

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

Date of meeting: 19 June 2017

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: School age range changes – Sandown Primary School

Purpose: To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Sandown Primary School to enable the governing body to take on management of the onsite Maplehurst nursery, currently run by East Sussex Children's Centres.

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 Sandown Primary School from 5-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1 January 2018;
 - 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 Maplehurst Nursery is currently run by East Sussex Children's Centres for 2-5 year olds on the Sandown Primary School site. Children's Centres are no longer required to provide education and childcare as part of their service offer. The governing body of the school wishes to lower the school's age range from 5-11 to 2-11. This will enable the school to then take on the management of the nursery and maintain the 'outstanding' rated provision for children in the community, both now and in the future.

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. This will build on the work already done by the school and nursery to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The governing body consulted between 27 January and 3 March 2017 on a proposal to lower the school's age range in order to take on management of the Maplehurst Nursery. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school and nursery, the local community and other interested parties.

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

2.3 The intended date for implementation of the proposal was originally 1 September 2017, but to allow the governing body more time to consider the proposal following the end of the consultation period, it was agreed to defer implementation to 1 January 2018.

2.4 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 Hastings and St Leonards

Observer on Friday 14 July, 2017. A four week period of representation would follow, giving interested parties a further opportunity to comment on, or object to, the proposals.

2.5 The Council has a duty to determine each proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. It is anticipated that a decision will be taken at the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability meeting on 26 September 2017.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The proposal to lower the age range at Sandown Primary school will help to build on work already done by the school in conjunction with East Sussex Children's Centres. This will help ensure a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

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 Sandown Primary School from 5-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1 January 2018;
- 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

Contact Officer: Jane Spice, EYEE Manager
Tel. No. 01323 747425
Email: jane.spice@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Laurie Loe