

LCC CONSULTATION MEETING

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF QUEEN'S PARK SCHOOL

Bentley Hotel, 20th June 2011, 10am session

Approx: 50 people in attendance

Question/Comment	Answer
You stated that where possible the LA wish to reduce the need for children and young people to travel – the distance between Queen's Park, St Christopher's and St Francis schools is relatively small and therefore this is only a very minor consideration in this instance.	We accept that for some children and young people (CYP) this will not be applicable. However, some CYP do currently travel some distance and this approach across the county in the wider special schools review will make a difference and reduce travel times overall.
For my child closing Queen's Park School will mean extending their travel time.	Whilst we expect an overall reduction in travel times across the county, we accept that for some CYP this proposal will make travel more complex and not benefit everyone.
Why can't the LA consider taking part of the park space at the side of Queen's Park school and then use the play areas at the school to extend the size of the school buildings?	We have considered other options and this is the proposal we feel offers the best solution. The LA does not own the park space – it is owned by Lincoln City. There are covenants in that area which restrict what the land can be used for.
Will children be asked to move school if a new provision becomes available which is nearer to them?	The LA will continue to work with parents/carers and CYP to discuss options available to them.
With the closure of Queen's Park School children and young people at that school are not being given same opportunities as other children in other special schools.	This is only a proposal and we aim to address these concerns through the detail of the consultation process. All comments will be considered.
What choices do parents/carers have if they do not want their child to go to St Francis or St Christopher's schools? You talked about providing for each child's need and yet you don't know each individual child's needs so how do you know what is best?	This is a public consultation and parents/carers can put their views in writing using the response form attached to the consultation document. As well as the meeting today parents/carers will have the opportunity to attend an additional meeting at their respective schools to discuss individual concerns. There is also the opportunity to discuss your concerns with your Headteacher and also visit St Francis and St Christopher's Schools.
The nearest school might not be the only or best option for my child, we still may need to travel a great distance to the most appropriate school for my child.	St Francis school is the only designated school in the county to specifically cater for the children that it does and so some children do travel a considerable distance if the parents choose to. We aim to try to improve the quality and breadth of provision across the county.

<p>Previously my child was not accepted at St Francis School as the school could not meet their needs.</p>	<p>St Francis School is now catering for a wider range of need and the LA believes that extending the range of need and the accommodation and resources at St Francis School and St Christopher's School will further improve opportunities available to CYP.</p>
<p>Will you be transferring the staff with my child? You talked about the staff being paramount – will they be assimilated or will they have to reapply?</p>	<p>The staff arrangements are yet to be determined and a separate HR consultation process is taking place for this, but it is our aim to retain the skills and knowledge that would enable a successful transition to be carefully managed using all available resources. There would still be the same number of children at the end of any proposal being implemented and so staff will still be needed to support them all.</p>
<p>Will children be made to attend the DSU provision at the Academies, as I am concerned about bullying?</p>	<p>No CYP will be forced to attend the DSU provision. In future there will be more opportunities available which will be discussed with parents/carers and CYP at individual levels so they can get the most suitable provision that they are comfortable with. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Headteacher at Priory Witham Academy to discuss the DSU provision at that Academy as this provision will open in September 2011. The Headteacher of Priory Witham Academy will have responsibility for the DSU provision.</p>
<p>What about the children that have tried mainstream schools and it doesn't work?</p>	<p>Some CYP and parents do want this and it does work for them, so it is important that we give them the option. If they are not suited to mainstream then there will still be other options available as there are now.</p>
<p>Queen's Park School has good resources and staff - will those resources and staff go to the new schools?</p>	<p>It is the ambition of the schools and the LA to utilise the resources and staff at Queen's Park School, but we are currently going through the correct necessary HR processes. The headteachers and LA recognise the skills and expertise of the staff at Queen's Park school, and St Francis and St Christopher's schools want to utilise those skills and expertise. Meetings with staff have been included as part of this process and should the LA decide to go ahead with this proposal further consultation meetings with staff will be held.</p>
<p>Parents are concerned that there are not enough places in Lincolnshire special schools. The proposal for a Free School would provide additional provision within the authority – why is the LA not supporting this proposal?</p>	<p>The LA does not need to support a free school proposal if it judges that it can meet the needs of CYP with the provision available, which we believe we can. The LA do not see the need to support a free school at this time.</p>

