

Cabinet

20 November 2013



Proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014

Key Decision: CAS/04/13

Report of Corporate Management Team

**Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services
Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek Cabinet approval to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

Background

- 2 Durham County Council keeps under review the number of pupils attending each school and it also updates information every year about how many pupils are likely to be attending schools in the future. This is an important aspect of the County Council's function in planning school places across the County to ensure there are enough schools of a suitable size to meet local requirements and to provide the best possible education for the pupils they serve.
- 3 We are particularly keen to look at areas where there are separate Infant and Junior Schools to see if they could be amalgamated into primary schools. The Government is introducing a new way of funding schools which has potential implications for the sustainability of small schools therefore we believe that primary schools will be more viable in the long term.
- 4 Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools entered into a Federation in September 2008 under the leadership of one Head Teacher and one Governing Body. This arrangement is working well but the Chair of Governors, Head Teacher, School Business Manager and Officers of the Local Authority agreed that the best way to ensure a stronger and more viable establishment and to preserve primary education in Delves Lane was to consult on a proposal to amalgamate Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools into one Primary School.

Decision Making Process

- 5 Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools are Community Schools. Any proposals to the upper and lower age limit of community schools are made by the Local Authority and decisions on school organisation proposals such as this are also taken by the Local Authority.
- 6 Consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School was undertaken by the Local Authority for six weeks between 3 June 2013 and 12 July 2013. After the County Council considered the views of those who responded to the consultation, a decision was taken on 18 July 2013 (report attached as Appendix 2) to proceed to the next stage in the statutory process which was to issue a Public Notice.
- 7 The Public Notice (attached as Appendix 3) was issued on 5 September 2013 for 6 weeks, when objections and comments on the proposal could be sent to the Local Authority.
- 8 When making a decision, Cabinet should be satisfied that the consultation undertaken met statutory requirements. Consultation and the publication of the Statutory Notice were carried out in accordance with the guidance provided by the Secretary of State on 'Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School'. Paragraphs 10-13 of this report provide details of the consultation and a summary of the responses received.
- 9 Consultation documents (attached in Appendix 2) were distributed widely across the local area on 3 June 2013. A series of meetings were also held so that Governors, Staff and Parents could share their views with the Local Authority. Details of the meetings are attached as Appendix 4.

Responses to the Consultation and Views of Interested Parties

- 10 Cabinet is requested to consider the views of all those who may be affected by the proposals.

Responses to Consultation

- 11 10 responded in writing using the response form, letter and email.
1 responded using the online response form (DCC website).
23 members of staff attended the joint staff meeting.
10 Governors attended the Federated Governing Body meeting.
2 parents attended the meetings specifically held for parents.

Summary of Responses

12 The following information provides a summary of the responses:-

- 7 parents of pupils attending Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools support the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School;
- 2 members of the Federated Governing Body support the proposal;
- 1 Elected Member supports the proposal;
- 1 Trade Union representative supports the proposal.

Themes that emerged from the responses were:-

- The proposal appears beneficial to the pupils, school and local community and should be welcomed;
- The proposal will protect staff and ensure the plans in place for pupil progress will be continued;
- There are benefits of having a single entity rather than separate Infant and Junior Schools.

Analysis of Consultation Responses and Current Position

13 All of those stakeholders who responded to the consultation support the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School. In particular they see the proposal as being beneficial to the pupils, school and local community and will ensure that pupil progress is tracked and monitored throughout the full primary age range in a single school rather than two separate schools.

Responses to the Public Notice

14 No objections or comments were received by the end of the 6 weeks statutory notice period.

Further Considerations

15 Cabinet should also consider the effects this proposal could have on standards and school improvement. In the most recent school inspections, Ofsted judged Delves Lane Junior School as 'good' and Delves Lane Infant School as 'requires improvement'. A subsequent monitoring visit has been carried out and found that the school is making progress to address the areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted report. In light of the current 'good' standard of education provided at the Junior School and the improvements being made by the Infant School, officers believe that the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School will have a positive effect on standards and school improvement.

SEN

- 16 Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will continue to have their needs met at the proposed Primary School. This proposal will not impact on the needs of individual pupils.

Impact on School Places

- 17 The proposed Primary School will be on the sites of the current Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools with a capacity for 318 pupils. A school of this size would be large enough to accommodate the current and future pupils we expect will attend the proposed Primary School.

