

## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Select Committee

16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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#### Executive Response to the Interim Report of the SEND School Provision Task Group

#### Purpose of the report

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills to the Interim Report of the SEND School Provision Task Group.

#### Background

2. On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Children's Select Committee endorsed the Interim Report of the Task Group.
3. The Committee resolved to refer the following Task Group's recommendations to the relevant Cabinet member for response at the Committee's next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
4. Prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Children's Select Committee meeting the Task Group learnt that the consultation on the proposals was being extended until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Based on this the Task Group decided that they would receive an additional briefing following the end of the extended consultation before submitting their endorsed recommendations for executive response. Following the additional briefing the task group provided the Children's Select Committee with an update and agreed to receive the executive response to their Interim Report at the next meeting of the Children's Select Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

#### Executive response to the Task Group's recommendations

<b>Recommendation No.1</b>	<b>Makes suitable arrangements, such as monthly meetings, for the school staff to work closely with the architect and development team to ensure that the finished buildings are practical for all purposes.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The Council continues to work closely with the three heads of Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford schools to ensure all staff are full informed as to the progress. Additionally, regular and ongoing

			meetings of WASSPP take place as a forum for engaging all special schools in the process. On Monday 1 July all staff were informed through their Heads that the Secretary of State had given his consent to the proposal to amalgamate all three schools into a new multi-site school. An agreed timetable showing the process was given to all staff outlining the steps to the opening of the new places. We will be developing more formal arrangements to work with heads, staff and governors including the formation of a shadow governing body with equitable representation from all three schools.
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<b>Recommendation No.2</b>	<b>Clarifies the role of the academy provider in the design of the Centre of Excellence building.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	AMENDED	The Secretary of State has consented to the proposal for a Local Authority maintained community special school, rather than an academy provider.

<b>Recommendation No.3</b>	<b>Works to keep the Wiltshire parental &amp; parent-carer community consulted, closely involved and informed throughout the development process to promote community ownership and governance of the new schools.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The Council is in regular dialogue with the director of Wiltshire Parent Carer Council in order to ensure the parent carer community is fully consulted and informed as to the process. Meetings are held with SEND Action Group representatives to ensure they are kept fully informed. A timeline leaflet has been distributed to parents through the schools and WPCC. From September the Council will start a statutory 4 week consultation on the proposals.

<b>Recommendation No.4</b>	<b>Includes the opinion of Wiltshire parent &amp; parent-carer community, through the medium of the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC), in the decision-making process for choosing the new academy provider of the Centre of Excellence.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	AMENDED	Having listened to the collective parent carer voice a strong and successful case was taken to the Secretary of State not to go down the academy route. This was with the full support of WPCC.

<b>Recommendation No.5</b>	<b>Ensures that all relevant parties, such as parents/parent-carers, are kept well informed throughout a transparent decision-making and selection process for the academy provider who will be chosen to run the new Centre of Excellence.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	AMENDED	As above, the decision has been taken to propose a local authority maintained community special school status.

<b>Recommendation No.6</b>	<b>Ensures that the chosen academy provider for the Centre of Excellence is specialist in SEND education.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	AMENDED	As above. The strong feeling was that the Council was best placed to drive forward this project.

<b>Recommendation No.7</b>	<b>Ensures that school facilities such as hydrotherapy and sensory rooms are available for use by external groups and parents/carers, and that they are located suitably within the building to minimise disruption and provide independent access.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The proposal is to keep all sites open until new capacity has been built on the exiting Rowdeford site. As such capacity becomes available a decision based on demand for places at that time will be taken about which sites are proposed to

			be retained. This means that all existing processes for keeping the hydrotherapy pools open will be maintained for the next few years. The Council currently is in discussion with those responsible for the management of the hydrotherapy pools to minimise disruption and provide independent access.
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<b>Recommendation No.8</b>	<b>Provide a dedicated office, meeting and therapy space within the new builds for Multi-Agency workers and health specialists to serve as a base for the workers.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The proposal is to provide a dedicated office, meeting and therapy space within the new builds for Multi-Agency workers and health specialists to serve as a base for the workers.

