

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**  
**25 July 2007**

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**THE CLOSURE OF BURTON HILL SCHOOL, MALMESBURY**

**1 Purpose of Report**

To inform the Committee of actions taken, with the associated financial considerations, in order to provide Wiltshire pupils formerly attending Burton Hill School with appropriate education from September 2007.

**2 Action required of Scrutiny Committee**

To note the report.

**3 Background**

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee received a report on the closure of Burton Hill School at its meeting on 29 November 2006. The Committee resolved to receive a fuller report at its next meeting. A further report was tabled at the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Burton Hill School is owned and managed by The Shaftesbury Society. The Society decided at a meeting on 31 October 2006 that the school should close on 31 July 2007.

Wiltshire currently has 15 pupils attending the school, all of whom have a Statement of Special Educational Need. Four of these 15 pupils are due to leave the school on 31 July 2007. Wiltshire, however, retains responsibility to ensure that the educational needs of the remaining pupils are met.

**4 Actions taken**

Following a series of extensive meetings and discussions with parents, pupils, carers and other professionals, appropriate educational placements have now been secured for all children and young people requiring education from September 2007.

Every effort has been made to secure suitable placements with full consultation and the outcome has been successful. A measure of this being no tribunal appeals lodged with regard to placement decisions. Education Officers, Connexions, PI Service staff and Social Workers have all worked closely together in order to place the young people at

the heart of the closure, thus fulfilling the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters.

Contracts staff have been asked to investigate what measures may be necessary to secure future provision in independent spot purchase placements.

## **5 Financial considerations**

The overall projected cost for 11 pupils in alternative educational provision:

Committed costs for Academic Year 07-08 are:	£396,517
Transport costs are projected to be:	<u>£102,080</u>
	£498,547

Average cost per pupil: £45,322

The overall placement costs of 15 pupils placed at Burton Hill:

Academic Year 06-07:	£636,368
Transport costs:	<u>£98,790</u>
	£735,158

Average cost per pupil: £49,010

## **6 Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to note the actions which the County Council has taken to identify appropriate education for Wiltshire pupils currently at Burton Hill School, the efforts made to ensure that parents and users were fully consulted and involved in decisions, and the financial impact of the school's closure.

**Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Director, Department for Children & Education**

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**Kaye Beeson**  
**Manager Central SEN Services**  
**01225 713655**