

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 23 February 2016

Subject:	Review of current arrangements for services to pregnant teenagers/teenage parents of school age.		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children & Adults Pat & Sarah Fielding – Director(s) of Education		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Schools		
Report author and contact details:	Karen Chambers, Support Services Manager, Inclusion & Disability Service. Karen.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 87 64702 Alistair Conquer, Head of Education Partnerships Service: Alistair.conquer@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 87 64694		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Total value of the decision: Approximately £400k Dedicated Schools Grant funding			
Wards affected: All wards		Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 22 September 2015	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>It is proposed that the Beckhampton Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) is closed at the end of the academic year 2015/16. Nottingham City Schools are meeting their obligations with regard to pregnancy, in line with the Equality Act 2010 and are no longer making 'default' referrals to Beckhampton Centre (PRU) when pregnancy is disclosed. They are supporting this group of vulnerable young people within their mainstream establishments, alongside their peers wherever practicable.</p> <p>Numbers on roll at Beckhampton Centre (PRU) have reduced significantly and the centre is therefore no longer financially sustainable.</p>			
Exempt information:			
<p>Appendix 4 to the report is exempt from publication under paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the proposal set out in the report is to discontinue Beckhampton Centre Pupil Referral Unit, in order to make costs savings, which would clearly affect the staff at Beckhampton Centre Pupil Referral Unit, possibly resulting in the dismissal of staff by reason of redundancy, and it will be necessary to conduct consultation with those staff to take that proposal forward. Disclosing this appendix could prejudice any consultation with the staff and reveal the legal advice set out in this report, which the Executive Board is entitled to consider in confidence in order to make as fully informed a decision as possible.</p>			

Recommendation(s):

- 1 To consider the outcomes of the consultation in Appendix 1 of the report and approve the closure of Beckhampton Centre (Pupil Referral Unit).**
- 2 To review provision for the small number of city resident vulnerable pregnant teenagers/teenage parents where mainstream school is not the most effective provision.**

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 A public consultation was held to elicit responses to the proposal to close Beckhampton Centre Pupil Referral Unit as a result of reducing numbers accessing the provision and the concomitant decrease in value for money.
- 1.2 In terms of consultation responses, there were a number of objections to the proposals and further detail on the context of this is detailed below and in **Appendix 1**. However, the Council needs to balance these objections against the sustainability of the current provision and the considerable financial pressures of the High Level Needs Dedicated Schools Grant allocated to Nottingham City Council and consider the number of comments in support of the proposal.
- 1.3 The provision for the small number of pupils for whom mainstream school is not the most effective provision is already determined as in **Appendix 2**. It is for the Local Authority to ensure that appropriate provision from the Family Nurse Partnership and Teenage Pregnancy Midwifery Service is made within the individual educational plan for all the needs of that young person, in the same way that provision is made for those remaining in their school whilst pregnant and as mothers.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Beckhampton Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) is a Local Authority maintained Pupil Referral Unit which provides alternative provision for up to a maximum of 20 pregnant teenagers/teenage parents of statutory school age; it is not a statutory service.
- 2.2 There is an independently registered nursery provision within the centre which has provided childcare, funded by DWP's Care 2 Learn funding where appropriate, for babies of the girls on roll at Beckhampton Centre PRU.
- 2.3 The national picture is generally moving towards maintaining provision for pregnant teenagers/teenage parents and providing broad and balanced access to the curriculum within the mainstream schools settings, with additional support from Local Authority statutory services and relevant health professional to ensure an effective package of holistic support to positive outcomes for the young people and their babies.
- 2.4 A four week public consultation was undertaken between 6th November and 7th December 2015. The following bodies were consulted:
 - Nottingham City Schools, Academies, Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units

- Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group including Teenage Pregnancy Midwives and Sexual Health Practitioners
- Nottingham City Public Health including Family Nurse Partnership
- Nottingham City Ward Councillors
- Bestwood Area Neighbourhood Manager
- All relevant Trade Unions
- Nottingham City resident pregnant teenagers/teenage parents and their Parents/Carers, who were on the caseload of the Nottingham City Education Support Officer (Teenage Pregnancy) during the consultation period
- Nottinghamshire County council relevant stakeholders
- Nottingham City Teenage Pregnancy Taskforce
- Beckhampton Centre PRU staff
- General public via the Nottingham City Council website

The analysis of the consultation responses indicates that of the 238 responses, 180 (75.6%) were in favour of the proposals, 47 (19.7%) were against the proposals and 11 (4.6%) had no preference.

Main comments against closure were: Quality of provision, problems of remaining at school, the degree of achievement and the Nursery provision. Main comments in favour of closure were: High costs and value for money, better use could be made of available funds, better for girls to stay in school, relatively higher degree of achievement and wider curriculum offer available in mainstream schools.

The overall analysis is attached at **Appendix 1**.