<p>You say no child will be forced to return to a mainstream school. What about at 16?</p>	<p>No, they would not be forced to go to a mainstream school. There will still be a range of options available to choose from for any stated CYP.</p>
<p>Who makes the decision about whether a young person goes to a DSU?</p>	<p>The arrangements that are currently in place for identifying a specialist placement will continue, this will involve full consultation with individual parents.</p>
<p>Why did the government stop the Building Schools for the Future programme?</p>	<p>We believe this was due to funding as there was more money being spent than there was available. If BSF funding had been received the secondary aged pupils at Queen's Park School would have been looked at as a potential recipient of the funds.</p>
<p>Why is the LA spending money on academies?</p>	<p>Academies are funded by central government, the LA does not spend money on academies. If a school decides to become an academy that money is taken back from the LA by central government who give the funding directly to the academy.</p>
<p>Special Schools can also convert to academies – why have the LA not given special schools the opportunity to become an academy?</p>	<p>It is not the responsibility of the LA to convert a school into an academy. It is a decision for the school itself to make and liaise directly with central government.</p>
<p>Will the views of parents/carers be listened to and taken into account and alternative option be considered before any final decision is made?</p>	<p>This is a proposal and this is the first stage [consultation] of the process which will run until 27th July. All views and responses to the consultation will be taken into account and used to form a report to the Executive Councillor before deciding whether or not to proceed to the next stage. The final decision will not be made until later in the process by the full Executive Council if we get that far. No anonymous responses provided via the Consultation Response Form can be taken into account.</p>
<p>Before a final document and decision is published will any amendments or additions be made to the current document?</p>	<p>All responses received will be used to inform the paper to the Executive Councillor and if a decision is made to publish a Statutory Notice a further representation period will take place from August to October 2011 before a report is presented to the Scrutiny and Executive Committee. Reports presented will include the comments and views collated during the consultation and representation period. The current document may be changed if the Executive Councillor asks for any changes to be made as a result of the consultation.</p>
<p>Has the LA looked at alternative buildings for Queen's Park School?</p>	<p>The LA has in the past looked at different sites which were deemed not appropriate. The LA has specific building regulations that they have to work to. Other sites looked at included Myle Cross – the cost to convert</p>

	<p>this site would be significant, approx £7 million, Ermine Infants School – the site was unsuitable against the SEN specification and building regulations – the school would need to be demolished and a new build put onto the site – this would not have been cost effective.</p>
<p>Has the LA looked at the cost of building a new school for Queen’s Park School</p>	<p>To build a new school would cost in the region of £7½/8 million – this is not a cost effective solution.</p>
<p>Approx £2 million will be spent on extending the provision at St Francis and St Christopher’s Schools – how much money has been spent by the LA on the DSU provision?</p>	<p>The LA does not fund academiess – this is funded directly from central government.</p>
<p>What will happen to the Queen’s Park School site?</p>	<p>There are no plans for the site. If the proposal to close Queen’s Park School goes ahead the future of the site will be determined by the County Council in line with current practice. The nature of the site and its size and location would limit any development..</p>
<p>If St Francis or St Christopher’s School could not meet the needs of a child currently at Queen’s Park School what alternatives would there be for that child?</p>	<p>Individual discussions will be held with parents/carers as to their child’s individual needs and how those needs can be met.</p>
<p>Previously St Christopher’s School could not meet the needs of child/children or it was suggested that the children go to separate schools. How can St Christopher’s meet their needs now?</p>	<p>The range of need catered for at St Christopher’s School has changed. The LA believes that extending the range of need and the accommodation and resources at St Francis School and St Christopher’s School will further improve opportunities available to CYP. Each HT will do everything they can to meet the needs of each child and parent.</p>
<p>For parents/carers of children with SEN ensuring their needs can be met is very exhausting and liaising with all relevant agencies is also very exhausting. The closure of Queen’s Park School adds to the stress and pressure for parents/carers.</p>	<p>We acknowledge comments made. This is a proposal and no decision on the closure of Queen’s Park School has been made, and we appreciate what you and others may have to go through and we can assure you that with the support of the schools involved any change would be very carefully managed.</p>
<p>Queen’s Park School is a good school with an outstanding Ofsted. Why close it?</p>	<p>This is a proposal. The reasons are all detailed within the consultation document. Amongst other reasons the main site building is no longer fit for purpose and is not on a site which can be developed or rebuilt on.</p>
<p>Transport for some children and young people is an issue. Closing Queen’s Park School will add to the transport issues for some Children and Young People.</p>	<p>The LA recognises that there needs to be appropriate training and support for transport providers and continues to assess this to ensure it is managed appropriately.</p>
<p>How long will the Annex remain open?</p>	<p>There is no expectation that the Annex will close, however, we cannot say that this will remain open for 5 years or 20 years as</p>

	<p>circumstances change. The proposal is that the Annex building will be managed by St Christopher's School and will be part of the wider Post 16 offer for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in Lincoln City.</p>
<p>Why will the Annex remain open but not the main building?</p>	<p>The Annex is considered to be suitable for young people and it is being retained for post 16 provision only as this is still needed. However the main building is no longer fit for purpose and the only viable option is to invest in the other two schools.</p>
<p>How will meals be provided for young people at the Annex?</p>	<p>Provision for meals will be made through either St Christopher's or St Francis School or another provider.</p>
<p>On what grounds is the main site of Queen's Park judged to be not fit for purpose?</p>	<p>Headteacher, governing body and parents/carers have over the last 5 years expressed concerns regarding the main site of Queen's Park School not being fit to meet the needs of the CYP. The site is a split site and is not large enough to meet the needs of CYP. Although the building has met all health and safety requirements with regards to safety and security, the building is not judged to be big enough or suitable to meet the long term needs of CYP. To make the site fit for purpose would mean taking the CYP off site, knocking down and rebuilding the school. This is not cost effective and would not be achievable with available resources.</p>
<p>Why can't the young people aged 14-19 be accommodated on the Queen's Park School main site as they would have access to more space and the hydrotherapy pool?</p>	<p>The LA will consider all comments and suggestions made.</p>
<p>How many pupils does the Annex currently cater for?</p>	<p>Currently 42 young people with a variety of needs including severe autism and profound and multiple learning difficulties. The proposal is over time the Annex will cater for young people from 16 to 19 and therefore numbers will reduce. It also expected that young people will not only be educated in the Annex – opportunities will be provided at St Francis School, College, work providers, etc.</p>
<p>I don't think the annex is suitable for a 16-19 location as it is on a main road and the CYP will be vulnerable. Also what other sites have been looked at?</p>	<p>We have considered other sites across the city. The specification at the Ermine makes it unsuitable for conversion. The annex is already used for 16-19 education and was built to meet the required regulations at the time.</p>
<p>How many young people in wheelchairs attend the Annex as there is not enough space for wheelchairs?</p>	<p>Currently 7, this will rise to 9 in September and approx 11 over the next 4 years. St Francis school could offer a solution to space and would provide an element of choice for</p>

