



LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley

MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM

VIA MS TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 28 November 2022 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Disclosures of interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
3. Urgent items
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
4. Proposal to lower school age range at Wivelsfield Community Primary School (*Pages 7 - 10*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
5. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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2 December 2022

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LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley, on 28 November 2022 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillor Alan Shuttleworth spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minute 16 and 17)

Councillor Johanna Howell spoke on items 5 (see minute 17)

12. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

12.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 17 October 2022.

13. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

13.1 There were none.

14. URGENT ITEMS

14.1 There were none.

15. REPORTS

15.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

16. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OFFER FOR UKRAINIAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

16.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding Mental health & wellbeing offer for Ukrainian children and young people.

DECISIONS

16.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- 1) approve the allocation of £303,820 of the Homes for Ukraine grant to provide a mental health and emotional wellbeing programme for Ukrainian children and young people as set out in the report;
- 2) to note that this work will include alignment with Holiday Activity and Food programme and the broader development of social prescribing approaches in the county, and;
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to ensure monitoring requirements and the conditions of the grant funding are met.

Reason

16.3 The proposal takes the form of an asset-based social prescribing programme, to enable Ukrainian children and young people to be supported and funded to access positive activities in the community.

17. RETENDER OF THE YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE CONTRACT (ADVICE AND GUIDANCE)

17.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding Re-tendering of the Youth Employability Service.

DECISIONS

17.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- 1) approve the recommissioning of the Youth Employability Service contract to be awarded in May 2023 with a start date of 1 September 2023; and
- 2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to take all necessary actions, including contract award, to give effect to the implementation of the above recommendation

Reason

17.3 The Youth Employability Service helps meet East Sussex County Council's statutory duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. The service provides good quality support to a significant number of vulnerable young people,

ensuring they have the opportunity to progress into and through post 16 education, training or employment improving their life chances and choices.

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Agenda Item 4

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **12 December 2022**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **School age range change**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Wivelsfield Primary School to enable the governing board of the school to open nursery provision on site.**

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to:

Authorise a change of age range at Wivelsfield Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2023.

1 Background

1.1 The village of Wivelsfield lost its only early years provision when the voluntary run pre-school located in the village closed in July 2020. The governing board of Wivelsfield Primary School wishes to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to accommodate families who wish to access funded early years provision in the area. The East Sussex Early Years Forecasting model is showing a need for this early years provision. It is proposed that the nursery offers 24 full-time equivalent places for 2-4-year-olds.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to fully integrate nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that the nursery would again support families in the local area and offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage.

1.3 The nursery would initially be provided in a temporary classroom on the school site. The temporary classroom would be in place for six years. In the longer term, it is intended for the nursery to be accommodated in the main school building, using a classroom currently occupied by an additional reception class which was admitted to the school in September 2022.

1.4 The governing board consulted between 8 November and 5 December 2021 on a proposal to lower the school's age range. The governing board consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community, and other interested parties.

1.5 By the close of the consultation period, 16 responses had been received. All the responses fully supported the school's proposal to lower the age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to provide early years provision for children within the village.

1.6 On 24 May 2022, the Lead Member considered the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of a statutory notice in relation to the proposal. The Lead Member report can be viewed using this link: [Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability 24 May 2022](#)

2 Statutory process

2.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools must be in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the Regulations).

2.2 In accordance with these requirements, a statutory notice was initially published on 2 September 2022 stating a proposed implementation date of 1 January 2023. However, it has

been necessary to delay the implementation date of the proposal to ensure the accommodation is ready for the first cohort of young children attending the nursery. Therefore, a revised statutory notice was therefore published on 20 October 2022 stating a new implementation date of 1 September 2023.

2.3 The notice was published in the Mid-Sussex Times and posted on the entrance to the school. The notice and full proposal were also posted on the local authority's website.

2.4 Publication of the notice was followed by a four-week period of representation, when further comments or objections could be made to the local authority. At the end of the representation period on 17 November 2022, no comments or objections had been received.

2.5 The regulations describe several factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

3. Equality Impacts

3.1 The Lead Member is required to have due regard to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining the proposal. The local authority has completed an initial equality assessment and concluded that a full equality impact assessment is not required. No potential equality impacts or barriers have been identified by officers or stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal. The local authority believes the proposal will have a positive impact by creating opportunities for children and families to access early years provision within their local area that meets their needs.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 In conclusion, the local authority and governing board of Wivelsfield Primary School have identified a gap in nursery provision in Wivelsfield since the closure of the former voluntary run pre-school in July 2020. The governing board wishes to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to support families in the local area and offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to authorise the change of age range at Wivelsfield Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 with effect from 1 September 2023.

ALISON JEFFERY
Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Matthew Milligan

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Factors to be considered by the decision maker

The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability should have regard to the following factors before reaching a final decision on the proposed change of age range at Wivelsfield Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 2.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals?	The proposal to lower the age range at Wivelsfield Primary School is related to a proposal first published on the 2 September 2022. A new statutory proposal was published on 20 October 2022 due to a change in the proposed implementation date from 1 January 2023 to 1 September 2023. The subsequent 4-week representation period closed on 17 November 2022.
3	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	No.
4	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	The governing board undertook a period of consultation between 8 November and 5 December 2021. By the close of the consultation period 16 responses had been received. All the responses fully supported the school's proposal to lower the age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to provide early years provision for children within the village
5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	The aim of the proposal is to fully integrate nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The proposal would benefit families in the village who have not been able to access local early years provision since the closure of the former voluntary run pre-school in July 2020.
6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	The proposal will not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which will remain as published.
7	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	No potential community impacts were identified by respondents to the consultation. The proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school and the wider community as it will meet the needs of local children and families looking for nursery provision. It is proposed that the nursery offers 24 full-time equivalent places for 2-4-year-olds.
8	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	The proposal would have a positive impact on travel and accessibility as families would be able to access early years places in the village, thereby reducing travel times to other provision outside the village. The East Sussex Early Years Forecasting model is showing a need for early years provision within the area. It is proposed that the nursery offers 24 full-time equivalent places for 2-4-year-olds.
9	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	Capital funding is required to implement the proposal and has been identified in the Council's approved capital programme.
10	Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate	No potential equality barriers were identified by officers or stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory notice. The local authority believes the proposal will have

	discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	a positive impact by creating opportunities for children and families to access early years provision within their local area that meets their needs.
11	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.