

## THE EXECUTIVE

9 SEPTEMBER 2008

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

<b>Title:</b> Proposed Establishment of an Additional Resource Provision at Eastbrook Comprehensive School	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>This report presents a proposal for Eastbrook School to establish an additional resource provision (ARP) for pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs primarily relating to speech, language and communication from the Autumn Term 2008.</p> <p>The objectives of the ARP are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To provide specialist support to pupils with speech and language needs.</li><li>2. To support these pupils to develop strategies to enable them to access a mainstream classroom.</li><li>3. To provide an on-site specialist provision linking speech, language and the curriculum.</li><li>4. To improve access to specialist staff.</li></ol> <p>The school is to become a centre of excellence in the field of speech, language and communication from which other establishments and provisions can benefit.</p> <p><b>Wards Affected: All Wards</b></p>	
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>The Executive is asked to agree</p> <p>The establishment of an additional resource provision at Eastbrook Comprehensive School for pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs primarily relating to speech, language and communication from the Autumn Term 2008 as detailed in the report.</p>	
<p><b>Reason(s)</b></p> <p>To assist the council in providing specialist support to secondary aged pupils with significant speech, language and communication needs.</p>	
<p><b>Implications:</b></p> <p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>The initial cost of providing the Additional Resource Provision unit (ARP) will be approximately £72,000. This will provide funding for three teachers together with training, resources and start up costs. It is planned to fund this ARP from countervailing savings made against the non-maintained fees budget held within the</p>	

retained element of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This proposal was approved in principle by the schools' forum on 3 April 2008. The base is planned to be open for September 2008.

**Legal:**

The proposals have been published in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the required procedural and implementation arrangements are being followed.

The School will manage the ARP under the supervision of the Headteacher, who has a reporting responsibility to Governors.

**Risk Management:**

We need to make provision as a statutory obligation for additional pupil places in the borough and these proposals mitigate the risk of failing to provide suitable numbers of places for pupils' learning. The number of children with specialist communication needs has increased, partly owing to the growing pupil population; hence the need for additional special needs places.

**Crime and Disorder:**

**No specific implications.**

**Options Appraisal:**

Hunters Hall Primary School has a specialist unit for speech, language and communication and is a natural feeder school for Eastbrook Comprehensive School. This therefore made it the logical choice for the ARP to be situated at the school. Also, the Headteacher of Eastbrook has specialist expertise in speech and language and is keen for the school to support specialist provision.

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**1 Current Position**

- 1.1 The Borough has one primary ARP for children with significant speech, language and communication needs based at Hunters Hall Primary School. There is currently no complementary secondary provision. This clearly limits opportunities for this group of young people to remain in a mainstream school and get good access to the support they require.
- 1.2 Data as at 30 June 2008 shows there are 910 Statemented Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils in the borough. Of these, 152 (17%) have speech, language and communication needs identified as part of their statement.

## **2 The Proposal**

- 2.1 Eastbrook School will be the first secondary school with an ARP specifically for Speech Language and Communication Needs. The aim of the proposed ARP is to establish a Centre of Excellence which can give support via outreach work to all Secondary Schools in the Borough.
- 2.2 The proposed ARP for Eastbrook School is being designed to meet the needs of young people with specific difficulties for which direct therapy needs to be a part of their programme. The ARP will be on the school site so no inconvenience is caused to the parent or the child.
- 2.3 These pupils will require specifically adapted access to the mainstream school curriculum. Therapy sessions can be accessed at a time convenient to the child's' curriculum. The Therapist and the Specialist Teacher will be working with the class subject teacher to provide speech and language provision which will be offered throughout the school curriculum.
- 2.4 It is planned for the ARP to initially provide for six Year 7 pupils from September 2008 increasing to up to six pupils per year group thereby providing a total of 42 places that will cater for the needs of young people with significant Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

## **3 Finance**

- 3.1 Funding has been agreed for the teaching staff at a ratio of one teacher and one LSA (Learning Support Assistant) per 6 pupils. A large classroom is being redecorated and new furnishings and carpets have been ordered.
- 3.2 The initial cost of providing the ARP from September 2008 is approximately £72,000. This is based on 6 pupils, at a base cost of £12,000 per unit. The level of the proposed unit of resource provided compares favourably with the cost of external provision which can be significantly more and in some cases twice as much. There are currently four pupils who need a place in this ARP in September 2008. Out of borough costs would be approximately £200,000 in total for these children.
- 3.3 This project would be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant with the funding delegated to the school for local management. While the initiative may avoid higher costs than alternative provision out of Borough, the funding for this will need to be earmarked from uncommitted resources in the DSG.

## **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation regarding the ARP at Eastbrook has taken place and includes the Speech and Language Group Meeting held on 17 September 2007, the School Forum Meeting held in April 2008 and the Steering Group Meeting held on 5 June 2008.

- 4.2 The Notice was published in The Barking & Dagenham Post on 16 July 2008. To date, there has been one objection to the proposal from a parent who believes the school has enough difficult issues to deal with without including this proposed ARP. The objector, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been responded to. The notice period ends on 26 August 2008 and is on display on the school notice-board and at the main library in Barking.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The proposed new ARP will allow the Local Authority to meet the needs of some young people who at present have to be placed out-borough and to respond to parental pressure for special schools and ARP places where demand currently exceeds local capacity.

## **6 Consultees**

- 6.1 The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Cllr Jeanne Alexander	-	Lead Member for Children's Services
Robin Hanton	-	Group Manager, Corporate Law & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Joe Chesterton	-	Head of Corporate Finance
David Tully	-	Group Manager, Children's Finance (Interim)
Jane Hargreaves	-	Head of Quality and School Improvement
Paul Kelly	-	Group Manager, Admissions and Attendance
Paul Ansell	-	Procurement Officer
Antoinette Antoine	-	Internal Communications Officer
Carol Buckley	-	Human Resource Officer

## **7 Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

1. Legislation which allows this – Education and Inspections Act 2006
2. The Bercow Report (A Review of Services for Children and Young People 0-19 with Speech, Language and Communication Needs) - DCSF 00632-2008
3. Consultation Letter dated 2 July 2008
4. Notice published 16 July 2008