

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Children's Services |
| Date: | 11 July 2023 |
| Title: | Barncroft Primary School Age Range |
| Report From: | Director of Children's Services |

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the statutory public notice in relation to the proposal for Barncroft Primary School to lower their age range and take children from age 2 years old and deliver nursery provision from 8.50am to 3.10pm.
2. This report seeks approval for the age range of the school to be lowered.

Recommendation(s)

3. That approval be given to the following proposals, published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:
 - To make a prescribed alteration to Barncroft Primary School, Park Lane, Bedhampton, Havant PO9 3HN, to provide nursery provision for up to 24 places for children from 2 years old, with effect from 1 September 2023, with a requirement to consult with the Council prior to any further expansion of places.

Executive Summary

4. This report outlines the rationale, background and outcome of the Public Notice to the request to lower the age range for Barncroft Primary School.
5. Barncroft Primary School is a community school currently approved to take children of school age from Year R to Year 6. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is currently 60 with a capacity of 420. The governing body of the school is seeking to:
 - (a) Lower the age range to 2-years old; and
 - (b) Directly manage a new early years' facility as part of the school.

6. The Barncroft Primary School proposal is for the governing body of the school to take on the management of Barn Owls preschool, currently operated by the YMCA, which is on the school site and will deliver 24 preschool places for children aged 2,3 and 4 years old.
7. The current Barn Owls delivery is in a separate building on the site of Barncroft Primary School, specifically designed for preschool care.
8. The school leadership team has reviewed its management, financial and operational arrangements, and the governors at its meeting on 10 November 2022 gave full agreement to the proposal.
9. There is no cost to Hampshire County Council associated with this proposal.
10. A public consultation was held from 12 May to 16 June 2023.
11. No objections were raised from the consultation.
12. A copy of the Public Notice is appended (Appendix 1). The County Council has complied with all statutory requirements relating to the publication of the Public Notice.

STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

13. *The Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools* (publishing.service.gov.uk) guidance sets out the process to be followed.
14. A Public Notice was published in the press on 12 May 2023 with the consultation period closing 16 June 2023.

Contextual information

15. The Barn Owls preschool is a YMCA managed facility. YMCA has been on a journey to divest a number of nursery/preschool they run and Barn Owls is one of these in Hampshire. YMCA used external agents to manage their divestment process to find alternative organisations to take on the management. The school expressed interest to them in taking on the running of the preschool as it was on their school site and YMCA has accepted.
16. Having a nursery managed by the school will not make Barncroft Primary School an all through school. Parents of children attending the nursery will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements. There is scope for admission authorities to give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children eligible for early years pupil premium, the pupil premium or the service premium where these children: a) are in a preschool class which is part of the school; or b) attend a preschool that is established and run by the school. Likewise, admission authorities can give oversubscription priority for children attending an on-site school run nursery

or pre-school. However, neither of these criteria are adopted by Hampshire County Council for its community and voluntary controlled schools of which, Barncroft Primary School is one. Two schools, Eling Infant School and Brockenhurst CE Primary School, do have a school specific criterion relating to their on-site nursery, but these have been agreed by Hampshire's Admission Forum on an exceptional basis.

17. The Barncroft Primary School proposal to take on the management of the existing YMCA Barn Owls preschool supports the continuing need of early and childcare services in the Havant Leigh Park area and supports families from areas of deprivation.
18. The Small Area Population Forecast data (2023) estimates there will be a slight decline in the number of 0-4s in the Bedhampton Ward from 2023-2029 (4.76%). However, this is minimal, and it is anticipated that demand for 2 year old places may increase in light of the recent Government Spring Budget 2023 announcement relating to extending funded hours for children aged 2 of working parents who will be eligible to receive 15 hours of fund early years education April 2024 increasing to 30 hours from September 2025.
19. A review of the childcare population and take up of childcare in Bedhampton and surrounding areas of Leigh Park has confirmed a need for 24 places.

Finance

20. The key to successful early years provision is the ability to be financially sustainable through the limitations of the early years' education funding, through setting appropriate parental fees for additional services together with allowable consumable charges. It is therefore important that both the school governing body and leadership team regularly review their business plans, financial forecasting and establish close monitoring of the income and expenditure with good debt management. It is also recommended that the income and expenditure of the proposed preschool is kept separate to the school's main budget.
21. Barncroft Primary School has undertaken its own due diligence and understands that the preschool income can only be met from early years education claims and parental fee income. At its meeting of 10 November 2022, the governing body approved the financial plans for the lowered age group. The governing body understands its financial responsibilities regarding this age range change and the budgetary requirements.
22. To support the process of taking on this early year's provision, the school have provided an outline business plan and financial projections. The school have indicated that the preschool income will support taking on the current YMCA staffing and running costs of the provision. The business plan states that finances have been drafted using a 70% occupancy rate which delivers a small surplus. The plan also indicates opportunities to be investigated by the

school to extend the childcare offer to meet the needs of working families.

23. The Barncroft Primary School has accessed support from HCC Education Finance Services to gain clarity in respect of school budget and budget planning for the proposed preschool provision and have indicated that the school have a prudent approach to their budgeting.

Human Resources Implications

24. As Barncroft Primary School is proposing to take on an existing provision, there are TUPE implications, regarding 3 staff. The school has identified it can put in place appropriate staffing arrangements from September 2023 to support this proposal. The earliest date for transfer of staff is 21 June 2023.
25. The school is responsible for ensuring employment of appropriate staff for the nursery and have taken advice from schools HR support in considering this proposal.

Performance Impact

26. Barncroft Primary School recognises that delivering an early year's provision will offer an early intervention approach to children with SEN and implement early support prior to children starting school, thus allowing a smooth transition with identified support in place for children who through the coordinated main round school admission process are offered a Year R place at the school.
27. The school is responsible for meeting all the regulatory requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and any subsequent OFSTED inspection.

Consultation and Equalities

28. Barncroft Primary School Informed other local provision and families of their intention to take over Barn Owls Pre-school, which is currently under the ownership of the YMCA. Barncroft Primary School also organised a Parent Meeting.
29. On 5 May 2023, a statutory four-week public consultation was approved in respect of this proposal which opened from 12 May to 16 June 2023.
30. Barncroft Primary School consulted with local stakeholders and has spoken to parents and directly with local childcare providers. During the Public Notice period Barncroft Primary School held a meeting with parents to launch the proposal. Discussions with the neighbouring preschool have been positive to the proposal of Barncroft Primary School going age downwards.
31. No objections were raised from the consultation.

32. As part of the consultation process, the school published a “statement of intent” publicising a consultation drop-in session on 18 May 2023. This statement went out to all the parents of Barncroft Primary School.
33. The School Admissions Team have no concerns with the proposal.
34. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached to this report (Appendix 3). The proposal will provide inclusive access to early years education and therefore has a positive impact.

Conclusion

35. Barncroft Primary School proposal is to take on management of Barn Owls preschool, which is an existing early years provision, currently operated by the YMCA. This proposal supports the continuation of early years education and childcare and supports the potential growth in demand for services. The school wish to manage this early years provision directly to provide teacher led early years’ service. As the school is a local authority community school, the local authority was required to approve a statutory consultation and Public Notice to be undertaken before any decision can be confirmed.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity: | Yes |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives: | Yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment: | Yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: | Yes |

Other Significant Links

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools (publishing.service.gov.uk) | January 2023 |

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| Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents | |
| <p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p> | |
| <u>Document</u> | <u>Location</u> |
| None | |

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:



EIA0415 - Barncroft
Primary School lower

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

The carbon mitigation tool and/or climate change adaptation tool were not applicable because the decision is an administrative change to the ownership and running of an existing childcare offer.



Barncroft Primary
School - Reduction in