Capital

- 18 Capital funding (in the region of £100,000) will be required to improve the condition of the junior building and to upgrade ICT facilities. The cost of this work will be met from the Department for Education (DfE) grant funding which has been allocated to the Local Authority.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 19 Officers believe that proceeding with the proposal will preserve and enhance education provision in Delves Lane. Amalgamating Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools into one Primary School will provide a more viable educational establishment and will ensure that parents will be able to access a Primary School place for their child(ren) at their local school.
- 20 Cabinet is therefore recommended to agree:
- (i) that the age range of Delves Lane Junior School should be extended from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School; and
 - (ii) that the use of Delves Lane Infant School should be discontinued from 31 March 2014.

Background Papers

Attached as Appendix 2-4.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

In the region of £100,000 Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to improve the condition of the junior building.

Staffing

It is expected that staff will transfer to posts in the Primary School.

Risk

If the proposal was not implemented there is a risk that the existing schools could become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics".

An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out as required to assess the impact of any proposals relating to exclusions on specific groups, as appropriate.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't and;
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation

Works to improve the condition of the junior building will be carried out.

Crime and Disorder

N/A.

Human Rights

Human Rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

Details of the consultation undertaken are included in the body of the report.

Procurement

Capital works to the junior building will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A.

Legal Implications

The statutory process for changing the age range of Delves Lane Junior School and discontinuing the use of Delves Lane Infant School has been carried out in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

DELEGATED DECISION

18 July 2013



Outcomes of Consultation on a Proposal to Change the Age Range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to Discontinue the Use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

Report of Children and Adults Services

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details on the outcomes of consultation which was undertaken between 3 June 2013 and 12 July 2013, proposing a change to the age range of Delves Lane Junior School with effect from 1 April 2014 and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School with effect from 31 March 2014, and to seek approval to proceed to the next stage in the statutory process which is to issue a public notice.

Background

2. In a report dated 22 May 2013 (attached as Appendix 2) the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved consultation could begin on a proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.
3. Consultation documents (attached as appendix 3) were distributed widely (distribution list attached as Appendix 4) and meetings were held between 10-12 June with the Federated Governing Body, staff of both schools and parents.

Issues Raised at Consultation Meetings

4. At the meetings held between 10-12 June, Officers explained the reason for the proposal and invited those present to express views and ask questions. The issues raised at the meetings are summarised as follows:
 - Would jobs be safe as a result of the proposal? It was explained that staff would transfer to posts in the primary school, and because of changes to funding arrangements which will impact on the sustainability of small schools, it is likely that jobs will be more secure if the proposal goes ahead. It is unlikely that there will be significant changes to the existing staffing structure if a primary school was to be established.
 - Concern from parents that the junior building is not large enough to become the Primary School. It was explained that there was no intention to close the Infant School building. The proposed primary school would run across the current sites of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools. In effect there will be very little change to the day to day running of the school as far as parents and children

are concerned, mainly the school being called a primary school rather than separate Infant and Junior Schools.

Responses to Consultation

5. Stakeholders were invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, email or completing the response form via the County Council's website.
6. 10 responded in writing using the response form, letter and email.
1 responded using the on-line response form (DCC website).
23 members of staff attended the joint staff meeting.
10 Governors attended the Federated Governing Body meeting.
2 parents attended the parents' meetings.

Summary of Responses

7. The following information provides a summary of the responses:-
 - 7 parents of pupils attending Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools support the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane School;
 - 2 members of the Federated Governing Body support the proposal;
 - 1 Elected Member supports the proposal;
 - 1 Trade Union representative supports the proposal;

Themes that emerged from the responses were:-

- The proposal appears beneficial to the pupils, school and local community and should be welcomed;
- The proposal will protect staff and ensure the plans in place for pupil progress will be continued.
- There are benefits of having a single entity rather than separate Infant and Junior Schools.

Analysis of Consultation Responses and Current Position

8. All of those stakeholders who responded to the consultation support the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School. In particular they see the proposal as being beneficial to the pupils, school and local community and will ensure that the plans in place for pupil progress will be continued.

Recommendation

9. After full consideration of all responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services is recommended to give approval for officers to issue a statutory notice proposing to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

Contact: Graeme Plews Tel: 03000 265777

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

In the region of £100,000 of capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to improve the condition of the junior building.