	young people at 16-19.
The environment for CYP is paramount and any change in environment or school for CYP at a special school can cause anxiety and upset for both the CYP and parents/carers.	This proposal has come from the 3 HTs. The HTs have put the needs of CYP first and they want to be able to provide a better environment for CYP so that they can be nurtured even more. HTs have considered the impact a change in environment can have on children and if the proposal goes ahead the movement of children from Queen's Park School will be managed in a sensitive way.
What is the planned building work at St Christopher's School?	The proposal for St Christopher's School is to build 5 additional classrooms along with specialist areas and hygiene suite which will provide flexibility and a range of space to meet different needs. The building will be accessed by children from Queen's Park School and St Christopher's School, allowing interchange.
When talking about moving children over class by class will the teachers move over with that class?	There is no reason why we can't as far as possible replicate the environment the CYP are moving from as a starting point. Would want to discuss with parents/carers how their child can be integrated into St Christopher's and provide the child with a personalised and individualised timetable. Separate discussions are being held with staff regarding their rights and opportunities, we would want staff from QP to follow children to their new school environment and will actively pursue this.
What are the class sizes at St Christopher's as don't want my child to move from a class of 5 to a class of 15?	The classes at St Christopher's are about 12 although provision for early years, more severe learning difficulties and ASD pupils is made in much smaller classes of between 8 and 4
My child did try St Christopher's but then was sent to Queen's Park School and now may have to go back to St Christopher's and go through the whole process again of changing schools.	If this proposal goes ahead we would aim to develop a range of provision similar to Queen's Park School.
Seems there is a lot of anxiety from parents/carers of CYP at Queen's Park School, but parents/carers at St Christopher's school are also anxious about the effect any change could have on their CYP.	This is noted and all concerns will be taken into consideration.
Parents/carers are concerned regarding St Francis and St Christopher's Schools already being over-subscribed and cannot meet the needs of CYP from Queen's Park School.	The LA judges that if the proposal goes ahead including the additional provision at St Christopher's and St Francis Schools and the DSU provision it can sufficiently meet the needs of CYP in Lincoln city.
It seems to be getting harder to get a child statemented so is it going to also get harder	We propose to increase the range of provision and not reduce it.

to get a school place?	
The balance of provision is not right in all areas of Lincolnshire, e.g. Sleaford no Special School provision	This is something we will need to address. The LA recognises this and will be reviewing provision in other areas, but has started the first part of the review with Lincoln city.
How will children from Queen's Park School be separated between the other two schools?	Discussions will be held with individual parents/carers on their child's needs and most suitable provision to meet those needs.
Will statements be changed to reflect any change in school?	All statements will be reviewed accordingly to ensure that any change in school will meet the needs of the statement and the provision required.
Who will be the headteacher at St Christopher's School should this proposal go ahead?	All HTs are committed to seeing this process through. All issues regarding staff and recruitment are yet to be addressed. This is only the beginning of a complex process that we need to work through together. We do not want to lose any staff through uncertainty about the process.
Understand that individual needs, economic climate and excellent facilities that are available at the other two schools have been taken into account. The real sense from people is that it is not just about the loss of Queen's Park School but there is also a strength of feeling that it is also a loss of a community and parents/carers would not want this to be missed as part of the debate.	This is noted and all concerns will be taken into consideration.
What sort of work is being done in relation to planning, tendering, contractors, etc?	This is still a proposal and no tendering or contracting has taken place. Only discussions taken place are of what can and need to be done at St Christopher's and St Francis schools and the proposed cost.
The publication of a statutory notice is planned for August 2011. Would LCC consider doing this at the beginning of September as in August a lot of people will be on holiday?	This is still a proposal. LCC will consider all comments and views expressed during this consultation meeting and also in the Consultation Response Form but we do need a decision made so that we know what we are working towards and by when.
Will statements or comments from parents/carers be included in the document?	LCC will not release any information about individual people as part of this process but statements/comments received will be included in the consultation, although any statements/comments submitted that are anonymous cannot be included.
You say that the LA is acting in the best interests of the CYP, but let's not deny that this is determined by financial constraints	Previously funding was provided on a different basis and now we are in a more stable environment than in previous years.
If money was made available for Queen's Park School would this still be the solution or would there be an opportunity to redevelop Queen's Park site?	The review the LA has undertaken regarding special school provision is moving forward based on further developing the area special school model to meet the needs and resources required for CYP in that area. The

