

CABINET

2 June 2015

Title: Proposed Establishment of an Additional Resource Provision at Eastbury Primary School	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: Eastbury Ward	Key Decision: Yes
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Accountable Divisional Director: Jane Hargreaves, Divisional Director of Education	
Accountable Director: Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services	
Summary: This report presents a proposal for Eastbury Primary School to establish an Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) for pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs who have been diagnosed with severe hearing impairment. This proposal has been initiated for the following main reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There has been a significant increase in the number of pupils diagnosed with severe hearing impairment who require local specialist primary places. If we are unable to provide additional places this would result in a number of young children travelling to other Local Authorities specialist deaf provisions. Currently we intend to provide an additional 9 specialist ARP places to meet this demand.2. The expectation that there is provision for pupils with special educational needs to be taught in local mainstream settings where this is possible.3. The value for money provided by additionally resourced provisions, as opposed for instance to costly out-of-borough placements Further benefits include the provision of on-site specialists and improved access to specialist staff. The provision will commence as soon as practicable during the Summer Term 2015.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to agree the establishment of an Additionally Resourced Provision at Eastbury Primary School for children with statements of Special Educational Needs who have a diagnosis of severe hearing impairment.	

Reason(s)

This proposal will assist the Council in providing specialist provision to children of primary school age who have complex needs related to severe hearing impairment. The law requires the council to make provision for children's special educational needs appropriately. The council does not currently have the capacity to meet the increased numbers of children who are deaf. The alternative would be to purchase expensive out-of-borough places at high cost.

Hence, it will assist the Council in fulfilling its duty to provide every child in the Borough with a school place.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Barking and Dagenham established specialist provisions (ARPs) attached to mainstream schools over twenty years ago to enable children to be included in mainstream school but still have access to specialist teachers. Prior to this, children with this level of need were placed in special schools. There are currently 22 ARP's attached to schools, covering a range of needs and providing support for children/young people from 3 to 19 years of age.
- 1.2 A 'satellite' provision has been set up at Eastbury Primary School since 2013 to meet the needs of pupils with significant deafness. This provision is supported by Five Elms ARP which caters for Primary-Aged deaf pupils and hence is organised and operated from Five Elms Primary School. The school are now seeking to operate the ARP independently from Five Elms Primary School.
- 1.3 The expanding population in Barking & Dagenham and the growing numbers of children identified with learning difficulties and disabilities require an increase in specialist provision. Around 1% of the school population requires specialist provision and about one in a thousand children in school will have permanent deafness in both ears, either from birth, or acquired before the age of five. The Council has a programme to expand its ARP provision to meet the needs of this group of children.
- 1.4 Deafness is diagnosed as moderate, severe or profound. Even moderate deafness means that children cannot hear speech without hearing aids. Children with severe or profound deafness often find it difficult to develop speech, and even if they 'hear' what is being said, via hearing aids or other assistive devices, they may still not 'understand' what is being said, as their language skills will be severely delayed. Therefore, some children with severe or profound deafness require additional resources and support.
- 1.5 ARPs are additionally funded and those funds are targeted at those children with the greatest needs.
- 1.6 The growing school population in Barking & Dagenham has therefore placed considerable strains on schools. Provision for pupils with significant learning needs is currently made through one large special school, Trinity School, and also at Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs) attached to schools. As a result of

population growth, the Authority is struggling to place a number of children who have significant and challenging special educational learning needs.

- 1.7 Hence with the pupil population forecast to continue to rise and current data that shows the number of pupils for whom specialist deaf provision is also increasing disproportionately, and oversubscribed current provision, additional specialist provision is required for these pupils. Addressing the need for additional provision is a key Council priority.
- 1.8 Further, based on information available from the early years and health teams, it is clear that additional specialist mainstream provision will be required to enable children to access a mainstream place.

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 It is proposed to establish the specialist provision at Eastbury Primary School, independently of Five Elms Primary School and, as part of future developments, to establish further primary provisions to meet the needs of a range of children with complex SEN needs.
- 2.2 A draft SEN provision development plan has been completed and was circulated to the schools forum in the Summer Term 2011. An SEN strategy to meet the new DFE SEN agenda is being developed by the divisional director of Education. A number of new ARP and special school places have been created since 2011. In addition a new special school will open in September 2015 to meet the increased demand for local specialist provision.
- 2.3 The Borough currently has just one primary provision for deaf pupils who require additional resourced provision and this is based at Five Elms Primary School.
- 2.4 There is one 12 place secondary ARP at Eastbury Comprehensive School which supports pupils who are deaf and there are plans to increase secondary provision for deaf pupils in 2016/17.
- 2.5 The Eastbury Primary School ARP will support the development of the children's language and learning skills by means of specialist teaching, one to one or in small groups and in-class communicator support to enable pupils with severe hearing impairment to access the curriculum alongside their hearing peers, as appropriate. It would also provide a peer group of signing deaf children to prevent isolation and loss of self esteem.
- 2.6 The local authority will provide specialist training in order to develop the ARP as a centre of excellence.
- 2.7 This provision offers parents' flexibility of provision within one setting with resources targeted to meet their child's needs and access between mainstream and specialist provision as necessary without the need for a change of placement. In addition, it offers the school the opportunity for increasing staff development and a whole school inclusion ethos, culture and practices.

