SPECIAL SCHOOLS PROPOSALS (22 May 2019)

APPENDIX 8:

FACE TO FACE MEETING NOTES FROM PHASE 2

Contents

8.1 Chippenham – 5 April 2019 (focusing on places in the north)

Objective	**To inform and progress the pre-publication consultation process regarding the proposal to increase Special School provision in North Wiltshire.** **To ensure that children, their parents, and young people are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and about local provision.**		
Date	05 April 2019	Location	Hardenhuish School
Time	10.30	Meeting Type	Face to face
Called by	Helen Jones	Facilitator	David Paice
Attendees	**Helen Jones** Helen.Jones@wiltshire.gov.uk (Director Commissioning) **Judith Westcott** Judith.Westcott@wiltshire.gov.uk (Acting Head Commissioning & Joint Planning) **David Paice** David.Paice@wiltshire.gov.uk (Interim Head of Special Schools Transformation) **Emily Wood**, emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk (Communications & Developments Officer) - notes		
Apologies			

Agenda items		Discussion	Action	Responsible	Due Date
1	Introductions				
2	Update on where we are	Need for 220 places by 2026 – 50 for complex needs in the North. New building is proposed for 2023 to enable smooth transitions.			
		Free school in the south			
		The proposal to close the three schools was then debated			
3	Options appraisal explained	Ashton Street and Larkrise sites were debated and an explanation was given that both would provide very little to meet sufficiency needs.			
		The reason for Rowdeford School site being considered was explained with reference to the options appraisal tool.			
		Travel statistics were shared. It was questioned why children who currently travel to Rowdeford would have their journey times reduced if the one school at Rowdeford was pursued. Explanation given on rationalising routes can bring down average journey times. Continuation of care, PA turns to TAs and the opportunities to allow			

		staff to also piggyback journeys to assist with their commute to work.			
		Chippenham Abbeyfield site debated – more losers than winners in transport terms.			
		Lack of Post 16 provision is a concern. Poplar College is too small. Huge praise for the farm college at Dilton Marsh was shared. Coordination base could work. Helen stated that the new proposal will include Post 16 provision too. David encouraged all to submit their ideas to develop this aspect.	Submit ideas	All	6 May
4	Practical familiarisation of options appraisal tool – small groups	A parent put forward the option of the Law Courts in Chippenham as a potential new site to consider.	Review of site	David Paice to progress with full Council team using the options appraisal tool	6 May 2019
5	Next steps	Options appraisal grid and presentation used to be shared on the website	Share on website	Emily Wood	5 April
6	AOB				

8.2 Wilton – 1 May 2019 (for parent carers in the south)

SEND Provision Information session for parent carers in the South
When: 1 May 2019
Where: Diocesan Education Centre, Wilton

Council officers present:
Judith Westcott (Acting Head Commissioning & Joint Planning)
David Paice (Interim Head of Special Schools Transformation)
Leanne Field (Lead Commissioner SEND)
Emily Wood (Communications & Developments Officer)

Intro from JW and setting the scene and reference to the SEN strategy.
Looking to build quality, expertise and excellence throughout the whole of the system. How do we build this expertise and be less reliant on newly qualified teachers only receiving one weeks' worth of SEND training?

Notes and slides will be shared -

What those present hope to get out of today's meeting:

- Information on support available as daughter struggling with mainstream
- Child currently at Springfield South – planning for the future when he turns 13, strategy and what info he can get for next 3-5years

