

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



Thursday, 13 November 2008

at 9.00 am

in Committee Room A, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Councillor Hill, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

None

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Provision for Pupils with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) at Springwell School - *Director of Children's Services*
- 2.2 Proposed Federation of Hart Primary School and Elwick Hall Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School - *Director of Children's Services*

3. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

None

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

5. KEY DECISION

- 5.1 Service Specifications For Children's Centres – Outreach Package (para 3) - *Director of Children's Services*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
13 November 2008



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH
BEHAVIOURAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL
DIFFICULTIES (BESD) AT SPRINGWELL
SCHOOL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to outline the provision for primary age pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) and to seek approval to consult on the designation of Springwell School to admit pupils with BESD.

2. BACKGROUND

Extensive consultation about future educational provision for Hartlepool, the Schools Transformation Programme, has been taking place over the last 18 months. The needs of pupils with special educational needs have been given a high priority within these programmes.

As part of the consultation process for Building Schools for the Future, consideration was given to the redesignation of Catcote School to admit pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. This was subsequently agreed and the formal process for this redesignation was completed in April 2008.

Springwell School has changed significantly in recent years. The number of full time pupils on roll has fallen but the school plays a very important role in supporting children in mainstream schools by means of inreach and outreach provision and it has supported some pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD).

A Service Level Agreement has been put in place between the Local Authority and Springwell. Additional accommodation has been provided to allow Springwell to admit 6 pupils with BESD. This arrangement has been working well and it is recommended that consultation is undertaken on the formal designation of the school to admit pupils with BESD.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is responsible for matters relating to children.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder meeting 13 November 2008.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder accept the proposal to consult on the designation of Springwell School to admit up to eight pupils with statements of special educational need for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and authorise the Director of Children's Service to carry out the appropriate consultation, following which a further report will be brought to the Portfolio Holder on the outcome of the consultation.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH
BEHAVIOURAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL
DIFFICULTIES (BESD) AT SPRINGWELL
SCHOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to outline the provision for primary age pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) and to seek approval to consult on the designation of Springwell School to admit pupils with BESD.

2. BACKGROUND

Extensive consultation about future educational provision for Hartlepool, the Schools Transformation Programme, has been taking place over the last 18 months. The government has allocated significant funding to improve school buildings within the Building Schools for the Future Programme (for secondary schools) and the Primary Capital Programme (for primary schools). The needs of pupils with special educational needs have been given a high priority within these programmes. During consultation on Building Schools for the Future it was agreed that the local authority should explore the possibility of the co-location of Hartlepool's two special schools, Springwell and Catcote. Funding has been allocated to rebuild Catcote School on a new site and the local authority is actively seeking investment to ensure that Springwell School, which as a primary school is not eligible for Building Schools for the Future funding, can be rebuilt on the same site.

As part of the consultation process for Building Schools for the Future, consideration was given to the redesignation of Catcote School to admit pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. This was subsequently agreed and the formal process for this redesignation was completed in April 2008.

3. **BEHAVIOURAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES (BESD)**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) have, for several years, used four broad categories to classify Special Educational Needs:

- Cognition and learning
- Communication and interaction
- Behavioural, emotional and social
- Physical, medical and sensory

Hartlepool has a strong agenda for inclusion and the vast majority of pupils with special educational needs are placed within mainstream schools, with appropriate additional resourcing as required. In addition, there are additionally resourced provisions in specific mainstream schools for particular needs. Within the primary sector, Springwell School is the major source of special provision for children with significant cognition and learning and communication and interaction difficulties. It supports children with a wide range of complex and profound needs.

Children with statements of special educational needs relating to BESD are among the most vulnerable and challenging to support. Their needs are complex and long-term and should not be confused with the short-term adjustment difficulties which some children and young people may experience in response to particular adverse events such as bereavement or the display of testing out behaviours which are often a typical feature of behaviour during adolescence.

