

DECISION RECORD ¹

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: Whether or not to consult on a proposal to reconfigure existing services to schools to meet the needs of primary aged children with specific leaning difficulties (SpLD).

(Please use the same title as provided in the Forward Plan)

Staff Contact: Phil Brunt

Executive Member: Terry Douris

Tel: 01992 555811

Portfolio: Education, Libraries & Localism

1. Decision

The Director of Children's Services has decided to commence consultation on a proposal to reconfigure existing services to schools to meet the needs of primary aged children with specific leaning difficulties (SpLD).

Technically this would mean the closure of the existing SpLD bases in 10 schools across the county and the organisation of outreach support to four teams under the SEN specialist 0-25 support service.

2. Reasons for the decision

The majority of students identified with SpLD in Hertfordshire already have their needs met in their local mainstream schools through the support arrangements and delegated resources available in all schools. Currently staff in the bases provide outreach support to schools and no children are assigned to the bases. A review has identified that an enhanced service can be provided in a different way. It is proposed to reconfigure staff in the existing ten bases into four teams to become part of the SEN specialist 5 – 25 support services under the overall line management of the County Lead for Complex Needs. Technically to do this we need to close the base provision by a statutory process.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected ²

None

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}

The Executive Member was in agreement with the proposal to consult.

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(b) Comments of other consultees⁵

None

5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: 

 Title:Director of Children's Services..... Date: ...14th September 2017...

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.