



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL CABINET** **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007**

# **ITEM 8**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and  
Young People

### **Establishment of a New Community Special School**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following the approval of the Council's budget for 2007/08 and indicative budget for 2008/09, this report relates to the proposal to establish a special school and make changes to the current Pupil Referral Unit facilities (PRU).
- 1.2 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007, Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice for this proposal. The two month statutory consultation period commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> April and to date no objections have been received. Any objections received following the circulation of this report will be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.3 This report seeks Cabinet approval for this proposal and for it to be forwarded to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for this decision.
- 1.4 The necessary prescribed information is currently being prepared to submit to the Schools Adjudicator setting out the key objectives of this proposal, as outlined in the initial consultation document, together with information on the consultation process and other supplementary information.
- 1.5 The school will also operate a range of PRU facilities under an agreed service level agreement to ensure that the provision for these children is maintained.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To approve the proposal to establish a new Community Special School.
- 2.2 To agree to the proposal being sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Following the end of the two month statutory consultation period, there is a requirement to forward this proposal, together with the required prescribed information, to the Schools Adjudicator to enable a decision to be taken.



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**ITEM XX**

Report of the Corporate Director for Children  
and Young People

**Establishment of a New Community Special School**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Following the approval of the Council's budget for 2007/08 and indicative budget for 2008/09, this report relates to the proposal to establish a special school and make changes to the current Pupil Referral Unit facilities (PRU).
- 4.2 The Council proposes the establishment of a special school to meet the needs of key stage three and four young people with particular behavioural, social and emotional needs. These pupils are currently placed long term at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Through placements within a designated special school, a more appropriate and targeted provision can be developed to support the individual needs of such pupils. Many authorities have similar provision for such young people who find it very difficult to be sustained in a mainstream school. The new school will also operate a range of existing PRU provisions under an agreed service level agreement.
- 4.3 The proposal also includes arrangements to create a key stage 3 and 4 pupil referral unit group, specifically for Looked after children with similar complex needs.
- 4.4 A consultation paper was published and circulated to all key stakeholders on the proposal following publication of the Council's 2007–10 budget strategy. No objections were received in response to this initial consultation.
- 4.5 The next stage of this proposal was the publication of a statutory notice, as approved by Council Cabinet on 17 April 2007. To date, no objections have been received during the two month statutory consultation period. Any objections received following the circulation of this report will be tabled at the meeting.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5. None – There is a requirement to forward this proposal and the necessary prescribed information to the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.

**For more information  
contact:**

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:**

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None  
Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 None specifically arising from the report itself. The revenue budget approved by Council on 1 March included savings arising from the service proposal to re-designate a pupil referral unit and establish a new special school with a part year budget of £933,000 in 2007/08 rising to £1.6 million in a full year. This has transferred £1.6m of costs between the non-schools budget, central Schools Budget and delegated Schools Budget.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for making a decision on this proposal under the Schools Organisation (Education and Inspections) Act 2006. Following the end of the two month statutory consultation period, the required prescribed information will be forwarded to the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None specifically arising from the report itself. The proposal does carry some personnel implications for existing staff which will be considered through the normal personnel and Trade Union processes. This proposal to establish a new special school does not carry with it any staffing reductions.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 The proposal will ensure that services for some of the City's most vulnerable children will be enhanced and protected.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 The proposal furthers the Corporate Plan priority of supporting everyone in learning and achieving, focusing on the outcome of improving educational achievement and narrowing the gaps in attainment.