

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

Date: **21 March 2017**

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

Title of report: **Shinewater Primary School, Eastbourne change of age range**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Shinewater Primary School to enable the governing body of the school to provide nursery provision for two year olds within current provision.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended to authorise the change of age range at Shinewater Primary School from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 April 2017

1 Background

1.1 Shinewater Primary School currently runs early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds. The governing body of the school wishes to support vulnerable families in their care by lowering their age range from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to continue 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 November and 2 December 2016 on the proposal to lower the school's age range. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties. No responses were received during the consultation period.

2.2 On 16 January 2017, the Lead Member considered the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of statutory notices in relation to the proposal. The statutory notice was published on 3 February 2017 in the Eastbourne Herald. The notice was also posted on the entrances to the school. The notice and full proposal was available on the Local Authority's website.

2.3 Publication of the notice was followed by a four-week period of representation, when comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority. At the end of the representation period, no comments or objections had been received.

3. Factors to be considered by the decision maker and types of decision

3.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The process set out above complied with these requirements.

3.3 The regulations set out a number of factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposed changes. These are set out in Appendix A.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Primary School will help the school to support vulnerable families in their care and build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to authorise the change of age range at Shinewater Primary School from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 April 2017

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member report and minute from 16 January 2017:

<http://esmoderngov01v/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MId=3089&Ver=4>

LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Alan Shuttleworth

APPENDIX A

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 Shinewater Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals	The proposal to lower the age range at Shinewater Primary School is not related to other published proposals.
3	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices	The governing body of the school undertook a period of consultation between 7 th November and 2 nd December 2016 on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 3-11 to 2-11 to allow them to take two year olds in the nursery provision.
4	Have any particular comments or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposals	No comments or objections were received during the representation period.
5	The effect on education standards and diversity of provision in the local area.	The Local Authority does not believe the proposal will have an impact on education standards and diversity of provision in the local area as it is about enabling the school to support the most vulnerable families in its local community to secure good outcomes for all children.
6	The demand for places	The proposal would, in the first instance, provide four places for two year old children in the local community giving families greater access to early years provision. The remaining places will be available to three and four year olds.
7	The impact on school size, premises and funding	The proposal does not require a change to the premises and as such will not require funding. The school will remain at its current size.
8	National curriculum	Shinewater Primary school will deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged 2-5 years.
9	Equal opportunities issues	<p>The Local Authority does not believe there are equality impacts arising from the proposed changes.</p> <p>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.</p>
10	Community cohesion	The Local Authority believes that the proposal will enhance community cohesion by enabling more local children and their families to access early years provision at the school.
11	Travel and accessibility	The Local Authority does not believe the proposal will have any impact on travel and accessibility as the nursery provision will remain in its current location.