	3 HTs have come up with this proposal based on how the needs of CYP in Lincoln city can be best met and not necessarily just a building solution.
The DSUs in the academies have no track record regarding education and provision. What responsibility does the LA have with regards to appropriate staffing for the DSUs?	The DSUs will belong to the academies. A specification of provision has been drawn up and agreed with each of the academies which includes staffing and resources. CYP accessing the DSU provision will have a statement and the LA will maintain a duty to ensure the needs of the CYP are met and the LA will work with the academies to assess and monitor how the needs of the CYP are being met. If the LA has a concern it can go to central government and challenge how the DSU is being run.
I was recently approached to be a parent governor at the Witham Academy and all plans are in place and the ethos is excellent. Parents need to take the effort to investigate the academy and not believe all the negative coverage.	Noted
What buildings are going to be developed at St Francis School?	The proposal for St Francis School is to build an additional 3 or 4 new classrooms with sensory rooms within the school site. The new classrooms will be accessed by CYP from both Queen's Park School and St Francis School.
Will the new buildings only be for the benefit of Queen's Park children?	We won't be segregating CYP – the new classrooms and sensory spaces will benefit all
What about classroom sizes?	We already have good sized classrooms but will hopefully be able to have even larger classrooms (50-60 m ²)
How are you making all parents aware that they are welcome to visit the schools?	3 days have been set aside in July to have meetings with parents and Allan Lacey will be writing to all parents. But we stress that all parents are welcome to arrange to visit outside of these dates.
Why has a DSU been considered at Witham and City of Lincoln academies but not at LSST?	This was to do with funding arrangements at the time when building academies. DSU opportunities should be embraced and for some parents they provide opportunities not previously available
For CYP with statements attending mainstream schools – parents do not feel they are listened to.	This is noted and all concerns will be taken into consideration

LCC CONSULTATION MEETING

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF QUEEN'S PARK SCHOOL

Bentley Hotel, 20th June 2011, 6pm session

Approx: 100 people

Question/Comment	Response
Can you confirm this is a meaningful consultation?	Yes, of course, this is a consultation on a proposal. All views will be listened to and fed back to councillors.
Why haven't the staff at Queen's Park School been consulted?	Meetings with staff and HR have taken place. Further consultation will take place if a decision is made to proceed with this proposal.
Why haven't LCC contacted City Council regarding land adjacent to Queen's Park School with a view to expanding the school?	To extend the site would mean closing the buildings whilst any new building or remodelling took place causing considerable disruption to the children and young people (CYP). The rest of the existing buildings would still be inadequate. Regulations and building bulletins identify that the site is not a viable site to transform it to meet the needs of the pupils now and in the future.
CYP in Lincoln are having to travel across Lincoln. You will be adding 30 to 40 minutes to their journey, thus increasing their travel time.	We recognise that for some CYP there will be a need to travel and discussions with parents/carers will be dealt with on a case by case basis held at an individual level.
By moving my daughter to St Francis School you will be putting her life at risk as she holds her breath whilst travelling (currently only 5 minutes travel), moving her to St Francis School will increase her travel time.	This is a proposal, and if it were to go ahead then we would look at cases like this to ensure each child is safeguarded.
You stated that you had consulted with all stakeholders, as leader of a District Council and a Ward Councillor I have not been consulted.	A significant number of groups were involved in the consultation process, including City and County Councillors and reports went through Scrutiny and Executive. We had consulted widely which included a significant number of stakeholders.
Does LCC have funding in mind to refurbish Queen's Park School?	There is no funding available for this purpose.
I am pleased to hear that this is a meaningful consultation and I am not against change. I cannot see why we can't add on to what we have already got as whatever happens you are going to get upheaval.	We would like the CYP to do better than what they've got. This is a public consultation and all views and concerns will be fed back to councillors before a decision is made.
I have worked with CYP with PMLD for 25 years and have more experience than the headteachers. You need to think about the environment. It appears very likely that Queen's Park School will close but this school is very important for the people in Lincoln. The CYP do exist and they are very	Response from St Christopher's headteacher – the whole of my school today are out at the Theatre Royal performing. We do not isolate our children from the rest of the city. Response from St Francis headteacher – we do not isolate our children. We as headteachers have a tremendous amount of