When Hartlepool was first established as a unitary authority, the borough had no approved, specialist provision for BESD because all the relevant schools maintained by the former Cleveland County Council were in other boroughs. This led to an arrangement whereby Hartlepool relied on placing some pupils with BESD in schools maintained by other local authorities. Over the years other authorities adjusted their provision, making it increasingly difficult for Hartlepool to secure an appropriate school place for a child with BESD. However, as part of Hartlepool's policy on inclusion, mainstream schools have become more inclusive over the years and whilst pupils with BESD can be some of the most challenging to include, many primary age pupils with these difficulties have been able to stay in local mainstream schools with appropriate levels of additional support.

A small number of pupils, however, have needs which make it very difficult to make an appropriate provision for them in a mainstream setting. In the absence of any other options, the local authority had to rely on placing these pupils in the former Access to Learning Service (A2L). This required staff to meet the needs of this group alongside

the normal function of the service as a Pupil Referral Unit, which is there to meet the needs of excluded pupils and try to ensure their swift reintegration into schools. It was especially difficult to meet the needs of the very small number of primary aged pupils who accessed this placement in the absence of anything more appropriate.

4. CURRENT PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH BESD

Secondary age pupils with BESD who were formerly reliant on provision from Access to Learning have now been accommodated at Catcote School. This was done after careful consideration of all the issues involved and as an initial stage using the expertise of Catcote staff to teach these pupils under a Service Level Agreement, initially maintaining them on the site of A2L. Formal processes for redesignation of Catcote School to admit pupils with BESD were completed and dedicated accommodation provided for these pupils on the Catcote site from September 2008.

Springwell School has changed significantly in recent years. The number of permanent, full-time pupils on its roll has fallen as mainstream schools have developed more inclusive provision. However, Springwell now plays a very important role in supporting children in mainstream schools by means of inreach and outreach support. As well as providing full-time provision and inreach and outreach for pupils with a range of learning, communication and interaction difficulties, it has supported some pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The support Springwell has been able to offer to a number of pupils of primary age with BESD, whose needs could not be met in mainstream with additional support, has been an important factor underpinning the model agreed by mainstream primary schools to support these pupils wherever possible in their local schools.

After careful consideration of all the issues and, taking into account views expressed by Springwell staff and parents during Building Schools for the Future Stage 4 Consultation (which looked at a range of special educational needs and the impact of Building Schools for the Future on provision), the local authority approached Springwell School to explore the feasibility of extending their expertise to take on responsibility for providing for pupils with BESD.

As an initial step, from April 2008, a Service Level Agreement was drawn up between the local authority and Springwell. During the summer term 2008, a very small number of primary age pupils with BESD, who were being educated on the site of A2L alongside older pupils with BESD and permanently excluded pupils, came under the line management of the headteacher of Springwell. Additional accommodation was then provided at Springwell School so that the school had the capacity to admit six pupils with BESD and in

September 2008, primary age pupils with BESD at A2L ceased to be educated on the site at A2L and came to Springwell with additional staffing.

This new arrangement has been working well and the pupils with BESD have been integrated fully into the life of the school. Springwell School has also appointed a suitably experienced member of staff to provide outreach support to pupils with BESD in mainstream primary schools. This further strengthens provision across the town and will help to ensure that only the very small number of children who need full-time specialist provision will be referred for places at Springwell.

5. FUTURE PROVISION

The local authority believes that the Service Level Agreement for Springwell School to make provision for pupils with statements of special educational need for BESD has made a successful start. This and the previous success that the school has had over a number of years in supporting pupils with BESD by means of its inreach and outreach provision demonstrates the potential for Springwell to be formally redesignated to provide for these pupils in Hartlepool. This would ensure that there is a comprehensive range of provision for this group of pupils, complementing that which has already been made at Catcote School. Continuity and flexibility for these pupils could be further enhanced if Springwell moves to a co-located site with Catcote, at some point in the future, as is the Council's aspiration.

6. FUNDING

One-off funding has already been provided to ensure that Springwell School has the necessary accommodation on its current site to accommodate pupils with BESD. Springwell School receives funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant according to the number of its pupils on roll which is differentiated according to the assessed level of need of particular groups of children. Funding for the BESD pupils will therefore be provided by means of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Joint Area Review report on Hartlepool in March 2007 identified the need that appropriate provision should be made for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. This problem has now been resolved in relation to secondary age pupils and the formal redesignation of Springwell for primary age pupils will mitigate the risk of further adverse inspection judgements.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

The formal redesignation of Springwell School will ensure that pupils with this particular special educational need will have their needs appropriately met.

