

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

Proposed Change of Age Range for Southcott Lower School, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard from 4-9 to 2-9 years of age

Report of Cllr Steven Dixon, Executive Member for Education and Skills,
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This report relates to a decision that is non-key

Purpose of this report

1. Southcott Lower School has a new pre-school, which is managed and operated by the school, opened with the full backing and support of the Council's Early Years Team. The school temporarily lowered its age range from 4-9 years to 2-9 years to accommodate the younger children. The proposal is for Southcott Lower School to make this temporary change of age range permanent, and continue to make available a maximum of 20 pre-school places per session, whilst continuing to fulfil the statutory education obligations of both nursery and lower phases.
2. DfE guidance requires the Council to undertake a statutory process for a proposed change of age range for Southcott Lower, which is a community school.
3. If approved the proposal would be implemented from September 2018.
4. The school referred to within the report serves the Ward of Linslade.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to recommend to Executive:

1. **approve the statutory process for the proposal to change the age range of Southcott Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9 namely:**
 - i. **Approve publication of the statutory notice**
 - ii. **Commence formal consultation of at least four weeks**
 - iii. **Approve that determination for the proposed change be made by the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if responses to the formal consultation are favourable. If responses to the formal consultation are not favourable determination to be made by the Executive.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. Overview and Scrutiny are asked to recommend to Executive the approval for the statutory process for the proposal to change the age range of Southcott Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9 years of age.

Council Priorities

2. The report supports Central Bedfordshire's Five Year Plan 2015- 2020 and the specific priority of Improving Education and Skills.

Legal Implications

3. As set out in the Legal Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Financial and Risk Implications

4. As set out in the Financial Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Equalities Implications

5. As set out in the Equality Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Conclusion and next Steps

6. Subject to Overview and Scrutiny recommendations and Executive approval, the lower school will commence a formal consultation to change the age range of Southcott Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9 year of age.

7. The determination for the proposed change of age range will be made by the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if responses to the formal consultation are favourable. If responses to the formal consultation are not favourable determination is to be made by the Executive

Appendices

Appendix 1 is attached.

Background Papers

None

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