well behaved. If they are made to move to either St Francis or St Christopher's schools they will not be able to go out into the community – they will be in almost solitary confinement.	experience. The last thing we want to do is isolate the CYP.
My child now goes to Queen's Park School. They were previously in a mainstream school and had all sorts of problems. Since attending Queen's Park they have made phenomenal progress. I hope that if this proposal goes ahead he will be given the same opportunities.	Noted.
You say that it is not possible to extend Queen's Park School site without disruption. I have spoken to 2 very confident builders who feel it can be done without much disruption. If this is a way of solving the problem then this should be considered.	Noted. All comments will be taken into consideration. (discussion also took place directly after the meeting)
5 years ago I requested St Francis School for our child but was told he was too disabled to go there but now he will have no other option.	5 years ago is a very long time in the world of education. The needs catered for and provision offered at St Francis have changed significantly.
There are concerns that physically compromised children will be attending St Francis School mixing with other children who are running around.	Majority of children at St Francis School are wheelchair users. Children gain benefit from mixing with other CYP. In fact some children at St Francis have remained in the primary area for a period of time as this was felt to be best for them as individuals.
This meeting is about the children. We're not here to debate the different schools. Each are different in their own way and each school has very specific children who go there. It is about giving children opportunities and letting them realise their potential. Children can achieve by making them feel fulfilled and reaching their potential. Queen's Park School is perfectly placed as being in the centre of most children's every day experiences. I could have considered Gainsborough for my child but wanted my child to know and identify with things in the local community. Queen's Park School is central for many of the children and without it we would not have a good autism unit close to hand for our son. To currently get that service elsewhere our son would have to travel 1½ hours if Queen's Park School closed.	Noted.
Defining children's needs and having different specialist provision is the right thing to do. There should be more specialisms.	Noted.
Why wasn't it possible to transfer Queen's Park School to the Myle Cross site? We	The Myle Cross site as it was did not meet the appropriate building bulletin regulations.

<p>visited the Myle Cross site and it seemed perfect.</p>	<p>To convert the school would cost in the region of £7 million. Other sites were also looked at but these would require the existing building being bulldozed and a new build which would cost in the region of £7 -8 million.</p>
<p>I understand that Queen's Park School buildings are inadequate and have been for quite a while. The site just behind the Annex would have perfectly met the requirements for a new build. Why wasn't this site considered?</p>	<p>A new school was built which opened as a Sports Academy – Special School accommodating CYP with complex behavioural needs. This was part of our planned provision for CYP (four schools in total) with such needs and was supported by the government</p>
<p>Queen's Park School is not just another school. It is another home for those children. This should not be about money but about the children. No matter how much money is put into St Francis and St Christopher's this will not be replaced. We don't have any information about how the proposal will achieve what it sets out to do with children of differing needs.</p>	<p>Noted. Parents are welcome to visit St Francis and St Christopher's Schools. Queen's Park parents will also be invited to an additional parents' meeting where they will be able to ask questions specific for their child's needs.</p>
<p>I am a teacher at Trent Valley Academy (TVA) and we did benefit from the funding. But the benefits of an existing building with an established community should not be underestimated.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Our community at Queen's Park School is not very large. Why were we never consulted as parents. The first I found out about the proposed closure was through the media. Now I hear other sites had been considered and those proposals should have been seen by us. Our children and their families are the ones who are being affected.</p>	<p>Letters were sent home to all parents inviting parents to meetings regarding the proposals, including a copy of the report which went to Scrutiny. Apologies if you did not receive the correspondence – please discuss this with Mr Lacey. We are working with the press and have tried to ensure that parents are made aware of developments before these are in the media.</p>
<p>Queen's Park School received an outstanding Ofsted. Why after that Ofsted did the school not consider becoming an academy and thus having more control over its future?</p>	<p>LCC cannot not stop any school from becoming an academy. The government regulations are that Special Schools cannot look at becoming an academy until September 2012 at the earliest. All special schools are entitled to become an academy.</p> <p>Mr Lacey responded – the governing body looked at the academy system and at the time the school could not apply, the governing body felt that it was not a right decision for the school at that time. The school also considered becoming part of the Lincoln academy but also considered this was not a suitable option.</p>
<p>At the separate meetings held for parents - school staff were misinformed regarding TUPE. Staff were informed that all staff from</p>	<p>At that meeting it was not possible to discuss HR and personnel issues of how it might happen, a number of options were shared on</p>

<p>the 3 schools would have to reapply for their jobs – it would appear that this was misinformation and that only Queen’s Park School staff would be looking for new jobs.</p>	<p>the understanding that no decision had been made. Since that meeting the school has met with staff and looked at a range of strategies. Formal consultation with staff will take place should this proposal move forward.</p>
<p>Unison has huge concerns regarding the DSU proposals and making staff move from Queen’s Park School to an academy where terms and conditions are completely different. We do not know much about the Priory but don’t believe that CYP would be integrated into the school.</p>	<p>No staff are being made to move to an academy. The Priory is not one of the two DSUs involved in this review. The Academies will welcome anyone to look round. Any concerns should be discussed with the respective Headteachers of the Witham and Priory Academies.</p>
<p>CYP with SEN are similar to pieces of jigsaw in that everything around them are also pieces of jigsaw that are integral to them. I have learnt firsthand what it is like to move one of those pieces of jigsaw and this has been a difficult learning curve. Moving one piece of the jigsaw can have massive consequences - and the school is one of those pieces.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>When my son moved from Chad Varah School to Queen’s Park School this was most upsetting and the Queen’s Park Staff were integral to him settling in. My son can’t handle change and what reassurances can I have that this won’t be held against him if he moves to St Christopher’s or St Francis schools or somewhere else.</p>	<p>The LA and school staff have experience of moving children into a new school and it has been very successful. We will be drawing upon those experiences in the future.</p>
<p>I am concerned regarding the DSU places. Are those children going to be made to move mostly from St Christopher’s and who decides at the end of the day where children go?</p>	<p>There is no assumption that a child from a special school will be moved into the DSU. This will be a slow and well managed process. If there are any future requests for places into a special school then the LA may also look at whether the DSU is an option. DSUs will be filled very slowly and the LA does not anticipate having more than 30 children in the Witham DSU until 2014 the City of Lincoln Academy DSU does not open until September 2014 and do not anticipate having more than 30 children in that DSU until 2017. Some parents/carers and children who currently attend a special school may want to have the opportunity of experiencing a mainstream environment, while remaining on the register of their special school these will be discussed at individual level. It will be the parents/carers /child’s choice.</p>
<p>You have stated that the Annex will remain open at this time – is there any indication that in the future this will close?</p>	<p>There is an expectation that the Annex will remain open. However, we cannot predict whether it will still be open in 5 or 15 years</p>

