

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**  
Date: **4 November 2019**  
By: **Director of Children's Services**  
Title of report: **SEN Specialist Facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School - Update**  
Purpose of report: **To update Lead Member on the establishment of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School.**

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to:**

- 1) Agree to postpone the establishment of a SEN facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School.**
- 

## **1. Background**

1.1 On 10 December 2018 the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability approved the establishment of an SEN facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School to cater for 8 to 10 Key Stage 2 pupils with a primary need of ASD (Autism spectrum disorder). This followed an extensive review of SEN provision in the county which identified gaps in specialist provision in mainstream schools in a number of areas of the county including the wider Peacehaven area, and a consultation with key stakeholders and interested parties between 6 July and 14 September 2018.

## **2. Current position**

2.1 Since approval was granted for the establishment of the new facility the school has been through a period of significant change. The headteacher at the time resigned their post and left the school in April 2019 and interim leadership arrangements were put in place. Following concerns about pupil progress and outcomes, and in consultation with the governing body, the local authority successfully applied to the Department for Education (DfE) to establish an Interim Executive Board (IEB) at Peacehaven Heights Primary School. The IEB has been in place since early September 2019.

2.2 These factors have led the local authority to conclude that it would be inappropriate to establish the SEN facility at the present time. The need for specialist provision in the area continues and it is the local authority's intention to still establish a facility at the school in the future once the school has secure leadership arrangements in place and the capacity to support the implementation of the facility.

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

3.1 In conclusion the local authority believes it is appropriate to postpone the establishment of the SEN facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School whilst the school focuses on improving its performance. The progress of the school will be kept under review with the intention of opening the SEN facility at a later date.

3.2 The Lead Member is recommended to agree the postponement of the SEN facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School. The Lead Member will be advised when a new opening date for the facility has been agreed.

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

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager  
Tel. No. 01273 481758  
Email: [gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk)

LOCAL MEMBERS  
Councillor Nigel Enever

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The agenda and minutes from the Lead Member meeting on 10 December 2018 are available on the East Sussex County Council website by following the link below:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MId=3548&Ver=4>