- Challenge of no provision in the south of county for SEMH, ASD
- Manufacture wheelchairs – business opportunity
- Where we are right now and what's being taken forward for my child and those I support who haven't been able to attend
- Info on what's up and coming
- No secondary schools to support daughter
- Parent of 7year old son at start of journey is after more info
- ASD unit at school Greentrees, come to hear what the future will look like
- Looking for a school place for Sept as special schools are full in Wiltshire and Hampshire
- Son at Greentrees in sept – wants to hear about secondary provision
- Professional coming back into work with 13/15 year old, no support for three years. Interested in future
- Parish councillor – parents are upset as needs not being met
- John Walsh – back bench Wiltshire councillor – interest, and wants to help in any way he can, wants to gather info
- Parent with 8 year old in mainstream – coping, just – wanting to understand whats going to be there for secondary – LD, PD
- Wants info on secondary mainstream
- Doesn't want parents to go through the same thing that she has gone through. List of 102 parents who are unhappy with the provision available in Salisbury
- Complex, no bucket to fall into – no "bucket" for him to fall into for secondary school
- Wants to hear and communicate a frustration of splitting north and south
- Lack of provision
- Lack of secondary school provision in the south of the county
- Has been through a nail-biting process, insufficient places and 7 months of no schooling as a result
- Information gathering to understand

A bit of background:

The council calculates that 220 additional special school places will be needed by 2026. Driven by housing developments and the army rebasing.

The intro of the Children and Families Act 2014 has seen a rise in the number in EHCPs being issued.

Currently 66k children and young people in the county, which is likely to rise in the future. In September 2019 there will be a 12% rise in the number of Special School places.

We know we need more provision.

Difficulties in system – challenges with KS2 and KS4 attainment data

At the end of children's early years, they are expected to reach a "Good Level of Development" or GLD. Children with SEND in Wiltshire do reasonably well at achieving this, just above the national average. For children at the end of KS2, Wiltshire is in the top quartile for children with SEN support or an EHCP. However, we are sitting in bottom quartile for KS4 results – the same for both SEN support and CYP with EHCP's. It's not just a case of more provision needed, but 'better'.

Finance

Central government fund the council approximately £45million a year to support CYP with SEND – we spend approx. £49million. The government funding is based on a set of indices. We are the 7th worse funded in the country now.

To be clear money is not the driver.

Central government rarely issue funding for capital projects. Challenge to cabinet to provide more funding for SEND. This is what led to recent consultations.

However, we've recently (Feb 19) been successful in bidding for £12m to build a new 'free school' for ASD, SEMH for the south of the county – more detail below. We have a possible site, but this is still under negotiation – it will take some time to build, minimum of 2/3 years. It will provide places for 150 CYP. Reception – 18 years of age.

Challenge as to why this money is being spent on a school and not bases – JW advised the LA have no control over how the money is spent. The rule is we have to build a school with it.

Comment from Greentrees SENCO - units are not funded correctly, and this ends up coming out of the school budget – being asked to take more CYP on bandings that don't match. David reply: funding being looked at as part of the strategy.
JW – funding is a national issue and we are doing as much as we can
Schools have different funding structures for Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) for secondary and Resource Bases (RB) for primary.
The council receives funding

1.) Early years
2.) Mainstream school – approx. £4k pot of money per student
3.) High Needs Budget

RB - £4k plus the £6k placement funding plus banding top-ups.
JW explained about the panel and the annual review gives the opportunity for the banding to be discussed and reviewed.

We recognise and appreciate that the wheels of government are slow – parents anger that cabinet members should be here – they should be listening to our concerns and anger.

Another parent contributed that she felt the process for parents to be supported with SEND is flaky. Lack of support offered by the school whilst the parent's wait for a diagnosis.

David ran through some of his slides – which will be shared with the group

Rowdeford are changing designation to include SLD

ELP and RBs

Question was asked about whether CYP require an EHCP to access an ELP – the answer was yes.

ELPs have been running since 2011. ELP outcomes are not good and we recognise more work has to be done with this secondary school provision – JW highlighted the Hardenhuish model as an example of good practice. They have a larger number of ELP places, and this therefore runs more like an RB.

If we're going to do this right, we need to consolidate

Developing units in secondary schools, with specialist teachers feels like a positive and possible option, parents want us to recognise that this needs the right trained staff to make this work.