Staffing

It is expected that all staff will transfer to posts in the Primary School.

Risk

If the proposal was not implemented there is a risk that the existing schools could become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

Equality and Diversity

As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics". An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment will be carried out as appropriate.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation

Works to improve the condition of the junior building will be carried out.

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Human Rights

Human Rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults Services has been consulted about moving to the next stage in the process and is happy for the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to use delegated powers to approve that a public notice can be issued.

Procurement

Capital works to the junior building will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for changing the age range of Delves Lane Junior School and discontinuing the use of Delves Lane Infant School will be carried out in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD

Please complete all sections

DECISION MAKER

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Under the County Council's constitution, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to:

- 1.4 The Council's role as Local Education Authority and it's role in commissioning 14-19 education as determined by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and any subsequent legislation relating to education and training for young people.*

SUBJECT

To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to issue a statutory notice proposing to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a primary school from 1 April 2014 and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

DECISION

If Key Decision insert No.

CAS/04/13. Proposed date for Cabinet decision - November 2013.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

Delves Lane

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS and DATE

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder was consulted on 16 July 2013. Local Members were consulted on 16 July 2013.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

N/A

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information. **If it's a Key Decision insert the No.**
5. **List the electoral division/s that will be affected by the decision**
6. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
7. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".

A NOTE OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE IN RELATION TO THE ABOVE CONFLICT

N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached

CONTACT PERSON

Graeme Plews

CONTACT NO.

Tel: 03000 265777

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

Graeme Plews

DATE

19/7/13

This form must be sent electronically to delegations@durham.gov.uk within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

8. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".
9. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
10. **List papers used which the decision was based – see limitations on use. If used must be forwarded along with the delegated decision form, and report.**
11. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
12. Enter the date the decision was made.

DELEGATED DECISION

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

22 May 2013



Proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014

Report of CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director

Children and Adults Service

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on a proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

Background

- 2 The Government has introduced a new way of allocating funding to schools which is predominantly based on the number of pupils in the school. This is likely have an impact on schools with low pupil numbers.
- 3 In light of this, the County Council believes that some small schools could in the long term become unviable.
- 4 To address this in localities across the County where there are separate Infant and Junior Schools, the County Council wishes to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of bringing the two schools together into a single Primary school.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 5 Governors of an increasing number of schools in the County are realising the educational and financial benefits of having shared leadership arrangements across groups of schools to enhance provision for children and families within their local area.
- 6 An example of such is Delves Lane. Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools entered into a Federation in September 2008 under the leadership of one Head Teacher and one Governing Body. This arrangement is working well.
- 7 The two schools are adjacent to each other, separated by a playground. It will be possible therefore for the primary school to run across both sites.

There will be some refurbishment work necessary to the infant building to resolve some structural issues.

- 8 The current combined capacity of the two schools is for 320 pupils. This capacity will be large enough to accommodate the current and future numbers that we expect will attend the school as illustrated below:-

| School | Projected Roll at Sept 2014 | Projected Roll at Sept 2015 | Projected Roll at Sept 2016 | Projected Roll at Sept 2017 | Projected Roll at Sept 2018 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Delves Lane Infant | 144 | 140 | 143 | 144 | 146 |
| Delves Lane Junior | 139 | 155 | 151 | 164 | 166 |
| TOTAL | 283 | 295 | 294 | 308 | 312 |

- 9 The County Council believes there are many benefits for parents and children of having all through Primary schools. Examples of some of these include:
- the parental considerations for families who have more than one child. Having a single school in the community removes the logistical concerns for parents having to take their young children to two different schools;
 - removing the need for parents to apply for a place at a Junior School;
 - pupils' progress can be monitored across Key Stage 1 education and Key Stage 2 education in the same school;
 - school inspectors will be able to make judgements more accurately about the education children receive when they can see 'the whole picture' within a single Primary School rather than two separate schools;
 - fewer points of transition for children which can interrupt their education and unsettle them.
- 10 Officers from the County Council have met with the Head Teacher, Chair of the Governing Body and School Business Manager. They have agreed that it is now appropriate to begin consultation more widely on the proposal to have a single Primary School in Delves Lane.

