

Proposal to make a prescribed alteration to The Acorns Primary and Nursery School, Pooltown Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 7ED.

School and Local Authority Details

The proposal to make a prescribed alteration to The Acorns Primary and Nursery School, Pooltown Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 7ED from September 2017 is being published by Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas St, Chester, CH1 2NP. Contact Name and Address: Carolyn Davis, Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure. (Nicholas House 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Publication Date: 27 April 2017

The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently expand the age range of The Acorns Primary and Nursery School from 3-11years of age to 2-11 years of age, to take effect from September 2017.

Consultation

An informal pre-consultation was carried out by the Council during the 2017 Spring Term. Having considered the response to the consultation the Director of Education has determined the proposal should now proceed to the formal stage of Notice and Representation. This period of formal consultation will run from 27 April 2017 to 24 May 2017

Any person or organisation may submit comments to the Council on the proposal and these must be taken into account by the decision-maker who will be the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The decision must be made in accordance with statutory guidance.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed that the school extend its age range by making maintained provision for an increased age range of children who have not yet reached compulsory school age. The Governing body of the school believe that this increase in the age range of the school is necessary:

- To ensure that all local two year-old children with an entitlement to early years education are able to access that entitlement in a local setting of their preference.
- To enable continuity in children's early years education in order to support their readiness for school.

The Council's Early Years Commissioner believes that these places will be necessary to enable the Council to discharge its duty to ensure a sufficiency of places for eligible two-year olds in the area local to the school.

Ofsted has found the school's Early Years Foundation Stage provision to be 'Good'.

The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

The school propose to expand their age range in order that they can make a similar offer of early years education for two year-olds to that currently provided from the premises by Heathfield Playgroup which is planning to cease provision at the end of the current academic year. It is consequently considered that the impact of this proposal upon other providers will be neutral.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;

Operational costs will be met from the school's revenue budget, supported through the Council's mechanisms for funding early years education.

The school has budgeted £14,005 for initial outlay to establish the provision to the environmental standard it desires. Based upon current patterns of demand the school anticipates that income in subsequent years will meet or slightly exceed the annual cost of making the provision and has produced forecasts of how the provision can be sustained and developed in response to possible parental demand to purchase additional non-funded hours of provision.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If approved by the decision-maker (and subject to there being no appeal by Chester or Shrewsbury Dioceses to the Schools Adjudicator) the Governing Body wish to implement the proposal from September 2017.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council website on Thursday 27 April 2017

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/theacornsprimaryconsultation

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations is to be published in the Ellesmere Port Standard on Thursday 27 April 2017.

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal;

- By sending a response to the Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, (Nicholas House Floor 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- By email to schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The final date for receipt of representations is Midnight Wednesday 24 May 2017.