



**Proposal to merge Hitchmead Foundation Special School and Sunnyside Community Special School, to create a single area Special School for pupils with complex educational needs aged 3-19**

**Part 1 – Closure of Hitchmead Foundation Special School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Central Bedfordshire Council intends to discontinue Hitchmead Foundation Special School, Hitchmead Road, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 0NL from 31 August 2010. This proposal is linked to the proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Sunnyside Community Special School (expanding by enlargement), as detailed in part 2 below.

**Part 2 – Expansion of Sunnyside Community Special School and merger with Hitchmead Foundation Special School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Central Bedfordshire Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Sunnyside Community Special School, The Baulk, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 0PT from 01 September 2010 to create an area Special School for pupils with complex needs aged 3-19 across the existing Sunnyside and Hitchmead school sites.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Principal Assistant (School Places), Central Bedfordshire Council, Room 118, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF, telephone 0300 300 5575. It can also be viewed on the website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations/>

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Edwina Grant, Director of Children, Families & Learning, Central Bedfordshire Council, Room 118, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF.

Edwina Grant  
Director of Children, Families & Learning

15<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Explanatory Notes**

There will be no displaced pupils as a result of this proposal as it is intended that the merged school will continue to occupy both the existing Hitchmead and Sunnyside school buildings, therefore an increase in capacity is not required at Sunnyside.

It is proposed that merging Hitchmead with Sunnyside will provide improved continuity for all pupils, including provision up to age 19 for Hitchmead pupils if required (current age range is 7-16). Access to more space and resources, including specialist staff and access to satellite provision in mainstream schools have also been identified as additional benefits for all pupils.