Consultation Timescales

- 11 It is intended that a six week period of consultation on this proposal will commence on Monday 3 June 2013. Consultation documents will be widely distributed to key stakeholders, including to Governors, staff, parents, Local Members, Community Groups, Parish Councils, neighbouring schools, Children's Centres, AAP groups etc. Meetings will also be held for officers to provide information and answer queries as follows:
- Monday 10 June 2013 - The Federated Governing Body of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools
 - Tuesday 11 June 2013 - Staff of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools
 - Wednesday 12 June 2013 - Drop-in sessions for parents at the beginning and end of the school day.
- 12 The six week consultation period will end on Friday 12 July 2013 and all responses to the consultation will be carefully considered. If it is decided to

proceed with the proposal at that stage, a statutory notice will be published in early Autumn for six weeks. Cabinet would then be asked to make a decision on the proposal.

Decision

- 14 The Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services agrees that consultation can begin on the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane School from 31 March 2014.

Background Papers

Consultation papers.

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265731

Delegated Decision-Change Age Range of Delves Lane Junior

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding will be required to improve the condition of the Infant School. Costs will be met from the Capital Maintenance Grant provided from the Government.

Staffing

Staff from both the Infant and Junior Schools will be ring fenced for posts in the Primary School.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the schools become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

Equality and Diversity

As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics". An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment will be carried out as appropriate.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation

Work will be undertaken to refurbish the Infant School to enhance accommodation.

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Human Rights

Human rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

Local members have been consulted and they support the process and the process outlined for consultation.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

N/A

REF No.

1.

DECISION RECORD

Please complete all sections

DECISION MAKER

Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION

2.
Under the County Council's constitution, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to:

- 1.4 *The Council's role as Local Education Authority and its role in commissioning 14-19 education as determined by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and any subsequent legislation and training for young people.*

SUBJECT

3.
Officers seeking approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

DECISION

4.
Approval given for officers to begin consultation.

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

5.
Consulted Local Members between 8 May - 22 May 2013. The proposal and decision making process will be discussed with the Portfolio Holder between 22 May - 30 May 2013.

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

6.
Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test

BACKGROUND PAPERS

| |
|---------------------------|
| 7. Consultation Papers |
|---------------------------|

CONTACT PERSON

| |
|------------------|
| Sheila Palmerley |
|------------------|

CONTACT No.

| |
|--------------|
| 03000 265731 |
|--------------|

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 8.  | 9. 19/7/13 |
|---|---------------|

This form must be sent electronically to _____ democratic services within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services and notified to you.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information.
5. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
6. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
7. List papers used which the decision was based – must be retained and readily accessible.
8. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
9. Enter the date the decision was made.

Contact: Graeme Plews
Direct Tel: 03000 265777
Fax: 0191 386 0487
email: graeme.plews@durham.gov.uk
Our ref: CAS/SPASO/GP/SA

3 June 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014

You will be aware that a Federation of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools has operated since September 2008 with one Head Teacher and one Governing Body. This arrangement has worked extremely well. The schools are relatively small separate schools compared to other schools across the county which could mean it is possible that they may become unviable in the long term when new, national school funding arrangements (highlighted in Section 1 overleaf) come into effect.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your views on merging the two schools together into a single primary school. This would be done by changing the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 and discontinuing the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014. In effect there would be very little change, mainly the school being called a primary school rather than separate Infant and Junior Schools.

The County Council has agreed with the school to carry out consultation with you to see whether or not you think the proposal to create one primary school for Delves Lane is a good idea.

Cont'd...

Children and Adults Services

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UJ
Main Telephone 03000 260 000

www.durham.gov.uk



We think that you may have some questions to ask about this proposal. This letter attempts to answer some of those questions and explains how you can let the County Council know what you think about the proposed changes:

1. Why is the County Council proposing to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School so that it becomes a Primary School?

The Government is to introduce a new way of allocating funding to schools which will predominantly be based on the number of pupils in the school. Once this new way of funding schools is in place it is likely to have an impact on schools with low pupil numbers. In light of this, the County Council believes that some small schools could in the long term become unviable. To address this in areas across the county where there are separate Infant and Junior Schools, the County Council wishes to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of bringing the two schools together into a single primary school. The County Council is being proactive in planning for the future rather than only looking at the current funding arrangements. We believe that bringing the two schools together as one primary school now will lead to a stronger and more viable establishment which will secure the future of primary education provision for Delves Lane.

