

SUBJECT:	ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	25 September 2015
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

NON-PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the next stage of the proposed strategy for the transformation of ALN service provision across the authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Members agree to accept the next stage of the ALN strategy:

- 2.1 To consult on closing the Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB) in Deri View Primary School for pupils aged 4 to 11 years with moderate learning difficulties and social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- 2.2 The current 7 children on roll in the Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB) will be supported either in the mainstream school or in 2 cases directed by statement of special educational needs to specialist provision.
- 2.3 The proposal would not require any building work or refurbishment.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The current provision is an SEN Resource Base, resourced by the Authority. It supports pupils in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 (pupils aged 4 to 11 years) with complex special educational needs; namely those who are experiencing learning difficulties to a moderate degree (General Cognitive Ability of less than 70) usually with additional social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). In addition, placement may be considered at the Resource Base for some pupils who fall outside this strict criteria but for whom the appropriate educational professionals consider its resources and facilities appropriate. Admission to the Resource Base has been widened to consider pupils with more severe learning difficulties and/or an Autistic Spectrum Disorder with learning difficulties.

This is a 24 place Resource Base and is resourced by two full time equivalent teachers and 5 teaching assistants. The Resource Base should take pupils from schools in the north of Monmouthshire.

- 3.2 This Resource Base currently is underutilised by pupils from Monmouthshire and currently has 7 pupils who could either be supported in mainstream or need more specialist provision. The overriding aim of the Base has been to return pupils to their mainstream schools or classes, however, this has not been realised as pupils from other schools have not utilised the facility.
- 3.3 School reports that a high proportion of pupils on roll present with high levels of deprivation and poor acquisition of the early years basic skills including language and social development. The school is currently working with Monmouthshire to facilitate a supported Early Years intervention to remediate this.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 This provision does not meet the needs of the pupils in Deri View Primary School, the cluster area or Monmouthshire as evidenced by the reduction in numbers.

The capacity of the Special Needs Resource Base is 24 places, and is staffed with 2 full time equivalent teachers and 5 teaching assistants. The numbers detailed below have been provided by the school are also included in the school's number. This Base was full at 24 pupils from May 2007 to July 2011. The situation has been in decline as the figures provided by the school evidence.

Year	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
2012-13	12	12	12
2013-14	16	16	16
2014-15	16	9	7

Admission numbers at Deri View Primary School are as follows:

Year	Total Capacity	Number of Pupils on Roll	Number of Pupils in SNRB
2012-13	420	278	12
2013-14	420	260	16
2014-15	420	264	7

The five year forecast of places at Deri View Primary School, as at January 2015, was as follows:

Year	Projected Admission Number	Projected Number of Pupils in SNRB
2015-16	252	4
2016-17	276	1
2017-18	290	1
2018-19	296	1
2019-20	304	0

4.2 The provision has not been able to fulfil the original brief for the school or the Local Authority as defined by the “Aims of the SNRB”. The intention of the SNRB was to provide interim support for pupils with SEBD/MLD from across Monmouthshire. This has never materialised and has supported a small number of children from within the host school only. Its strategic impact has been minimal and it has neither provided the school or the Local Authority with value for money. The needs of the school are now focused on early intervention within the community to close the gap in attainment between pupils in an area of high deprivation. No other schools would be adversely affected by the proposal.

4.3 Allowing Deri View Primary School to concentrate their resources on the provision of Early Years intervention and use the specialist resources within school to support this.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There is no capital expenditure anticipated, the building is in a good state of repair.

5.2 There will be staffing implications for the school; all staff will be subject to the Protection of Employment Policy which includes redeployment to other schools. If staff were not redeployed there would be a one off redundancy cost. The approximate total redundancy cost could be £55,000 if we were unable to redeploy staff.

5.3 If the unit were to close the on-going revenue savings would be £200,000.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 All Monmouthshire Schools have a delegated budget to support children's special educational needs plus access to School Action Plus Resource Assist Agreements for pupils requiring support the school cannot reasonably provide.
- 6.2 The Equality Impact Analysis is attached.
- 6.3 The actual impact from this report's recommendations will be reviewed annually and criteria for monitoring and review will include:
- The annual engagement for children, parents and schools in Monmouthshire.
 - The annual SEN Self Evaluation of all Monmouthshire schools.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None, the Local Authority will continue to fulfil its statutory duty.

8. CONSULTEES:

Neighbouring Local Authorities
Headteacher, teachers and parents of children attending Deri View Primary School
Governing body of schools in the Abergavenny Cluster
Staff and parents of children attending the SEN Unit at Deri View Primary
Church in Wales Diocesan and Roman Catholic Diocesan
Welsh Ministers
Local AM – Nick Ramsay
Local MP – David Davies
Estyn
Education Achievement Service (EAS)
Regional Transport Consortium
Professional Associations and Trade Unions
Police and Crime Commissioner
Abergavenny Town Council, Llantillo Pertholey Community Council
Admission Forum
Local Community First Partnership
SNAP Cymru Parent Partnership Service
Child Development Team, Aneurin Bevan Health Board.
Any comments received on the report have been incorporated to the main body of the report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales (2002),
Inclusion and Pupil Support (2006),
The Equality Action 2010.
Estyn Report on Deri View Primary School January 2013

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