9. SECTION 17

Pupils with BESD are a particularly vulnerable group and appropriate educational provision for them during primary years increases the probability that they can be supported to attain positive outcomes and diverted from anti-social behaviour.

10. CONCLUSION

The current Service Level Agreement between the local authority and Springwell School appears to have got off to a good start and is ensuring that appropriate provision is made for the very small number of pupils with statements for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties whose needs cannot be met with additional support in a mainstream setting. Redesignating Springwell School to formally admit these pupils would end uncertainty created by the current situation and ensure the provision can be maintained long term.

A proposal to redesignate the school would be a statutory proposal and would require a period of consultation with relevant stakeholders – parents, staff and governors at Springwell School, headteachers across the town and neighbouring local authorities. The consultation process would take place over a four week period, following which a report on the proposal and the outcomes of the consultation will be brought to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services for a decision on whether to advance the proposal and go through the statutory requirement to publish public notices.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder accept the proposal to consult on the designation of Springwell School to admit up to eight pupils with statements of special educational need for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and authorise the Director of Children's Service to carry out the appropriate consultation, following which a further report will be brought to the Portfolio Holder on the outcome of the consultation.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
13 November 2008



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: PROPOSED FEDERATION OF HART
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ELWICK HALL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED
PRIMARY SCHOOL.

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a response to be submitted to the Governing Bodies of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School in relation to their wish to establish a Federated Governing Body.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises the process followed in relation to the correspondence received from Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School and sets out the key aspects of Federation.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The matter relates to the future Governance of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School and the potential impact for children and young people.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio meeting, 13 November 2008.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: PROPOSED FEDERATION OF HART
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ELWICK HALL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED
PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a response to be submitted to the Governing Bodies of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School as part of their consideration to become Federated Schools.

2. BACKGROUND

The Director of Children's Services received a letter from the Headteacher of Elwick Hall CE Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School indicating that the Governing Bodies of both schools wished to federate with effect from 1st September 2009. As part of this process the Governing Bodies, in accordance with the School Governance (School Federation) (England) Regulations 2007, have undertaken consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders during a six week period beginning 20th October 2008, ending 1st December 2008 as set out in **Appendix A** of this report.

The Director of Children's Services and the Durham Diocesan Director of Education have been involved in all consultations from the onset.

In December 2006, the Governing Body of Elwick Hall CE Primary School approached the Governing Body of Hart Primary School to ask permission for the Headteacher of Hart Primary School to become Acting Headteacher of Elwick Hall CE Aided Primary School with effect from 1st January 2007.

In January 2007 a joint Governing Body Steering Group was established to investigate the move to collaboration/Federation. The Local Authority, in an independent review of the collaborative arrangements in November 2007, indicated that pupils, parents, staff and Governors had felt that the collaborative arrangements had enriched the life of both schools.

In May 2008, Governors of both schools agreed to explore the possibility of a formal Federation. In September 2008 the Governing Bodies of both schools individually and jointly agreed to enter a formal

Federation. The Federation Steering Group considered the proposed Constitution of a Federated Governing Body which was agreed at a joint meeting between the Governing Bodies in October 2008.

As part of the consultation process, two consultation meetings have been arranged for 4th November 2008 at Elwick Hall CE Primary School and on 12th November 2008 at Hart Primary School.

The Governing Bodies will meet individually and jointly to consider all responses on 1st December 2008 and, subject to consultation, to formally agree the Federation of the schools on 1st September 2009.