2. What are the benefits of Primary Education?

Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that primary schools (instead of separate Infant and Junior schools) have many benefits for children, parents and staff. Some of these include:

- Continuity and progress of learning between age 4 and 11;
- More flexible and efficient use of both human and financial resources across Key Stage One and Key Stage Two education;
- Access to a curriculum planned and assessed across the full primary range;
- A single application of assessment criteria and pupil tracking;
- Parents having closer contact with the school over a longer period of time to help build positive relationships for the benefit of their children;
- Parents apply for a place for their child(ren) for Reception only, the process is not repeated at Year 3 as it is for separate infant and junior schools;
- A primary school allows staff the opportunity to gain broader professional development from working with a wider range of ages.
- School inspectors will be able to make judgements more accurately about the education children receive when they can see 'the whole picture' rather than two separate schools.

3. Where will the proposed Primary School be?

The proposed primary school would be in the premises of the existing Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools.

4. Will there be any staff changes?

It is expected that all staff will transfer to posts in the primary school.

5. How do we respond to this consultation?

Drop-in sessions for **parents** will be held at Delves Lane Junior School on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at 9.00 am and 2.45 pm. Officers from the County Council will be available at these sessions to answer any questions you have about this proposal and to listen to your views.

You can also respond in one of the following ways by 12 July 2013:-

- (i) Send in the attached response form or write to: Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR.
- (ii) Email your views to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk or complete the response form online via the Education and Learning section of the County Council's website: www.durham.gov.uk

6. What happens after 12 July 2013 when the consultation period ends?

All the responses to the consultation will be considered carefully. If the County Council decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice would then be published for 6 weeks when objections could be made. We would aim to make a decision on whether or not to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School to create a primary school and discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School in Autumn 2013.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Plews
School Organisation Manager

RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF DELVES LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM 7-11 TO 3-11 TO CREATE A PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1 APRIL 2014 AND TO DISCONTINUE THE USE OF DELVES LANE INFANT SCHOOL FROM 31 MARCH 2014

1. Please tick **one** box from the list below to let us know if you are responding to this consultation **mainly** as a:

Parent/Carer of a pupil(s) at

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |

Please state which school:

OR a Pupil at

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |

Please state which school:

OR a

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Staff |
|-----------------------------------|--|

Please state which school:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish/Town Council Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbouring Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> MP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state): | <input type="text"/> |

2. Looking at the information in this document do you support the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create a primary school and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School?

Yes No

3. Do you have any comments on this proposal including any impact the changes would have on you?

Please return this form by 12 July 2013 to:

Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services,
Business Reply Service Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall,
Durham DH1 5BR

(The information that you send may need to be passed to colleagues or shared with partners. It may also be published in a summary of responses received to this consultation but results will not contain your name or anything that could identify you. If you require an acknowledgement to your response, please provide details below.)

Name:

Address:

Signed: **Date:**

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Children and Adults Services

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form for Consultation

We want to make it easy for everyone to tell us what they think. Our aim is to be fair and your answers to the following questions will help us find out the views from a wide range of people and understand any differences in the answers of particular groups. Your answers will be confidential and used for this consultation only.

You only need to answer if you feel happy to do so.

1. Are you
 Male Female

2. How old are you?
 Under 16 16-24 25-44 45-64 65+

3. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?
(This may include any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity which has a substantial effect on your day to day life. Long-standing means it has lasted, or is likely to last, for over a year.)
 Yes No

4. What is your religion or belief?
 Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim Sikh Buddhist
 Other (please specify)

5. How do you describe your sexuality?
 Heterosexual/Straight Gay Woman/Lesbian Gay Man Bisexual
 Other (please specify)

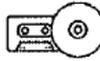
6. To which of these groups do you belong?
 White Asian or Asian British Black or Black British
 Travelling Community Mixed Arab or Middle Eastern
 Other (please specify)

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese) اردو (Urdu)
polski (Polish) ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) Español (Spanish)
বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)
Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)



Braille



Audio



Large
Print

**REORGANISATION OF DELVES LANE INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO ONE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

