

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

**Date of meeting:** **18 April 2018**

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

**Title:** **After School and Holiday Club Provision - proposal to transfer provision from the Local Authority to Special Schools**

**Purpose:** **To agree to a public consultation on the transfer of delivering After School and Holiday Club provision to Special Schools to facilitate service development, achieve value for money and the sustainability of the provision for children and families for the future.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Lead Member is recommended to agree to public consultation on transferring After School and Holiday Club provision from the local authority to Special Schools for the reasons set out in this report.**

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### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Children Services’ Department (CSD) has been exploring alternate options for the delivery of After School and Holiday Club (ASCHP’s) provision, currently provided by the Children’s Disability service. The ambition was to achieve a more sustainable service for disabled children and young people in the future and one that is more closely aligned to their school communities. While the provision of after school provision is a requirement for schools it is not a statutory responsibility for the Local Authority (LA).
- 1.2 The preferred option was to transfer the provision to special schools and thereby provide a more cohesive individual offer for parents and young people, promote ongoing service improvements and provide better value for the Council in relation to the current cost of running the clubs. Schools have access to external funding streams and can deliver provision more economically through their existing infrastructure.
- 1.3 Although the ASCHP’s service is currently county-wide using individual schools as its base, each school has always had a different character and limited attendance to pupils on roll. Difficulties have occurred when schools have prioritised their own activities or building works over the running of the clubs. At this time the clubs have required additional financial support. By transferring the ownership of the clubs to Special Schools, it will not only strengthen the provision but benefit the schools in widening their offer to existing pupils and with more opportunities for children and young people attending the current service.
- 1.4 The LA’s ambition is for each special school to develop clubs that reflect the needs of their school communities, becoming self-sustaining within 18 months of the transfer, from the Children’s Disability Service, on the 1 September 2018.
- 1.5 Negotiations have been ongoing since November 2017 with the Special School Head Teachers all of whom are willing to pick up responsibility for the ASCHP’s service, albeit in a slightly different format to reflect their school’s communities and with an emphasis on learning and development rather than social activities or play.
- 1.6 There is a service head count of 27 permanent staff which equates to 16.6 FTE. As the proposals are significantly different to the current service provision TUPE is unlikely to apply for the existing staff group in the service as a different skill set is required. Personnel are currently working out what the potential impact will be on staff in relation to redeployment or redundancy if the transfer of the

provision to Special Schools was to be approved. The only exception to this situation is Grove Park School, it is not an Academy and plans to run a service more aligned to the current offer meaning that some staff can probably be transferred directly to the school.

## **2. Supporting information**

**Funding** – if the proposals to transfer provision to Special Schools was agreed then Special Schools could be given individual grants to facilitate the transfer from 1 September 2018. Any grants would be based on the current gap between what parents are charged and what it costs to run the clubs (staff costs only), for an eighteen month period  
Funding totals would be based on the schools continuing to offer at least a similar level of provision to parents for the next two years in relation to numbers attending activities and sessions on offer. Funding would be agreed via a contract or SLA and would be closely monitored.

**Commissioning** if a transfer was agreed, a sufficiency strategy would be developed to commission additional short breaks in the future to address parental concerns in relation to any perceived loss of short breaks.

All disabled children and young people eligible for a Personal Budget had one in place by the end of March. It is hoped that this will strengthen our commissioning intentions and give confidence to providers entering the market place. There are currently 141 children eligible for a Personal Budget in the Children's Disability Service and 26 young people 16 – 19 in the Transitions Team.

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

- 3.1 The Lead Member is asked to agree to public consultation on transferring the After School and Holiday Clubs provision to the Special Schools on the basis that this represents excellent value for money for the Council, promotes sustainability, whilst continuing to provide a valuable service to parents and young people. A further report on the outcome of the consultation will be submitted to the Lead Member in July 2018.

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