	time. If this proposal goes ahead it will be up to the governing body at St Christopher's to decide how it uses its facilities.
If the main site at Queen's Park is not suitable for 100 children surely it would be suitable for less children. Is it not more sensible to move young people from the Annex to the main site? If the proposal goes ahead and the Annex is merged with St Christopher's how will the needs of those young people be met, e.g. meals, access to a pool.	There are no requirements that a school actually cooks the hot meals for children. Meals can be sourced from other schools or providers. With regards to the hydrotherapy pool there is a hydrotherapy pool at St Francis and if it is a requirement on the young person's statement the LA will ensure they have access to a hydrotherapy pool.
One of the pupils uses the hydrotherapy pool, is able to communicate in the pool but it is not part of their statement.	Noted.
You say that this proposal has come from the headteachers, but our headteacher wanted Myle Cross.	This proposal has come from the headteachers. They have discussed different options and this is the proposal that they have come up with. Governing bodies of the schools support the proposal. All concerns raised will be fed back to LCC.
How can the 3 headteachers make the decisions that affect my daughter?	The headteachers have discussed the needs of the individual CYP. This proposal comes from the headteachers and is based on meeting the needs of the CYP.
LCC have signed up to Every Disabled Child Matters Charter what happens if Queen's Park parents say no as we believe the children deserve a school of their own with better provision and more.	This is not a referendum. All views will be taken back to LCC. Parents' voice is very important and this is a consultation on a proposal.
I am not saying that I agree or disagree. These children come back to their parents at the end of the day and it is the parents who know their children best and who will have to deal with the consequences.	Noted.
Will we know when a decision is made?	All interested parties are invited to write in using the consultation response form. An analysis of the responses will be published and this will be available on the LCC website and a report which will include the analysis will go back to elected members.
If the number against is more than the number for what will happen then? We have a petition with over 400 signatures on it to save Queen's Park School. This has names and addresses on it. Will this be taken into consideration.	Yes, please submit it to LCC. All views will be taken into consideration before any decision is taken.
You say that there will be enhanced facilities but what kind of facilities will be available at the other two schools?	Bigger classrooms, more space, smaller groups of children in a class, access to school nurse, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical facilities.
CYP with more moderate learning difficulties may be able to cope with this sort of change	HT confirmed that CYP with MLD are just as sensitive to change and this will be carefully

but some children from Queen's Park School cannot.	managed for all CYP
Are you able to guarantee class sizes and staff ratios will not change.	We will be adding space to ensure this and it forms the provision in the two new sites, will seek to maintain consistency on both sites
Queen's Park School has an ASD unit – if those children are moved to St Christopher's will the unit be relocated to St Christopher's?	Yes. With the expertise from both staff groups being available to develop the provision for all children with ASD.
I am a parent of an autistic child at St Christopher's and I can't believe the progress made since starting joining St Christopher's. Please don't underestimate children – give it a chance.	Noted.
I am aware of the St Christopher's site and have concerns about adding new buildings to that site. It has been sold to us that Queen's Park School can't be expanded and is not fit for purpose. Also St Christopher's doesn't have a Sixth Form but Queen's Park does, St Christopher's doesn't have a hydrotherapy pool but Queen's Park has.	As stated earlier the discussions between the Headteachers did not centre on the buildings but what is best for the children.
All 3 schools are excellent in their own right. However CYP have had to attend Queen's Park School as the other 2 schools could not provide the appropriate resources and staff. What will happen to the staff at Queen's Park School and how will the other two schools meet the staffing needs of Queen's Park CYP?	All 3 headteachers are very keen to improve outcomes for CYP. They want to use expertise where possible as there will be no fewer children if the proposal goes ahead. With the staff, resources and expertise available we will be able to provide for all CYP. Parents/Carers are invited to visit St Francis and St Christopher's schools and see the facilities available and discuss the proposals.
What is going to happen in the DSUs? My 9 year old child may be affected and there has not been enough information given about the DSUs. There is anxiety that children will be made to move there.	No child will be forced to move to one of the DSUs and there is no expectation that children will naturally transfer from a special school to a DSU. This is part of the offer that has not been available until now. Individual needs will be discussed on an individual basis. Within the report submitted to Scrutiny and Executive the specification of provision for each of the DSUs was provided. The headteacher at Priory Witham Academy has invited parents/carers to make contact and go and visit and discuss the DSU provision at that academy.
I am not saying that I am opposed to my child attending St Christopher's School but I am opposed to my child attending a mainstream school – the DSU.	No decision has been made at an individual level and there is no expectation that a child from St Christopher's or any other special school will be attending the DSU. Opportunities will be discussed at individual levels and the DSU provision will be part of the overall offer of special school provision in Lincolnshire. As money becomes available LCC will also be looking at enhancing