- 2.8 The aim is to ensure that sufficient specialist education places are available to be able to provide for all of our children and young people within local Barking and Dagenham settings.
- 2.9 The provision of the ARP addresses inclusion and the needs of children with special educational needs. It will allow the Local Authority to meet the needs of some young people who at present would have to be placed out-borough. It also responds to parental pressure for local special schools and ARP places where currently demand exceeds local capacity.
- 2.10 The present proposal will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations to this group of children with significant severe hearing impairment. It will be a cost-effective alternative to potential out-of-borough placements.
- 2.11 The school has agreed to the above and the Council will work in partnership to ensure the school has the support it needs to accommodate the additional pupils.
- 2.12 This is in line with the Council's Vision which is to encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents and thereby allow every child to be valued so they can succeed. The residents of Barking and Dagenham can look to the future with confidence, assured that their council will do what it can to provide the educational, academic and vocational opportunities they need.
- 2.13 The outcome would be for a borough with excellent schools, constantly improving and which are growing to meet the demands for pupil places. In addition, this meets with the Council's corporate priorities of ensuring children and young people are well educated and realise their potential.
- 2.14 Further, this proposal meets with the Education Strategy whereby the overarching responsibility for Education in the Borough is to improve the life chances and help drive, support and fulfil the ambitions of all the children, young people and adults who live and study here.
- 2.15 In particular the Education Strategy sets out the agreement for a programme for developing school places subject to the proviso that it may need revision in the light of changed demand for places and resources available.

3. Options Appraisal

- 3.1 **Do Nothing** – This would mean children with severe hearing impairment would need to go to out-of-borough placements at a significantly higher cost than this proposal. Also, this is not practical due to the legal and statutory obligation placed on the Council to provide sufficient school places and the pressures currently faced across the Borough.
- 3.2 **Create additional places at Trinity School** - This is not possible as the school is already at full capacity or would mean displacing current pupils at the schools.
- 3.3 **Create an additionally resourced provision at Eastbury Primary School** - This preferred option has the support of the School's Governing Body and forms part of the wider development of the School for which funding has been made available within the Capital Programme. Hence, this is seen to be the best option as the

school are keen to provide this SEN unit and therefore also has the backing of the staff and the headteacher.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation regarding the ARP at Eastbury Primary School has taken place and includes discussions with the Chair and Board of Governors of the School; support was received for the provision of the ARP. Further, a letter was sent to parents, carers, guardians and pupils of Eastbury Primary School on 9 March 2015. Unions were copied into this letter.
- 4.2 The Council has published a formal statutory notice for the provision of the ARP in The Barking & Dagenham Post on 22 April 2015. The notice period ended after four weeks from the date of publication on 19 May 2015. The notice has been on display at both the main public libraries in Barking and in Dagenham and on the School notice-board.
- 4.3 Ward Councillors have also been involved in the consultation process.
- 4.4 To date, no responses have been received to the letter and no responses have been received to the formal statutory notice.
- 4.5 Any responses received subsequent to the writing of this report will be reported at the meeting.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Patricia Harvey, Group Manager, Children's Finance

- 5.1 Resources will be supported from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the total allocation for 2015/16 is £229,038m. Eastbury ARP will receive place led funding of £10k per place for the allocated places and additional "top up" funding for actual pupils who attend this provision. 'Top ups' will be paid from the high needs block from within the DSG and funded on actual "take-up" at the ARP.
- 5.2 The ARP in house provision is comparably favourable in comparison to out-of-borough provision for this cohort of children within the borough.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient special educational need provision for residents. Legal services have consulted on the process for adding the provision and have given advice on the statutory process that must be followed in the organisation of this.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** - The Council has a statutory obligation to make provision for additional pupil places in the Borough and these proposals mitigate Corporate Risk 31 - the risk of failing to provide suitable numbers of places for pupils' learning.

- 7.2 **Staffing Issues** - The schools will need to increase the numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff to support the increase in pupil numbers. This will be funded through the school's DSG budget and the increased share which the school will receive.
- 7.3 **Customer Impact** - The increase in pupil places from these proposals will improve the available places for parents of children with severe hearing impairment. It will also ensure that pupils have better access to education provision in the primary sector and are more likely to be able to attend a school in their local area.
- 7.4 **Safeguarding Children** - Adoption of the recommendation would contribute strongly to the Council's objectives to improve the wellbeing of children in the borough, reduce inequalities and ensure children's facilities are provided in an integrated manner, having regard to guidance issued under the Children's Act 2006 in relation to the provision of services to children, parents, prospective parents and young people. The proposal will result in additional accessible school places and this will have a positive impact on all equality groups.
- 7.5 **Property / Asset Issues** - Classrooms within the school building have been allocated for this specialist provision.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices: None