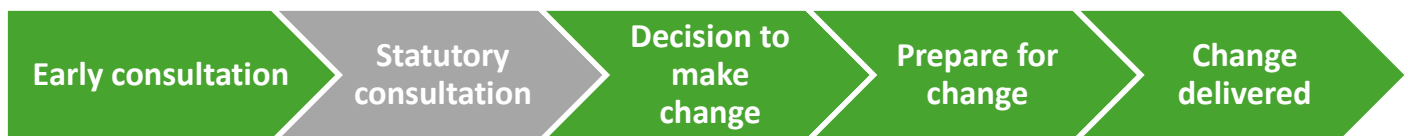


Complete Statutory Proposal

A proposal to reduce the number of places available in the Speech, Communication and Language Needs Department at Caroline Haslett Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the 'Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, April 2016', that **Milton Keynes Council proposes to reduce the number of places available in the Speech, Communication and Language Needs (SCLN) Department from ten to five places at Caroline Haslett Primary School (a Community school) with effect from 1 September 2017.**



Notice Date: 5 January 2017

School

Caroline Haslett Primary School
 Faraday Drive
 Shenley Lodge
 Milton Keynes
 MK 5 7DF

Proposer

Special Educational Needs and Disability
 Milton Keynes Council
 Saxon Court
 502 Avebury Boulevard
 Central Milton Keynes
 MK9 3HS

The lead officer for this proposal is Lisa Munro, Inclusion and Intervention Manager

Description of alteration

Caroline Haslett Primary School is a mainstream school that caters for children aged from 4 to 11. The school currently has a Speech, Communication and Language Needs (SCLN) Department that provides

places for up to ten pupils. It is proposed that the number of places is reduced to five.

Evidence of demand

Increasingly, the council has found that children with Speech, Communication and Language Needs (SCLN) are able to have their needs met through the inclusive approach that mainstream schools offer. Caroline Haslett is funded for a ten place provision; currently there are only five children on roll using this provision.

The children who are requesting SCLN provision often present with more complex needs; such as behaviours that challenge, sensory needs and particular learning needs rather than just requiring specialist support for speech, communication and language difficulties. As a result, the SCLN department often feels unable to meet their needs. Children who present with these more complex needs are often placed within our communication and interaction provisions in other schools; where the demands are high, all our communication and interaction provisions are currently full.

The council proposes to reduce the SCLN department provision available at primary age, through reducing the places available at Caroline Haslett Primary School, and increasing the number of places available

for children with Communication and Interaction needs at Charles Warren Academy.

The early consultation on this proposal was carried out between 27 April 2016 and 22 June 2016, a period of eight weeks. Notification of the consultation was sent to a range of stakeholders associated with the school including parents and carers, mainstream schools with SEN departments, all special schools in Milton Keynes and other parties associated with SEN provision.

The consultation was available on line, alongside an electronic response form in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to submit views and discuss the proposal. Three drop in sessions were organised, one drop in session was hosted at Caroline Haslett Primary School on 19 May 2016 and was attended by 35 stakeholders.

Of the 76 responses to the early consultation, 59% of school staff and 39% of parents were in agreement with the option to discuss changes to specialist departments for children with EHCPs.

Objectives

Although SEN departments are not a statutory requirement, the council is required to ensure there is suitable education provision to meet the needs of all children. The objective of this proposal is to reduce the number of places for speech, communication and language needs in line with demand. The council is also proposing to increase the number of places available for children with Communication and Interaction needs at Charles Warren Academy. This proposal is subject to a separate consultation that will be undertaken by Charles Warren Academy.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

Milton Keynes Council believes the reduction of five places in the Speech Communication and Language Needs department at Caroline Haslett Primary School will have little or no effect on other local schools within the area.

Proposed stages for implementation

An early consultation ended in June 2016. The council has since held discussions with schools before proceeding with this statutory consultation. The council will consider all responses to the consultation before a decision is made in March 2017 whether to proceed with the proposal. If the decision is made to go ahead, the number of places available in the department at Caroline Haslett Primary School will be reduced from ten to five with effect from September 2017. The change will have no impact on children that already have a place in the department. These children will continue to attend the department for as long as the provision continues to meet their individual needs as identified in their Education Health Care Plans.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

There are no capital project costs associated with this proposal. Schools funding is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The proposed change does not directly impact on the council's General Fund. However, there are significant pressures on the high needs block of the DSG and this proposal supports appropriate prioritisation of high needs places. Every year the number of funded places in each department is agreed and these are funded from the DSG at £10,000 per annum. Empty places therefore, cost the DSG, so it is important that the distribution of funded places matches the needs of the children to ensure DSG funding is spent appropriately.

How to respond to the formal consultation

The closing date for comments is **2 February 2017**.

Please respond even if you responded to the early consultation

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (5 January 2017) any person may support, object or make comments by submitting an online form at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations or by emailing sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk or in writing to the council's address above