

D. HUMPHREY

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**10 September 2013**

**Joint Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults  
and the Director of Property**

**SUPPORT SERVICE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – RELOCATION  
OF HOLBROOK TEAM – (Children and Young People)**

1. **Purpose of the Report** To seek approval to a proposed relocation of the office base for a team within the Support Service for Special Educational Needs (SSSEN).

2. **Information and Analysis**

**2.1** The Support Service for Special Educational Needs occupies various bases around the County. At the last Cabinet meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July, approval was granted to the relocation of two SSSEN Teams into school locations at Cavendish Junior School, Chesterfield and Whaley Thorns Primary School. The report highlighted the advantages of SSSEN Teams being co-located within school settings and also informed Cabinet that a proposal to relocate the Holbrook SSSEN Team, based at Breadsall, was under consideration and would be the subject of a future report. As highlighted in the previous report, the preferred option is for SSSEN teams to be located in schools for the following reasons:

- SSSEN provide statutory teaching, advice and support to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in primary schools. By being located in primary schools, SSSEN teams can offer the most direct, efficient and effective service to the local communities of children, parents/carers and schools in their area.
- SSSEN are part of the Schools and Learning Division; hence location in schools aligns with strategic leadership.

Costs will be saved in the following ways:

- Alternative 'hub' office accommodation does not meet the storage requirement for specialist equipment used by SSSEN teachers on a

daily basis to teach children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The alternative of splitting office accommodation and storage of teaching equipment over two sites would significantly increase travel expenditure and time, thereby reducing efficiency. School accommodation offers enough capacity to locate staff and resources effectively on one site.

- Schools offer the shared use of facilities for training at no additional cost, so SSEN will continue to be able to offer training events to primary schools and parents/carers across Derbyshire, without having to charge for the hire of a venue.
- By leasing space in schools with empty classrooms, SSEN will be creating savings for school budgets.

**2.2** As part of the 'Changing the Way Derbyshire Works' (CWDW) project, office accommodation located in the residential blocks of the former Ferriby Special School in Breadsall is gradually being vacated. The Holbrook SSEN Team is located within that accommodation and the opportunity has arisen for this team to move into spare accommodation in the former School House at Cromford Primary School. A budget cost of £30,000 has been calculated for essential minor building adaptations, electrical works, ICT networking and furniture and equipment.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The required funding of £30,000 can be approved from savings in the 2012/13 CAYA Capital Programme which currently total £182,000.

A revenue funding contribution will be made to the school from the SSEN Service's budget to cover premises related costs.

### **4. Property Considerations** The Director of Property will undertake the management of the minor capital project required at the school.

### **5. Other Considerations** In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity; environmental, health; human resources; legal & human rights; and transport considerations.

### **6. Key Decision? No**

### **7. Is it required that the call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within the report? No**

**8. Officer Recommendation**

That approval be granted to the proposed relocation of the Holbrook SSSEN Team into Cromford Primary School at a budget cost of £30,000, as a charge on savings in the 2012/13 CAYA Capital Programme.

**Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**  
**Jeremy Goacher, Director of Property**