

APPENDIX B



Complete Proposal
to amend the age range of
Ash Villa School, Sleaford

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

PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A SCHOOL

28 May 2014

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the age range change of Ash Villa School, Greylees, Sleaford, NG34 8QA.

Implementation

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to maintain a sufficient number of suitable school places in Lincolnshire. Following statutory consultation, if the proposal is approved, the age range change will be amended and implemented with effect from 1st September 2014.

Objections and Comments

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 25 June 2014.

Alteration description

The proposal is to amend the age range at Ash Villa School, Willoughby Road, Greylees, Sleaford, NG34 8QA from 11–16 years to 11-18 years with a proposed implementation date of 1 September 2014. The proposal is being put forward to enable the hospital school to support all inpatients at the Ash Villa Hospital unit.

School Capacity and Site

If this proposal is approved the post 16 pupils will be accommodated within the existing facilities which are sufficient to provided appropriate infrastructure and accommodation on the existing site for the number of pupils on roll.

The number on roll of 11-16 aged pupils at the time of the May 2014 school census was 12 as shown by year group in the table below:

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
Number on Roll	0	1	0	3	8	12

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to increase the age range to enable the LA to meet its statutory obligation to ensure that students at Ash Villa School receive the post-16 education required for all young people since the raising of the participation age.

A small increase in total pupil numbers and authorisation to provide post-16 education will allow Ash Villa School to meet the needs, as now required in statutory terms, of some of the most vulnerable young people in the education system. The specialist nature of the hospital and the practical considerations of residential

placement and therapeutic programmes mean that the hospital school has either to deliver post-16 education directly or to be the facilitator, co-ordinator and lead partner in any shared arrangements.

The proposal is being made to ensure that the provision of school places is planned so as to promote high educational standards, enable fair access to educational opportunity for every child and promote the fulfilment of each child's potential. This proposal will both enhance the quality of provision and sustain local provision of statutory secondary education.

The LA considers the proposal to be the best available solution to the provision of post-16 education for the in-patients at Ash Villa Hospital school.

The Ash Villa Hospital unit provides inpatient care for young people experiencing mental health difficulties. The age range of inpatients admitted to the unit is 11-18. Due to the differing age ranges of Ash Villa School and the unit, the school is currently unable to provide formal educational support to those young people attending sixth-form or college (post-16 education) prior to admission.

In addition, a number of young people on the unit who are above the school's current age range are not in any formal education, employment or training prior to admission. Raising the age range of Ash Villa School would enable work to take place with these young people, to try and re-engage them with education and potentially lead to more successful outcomes post-discharge.

The county has two hospital schools: Pilgrim Hospital and Ash Villa. The former meets needs at Tier 3 and is non-residential. Ash Villa is residential and meets the more acute needs assessed as requiring Tier 4 provision. There is no other establishment of Ash Villa Hospital's type in the county. The length of stay is extremely variable, from a few weeks to as much as a year, and this is a further complicating factor in delivering education to post-16 students.

Key components in the educational programmes at Ash Villa School, for students of all ages, are to maintain continuity as much as possible during highly disrupted and traumatic stages in their lives. Wherever possible, the plan is to sustain home placements by close liaison with the original school or college and the delivery of teaching that is fully complementary. Where a young person, for any reason, lacks a viable home placement, Ash Villa School endeavours to identify one and to provide effective transition into it.

The school is very small, currently funded for 9 students (although there is the usual provision for meeting some additional numbers with in-year adjustments). Statistics for the academic year 2012-13 suggest that post-16 students would be a total, in an average week, of approximately 4.

The proposal to amend the age range has the support of the Headteacher and Governing Body and the LA believes it to be the most appropriate option, but it is important that the LA considers all views submitted during the consultation and representation periods.

The publication of the Statutory Notice enables the statutory and legal processes to proceed. This continuation to the next stage of the process will allow a further

opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Executive Councillor before a final decision is made.

Consultation

In order for the school to amend the age range at the school the LA must follow the guidance of the DfE as detailed in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding "School organisation (maintained schools)" in accordance with the terms of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 as updated by the Education Act 2011 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Although there is no statutory requirement for consultation under the new regulations, this is considered good practice.

The LA should ensure that sufficient time and information are provided for people to understand and form a view on the proposal and make a response. The consultation documentation must set out the problem that is being addressed and invite comment on one or more solutions. The LA must explain the decision making process and take all reasonable steps to draw the consultation to the attention of all those who might be interested and take into account their views.

The EIA 2006 specifically includes as interested parties the registered parents of registered pupils at the school and also the appropriate District and Parish Councils for the area. The list of interested parties was compiled according to statutory guidelines comprising as wide a range of consultees as practicable and including parents, the Chief Executive of the District Council, the Parish Clerk of the local Parish Council as well as individual councillors as appropriate.

A letter incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal was sent out to interested parties on 27 February 2014 to commence a four week period of consultation. Individual meetings were offered to anyone interested to meet with representatives of the LA at the school to ask questions and raise any concerns but no appointments were taken up. There was the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation by letter, email or by returning the response form attached to the consultation letter by 27 March 2014. Copies of the letter commencing consultation and the response form were also published on the County Council website under the webpage Current Consultations on <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>

The written responses received during consultation have been provided to the Executive Councillor for consideration and further details are confirmed in this report in Appendix A. To briefly summarise, however, there were 5 valid responses in total with none against the proposal.

The Representation Period which commenced with the publication of the Statutory Notice gives a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views and ensure that they are taken into account when the final decision is taken by the Executive Councillor in August 2014. Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal and is co-ordinating the statutory process before making a decision at the end of the process. The LA, as decision maker, must be able to show that all relevant issues raised are taken into consideration in the decision making

process. Points raised can be considered unpersuasive but must not be ignored altogether.

Project Costs

This proposed expansion will incur no capital costs.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

The change in age range of the school is not likely to have any impact on SEN provision other than an opportunity to improve opportunities for young people to access resources and good quality teaching, learning and school leadership. Consideration of pupils with SEN will take place and the LA will continue to look to make improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the education provision for children with SEN.

Need for places

The Ash Villa Hospital unit provides inpatient care for young people experiencing mental health difficulties. The age range of inpatients admitted to the unit is 11-18. Due to the differing age ranges of Ash Villa School and the unit, the school is currently unable to provide formal educational support to those young people attending sixth-form or college (post-16 education) prior to admission.

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Related Proposals

The proposal to change the age range of Ash Villa School is not related to any other statutory proposal.

What will happen now?

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

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 25 June 2014 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor in August 2014 for a decision on the expansion of the school. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.