

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

Date: **16 May 2016**

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 ranges at Grovelands Community Primary School and Hurst Green CE Primary School to enable the governing bodies to incorporate the onsite third party nursery provision.**

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 Grovelands Community Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with the proposal to take effect on 1 September 2016;**
 - 2) **authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Hurst Green CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with the proposal to take effect on 1 September 2016; and**
 - 3) **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 Both schools currently have third party nursery providers on site who lease space from the school to operate provision for 2 to 4 year olds. The governing bodies of both schools wish to take on the management of their respective nursery provision by lowering their age ranges from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11.

1.2 The aim of each proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within each school. The governing bodies wish to ensure that their respective nurseries continue to support their 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 schools and nursery providers to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

2 Supporting information

Grovelands Community Primary School

2.1 The governing body consulted on the proposal to lower their age range between 22 June and 20 July 2015. 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 two responses had been received. One respondent was in favour, citing that it would provide a consistent education from the age of two. The other respondent did not express a view either way but did indicate that if the proposal meant more children at the school there would be an impact on traffic in the area. For clarification, the proposal is to incorporate the

current nursery provision into the school, not to provide new provision in addition to the existing nursery.

Hurst Green CE Primary School

2.3 The governing body consulted on the proposal to lower their age range between 15 March and 22 April 2016. The governing body consulted with parents and carers of children at the school, staff, the local community and other interested parties.

2.4 Two responses were received during the consultation period. One respondent thought the proposal would generally be positive for the children. The other respondent didn't give a view either way but was keen to understand what the change would mean for children, staff and parents.

2.5 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 proposals. It is intended that the notices would be published in each local newspaper on 27 May 2016 and posted on the entrances to each school on the same day. The full proposals would also be published on the County Council's website. A four week period of representation would follow, giving interested parties a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Local Authority 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 11 July 2016.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 In conclusion, we believe the proposal to lower the age ranges at both schools will help to build on work already done by the schools and nursery providers, 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 Grovelands Community Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11. The proposal to take effect on 1 September 2016;
- 2) Authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Hurst Green CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11. The proposal to take effect on 1 September 2016; and
- 3) 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: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager
Tel. No. 01273 481758
Email: gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Bill Bentley, Laurence Keeley and John Barnes