The Federation appears to be working well:

- Both schools did well in their Ofsted inspections and along with the Diocese of Durham and the local authority are confident that the schools can achieve their best by working in a close formal federation whilst each school retains their distinctive characteristics.
- The schools working collaboratively have been able to share complementary specialisms as well as providing improved support and professional development opportunities for staff as well as allowing.
- Both schools are small and situated in the same rural setting, share the same ethos and character and both have a mission to serve families and children who live locally
- In working closely together to raise pupils' attainment and whilst working together it has been possible to offer a wider range of educational experiences and enriched curriculum for the pupils.
- As part of a national initiative schools are encouraged to work more closely together to raise pupils' attainment and offer a wider range of educational opportunities. Both Elwick Hall and Hart schools working collaboratively together have been able to offer a wider range of educational experiences and enriched curriculum for the pupils.

In view of this there is no risk to the proposal.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services support the proposal and the Director of Children's Services be asked to prepare a letter for the Portfolio Holder to consider and submit.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

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Children's Services Department, Performance & Achievement
Hartlepool Borough Council

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School Organisation Consultation

On a proposal to create a Federation
between
Elwick Hall Church of England Voluntary Aided
Primary School
and
Hart Primary School



1. The Proposal

We, the Governing Bodies of Elwick Hall Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and Hart Primary School have considered and agreed to support a proposal to Federate on 1st September, 2009 under the School Governance (School Federation)(England) Regulations 2007. The proposal also includes details to changing the name of Elwick Hall CE Primary School to St. Peters Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) Primary School Elwick.

2. Why are we making this proposal?

We, as the two Governing Bodies, are jointly committed to ensuring a first class education for all children in our two communities. Elwick Hall and Hart Schools share an ethos and character and both have a mission to serve all families and children who live locally. Our proposal to federate is part of a national initiative encouraging schools to work more closely together to raise pupils' attainment, offer a wider range of educational opportunities and involve families more closely in their children's education.

At Elwick Hall we intend to build on the school's strong sense of community and good pastoral care for pupils, by raising educational standards. Following the school's recent Ofsted inspection, the school was classed as satisfactory with good features. It is important that by the next inspection the school is seen to be at least good with some outstanding features.

Hart Primary School is a successful school, in its last Ofsted inspection it was categorised as good with many outstanding features.

We, together with the Diocese of Durham and Hartlepool Borough Council, are confident that both schools can achieve their best by working in a close, formal federation.

3. Advantages of Federation

We believe that both schools will benefit from federation but that it will also be vital that each school maintains all that is best in its distinctive characteristics

Benefits to Elwick Hall and Hart Schools

- Opportunities for the extension of specialist teaching through shared recruitment of suitably qualified staff e.g. Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), Music and Sports or through sharing complementary specialisms between the schools
- Enhanced confidence within each school community in its potential to improve educational achievement while retaining the family feel of the individual schools
- The transfer of effective school systems and policies from one school to another
- Improved support and professional development opportunities for class teachers to enable them to develop their professional practice
- A partnership approach to raising educational standards through a culture of high expectations, a rigorous focus on teaching and learning and an enriched curriculum
- Greater purchasing power, created by economies of scale, and hence increased value for money in, for example, the purchase of specialist services

4. How does federation work?

The proposal that Elwick Hall CE Primary School and Hart Primary School will enter federation will mean:

- One Headteacher
- One Governing Body

How ever, the schools w ill retain separate identities including separate:

- Sites and school buildings
- Budgets
- Department for Children schools and Families(DCSF) registration and School Profiles
- Published performance data (eg value added and Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) (results)
- Office for Standards in Education(OFSTED) inspections
- School uniform
- Unchanged admissions policies

Elw ick Hall School Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Reception w ill continue to be 13 pupils. The Admission Authority for Elw ick Hall School w ill be the Governing Body of the Federation.

Hart Primary School Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Reception w ill continue to be 12 pupils. The Admission Authority for Hart Primary School w ill continue to be the Local Authority.

5. What will happen to the pupils in school

Pupils w ill continue to attend their respective schools and be members of that school community. Sometimes they may join together to share each other's facilities or educational opportunities.

6. What will happen to the staff of the schools?

The Headteacher of Hart Primary School, who has been the Acting Head of Elwick Hall CE Primary School since January 2007 w ill become Executive Head of the Federation

Staff on the establishment of Elwick Hall C.E. Primary School w ill be employed by the Governing Body of the Federation and staff employed at Hart Primary School w ill continue to be employed by the Local Authority.