Talk about Springfield satellite, and how being placed on its site next to mainstream school allows them to dip in and out of the mainstream system.

What incentives are we offering to RBs and ELPs? potential money, all those that work in this area want the best for CYP with SEND.
Parental comment - feels like the council are desperate to save money, particularly for those parents who don't understand the system.

Free school
Sarum Academy, Exeter House and Springfield will be putting in a joint bid to run the free school. We are hopeful that the school will be open from 2022, however this is subject to how quickly the DfE move.

We need to work out whether Springfield south will become part of the new free school. We will want further conversation with parent/carers regarding the design of the free school. It was explained that it will consist of small spaces within big to meet the needs of the CYP,
Question is the Springfield satellite able to become a base/unit for Sarum in the future.

Councillor - officers work for the council. And they are trying their best. He suggested that they reach out to their local councillors.

8.3 Trowbridge – 2 May 2019 (focusing on places in the north)

Objective	**To inform and progress the pre-publication consultation process regarding the proposal to increase Special School provision in North Wiltshire.** **To ensure that children, their parents, and young people are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and about local provision.**		
Date	02 May 2019	Location	County Hall
Time	6:30pm	Meeting Type	Face to face
Called by	Helen Jones	Facilitator	David Paice
Attendees	**Helen Jones** Helen.jones@wiltshire.gov.uk (Director - Commissioning) **Judith Westcott** Judith.Westcott@wiltshire.gov.uk (Acting Head Commissioning & Joint Planning) **David Paice** David.Paice@wiltshire.gov.uk (Interim Head of Special Schools Transformation)		

	Emily Wood, emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk (Communications & Developments Officer) - notes Plus 48 others representing Rowdeford School, St Nicholas School, Larkrise School, Stepping Stones District Specialist Centre and the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (Michelle Donelan MP and Andrew Murrison MP also in attendance)
Apologies	

Agenda items		Discussion	Action	Responsible	Due Date
1	Introductions	(Key notes and action points to be recorded only.)			
2	Update on where we are	Need for 220 places by 2026 – 50 for complex needs in the North. Explanation of why the council had arrived at the Rowdeford one school solution and why other sites were not suitable to accommodate 350 children by using the options appraisal tool.			
3	Other options offered to date	Law courts in Chippenham – cost and space restrictions. How many could this site accommodate? Multi-site option is being looked at. Single school with three sites could be split by age/designation. However, many schools = more running costs.	Investigate capacity of Law Courts in Chippenham	David Paice	6 May
		Lack of Post 16 provision is a concern. It was stated that the new proposal will include Post 16 provision too, Cabinet have been alerted to this.	Cabinet report to include Post 16 provision	Helen Jones	14 May
4.	Travel statistics	Transport stats shared include those that journey up from the south (concern that this will skew figures as when new school opens in south this number will reduce). Have transport figures been externally verified? No. David Paice welcomes external verification.			

		Stats provide a picture only and the ability to compare like with like.			
5.	Additional options put forward for consideration	Jan Winfield presented on behalf of Wiltshire SEND Action (WSA) a proposal to retain/grow sites in Trowbridge and Chippenham and maintain Rowdeford (extending its designation to include ASD and SLD), thus "deliver a fully integrated SEND service across multiple sites, strategically managed and offering local specialist training to nearby mainstream schools and resource bases". Phil Cook (Larkrise Head) also asked that the 60-page proposal put forward in October 2017 be looked at, this may need to be tweaked.	Review options with appraisal grid	David Paice to progress with full Council team using the options appraisal tool	6 May 2019
6.	Other comments made	Concern that Jan's presentation was only designed to be emotive (esp the last graphic). Children will be in their local community outside of school. Jan responded that there's a concern that all children seen as 'difficult' shouldn't be placed together – image was meant to 'shock'. Parents request that provision isn't concentrated in any one place – 'Parents want choice'. Desire that all agree on the criteria used for the Options Appraisal.	Work with Special Schools' heads, WPCC and council specialists on agreeing Option Appraisal criteria.	David Paice	14 May
7.	Next steps	All options to be assessed via appraisal tool.		David Paice	14 May