<b>Recommendation No.9</b>	<b>Ensures that there is an effective educational transition process in place which caters to the individual child and allows them to grow whilst progressing through the school.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The proposal now keeps all three sites open until it is appropriate for pupils to transfer to the enhanced capacity planned for the Rowdeford site. An executive leader will be in place from 2021 at the latest to ensure that a transition is smooth and appropriate.

<b>Recommendation No.10</b>	<b>Ensures that the design of the school is made up through a collection of sub schools (or “blocks”) to allow each child to progress through these “blocks” based upon educational need, rather than age.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The SEND child centric design is being progressed around small spaces and a school within a school model to ensure all learning and wellbeing services are tailored to the

			individual in a highly personalised setting.
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<b>Recommendation No.11</b>	<b>Develop a close working relationship between the future Whole Life Service, the Centre of Excellence, and Wiltshire College.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	There is a programme to create a cross county approach to Post 16 special education and transition to independent living. Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Wiltshire Police and partners such as Wiltshire College are exploring ideas and creating a long-term strategy through the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) programme.

<b>Recommendation No.12</b>	<b>Creates community facing student-run cafés at the new builds and utilises them as a resource for use by the community, parents/carers, staff and students.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	The proposal is for the new build on Rowdeford to create community facing student run cafes and utilise them as a resource for the community. The model draws on the success of similar facilities as Fairfield Farm College in Westbury.

<b>Recommendation No.13</b>	<b>Sufficiently considers the current and future traffic flow and parking requirements for the schools and creates a system that can exceed these demands.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	Transport colleagues are looking at the current and future traffic flow and parking arrangements to ensure that it is appropriate. Transport is exploring the appropriateness of improving road safety features by including the entrance to the Rowdeford school site within lowered speed limits and exploring the consideration of a pedestrian crossing.

<b>Recommendation No.14</b>	<b>Include the development of a Challenging Behavioural Unit in the proposals to reduce future out of county provision and ensures there is an effective admissions procedure developed for the unit in consultation with SEND schools with existing Challenging Behavioural Units.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	AMENDED	The requirements for Challenging behaviour unit are being considered in wider work led by the Director for Education and particularly in the context of support to children with ASD and Social emotional and mental health issues (SEMH) and the two schools which support children/young people with these needs, Downland and Springfields.

<b>Recommendation No.15</b>	<b>Supports mainstream integration, in line with the Task Groups comments in para 44, through providing specialist SEND support in both primary and secondary schools across the county in the form of Resources Bases supported by the Centre of Excellence.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	A detailed review of SEND provision has recently been undertaken by ISOS for the Council. Whilst primary resource base provision seems effective there is scope to look again a secondary Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) and to consider whether placed based approaches to resource bases in secondary might draw from seemingly successful models like that at Hardenhuish school. This process has already started and is being taken forward by the Director for Education and Skills.

<b>Recommendation No.16</b>	<b>Provides details on the transport plans which will be used to provide children with effective integration in the local communities.</b>		
<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr Laura Mayes	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Helen Jones
<b>Executive response</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	ACCEPTED	Detailed transport plans have been constructed to look at the options

			<p>surrounding the various sites. The proposal is to have 400 places ready at the current Rowdeford school site by 2023. As this is some way off, current provision will be taken forward for a number of years. The shadow and subsequently governing body of the new amalgamated school will oversee all transport considerations. The new leader will be in place no later than September 2021 and s/he will ensure that children and young people attending the new school have appropriate transport arrangements.</p>
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5. The Secretary of State has granted Wiltshire Council consent to publish the proposals to establish a new community maintained special school. The plan is to amalgamate Larkrise, St Nicholas and Rowdeford schools into one new school, operating across the existing three sites, with a single leadership team by 2021. The plan also involves a £32million new building on the existing Rowdeford site to increase capacity for SEND students with complex needs. All three sites will stay open. The four-week consultation will start in September 2019 after the summer holiday. In the coming years when most of the new places are available there will be a further consultation about the appropriate number of sites required in light of demand.

## Proposal

6. To note the executive response to the Interim Report of the **SEND School Provision Task Group**.

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**Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills**

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