June 2013

| School | Staff | Pupils | Total | How Delivered | Date Del/Posted * |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------------|-------------------|
| Delves Lane Infant | 40 | 140 | 330 | AW | 03/06/13 |
| Delves Lane Junior | | 150 | | AW | |
| Consett Academy | 15 | 15 | 15 | AW | 03/06/13 |
| St. Bede's Comp, Lanchester | 15 | 15 | 15 | AW | |
| Shotley Bridge Junior | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | 03/06/13 |
| Shotley Bridge Infant | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Leadgate Junior | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Leadgate Infant | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Castleside Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| The Grove Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Moorside Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Consett Junior | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Consett Infant | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Benfieldside Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Ebchester CE Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Bishop Ian Ramsey Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| St. Mary's RCVA Primary, Blackhill | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| St. Pius X RCVA Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| St. Patrick's RCVA Primary, Consett | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Our Lady & St. Joseph's RCVA Primary | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Delves Lane Nursery | 10 | 30 | 40 | AW | 03/06/13 |
| Leadgate Infant Nursery | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| The Grove Nursery | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Moorside Nursery | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| Consett Infant Nursery | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |
| St. Patrick's Nursery | 10 | 10 | 10 | AW | |

Governors of the Delves Lane Federation received copies of the document at their governors meeting as part of the agenda

TOTAL documents = 680

DCC website

| Elected DCC Members | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Jane Brown, Bob Glass, Ossie Johnson, Barbara Armstrong, Simon Henig, Owen Temple, Alex Watson, Derek Hicks, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling | Emailed 03/06/13 |

| MPs | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Pat Glass MP pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk | Emailed 03/06/13 |

| INTERNAL – Email 03/06/13 |
|---|
| CAS SLT, Hugh Stephenson, Julian Wilson, Barry Piercy, Liam Cairns, Gerard Darby, John Wilkinson, Joanne Barker, School Places & Admissions Team, Julie Arnett, Sue Smith, Nora Waugh, Joanne Walt, Paul Rockett, Lynn Elliott, Julie Rimmer, Jane-le-Sage, Margaret Hanratty, Shirley Fall, Philip Hodgson, Linda Bailey, Angela Pearson, Irene Cochrane, David Shirer |

| RC and CE Diocese and DfE | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| RC Diocese Director education@diocesehn.org.uk | Emailed 03/06/13 |
| CE Diocese Director Jeremy.fitt@drmnewcanglican.org | |
| DfE school.organisationproposals@education.gsi.gov.uk | |

| Trade Unions | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| c.d.thompson@hotmail.co.uk john.kesterton@ascl.org.uk jgreig@atl.org.uk terry.scarr@gmb.org.uk mwilliams.nasuwat@live.co.uk northern@nut.org.uk trevorblacklock@hotmail.com h.pink@unison.co.uk | Emailed 03/06/13 |

| Directors of CYPS of Neighbouring LAs | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Margaret Whellans GATESHEAD Margaretwhellans@gateshead.gov.uk | Emailed 03/06/13 |
| John Collings NEWCASTLE john.collings@newcastle.gov.uk | |
| Gill Alexander NORTH TYNESIDE gill.alexander@northtyneside.gov.uk | |
| Helen Watson SOUTH TYNESIDE helen.watson@southtyneside.gov.uk | |

| Parish Councils (CW passing on to Parish Councils/AAPs/Community Groups in Consett area) | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Corinne Walton corinne.walton@durham.gov.uk | E-Mail 03/06/13 |

| Children's Centres (5 each) | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Delves Lane | AW 03/06/13 |



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to close Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Delves Lane Junior School (Community) Delves Lane, Consett, DH8 7ES and, Delves Lane Infant School (Community), Delves Lane, Consett, DH8 7ES.

It is proposed to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a primary school and to close Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014.

The current capacity of Delves Lane Junior School is 168 and the current capacity of Delves Lane Infant School is 150. The proposed capacity of the Primary School will be 318. The current admission number for both schools is 45. The proposed admission number for the Primary School will be 50. The admission authority will be the Local Authority. Home to School Transport will be in accordance with the Authority's Home to School Transport policy and the Local Authority will not need to provide additional free Home to School Transport to the proposed primary school.

A Federation of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools has operated since September 2008 with one Head Teacher and one Governing Body. The two schools coming together as one Primary School is a logical progression for the Federation. Some capital expenditure will be used to improve the condition of the Infant building and to upgrade IT facilities.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Mr Graeme Plews, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UJ.

