

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****24 July 2012****Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults****UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PROVISION FOR POST-16  
STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND DISABILITIES AT  
HOPE VALLEY COLLEGE – (Young People)****1. Purpose of Report To:**

- provide Cabinet with the further report on the development of provision for post-16 students with learning difficulties and disabilities at Hope Valley College as agreed in the Cabinet report of March 2012.
- request Cabinet's support for the updated funding arrangements for the summer period of the 2012/13 academic.

**Information and Analysis****Students**

Following Cabinet's approval the County Council has agreed that Hope Valley College will make provision to enable up to nine Year 12 students to achieve the outcomes detailed in their Statements of Special Educational Needs and their Transition Plans in academic year 2012/2013.

The number of places to be provided by the College will rise to a maximum of twelve Year 12 and twelve Year 13 students in academic year 2013/2014.

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Year 12 students</b>	<b>Year 13 students</b>	<b>total</b>
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>Maximum of 9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Maximum of 9</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>Maximum of 12</b>	<b>Maximum of 12</b>	<b>Maximum of 24</b>

The Foundation learning programmes for these students will be delivered on the site of the College, but one of the key roles of the hub will be to co-ordinate the learning and wider experiences for the young people, drawing upon high quality opportunities available in the area provided by other schools, Further Education colleges, adventure centres, employers and training providers.

Following partnership working involving the LA and the College, seven students with learning difficulties and disabilities are expected to take up places at the College in September 2012. The College reports that it expects the number to increase during the academic year up to the maximum of nine places.

### **Planning and Consultation**

The Council has agreed with the College that existing accommodation at the College will be used for this facility on a temporary basis from September 2012. Discussions regarding planning matters are on-going between the Council, Peak Park and Sports England, relating to proposals to build a modular building with parking adjacent to the site of Hope Valley College on land that belongs to Derbyshire County Council.

The national Education Funding Agency for Academies has recently indicated that as the arrangements will entail Hope Valley College increasing its age range from 11-16 to 11-18 for students who attend the facility, the College must undertake a consultation to support its Business Case for the Secretary of State to grant approval for the extension of its age range. As partners in the new arrangements, the Council will support the College in undertaking a consultation during summer and early autumn 2012.

**Financial Considerations** In March 2012 Cabinet agreed to fund the costs of the nine College places for the period September 2012 to March 2013 at a cost of £180,000. At that time, Cabinet members were alerted to the possibility that the LA might be unable to secure external funding for the period from the end of March 2013 to the end of the academic year in August 2013. This has now been confirmed. As such, it will be necessary to provide additional funding of £109,000 for this period.

The extra cost of increasing the reserve would therefore be £109k which would be funded from the 2011-12 CAYA underspend.

In March 2012, Cabinet supported this proposal as an “invest to save” model.

The annual cost of the hub, based on twenty four fte students, is estimated at £431,000, significantly below the £500,000 estimated cost of alternative independent provision for nine students.

The on-going costs of the facility will be funded from resources transferred to the Authority from the Education Funding Agency.

#### **4. Human Resources Considerations None**

5. **Legal & Human Rights Considerations** The Council will support the College to undertake a consultation in relation to the College's proposals to extend the College's age range to 11-18 for pupils attending the new facility.
6. **Property Considerations** Peak Planning has given initial consideration to the proposal. A formal planning application is to be submitted in the near future. The property will be owned by Derbyshire County Council and the partnership arrangements will be managed by the Authority.
7. **Equality of Opportunity Considerations** The development of the provision will considerably enhance the opportunities available for young people with significant and complex learning difficulties and disabilities to access local learning opportunities and be active participants within the community.
8. **Other Considerations** In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- Prevention of Crime & Disorder, Equality of Opportunity; and Environmental, Health, Human Rights Considerations.
9. **Key Decision** No.
10. **Call In To Be Waived** No.
11. **Strategic Director's Recommendations That Cabinet:**
  - 11.1 agrees to set aside the additional sum of £109K from the 2011-12 CAYA underspend as an earmarked reserve to meet the costs of the new facility for the period March 2013 to September 2013;
  - 11.2 agrees to receive a further report on the outcome of the consultation and an update on the project.

**Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**