There was a petition against the proposal that was submitted at the public meeting held on December 3rd 2015, with 1210 signatures, some of these representations were duplicated on the formal website response page. However, this petition was not conducted through the Council agreed procedures for petitions.

<http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 For the establishment to remain open – this option was considered but is not financially viable or sustainable.
- 3.2 For the establishment to close with no additional contingencies in place – this option supports the financial pressures but does not address in full the needs of a small number of city resident vulnerable pregnant teenagers/teenage parents where mainstream school is not the most effective provision.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 The Beckhampton Centre receives funding from the High Needs block of the Local Authority's (LA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation.

The **budgeted expenditure for 2015/16 financial year is £0.386m**. This is funded by a combination of the DSG high needs block funding (£0.275m), income from schools and Care to Learn grant income for the nursery provision.

Due to a shortfall in numbers the Centre is forecast to have **an in year deficit of £0.069m.**

This will be mitigated by a £0.137m surplus brought forward from 2013/14 and 2014/15 when PRUs received fixed budgets under a local transitional funding arrangement.

- 4.2 **DSG Funding** - In 2015/16, the indicative budget allocated within the high needs block is £0.275m, with final funding being dependent on the number of pupils on roll throughout the year.

The closure of the Beckhampton Centre would result in £0.275m annually being available to re-prioritise to support the pressures arising within the DSG budgets due to growth in High Needs places not being funded.

Examples of the pressures are as follows:

- The need to fund an increase the number of Special School places.
- The number of pupils with Special Education Needs requiring support in mainstream schools rising significantly year on year.

- 4.3 **Funding basis** - Beckhampton Centre is funded under the national place-plus high needs funding arrangements where they receive:

- **Place funding.** This is set in advance, based on a planned place number, plus top-up funding according to the actual number of pupils on roll.

The centre is currently funded for 20 places, which is their maximum capacity. In line with national arrangements place funding is £10,000 from September 2015 (previously £8,000).

- **Top up funding.** From September 2015, top-up funding per pupil is equivalent to £11,707 per year (£62 per day).

City schools contribute £26 per day (equivalent to the basic per pupil funding received for pupils on roll) with the DSG high needs budget making up the remainder.

County schools are charged the full top-up value. The high needs budget funds the full top-up value for City resident girls who are sole registered at Beckhampton.

- 4.4 **Budget assumptions** - The budget assumed an average of 14 girls on roll, in line with historic trends, making the budgeted cost of this provision £0.028m per pupil. The average pupil numbers have dropped to around 10 girls and as a result the **average cost per pupil is forecast to increase to £0.037m.**

This year, on average, only 5 City girls have been on roll at the provision. Forecast DSG funding is £0.234m **making the cost to the DSG high needs budget £0.047m per City pupil.**

- 4.5 **Value for money comparisons – Table 1** below shows the comparative cost of funding pupils in other types of provision. This highlights the high relative cost of the Beckhampton Centre at a time when the high needs budget is under increasing pressure.

TABLE 1: COMPARATIVE PER PUPIL COSTS	
Setting	Cost per pupil £
Oakfield Special School	19,502
Home tuition	12,248
Mainstream per pupil funding at key stage 4	4,894
Alternative provision	13,300
Moat House Teenage Pregnancy PRU, Stockport	21,769

- 4.6 There would be a number of one-off costs associated to closing the Beckhampton Centre. Site related closure costs would need to be funded from any remaining surplus balance (as noted in 4.1) and the balance from the Statutory Schools Reserve.

Redundancy costs, which are not quantifiable at this stage, will be met from the Schools Termination of Employment Costs budget which is a combined budget.

Once the values are quantified the appropriate approval and procurement processes will need to be undertaken.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Legal Implications are contained in Exempt Legal Implications at Appendix 4.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)

- 6.1 If the decision is authorised, to close the Beckhampton Centre and declare it surplus to Children and Adults requirements, Property Services will work with Children and Adults and Facilities Management to decommission the vacant property, which is not considered viable for any alternative Operational use due to its condition, layout and location.
- 6.2 Decommissioning will be at the cost of Children and Adults with Property working to ensure that these costs are kept to a minimum.
- 6.3 Property will consider the future of the property within the context of its location on the frontage of the former Haywood School detached playing field and will seek to minimise the costs associated with holding the property vacant, which will be met from the existing budget currently used to cover the operational building running costs.

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 N/A

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

8.1 N/A

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because:
(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes

See **Appendix 3** - due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

**10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT
(NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT
INFORMATION)**

10.1 None.

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 Nottingham City Fair Access Protocol – [Nottingham City Council Fair Access Protocol Secondary Key Stages 3 & 4](#)

12 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

HR Comments

12.1 There will be a need to consult with affected staff and further advice should be taken by the responsible Nottingham City Council officers about such consultation from HR and/or Legal Services.

**Leanne Sharp
Service Redesign Consultant
18.01.2016**