MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

*Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section*.

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

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| Salford City Council Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital School (RMCH)  Minerva House Hospital Road  Pendlebury Road Pendlebury  Swinton Swinton  M27 4EQ M27 5LP |

Implementation

1. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

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| The planned date for the implementation of the proposal is 31 August 2009. |

Consultation

1. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

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| All the applicable requirements regarding consultation have been undertaken. |

1. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
   * 1. a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
     2. minutes of all public consultation meetings;
     3. the views of the persons consulted; and
     4. copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

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| List of consultees   * Parents and carers of children attending RMCH school. * All staff of RMCH school, including non-teaching staff and their trade unions. * The Headteacher and Chair of Governors form RMCH school. * Ward Councillors in the Pendleton area of the City. * Manchester City Council   b) Please see attached at appendix 1 minutes for :   * Staff consultation meetings * Governing Body consultation meetings * Parents/carers consultation meetings   c) Please see appendix 2 – summary of views of persons consulted and copy of the Cabinet report. |

Objectives

1. **The objectives of the proposal.**

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| There have been long term strategic plans by the NHS to close both the Children’s Hospital (RMCH) in Salford and Booth Hall Hospital in Manchester and replace them with a new children’s hospital in Manchester, opening in 2009. Salford City Council has provided a school at RMCH but due to the hospital closure in summer 2009, Salford will no longer be responsible for providing a hospital school.  Although the original purpose of the hospital school was to provide education for sick children who were in- patients, over time it has developed a broader role and has become a key part of the authority’s provision for educating children with Mental Health needs that cannot be met in a mainstream school. Therefore, although the local authority is no longer responsible for providing a hospital school once RMCH closes, it is required to arrange alternative provision for those pupils who need to receive their education in an alternative setting. This is called Education Other Than At School (EOTAS).  Officers have undertaken a process of informal consultation with relevant stakeholders to consider future provision in light of the closure of the hospital and other developments such as Building Schools for the Future. (Stakeholders included Salford headteachers, managers of Pupil Referral Units, children, parents and staff at the RMCH school and Pupil Referral Units, medical and nursing staff from RMCH). The conclusion of that consultation was that, over the next 3 years, Salford should develop a new provision for those children and young people who cannot attend schools. The first stage of this process was to consult on the provision that would replace the RMCH day school for pupils with mental health needs. Consultees favoured the creation of a new special school (60%).  However, advice from the Department for Children Schools and Families is that this provision cannot be a hospital school (because it would not be on a hospital site) and cannot be a special school because not all pupils will have statements of special educational need. It cannot be an ordinary high or primary school because admissions would be restricted to very specific criteria. The Local Authority therefore decided to develop a managed service which would legally be classed as a pupil referral unit. This provision will form part of an extended provision for the education of children other than at school.  The new provision will include full and part time places for secondary children with health problems which prevent them from attending school, children with extreme anxiety and vulnerability, children displaying school phobic behaviour, and other minority groups. The provision will continue to provide educational assessments for primary and secondary aged children between being assessed at the Day Unit at the Pendleton Gateway Centre. |

Standards and Diversity

1. **A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.**

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| The new PRU will build on the existing high quality provision - and the commitment and enthusiasm of staff and leadership at RMCH school - recently identified by Ofsted as being outstanding. It is envisaged that knowledge and experience will transfer to the new provision.  The Local Authority is committed to offering an improved service. Replacing the current outstanding provision will require significant effort and therefore there has to be a clear strategic vision as to how this will be achieved. The service will provide the opportunity for children and young people currently attending RMCH school to have access to mainstream education in a non mainstream setting. This is significant. |

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

1. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—
   * 1. the educational or training achievements;
     2. participation in education or training; and
     3. the range of educational or training opportunities,

For 16-19 year olds in the area.

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| Not Applicable. |

Need for places

1. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

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| The closure of RMCH will displace approximately 40 pupils (both part-time and full-time). The proposed replacement PRU (to be situated in the current Lady Well House, Eccles New Road, Salford, M5 5AG) will provide alternative provision for this client group. |

1. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

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| Not Applicable |

Current School Information

1. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

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| Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital School is located in the grounds of the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital. In addition to providing places for those pupils who are classed as hospital in- patients, (consisting of both girls and boys between the ages of 4-16 years old) the school also provides a provision for those children whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school. This provision can accommodate up to 40 pupils (both full time and part time) consisting of both boys and girls between the ages of 11-16 years old. |

Displaced Pupils

1. **Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—**
   * 1. any interim arrangements;
     2. where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school’s reserved provision; and
     3. in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

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| a). It is proposed that from September 2009 pupils currently attending RMCH School, will be either provided for in the relocated hospital school located in the new Manchester Children’s Hospital (for hospital-in patients) or in the newly established PRU for Salford pupils.  b). Currently there are 4 pupils with Statements for Special Educational Needs educated at RMCH Hospital School. Within this group, two of the pupils are Year 11 and will complete statutory education before the closure of the RMCH school. Through the SEN Statutory Review Process, appropriate settings and provision will be identified to meet their needs.  c). Not applicable. |

1. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

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| Other than the establishment of the PRU, Salford City Council has no plans to increase the number of school places as a consequence of the discontinuance of RMCH school. |

Impact on the Community

1. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

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| Not Applicable |

1. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

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| Not Applicable |

Travel

1. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

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| * Proposed site for the replacement PRU, is 2.7 miles from the existing RMCH site. |

1. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

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| It is proposed that those pupils from low income families (defined as those children that are entitled to free school meals or who are in receipt of their maximum level of working tax credit) will be entitled to free transport to the new school.  The local authority is also developing a travel plan which will include a range of practical measures to increase the number of staff and pupils that walk, cycle or use publictransport to get to school. |

Related Proposals.

1. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

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| It is the opinion of Salford City Council that the proposal for the closure of Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital School is related to the proposal recently published by Manchester City Council to relocate Manchester Hospital School and Home Tuition Service to the new Hospital School to be located at the new Children’s Hospital in Manchester (Oxford Road/Upper Brook Street). |

Rural Primary Schools

1. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—
   * 1. the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
     2. the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
     3. any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
     4. any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

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| Not Applicable |

Maintained nursery schools

1. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—
   * 1. the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
     2. the local education authority’s assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
     3. the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

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| Not Applicable |

Special educational provision

1. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

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| The newly established PRU will fully meet the Special Educational Needs Improvement Test, by the provision of fully accessible buildings, curriculum and other provision of fully accessible buildings, curriculum and other provision that is inclusive, thereby improving the standard, quality and range of educational provision for all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs. |