	provision elsewhere, e.g. Sleaford and South Holland.
I can't explain this to my child as she can't talk or communicate. If this proposal goes ahead it will have a whole knock on effect on her and the other children within the family. How can I prepare her for this?	Your comments and concerns have been noted.
I am very inspired by the headteachers and their commitment to CYP. I am worried about the consultation process and that the views being raised will be taken on board before a final decision is made. This proposal is also about different people and their different skills and my only worry is the effect this will have on children. There does not appear to have been an Equality Impact Assessment done as part of this process. As a nurse I am concerned that not all people within the consultation have been included in the paperwork provided.	School health staff are involved in discussions and we work very closely with health professionals on a daily basis. An Equality Impact Assessment will have to be completed before a final decision can be made on the proposal. This will be submitted with the final papers to Executive.
I am concerned about lack of choice for our children. If the proposal goes ahead what if it is felt not appropriate for my child to go to St Francis school? What if we felt that St Christopher's was not the best school for our child? Right away we are being left without any choice, what other choices will we have?	This is a proposal and no decisions have been made. Concerns and appropriate provision will be discussed at an individual level. The SEN Code of Practice will be followed and every parent/carer is entitled to express their view and preference for their child. We will ensure that each child is offered the most suitable provision.
I am concerned that this is being driven by financial constraints and it is all about money and not about my child. You have 3 special schools in Lincoln and you need 3 special schools. Where does my child fit in if St Christopher's and St Francis schools are not suitable for my child?	This is not driven exclusively by finance. It is also about improving the range of provision and services available to CYP in special schools, making best use of the existing facilities to ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve their potential
I was involved in the process with regards to this proposal and I am now concerned that you say this is not about money for a new school. I was always of the view it was about money – which is it? If there is another option, building a new school, as the money is available then why aren't LCC exploring that option and proposing to build a new school to replace our school?	We have genuinely concentrated our resources on additional needs provision. This proposal is not driven by finance. We want to improve special schools provision. This is not about the replication and building of a new school to replace Queen's Park School. This is about providing suitable provision to meet the needs of CYP now and in the future. We are proposing what we believe is the best model with the resources and options available.
You talked about CYP accessing mainstream provision and then coming back to St Christopher's as their "comfort blanket". Queen's Park School is also a "comfort blanket" for children and this is being ripped from under their feet. Closing the school will move them away from something they know and the grownups also see the school as	The "comfort blanket" is also about the staff that work with the children and the Headteachers will address this later in their presentations.

their “comfort blanket”. The school is a whole entity.	
Why are Queen’s Park staff having to apply for their jobs if staff are so integral to this process?	HR issues will be dealt with in a separate consultation process and the most appropriate way forward for the staff has yet to be decided.
Parents were given the impression that staff would be going with the children but now you say that this has not yet been decided.	We cannot direct that staff move with the children and staff may decide to leave, but we would like to retain the skills and knowledge of the existing staff.
As a parent I could chose to send my child somewhere else. At one point in the review the whole reason why you were doing the review was to cut down on travel time. For some children at Queen’s Park school this will increase their travel time.	We have many children for whom parents choose that their children travel across Lincolnshire for the most appropriate provision.
You have said that you want to replicate Queen’s Park school but earlier it was stated that you are not seeking to replicate the school.	We are not seeking to build and replicate Queen’s Park School but we do want to replicate the good practice and expertise and move forward with the staff from Queen’s Park School.
What will happen to children with PMLD who would normally access the Annex?	Young people will have the option to attend the Annex or attend St Francis school. Individual young people will be discussed at an individual level.
Would LCC be opposed to talking with City Council about the land adjacent to Queen’s Park School?	We believe that the proposal is the only and best option that can be moved forward but everything will be considered.
As the headteacher at Queen’s Park school what will happen to you?	The headteacher is committed to seeing the process through and believes this is the right path. Management of the process over the next 3-4 years will require more than one person.
You say that this is a meaningful consultation. What happens if it is decided that this is not the right course to follow – what are the alternatives is a new build an option?	This is a proposal and has been drawn up by the headteachers of the 3 schools. There is no other option that is felt to be appropriate.
There are only 2 options then – take it or leave it. If this option does go ahead has there been a commitment to put the necessary resources into the two schools and will this need more money?	Just to start the process to enable the headteachers to work together without detriment to the provision LCC have paid £30k across the 3 schools. A special school funding formula is also now in place which will ensure that schools will be funded based on the number of children in their school and their specific needs, therefore if a school grows it will receive additional funding for resources when and as it needs it.
If this proposal goes ahead and you can guarantee resources I can’t see why you can’t guarantee that staff from Queen’s Park school will move with the children.	We are bound by employment law we cannot make guarantees that may breach the LA’s responsibility and employment law.

