

**Meeting of the Decision Session –
Cabinet Member for Education,
Children and Young People**

13 December 2012

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Proposed Relocation of Applefields School Satellite Provision

Summary

1. This paper describes the proposed arrangements to transfer the current Applefields School Satellite provision from Burnholme Community College to a new host school by September 2013.

Background

2. Applefields School is the local authority's special school for secondary aged pupils with a wide range of special educational needs. The school supports 140 pupils aged 11–19 years from York and the surrounding areas of North Yorkshire and the East Riding.
3. In developing the range of local authority provision for children with special educational needs in York, Applefields School sought to establish a Satellite class for students with learning difficulties based in a mainstream secondary school.
4. The rationale and proposals for the development of a Satellite class were described in a briefing paper presented to the Directorate Management Team in December 2009.
5. It was noted at that time that the establishment a Satellite provision would contribute to the continuing development of the local authority's range of specialist and enhanced resource provision for children with special educational needs.

The Rationale for Satellite Provision

6. The aim of the Satellite provision is to provide opportunities for students with learning difficulties (on the roll of Applefields School) to be based full time in a mainstream secondary school in order to have access to individually planned inclusion opportunities with the support of staff from the special school. The students have use of a base classroom in the mainstream school where they access their core curriculum.
7. Although the Satellite provision was initially established with a group of Key Stage 3 pupils, the long term plan includes the development of co-located provision for both Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils. At the end of Key Stage 4 pupils will have the opportunity, as appropriate, to return to the Applefields School site to access full time Post 16 provision.

History of the Satellite Provision to-date

8. Following consultation with the local authority, mainstream secondary schools and other interested partners and stakeholders, Applefields School established a Satellite class for up to 10 Key Stage 3 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties based at Burnholme Community College. This provision opened in September 2011.
9. In the first year (2011/12) the Satellite class made provision for seven Year 7 students and in the current school year there are eleven Year 7 and Year 8 students on roll. On joining Applefields School all of these students were admitted directly to the Satellite provision at the beginning of their secondary education, transferring from either mainstream primary provision or Hob Moor Oaks, the LA's primary special school.
10. The Satellite provision in York has been very well launched and established successfully at Burnholme Community School. This is as a result of a close collaborative working partnership between the staff at Applefields and Burnholme. The young people concerned were warmly welcomed and quickly integrated into the wider school community. This positive start has given confidence in the model and argues well for the continuation and further growth of this approach.

Transferring the Provision

11. Following the decision by the LA to close Burnholme Community College by July 2014, discussions have taken place with LA officers and the head teachers of mainstream secondary schools to identify a new partner to host the Satellite provision.
12. The LA is committed to the continuation of the Satellite provision and this was noted as a recommendation in the May 2012 report from the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People on the Future of Burnholme Community College. In that report the LA committed a capital budget of £100K to support the relocation of the Satellite provision.
13. Upon the decision to close Burnholme Community College, the Headteacher of Applefields School, in partnership with the LA, sought expressions interest from mainstream secondary schools to host the Satellite provision. Following a period of informal consultation, formal expressions of interest were sought form secondary schools across the city.
14. In making their submissions each interested school was asked to address a number of factors that were considered significant with regard to the successful establishment of the Satellite provision. [Refer to Annex 1]
15. Strong submissions of interest were received. Each submission noted the opportunities that would be provided by the host school and the impact that it was hoped that the Satellite provision would have on the school's existing SEN provision. In addition, each school was able to identify space within their existing building for the establishment of 2 classrooms that would be needed for a Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 group. There is an immediate need for a Key Stage 3 classroom to replace the existing provision and the need for a Key Stage 4 classroom to be available from September 2014.
16. The estimates for the capital development and or refurbishment of these areas, and associated works within each school have been costed as being within the capital budget allocated.
17. In the light of the development of the provision from Key Stage 3 to Key Stages 3 and 4, it was proposed that the Satellite provision

should transfer in September 2013. This is to enable the young people to become established in a new school a year before they moved from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4.

18. On receipt of the submissions, follow up visits were made by the key staff from Applefields School and discussions were held with the headteacher and key staff from each school.

Consultation

19. Following the announcement to consult on the closure of Burnholme Community College, the Headteacher of Applefields School has held regular consultation meetings with the parents and carers of the children who attend the Satellite provision.
20. Ongoing consultation has also taken place with the governing body of Applefields School and partners in the local NHS trust. The head teachers of the interested schools have also consulted their respective governing bodies.

Choice of Host School

21. Following careful consideration of each school's submission and in consultation with local authority officers and key Applefields staff, including those in the Satellite provision, a bid from Manor CE Academy was identified as representing the best transfer option for the existing Satellite Provision.
22. The reasons include:
 - Manor School has well established high quality provision for students with a wide range of special educational needs.
 - It is proposed that the Satellite provision will be located in an area immediately adjacent to the school's SEN hub this will enable the development of a dynamic relationship with the school's SEN provision. It is envisaged that this partnership will promote improved outcomes for young people through collaborative curriculum development, joint staff training and the sharing of specialist teaching resources.
 - Manor School is a key partner in the Ebor Teaching School Alliance. It is envisaged that the school's SEN provision and the Satellite provision, together with other partners in the ETSA, will provide an important opportunity for trainee teachers to develop

their professional skills, experience and understanding of the needs of children with a wide range of special educational needs.

Options

23. There is no option to continue this provision at the current host school. In the circumstances the following options are available:
- Option One – to cease the Satellite Provision at the point of closure of the current host school.
 - Option Two – to transfer the provision to Manor CE Academy.

Analysis

24. The success of the Satellite provision has highlighted the value of this inclusive approach for some young people who would benefit from individualised part time inclusion opportunities in a mainstream setting. The success of the Satellite provision in its current location has clearly demonstrated the benefits for the young people through this integrated approach. There is also a complimentary benefit for the students, staff and wider community in the host school.
25. There is an opportunity to grow and develop this approach in the coming years informed by the experience and learning of the current provision and through the ongoing consultation with the parents and young people involved.
26. In these circumstances, the opportunity to transfer the provision to a new host school where this work can be further developed is recommended. This recommendation is supported by the views of the existing cohort of young people, their parents and all of the teaching and specialist support staff involved.

Council Plan

27. This recommendation supports the Council Plan Priority to Build Strong Communities.

Implications

Financial

28. There are no significant risk implications. The proposed transfer to a new host school and the associated set up costs can be achieved within the allocated budget (see Para 16).

Other

29. There are no significant implications relating to Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property within this report.

Risk Management

30. There are no significant risks associated with this decision.

Recommendations

31. The Cabinet Member is asked to agree
 - the transfer of the Applefields School Satellite Provision to Manor CE Academy to support the continuation of this valued resource
 - the allocation of the agreed £100K capital resource to the Manor scheme

Reason: to enable the retention for the city of a respected and valued model of inclusive education

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	√	Date
Specialist Implications Officer(s) None			
Wards Affected:		All	√
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers

Briefing paper presented to the Directorate Management Team in December 2009.

Annexes

Annex 1: Applefields School: Satellite Provision - Notes for Partner Schools