10k per place and a top up of £3700 provided for each child placed.

4. Other Key Issues

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school are supportive of this proposal and have been working in partnership with the Local Authority as this proposal was developed.

5. Future direction

- 5.1. If the Executive Lead Member agrees, the Council will move to the pre-consultation phase.
- 5.2. The pre-consultation would run from 25 January 2016 until 11 March 2016. Following that a further report with feedback from this pre-consultation would be presented to the Lead Member and a decision made whether to proceed to the formal phase.

6. Recommendation(s)

- 6.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services agrees to the publication of statutory notice setting out its intent to open a resource provision for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs at Wildground Schools.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	no

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.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Please see Appendix 1.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. N/A

3. Climate Change:

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

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

N/A