



<u>Portfolio Holder Decision</u> <u>Making Session and date/time</u>
Wednesday 19 th November 2014
4pm.

<u>Item</u>
1
<u>Public</u>

WOODLANDS SCHOOL, WEM – EXTENSION OF AGE RANGE

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

In February 2013, Cabinet approved a strategy to develop localised “hub” provision for pupils with special educational needs in Shropshire. As part of this strategy, the Kettlemere Centre will open as Local Authority (LA) provision on the Lakelands Academy site in Ellesmere in April 2015.

At the same time the LA intends to extend the age range of provision at Woodlands School, Wem from 11-16 to 9-16 years. The proposal does not increase the total number of places at the school, which will remain at 56. The accommodation for the additional two year groups will be sited on the campus of Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Middleton Road, Oswestry, SY11 2LF, within separate, specially-resourced rooms and will provide 12 places on the site.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the LA, as the determining body in this case, approves the proposal without condition.

Reasons for decision:

- I. This proposal will extend the specialist education provision currently provided at Woodlands School to younger age groups in Shropshire. It will also provide additional specialist localised provision within the county, reducing the cost of out-county placement.
- II. The provision will enable pupils to access a carefully planned personalised programme to support their learning so that they can either re-integrate into a mainstream setting, or continue to follow a more specialist approach to learning at Woodlands School.
- III. The proposal has received no objections or adverse comments or representations following both informal and formal consultation.
 - One supporting response was received, from Lichfield Diocese, at the informal consultation stage.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

There are no perceived issues in respect of the above in this proposal.

4. Financial Implications

	Costs		Income / Savings	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
First financial year	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Full financial year	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
One-off	<i>n/a</i>	50,000	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
On-going annual	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Please provide a summary of how costs and income/savings values are calculated.	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Please provide a summary of how the net costs will be funded.	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Woodlands School will receive no additional funding for the running of the Holy Trinity premises.

5. Background

Woodlands School currently provides specialist education for secondary school age children who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the area of social, emotional and mental health and who have found a mainstream setting highly challenging. The aim of this proposal is to extend this provision to 9 and 10 year olds, and this proposal will also provide additional specialist localised provision in Shropshire.

The provision will enable pupils to access a carefully planned personalised programme to support their learning so that they can either re-integrate into a mainstream setting, or continue to follow a more specialist approach to learning at Woodlands School.

6. Additional Information

Following significant internal discussion with strategic groups, pre-statutory consultation took place through the following forums during June and July 2014. Both the SEN Strategy Group and the

Specialist Placement Sub-group feed into the 0-25 SEND Board where there is parent/carer representation:

- SEN Strategy Group (Head Teacher representatives from mainstream and special schools and LA officers responsible for SEN provision) - **confidential**
- Specialist Placement Sub-group - **confidential**
- Monitoring Committee at Woodlands School, Wem – **Minute extract appended to Full Proposal which is attached at Appendix B**
- Interim Executive Board of Holy Trinity School, Oswestry – **Minute extract appended to Full Proposal which is attached at Appendix B**
- Following this, letters were sent to the parents/carers of pupils currently on roll at both Woodlands School and Holy Trinity CE Primary School, and copies were sent to the Diocese of Lichfield and surrounding Local Authorities with pupils attending Woodlands School – **Copies appended to Full Proposal which is attached at Appendix B**

The LA received one response to the informal consultation, as follows:

- The Diocese of Lichfield support the proposal.

A subsequent formal consultation, including a statutory public notice and 4-week representation period received no further responses.

7. Conclusions

Responses to consultation being only in favour of this proposal, the LA concludes that there is no reason for this identified provision not to proceed to be established.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information):

- Public Notice 9th October 2014
- Full Proposal 9th October 2014, including:
- Extract of minute of Monitoring Committee at Woodlands School, Wem (Appendix A of full proposal)
- Extract of minute of Interim Executive Board of Holy Trinity School, Oswestry (Appendix B of full proposal)
- Woodlands/Holy Trinity Parents Letters September 2014 (Appendix C of full proposal)

Key Decision: Yes/No

Included within Forward Plan: Yes/No

If a Key Decision and not included in the Forward Plan have the General Exception or Special Urgency Procedures been complied with: Yes/No

Name and Portfolio of Executive Member responsible for this area of responsibility: Ann Hartley - Children's Services

Local Member:

Martin Bennett (Oswestry East) Peter Cherrington (Oswestry East)

Appendices:

A – Public Notice 9th October 2014

B – Full Proposal 9th October 2014, including:

- Minutes of Monitoring Committee at Woodlands School (Appendix A of full proposal)
- Extract of Minutes of Interim Executive Board of Holy Trinity School, Oswestry (Appendix B of full proposal)
- Woodlands/Holy Trinity Parents' Letters September 2014 (Appendix C of full proposal)

Declaration of Interest

- I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

- I have to declare an interest in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

(Note: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter.)

For the reasons set out in the report, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled

Signed

Portfolio Holder for

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and pro-forma is returned to Democratic Services for processing.

Additional comment :

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Note: If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (S151 Officer) and, if there are staffing implications the Head of Human Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Portfolio Holder: Your decision will now be published and communicated to all Members of Council. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication.