



**Complete Proposal to
discontinue residential
provision at
St Lawrence School,
Horncastle**

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS

15th February 2012

Contact Details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the proposal to discontinue residential provision at St Lawrence School, Horncastle. St Lawrence is a Community Special school. NB guidance says include school address

Implementation

The proposal is to discontinue residential provision at St Lawrence School with effect from 1 April 2013. At 1 April 2013, those remaining children on the roll at the school with residential provision specified in their statement of special educational needs will be in receipt of individual extended day programmes during their final weeks of compulsory education. (Guidance says insert dates and stages – do we know any eg date of last child boarding etc)

Do you want to follow the DfE template and insert sections re “Objections and Comments” and “Alteration Description” – I know you’ve probably put this detail in elsewhere but its a good idea to follow their template

Also re the section on School Capacity – guidance says it needs completing if alteration falls into one of specified categories and ending boarding provision is para 7 of schedule 4 of regs which is one listed and therefore we should include school capacity section.

Consultation

The consultation process is being carried out by the Local Authority (LA) and all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal have been complied with.

Consultation originally began on 17 October 2011 with a letter sent to all parents/carers of children attending St Lawrence School. A wide range of interested parties was also informed. As part of the consultation process all parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond by 2 December 2011. The associate Headteacher and the staff at the school have discussed the potential proposal with the pupils currently on roll and the views of the pupils have been taken into account, together with the views of all interested parties, by the LA as the decision maker in reaching the decision to publish this proposal.

Information regarding this proposal has been made available through the County Council website since the consultation began on 17 October 2011. Local County, District and Parish Councillors have been involved in the consultation on the proposal.

Evidence of the consultation before the proposal was published -

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted can be found in Appendix A.
- (b) the views of the persons consulted are summarised in Appendix B.
- (c) copy of the letter to notify the commencement of the consultation process including the form to send in responses is in Appendix C. This was also published online through the County Council website at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning

Objectives

This proposal is made to enable the LA to meet its statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 in relation to pupils with special educational needs. The Council has a duty to identify, assess and make provision to meet the special educational needs of children within its area. The LA also has a duty to promote high educational standards, enable fair access to educational opportunity for every child and promote the fulfilment of each child's potential. The County Council believes that this proposal reinforces the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (does this plan still exist? I thought it had gone? Could say something like it supports the LA's Children's Services vision instead); provides the best solution to addressing and meeting the long term educational and social needs of the children in the area served by the school; and supports the Council's aim of ensuring that as many children as possible can reach their full potential as described in the recently published Local Authority Direction of Travel; outlined in the Review of Special School and Mainstream Unit Provision (Appendix D):

- **Inclusion:** All children should attend a school in their locality with learning designed to meet their needs so that they have the potential to succeed.
- **Localisation:** The provision of a range of partnership services to meet need in the localities rather than across the county.
- **Personalisation:** Early and fast referral to services to meet the whole child's needs and those of the family (if appropriate).
- **Effective Use of Resources:** Effective use of resources (removing unnecessary bureaucracy).

St Lawrence School is a special school catering for pupils aged 5-16 with a variety of more complex learning difficulties and or disabilities. All pupils attending the school have statements of special educational needs. There are 135 children and young people on roll. St Lawrence House is the residential unit attached to St Lawrence School and can accommodate 20 children and young people of mixed age and gender; these numbers have remained consistent during the preceding four years. There will be no provision for boarding if the proposal is approved.

The proposal to discontinue residential provision at St Lawrence School is for three reasons:

- 1) The recently published local authority "Special School and Mainstream Unit Provision Strategy" recommends that children and young people should in so far as it is compatible with their needs, be educated in their local community. For this reason the local authority is committed to developing area special schools, catering for a wider range of need and drawing on the expertise of agencies within the local area. As a consequence the need for residential provision at St Lawrence School to address distance and transport issues is no longer relevant.
- 2) The current demand for residential provision as a part of a statement for special educational needs at St Lawrence School has declined year on year, with only 8 young people currently requiring provision. Four of these children will leave the school in June 2012 and the remaining four will have left the school by June 2013.
- 3) A practice has developed at the school where some young people access residential provision at the behest of the school in consultation with parents. While this might be of benefit to these young people the same offer is not available elsewhere to young people with a similar complexity of need.

The intention on the part of the local authority in partnership with St Lawrence School is, when funding is available, to remodel the residential provision to provide additional teaching and learning space to accommodate a wider range of need, and by doing so the school will be more responsive to the needs of its community, becoming an area resource in line with the strategy in its own right.

Safeguarding and Alternative Provision

It is projected that there will be no children and young people with a residential requirement as part of their statement attending the school from June 2013. Extended provision and community based provision will be in place to meet the requirement of any children and young people with a residential requirement still on roll after the proposed implementation date until they leave the school. As an outcome of the review of Special School and Mainstream Unit Provision (Appendix D) it was recognised that the local authority should retain some residential provision within the county to meet the needs of those children and young people that required access to a 24 hour learning environment. This provision is currently offered at the St Francis and St Bernard's Special Schools. These schools will continue to receive funding to maintain a number of places commensurate with the needs of the local authority.

Special Educational Needs Provision

This proposal will lead to improvements in the targeting of residential provision according to need through the development of area special schools, catering for a wider range of need and drawing on the expertise of agencies within the local area. Should we say something about that although the boarding provision is being removed the standard etc of educational provision and provision number wise at St Lawrence will not be affected? NB mention SEN improvement test as removal of boarding will enable remodelling and therefore improvements?

Statement of Costs

There will be a cost associated with any required redundancies (confirm no capital costs?). Closure of the residential provision will save £300,000.

What will happen now?

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

At the close of the 6 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 28 March 2012 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a decision on the future of the schools. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposals and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.

NOTE REGARDING APPENDICES

Copies of the appendices referred to in this document can be viewed on the Lincolnshire County Council website using the following link <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/provision-planning/current-consultations/consultation-on-the-proposal-to-close-the-residential-provision-at-st-lawrence-school-horncastle/107234.article>

or copies can be requested from Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk