

Notes

Wilmslow Education Partnership

Annex 6b

Date: 8 March 2013

Present:

Schools Janet Ciaputa - Dean Oaks
 Darren Morgan – Lindow
 Julie Brookes – Ashdene
 Lorraine Dooley – Lacey Green
 Chris Perry – Alderley Edge
 Joanne Ashcroft - Wilmslow Grange
 Rhona Carr – Gorsey Bank
 James Pulle – Wilmslow High
 Gill Bremner – Wilmslow High
 Clare Daniel – St Anne’s Fulshaw
 Richard Craven – Nether Alderley

LA Officers Val Simons
 Phil Yeomans
 Julie Mills

Gavin Mendham - eCAPH Chairperson

Overview/Presentation by Val Simons

Copies of the notes from the meeting held on 27 November 2012 were circulated.

Purpose of the meeting

At the last meeting the LA had promised to revisit the group to discuss options for school expansions.

Information

Information in relation to pre-school data for 2012 and 2013 and births from 2010 onwards for the whole of Cheshire East by wards was shared; in relation to the Wilmslow EIP for Reception 2012 intake there were 410 actual births compared to Nursery Education Grant (NEG) claimed of 402 and actual Reception numbers of 376. It was thought the reduction could be for a number of reasons (families moving

Information available in relation to September 2013 numbers of pupils in the Wilmslow EIP by catchment area school (448) and 1st preference data (412) against Published Admission Numbers of 360 was circulated, this information indicates a

Notes

shortfall of -88(catchment) and -52 (based on preferences received) of school places.

Val Simons reported that unfortunately the 2013 forecasts had not yet being made available but based on the 2012 forecasts indicated that LA need to provide 197 places by 2017, without operational surplus, and 297 with the 4% operational surplus.

This data highlights both current and future shortfalls in the Wilmslow area, not only for future Reception intakes but for casual in year admissions. It was acknowledged that the north of Wilmslow was the area where school places were needed most. Additional work would be undertaken once the 2013 forecasts were available to establish if the projected shortfall was similar.

Identifying Options

Consideration has to be given to

- Level of local demand using catchment or area generally served by the school;
- Community's ability to sustain the school;
- Physical condition of the school premises;
- Nature of the site, accessibility to it and scope for expansion
- Ability to deliver a full range of curriculum and social experiences;
- Latest Ofsted inspections (successful schools);
- Pattern of parental preference (popular schools).

Department for Education is in favour of expansion of popular and successful schools and risks in relation to potential increase in the number of 'independent' schools (Academies/Free Schools). LA's role as strategic commissioner was reiterated. When considering expansion there is a need to be mindful that too much capacity/surplus been built into the system could result in more competition amongst schools

It was highlighted that Academies can request funding from DfE to expand.

Feedback:

Those present were invited to put forward proposals for expansion to address the anticipated shortage of places in the Wilmslow area for September 2014 and beyond.

St Benedicts RC - suggestion was made that they could increase to 30 PAN. Val confirmed that this was a decision for the Governing Body and they could determine the increased PAN as part of their 2014 admission arrangements.

The LA advised that consideration was being given to the proposed expansion of Wilmslow Grange from 30 PAN to 45 to address the particular shortfall identified for the local catchment children (last 2/3 years not all In area applicants have been successful at gaining a place, For 2012 admitted over PAN to accommodate In Area

Notes

applicants wanting a place, and 1 other school, either Lacey Green or Dean Oaks from 45 to 60. Overall this would give an additional 210 school places which would be enough to cover the expected shortfall of 196 (with no operational surplus) and supply a very small surplus.

Lacey Green Academy confirmed that they have already made a bid to the Education Funding Agency to expand to 2 FE and should find out the outcome of that bid on 5th April.

Whichever 2 schools were decided a minimum of 12 months would be needed before the proposed expansions were in place as there would need to be the statutory consultation period and any expansion would also be subject to planning permission being granted.

Val advised that a provisional date of 8 April has been agreed for a proposal to be put before the Cabinet member responsible for Children, Adults and Families. The consultation papers would have to be prepared and submitted by 25 March so there was a need today to propose options for consideration. However, it was noted that the consultation documents could include “options” for consideration which could be consulted on and after the consultation period a recommendation could go forward to the Portfolio Holder for a decision on Public notice and subsequent representation period.

Schools present were invited to give their views and propose options

Janet voiced her concerns that she believed to expand other schools is dangerous, Dean Oaks catchment area is a significant area of deprivation and by putting additional places into neighbouring schools they could see an exodus of families – and the possibility of becoming a “sink school” and LA needs to be mindful of this.

Clare from St Anne’s Fulshaw felt it was morally wrong to build at Lacey Green in preference to Dean Oaks.

Jo Ashcroft from Wilmslow Grange raised concerns in respect of difficulties already in place for her school as they had admitted additional pupils in Sept 12. Further additional pupils in September 13 without additional accommodation could create a ‘bulge’ going through the school; there were also concerns in respect of funding and introduction of mixed aged classes.

Comments were made in relation to proposed housing in the Handforth area of 1500 properties and the proposed building of a new primary school in addition there is the Woodford site in Stockport of 1000 houses which could impact on CE schools.

Phil confirmed that any proposals will now be for 2014 and be from the 2013/2014 Capital Programme Basic Need.

Notes

September 2013 Intake

Referring to information shared, it was highlighted that there were a number of non-responders mainly from the Dean Oaks catchment which could impact on the shortage of places.

It was noted that Dean Oaks had a high number of children in its catchment (114 against a PAN of 45 and 1st preferences of 38)

The group wondered whether there was information available as to where the Dean Oaks families were sending their children to be educated. The LA advised that there is a mapping system available to identify this and would look into. It was felt that they applied for a varying number of schools.

LA Will now be looking at 2013 applications- latest information would indicate problems again for 2013 and will need to discuss admission over PAN at a number of schools.

LA has been in contact to seek offers from school to admit above PAN, responses have been received, however, should any school wish to volunteer they can do so by before next week by contacting Val or Julie.

In-Year movement was also referred to again highlighting the need for additional school places in a number of schools.

Capital Bids

Phil Yeomans advised that decisions on Capital Bids would be informed to schools next week.

LA have identified a number of proposals and some initial feasibility studies have been undertaken at 3 schools to determine whether the proposals would be possible.

Statutory Process

Processes for considering any future options and statutory processes involved were shared. Relevant consultees – school community of school proposed for expansion including staff, governors, children, neighbouring schools community, local District/Parish, Councillors, relevant Union(s), MP for area and Dioceses.

Views/Options

Chris - Alderley Edge, no real impact for his school as in the south of the town, he felt any expansion of a school should not impact on other schools.

Jo – Wilmslow Grange, understood that capital funding now known, monies available to expand 2 schools, feasibility studies undertaken, Lacey Green decision in respect of funding known 5 April.

Notes

Darren – Lindow, all three schools should not be expanded before filling the places already available in the local area, concerns should there be surplus places so only 2 from 3, favoured option Wilmslow Grange and Dean Oaks.

Janet – Dean Oaks, there will be an objection lodged should Lacey Green propose an expansion, school have concerns about the damage this would do the Oakenclough families and seriously deprived cohorts of children. Preferred option expand Dean Oaks to 60 and Wilmslow Grange to 45.

3 headteachers supported an option to expand all 3 schools , believing that the additional housing expected in the area and the operation shortfall (requiring 297 school places) would support the expansions.

Claire – St Anne’s Fulshaw; see themselves as a small school being vulnerable if all 3 expand, preferred option expansion 2 schools Dean Oaks and Wilmslow Grange.

It was recognised by all in attendance that there was a need to expand Wilmslow Grange from 1 FE to 1.5FE.

A question was raised in respect of schools where there was a shared number of catchment children – Val confirmed shared areas have equal standing in respect of the admission process.

All present agreed that LA should be providing adequate school places for Wilmslow children in Wilmslow schools.

The following were put forward and agreed on as options for the Wilmslow area.

Proposed options

- 1) Wilmslow Grange expanded to 45 (210 to 315 school places)
Dean Oaks or Lacey Green to 60 (315 to 420 school places)
- 2) Wilmslow Grange expanded to 45 (210 to 315 school places)
Lacey Green expanded to 60 (315 to 420 school places)
Dean Oaks expanded to 60 (315 to 420 school places)

Val thanked the group for their time and advised that senior managers would now consider the options put forward and how to proceed..

Actions

LA – to provide ‘dotty’ maps showing each schools catchment and where pupils are resident and % out of area

LA to issue copy of options to Heads prior to consultation documents going public.