

**REPORT TO CABINET  
9 JULY 2019**

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

(Meeting of 4 July 2019)

**REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. Outcomes of Consultation on a proposal to extend the age ranges of  
Whitley Memorial CE and West End First Schools**

The Head of School Organisation and Resources introduced the report to the Committee advising that 82% of those responding to the consultation in respect of West End First School are in favour of the proposal to extend the age range at the school with clear support from staff, parents and Governors. 70% of those responding to the consultation in respect of Whitley Memorial First School are in favour of the proposal to extend the age range at that school with clear support from the staff, Governors and Diocese. However whilst 56% of parents agreed with the proposals, 43% did not support the proposals.

The issues surrounding the increasing number of surplus places within the Bedlington Partnership were highlighted along with the change from the original proposal of 1.5 form entry (FE) to 1 FE for both schools should Cabinet approve the publication of a statutory proposal to extend the age ranges of the schools. In respect of the suggestion from the West End First School Governing Body to extend the age range downwards to include children from age 3, it was considered that this age group was already well provided for through the current on site pre-school provision and there would be no benefit for parents to make any change.

Concern was expressed from Members that the PAN of 120 across the four proposed Primary Schools within the Bedlington Partnership would be unsustainable with a forecast high of only 86 children requiring places over the next three years with a subsequent impact on educational standards and teaching staff along with the financial implications. It was recognised that this situation had been brought about by actions outside the control of the Local Authority.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.

**2. Update of School Organisation Plan and other school organisation matters**

The Head of School Organisation and Resources introduced the report outlining the recommendations which Cabinet were being asked to note and approve. Details of responses to the informal consultations undertaken in respect of the permanent building expansions at Whytrig Middle School, Horton Grange Primary School, New Delaval Primary School were outlined.

The Committee were reminded of concerns regarding the viability of West Woodburn First School becoming a Primary School during the statutory consultation period on changes within the Haydon Bridge Partnership. Arrangements put in place to provide additional capacity and provide improved financial stability at the school were outlined and the Federated Governing Body of Otterburn and West Woodburn have now requested that the Council undertake a statutory consultation to reorganise West Woodburn to become a primary school in line with other schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership from 1 September 2020.

Details of the reasons for the proposed consultation to reduce the PAN from 45 to 30 from September 2020 for Mowbray Primary School in the Bedlington Partnership were outlined.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.

**COUNCILLOR G RENNER-THOMPSON  
IN THE CHAIR**