7. What has been done so far?

Hartlepool Children's Services and the Durham Diocesan Director of Education have been involved in all consultation from the onset.

December 2006 - the Governing Body of Elwick Hall CE Primary School approached the Governing Body of Hart Primary School to ask permission for the Headteacher of Hart to become Acting Headteacher of Elw ick Hall C.E. School w ith effect from 1st January 2007.

January 2007 - a joint Governing Body steering group w as set up to investigate the move forward to collaboration / Federation

November 2007 - the Local Authority produced an independent review of the collaboration which showed that pupils, parents, staff and governors felt the arrangements had enriched the life of both schools

May 2008 - Governors of both Elw ick Hall CE Primary School and Hart Primary School agreed to explore the possibility of a hard federation.

September 2008 - The Governing Bodies of Hart Primary School and Elw ick Hall CE Primary School met and agreed to enter a formal federation

September 2008 - A joint meeting of the Governing Body of Elw ick Hall CE Primary and Hart Primary School discussed the constitution for the proposed Federated Governing Body.

September 2008 - Federation Steering Group discussed the publication of proposals.

October 2008 – A joint meeting of Governing Bodies met and agree the publication of these proposals.

8. How will the new governing body be made up?

The proposed Governing Body will consist of:

	No.	Elwick	Hart
Parent Governors*	7	4	3
Staff Governors #	4 inc Headteacher	2	1
LA Governors	2		
Community Governors	2		
Foundation +	5 including ex officio		

* Based on pupils on roll

alternate at end of term of office (2 Elwick, 1 Hart; 1 Elwick, 2 Hart this will alternate at each end of term of office)

+ 1 Ex officio being the incumbent or Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Hart and Elwick Hall.
2 appointed by the Parochial Church Council's (PCCs) of the Benefice of Hart and Elwick Hall.
2 appointed by the Durham Diocesan Board of Education.

9. Have your say

Views are important and will have an impact on the federation process. We want to know how you feel about our proposals. Please write to us about any point you would particularly like us to consider. Your letters or e-mails should be sent to the Governing Bodies of Hart Primary School and Elwick Hall C.E. Primary School c/o the Headteacher Mr. S. McDonnell.

10. What happens next?

Consultation meetings will be held as follows:

Elwick Hall C of E Primary School 4th November, 2008 at 6.00 pm

Hart Primary School 12th November, 2008 at 6.00 pm

11. The decision making process

All consultation responses will be considered by the Governing Bodies of both schools, the Diocesan Director of Education Durham and the Director of Hartlepool Children's Services Department.

The Governing Bodies of each school then have to decide if they should proceed with the Federation if they agree to proceed, then each Governing Body passes a resolution that they will federate on 1st September, 2009.

Consultees to include:

Hartlepool Borough Council (Children's Services Department)

Diocese of Durham

Staff of both schools

Parents of pupils attending either Elwick Hall or Hart

The governing bodies of all Primary schools, Secondary schools and Special schools within the Local Authority

The Parochial Church Councils of the benefice of Hart and Elwick

The Parish Councils of Hart, Elwick and Dalton Percy

Consultation of the wider communities of Hart, Elwick and Dalton Percy.

Other neighbouring Councils.

12. Where can I get more information?

Please ask the Headteacher who is available at either school if you would like more information about the plans for federation. Contact details are:

Elwick Hall C of EVA Primary School

North Lane

Elwick Village

Hartlepool

TS27 3EG

Tel: 01429 274904

Fax: 01429 232539

Mobile: 07795 544984

e-mail: Headteacher.Elwick@school.hartlepool.gov.uk

Hart Primary School

Hart Village

Hartlepool

TS27 3AP

Tel: 01429 273283

Fax: 01429 273283

Mobile: 07795 544984

e-mail: Headteacher.Hart@school.hartlepool.gov.uk

You can also contact:

Adrienne Simcock

Director of Children's Services

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The Reverend Canon Sheila Bamber

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