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 Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No. DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR. Website: www.durham.gov.uk Email: schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk.

Signed:

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

Publication Date: 5 September 2013

Notes of the Federated Governing Body Meeting of Delves Lane Infant and Delves Lane Junior Schools held at Delves Lane Junior School on Monday 10 June 2013 at 4.00 pm

Present: Graeme Plews, Joanne Barker, 10 Governors

This proposal was discussed as the opening item on the agenda of the termly meeting of the Federated Governing Body. Graeme Plews (GP) was introduced by the Chair of Governors to speak about the proposal.

GP began by explaining the key functions of the School Places and Admissions Team and how that team strategically and proactively plan school places across County Durham.

GP explained that the Local Authority was being proactive in looking to preserve and enhance education provision in Delves Lane because changes to the way schools will be funded have potential implications for the sustainability of small schools, therefore we believe that primary schools will be more viable in the long term. We believe that bringing the two schools together now as one Primary School will lead to a stronger and more viable educational establishment.

The consultation period on the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014 started on 3 June 2013 and will end on 12 July 2013. This meeting was an opportunity for Governors to express views and ask questions.

Q Has the decision already been made?

A No, the decision has not already been made. This is the initial consultation on the proposal which commenced on 3 June 2013 and ends on 12 July 2013. All of the responses received will be made available for Cabinet to enable them to decide whether to issue a Statutory Notice. It is important therefore that as many people as possible respond to the consultation so that Cabinet have as much information as possible to help them decide the best way forward. GP encouraged Governors to respond both as a Governing Body and also as individual Governors.

There were no further questions and GP left the meeting at 4.20 pm so that the rest of the Governing Body agenda could be discussed.

**Notes of the Joint Staff Meeting of
Delves Lane Infant and Delves Lane Junior Schools held at
Delves Lane Junior School
on Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 3.45 pm**

Present: Graeme Plews, 23 Members of Staff

Graeme Plews (GP) opened the meeting by explaining the key functions of The School Places and Admissions Team and how that team strategically and proactively plan school places across County Durham.

GP explained that the Local Authority was being proactive in looking to preserve and enhance education provision in Delves Lane because changes to the way schools will be funded have potential implications for the sustainability of small schools, therefore we believe that primary schools will be more viable in the long term. We believe that bringing the two schools together as one Primary School will lead to a stronger and more viable educational establishment.

The consultation period on the proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014 started on 3 June 2013 and will end on 12 July 2013. The Governing Body had met the previous day to discuss the proposal and appeared to fully support it. This meeting was an opportunity for Governors to express views and ask questions.

Q Will jobs be safer as a result of this proposal?

A If the proposal is approved a structure will be put in place that will enable the Primary School to effectively deliver the primary curriculum. It is expected that all staff will transfer to posts in the Primary School, and because of the changes to funding arrangements which will impact on the sustainability of small schools, it is likely that jobs will be more secure if the proposal goes ahead.

Q Will we get a new school building?

A The County Council does not have the resources to provide a new school building, but a commitment has been given to allocate resources to address condition issues and IT improvements.

There were no further questions and the meeting ended at 4.00 pm.

**Notes of the Parents Drop In Sessions held at
Delves Lane Junior School and Delves Lane Infant School
on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at**

**9.00 - 10.00 am (Junior School)
2.45 - 3.45 pm (Infant School)**

Attendees: 2 Parents (2.45 - 3.45 pm)

Graeme Plews (School Organisation Manager)

Graeme Plews (GP) explained that the Local Authority was being proactive in looking to preserve and enhance education provision in Delves Lane because changes to the way in which schools will be funded have implications for the sustainability of small schools, therefore we believe that primary schools will be more viable in the long term. We believe that bringing the two schools together now as one Primary School will lead to a stronger and more viable educational establishment.

- The two parents were concerned that the junior building is not large enough to become the Primary School which would cause problems, particularly for the younger children. GP explained that the Primary School would run across the current sites of Delves Lane Infant and Junior Schools. There was no intention to close the Infant School building. In effect there will be very little change as far as parents and children are concerned, mainly the school being called a primary school rather than separate Infant and Junior Schools.

Having been given this explanation, the parents now support the proposal and will respond to this effect.