

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

26 September 2012

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

**Creation of an Enhanced Resource Facility for Pupils with Autism at
Tibshelf Community School – A Specialist Sports College –
(Education)**

1. **Purpose of Report** To provide a report to Cabinet on the outcome of the publication of Statutory Notices to create an Enhanced Resource provision at Tibshelf Community School – A Specialist Sports College, and consider whether or not to proceed to implement this proposal.
2. **Information and Analysis**

2.1 Consultation Process A review of Special Education, completed in 2006, recommended that an 'Investment to Save' analysis should begin, with regard to making new enhanced resource provision for primary aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Amber Valley area (Cabinet Report 5th September 2006). Following further consultation and consideration, the primary enhanced resource facility was located at Pilsley Community Primary School (Chesterfield), within North East Derbyshire District (Cabinet Report 10th February 2009).

Officers were satisfied that there continued to be a demand for such specialist provision in Derbyshire, and that the facility at Pilsley would be accessible to a large area of Derbyshire, including the Amber Valley district. The school's Governing Body had previously considered the possibility of establishing an enhanced resource facility and had indicated its support. Within the Cabinet report of 10th February 2009 was a reference to the need for further planning to be undertaken in due course to establish more secondary school enhanced resource provision for pupils with autism.

The demand for such provision is high, both locally and nationally. The number of children requiring such provision is rising and the Authority must plan to provide a seamless flow through to secondary (Key Stage 3 & 4) education. During the consultation process for the facility at Pilsley Community Primary School, the senior management team at

Tibshelf Community Secondary School – A Specialist Sports College expressed support for the proposed Pilsley Primary School project and a desire to see the provision replicated for Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils at Tibshelf Community School. Pupils from Pilsley Primary school and schools in the surrounding area feed into Tibshelf Community School and so this would be the most logical development to pursue.

Cabinet agreed to undertake an informal consultation on the proposal at its meeting on 22 November 2011, and received a report on the issues raised during the consultation at its meeting on 3 April 2012. Seven responses were received, all of which were supportive with no objections to the proposal. Cabinet Members approved the publication of a Statutory Notice which was undertaken on 28 June 2012.

2.2 Responses Received

During the period for representations following the publication of the Statutory Notice, no further comments and no objections were received.

2.3 Conclusions

There is support for the proposal to create an ERS provision for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder at Tibshelf Community School – A Specialist Sports College.

3. **Financial Considerations** At its meeting on 22 November 2011, Cabinet agreed to an additional capital allocation of £400,000 to the Tibshelf project to allow the provision of an ERS facility to provide for students with Autism.

Under the School Funding Reforms, from April 2013 the revenue costs of running a secondary enhanced resource school facility for pupils with autism will be funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The funding will be based on a combination of Specialist Unit funding at £10,000 per planned place and a top up relating to each individual pupil placed in the unit. For a unit with 15 planned places, this would equate to £150,000 of basic place funding; the actual top up cannot be calculated at this time but, if the unit is full, would be in the region of £90,000 (based on the costs of similar units within the Authority).

4. **Human Resources Considerations** The main personnel considerations will relate to the appointment of new staff, to provide the additional specialist support for pupils placed at the enhanced resource school facility. The school's Governing Body will be responsible for making such appointments, with support from Local Authority advisory and support staff within the Children and Younger Adults Department.

National Health Service and voluntary agency colleagues will also be invited to assist with this process.

5. **Legal & Human Rights Considerations** Derbyshire County Council has a statutory duty to make suitable provision for children and young people in its area who have special educational needs, up to the age of 19.

The introduction of a Key Stage 3 – 4 secondary ERS facility at an existing community secondary school is a prescribed alteration within Section 19 Education and Inspections Act 2006, Regulation 5 and paragraph 5(a) Part 1 Schedule 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. A statutory procedure must be followed.

Following publication of statutory notices, Cabinet is empowered to make a final decision on the proposals, within 2 months from the end of the representation period. If the proposals are approved, the Authority will be under a duty to implement them..

6. **Other Considerations** In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, and environmental and health considerations.
7. **Background Papers** A file is available within the Development Section.
8. **Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults' Recommendations**

That Cabinet considers the outcome of the publication of statutory notices, and approves the proposals for the creation of enhanced resource provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Tibshelf Community School – A Specialist Sports College, such proposals to be implemented by 6th November 2013, to coincide with the opening of the new Tibshelf school building.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults