

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

Date: **16 January 2017**

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

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

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Community Primary School to enable the governing body to lower the school age range by one year to incorporate two year olds in their current nursery provision.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) **Authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Community Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017; and**
  - 2) **Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**
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## **1 Background**

1.1 The school currently runs a nursery class on site for 3-4 year olds. The governing body of the school wishes to lower their age range from 3-11 to 2-11 to accommodate families who wish to access funded two year old places at the school.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing body wishes to ensure that the nursery continues to support the local area and to offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The aim is to build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 The governing body consulted between 7<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 on a proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties.

2.2 By the close of the consultation period no responses had been received.

2.3 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The next phase of the process is to publish statutory notices in relation to the proposal. It is intended that the notices would be published in the Eastbourne Herald, on the East Sussex County Council website and posted on the entrances to the school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017. A four week period of representation would follow, giving interested parties a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Council has a duty to determine each proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. We anticipate that a decision would be taken at the Lead Member meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Community Primary school will help to build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children.

3.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Community Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017; and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Alan Shuttleworth