

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....19th January 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update for Stockton

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

In October 2016, a report was made to Cabinet regarding a proposal to reshape services for children in Stockton with special educational needs.

This proposal involved rationalising the provision available in mainstream schools to allow earlier support and intervention for children when they first present with special needs. This was with the aim of reducing demand for specialist placements and addressing needs earlier. The provision commissioned from schools, presently in Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), would be remodelled into hubs in localities which could provide cross phase provision for special needs across the Borough and allow more children to attend a school near to where they live. This would also reduce the need for transport across the Borough. The proposal would not mean that children already in placements would be moved.

Cabinet agreed to proceed further with the consultation by engaging with parents. A programme of consultation with parents took place in November 2016 and the report set out the outcomes of the consultation and sought a decision by members on the proposal.

The report also included the outcomes of additional consultation with children.

An update on the application for a new Free School across the Tees Valley was also included.

Mr Gunn (Chair of the Friends of Early Support Nursery) was in attendance at the meeting and was given the opportunity to speak. Constructive discussions had been held with 'Friends of Early Support Nursery' who were a group of parents who had fund raised for and

support the nursery. Across the years they had provided substantial funds to the nursery for additional equipment and support for parents. This group advocated strongly to retain the provision. As part of the consultation the group delivered a petition to the Council in support of maintaining the nursery with 2,500 signatures. The Chair had also provided a summary of their views which had been included in full as an attachment to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The responses from the consultation be noted.
2. Further work to progress commissioning of the revised provision be authorised.
3. Further work to secure specialist nursery provision using the centre at Thornaby be authorised.
4. The progress of the process to invite a new specialist Free School for the Tees Valley be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

There is a need to improve outcomes for children with special needs across the Borough and respond to the need to provide more specialist support for children earlier. This fits with the council theme of providing earlier intervention to reduce demand for expensive placements which are often out of Borough.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Norma Wilburn declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 16 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update for Stockton as her grandson used the special needs provision.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 16 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update for Stockton as he was the Chair of Billingham South Primary School Board of Governors.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 16 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update for Stockton as he was the Chair of Rosebrook Primary School Board of Governors.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 27 January 2017

Proper Officer  
23 January 2017