<p>I am interested in what the 3 headteachers have said but there has been no representation from the headteacher at Priory Witham Academy and I am concerned about the employment of people who may end up at the academy.</p>	<p>This meeting is about the proposal to close Queen's Park School. We are not looking at moving staff to an Academy. What you describe affects Academies across the country. There has been no statement that staff will have to move to an academy unless that is their wish to do so.</p>
<p>The DSUs seem to be a cause for concern and some parents have already contacted me expressing concern about their children who have been enrolled for September and there are a lot of unanswered questions.</p>	<p>I am aware that children enrolled in the DSU provision for September, this is not my area of responsibility. This meeting is about the proposal to close Queen's Park School. The DSUs are not open for business yet. The DSU at Priory Witham Academy opens in September 2011 and we have already explained the process with regards to admission arrangements and these would have been shared with parents as part of the statementing process. The DSU at Priory City of Lincoln Academy will not open until September 2014. The DSUs are part of a new offer in Lincoln with regards to special school provision. The DSUs will fill very slowly and there is no intention to force any children to go there. All parents/carers who may be interested in the DSU provision at Priory Witham Academy are invited to contact the headteacher and arrange to go and visit the provision.</p>
<p>The current SEN Code of Practice is well known but what if a statement says a child must go to a DSU?</p>	<p>We understand parental concerns and are always happy to work with parents to alleviate any anxiety. There are some excellent opportunities provided by working with DSUs.</p>
<p>With regards to post 16 children with PMLD, are they going to be given the option to attend the Annex or are they going to be made to attend St Francis school?</p>	<p>At this stage this is only a proposal but if there is the opportunity to attend either then children's individual needs will be discussed at individual level with parents/carers.</p>
<p>I am a little confused. I thought we were here to discuss the closure of Queen's Park School but now my child may be forced to attend a DSU when I don't have any understanding of this?</p>	<p>There is no expectation that any child currently in a special school will be required to go to a DSU. A lot of young people in Lincolnshire may want to access a mainstream environment but this will be discussed at an individual level. The proposal is the closure of Queen's Park School. The DSUs are part of the offer within Lincoln city but not a requirement for the proposal to go ahead and it is not expected that pupils currently attending the three special would be required to attend the DSU provision</p>
<p>Do the 3 headteachers still feel this is the best solution?</p>	<p>The headteachers have spent a long time considering the options before coming up with a proposal. We would not be here</p>

	tonight if we did not believe this was the best solution. There will be further opportunities for discussions between the schools and parents before the end of term.
I understand that the headteachers are very passionate and talk for the children. Speaking as a parent I am fearful of the backlash we will have to incur because of a change. Even a change in transport providers causes distress. The solution not only sits with the schools but should sit with the CYP and their parents/carers.	The solution sits with the schools and the professionals. There is no simple solution and we understand the difficulties and distress that may be caused but we will seek to manage this as best we can in the best interests of CYP.
At what point in time will a decision be made?	On 1 st November the LA will decide whether or not to implement this proposal.
I had been party to a discussion where there is approximately a £60 million capital underspend in the County Council. If parents wished to keep Queen's Park School open could some of that underspend be used to build a new school?	There is no significant amount of money that can be used to do what you are suggesting. This proposal has been approved with a related budget and we are not aware of any further available funding for Children's Services.
What budget has been identified to meet the cost of closing a school, managing the process, remodelling accommodation?	For the remodelling of the two schools approximately £2 million has been identified by costing the Headteachers' requirements
Who would be able to confirm the budget for this process?	We asked the Headteachers what they needed to make this successful and tried to provide them with their requirements.
Ideas have been put forward for the use of old buildings and other facilities. Why have these been dismissed?	We have looked at and explored all options and many have had to be dismissed due to inappropriateness of the buildings for a special school.
As a Lincolnshire County councillor I was invited to visit Queen's Park School and see firsthand the accommodation. I was shocked by the standard of the main site building. I agree that the school does not meet the 21 st century standards that you would expect and the children deserve to have 21 st century standards. Many of the schools have changed beyond recognition because of the modern standards required. Council members have had an insight and have been consulted. How can you improve a school that does not meet the standards needed – options have been explored including flattening the site, moving children out and back in again. All in all any party will look at the most cost effective way of doing it and headteachers and colleagues feel this is the best option. I have listened to and accept and applaud their passion. There is a democratic feeling and also an admiration that staff are held in. CYP associate with staff more than just the fabric of the building. Staff are highly regarded and there is only	Noted.

<p>one chance to get it all right. There have been points made about the difficulties with change and this will have to be well managed. Queen's Park School building cannot meet the standards expected for CYP and children deserve to access the right premises.</p>	
<p>A further statement was made by a City Councillor who agreed with points raised from both sides of the argument. It is important that this is a not party political decision but a decision that is made in the best interests of the children.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>