8.4 Devizes – 3 May 2019 (focusing on places in the north)

Objective	**To inform and progress the pre-publication consultation process regarding the proposal to increase Special School provision in North Wiltshire.** **To ensure that children, their parents, and young people are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and about local provision.**		
Date	03 May 2019	Location	Devizes Sports Club
Time	11:00am	Meeting Type	Face to face
Called by	Judith Westcott	Facilitator	David Paice
Attendees	**Judith Westcott** Judith.Westcott@wiltshire.gov.uk (Acting Head Commissioning & Joint Planning) **David Paice** David.Paice@wiltshire.gov.uk (Interim Head of Special Schools Transformation) **Emily Wood**, emily.wood@wiltshire.gov.uk (Communications & Developments Officer) - notes **Cllr James Sheppard** **Cllr Jane Davies** Plus 23 others representing Rowdeford School, Wiltshire Parent Carer Council, Devizes Labour Party and Larkrise School		
Apologies			

Agenda items		Discussion	Action	Responsible	Due Date
1	Introductions				
2	Update on where we are	Need for 220 places by 2026 – 50 for complex needs in the North. Explanation of why the council had arrived at the Rowdeford one school solution and why other sites were not suitable to accommodate 350 children by using the options appraisal tool.			
3	Other options offered to date	During this extended period of pre-publication consultation, other options have been put forward, including: Chippenham Law Courts Patchwork approach of more than one site (various scenarios) Council encourages other options to be put on the table.	Submit further options for assessment	All	6 May
3	Options appraisal explained	Following observations and comments were raised on list of criteria: • Do the 'outcomes' include meeting children's 'entitlements'? • 'Outcomes' should be at the centre of everything. • Equality is missing			

		• Post 16 needs to be added to 'outcomes'. • Staffing should come under 'Outcomes' not 'Quality' – staff morale has been hit since notice of closure was given, staff seen as demotivated. • In/out reach should be within 'local communities'.			
		Lack of Post 16 provision is a concern. It was stated that the new proposal will include Post 16 provision too.			
4	Practical familiarisation of options appraisal tool – small groups	Attendees broke out into five groups to prioritise the criteria within the appraisal tool. Four groups engaged with this exercise. Each group came up with a different order. Lists were photographed for later reference.	Prioritisation exercise of appraisal criteria. Consolidate all results into final weighting list.	David Paice	
	Additional options to be considered	• Continue with St Nicholas and Larkrise schools for primary provision, use Ashton St adjacent to Larkrise and the redundant Law Courts in Chippenham for Secondary. Keep Rowdeford as is. • What about the vacant land next to the train station in Trowbridge (previously used by Bowyers), could this be utilised? • Suggestion given that three 'school houses' be developed on the Rowdeford site, each accommodating 130 secondary aged pupils. (Lodge at the edge of the site is privately owned, for access this would need to be acquired).	Review options with appraisal grid	David Paice to progress with full Council team using the options appraisal tool	6 May 2019 (?)
	Other comments made	One attendee contributed their thoughts saying that he understood why the one school in Rowdeford had been decided upon, £20m will only go so far and even if Larkrise and St Nicholas schools were to remain open, their numbers			

		should reduce in line with DfE guidelines and therefore it was inevitable that children would have to move. Important that the Core Strategic Plan is considered. Developers have an obligation to contribute to community facilities through Section 106 funding. Huge commercial development on the edge of the M4, is there an opportunity there to boost the budget via this route?			
5	Next steps	All options to be assessed via appraisal tool. Planners to be contacted to assess if additional funding could be sourced via Section 106.		David Paice	14 May (?)