

**SEN Review Consultation Meeting with Governors – 10 November 2008  
at Belstead School at 5.50 pm.**

**Present:** Sue Chesworth, Headteacher, Belstead School  
Allan Cadzow, Area Director (Southern Area)  
Georgina Green, Area Manager (SEN)  
Sandy Ranson, Senior Adviser, Inclusion and Additional Needs  
Cheryl Sharland, Head of Integrated Services  
Kate Thomas, Programme Manager for the SEN Review  
Nicky Fisk, note-taker

The purpose of the meeting was to present stage 2 of the Consultation of the SEN Review to Governors and other stakeholders in the Southern Area of the County. A presentation was given including:

- Why the local authority is reorganising schools
- The local context/background
- The proposal/options for the school and the area.
- How stakeholders can have a say during the consultation period

The consultation process started on the 22 September and finishes on 15 December 2008.

**Why Now?**

- The next phase of Building Schools for the Future Programme would enable us to improve facilities at Special Schools.
- We would be able to build on the successful models we have in place.
- Learning is at the core of integrated services.

There are three options for the Southern Area plus options for county wide resources for pupils with severe dyslexia, high level autism and significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

***Q. Surprised that the preferred option is not a new site and that the LA is considering the Westbourne High School site. In mainstream schools we do not have primary and secondary age children together. Concerned about what is being proposed for children with additional needs. Want children to be in a mature environment and not mixing with younger children. Age appropriateness is the issue.***

A. The Westbourne High School site is proposed whether we close both schools. If a new school is built then it is opened up to a bidding process.

We are suggesting that Heathside and Belstead stay on their existing sites and won't become one school until a new school is built on the Westbourne High School site.

***Q. Belstead has always cherished that they are a secondary site. It would be a backward step to merge age ranges.***

A. Heathside school shares similar concerns. The design of the building and the approach needs to be age appropriate and needs consideration. Heathside would want to retain distinctiveness of primary provision and how transition is managed is important.

***Q. Is there a map of the site?***

A. We are no way near to this yet but planning will involve staff, governors and parents.

***Q. Building work for Westbourne High School, are you going to use this as an opportunity for Westbourne High and share new development. Uncomfortable with separate provision, we should be looking towards being more inclusive and our young people will be going to SWISS. It is a big opportunity to join forces together and for our young people to be on roll of a High School and Primary school and use the hub for specialist input.***

A. There will be one programme for the site. The Headteacher of Westbourne High School is delighted to have the potential opportunity to work with the Headteacher of both Heathside and Belstead schools regarding the campus. About a third of Westbourne High School have children with significant SEN and also have the Hearing Impaired Unit. For example it is not about keeping students separate, at Thomas Wolsey there will be the same front door but with discreet provisions.

***Q. We need to think outside the box about a complete vision for the site and the potential for 3-16 learning environment on the Westbourne High School site. Belstead has worked with partners already regarding SWISS. This is what we should be consulting about but this is not what is in this document, it is not forward looking.***

A. These are the stages we have to go through; if cabinet agree to it then we will be coming back to you.

***Q. There is a danger that the proposal will be rejected. The rationale given is the opportunity for Heathside to access BSF funding. It feels as though the proposals have been driven in this way.***

A. The reality is going through a statutory process until we can move on to the exciting work. We can only achieve what we want if we do it now. The status quo is Belstead with 40 students and not viable as a school and Heathside staying as it is. We have to comply with these constraints until we get the endorsement to go ahead and say what this could look like for the young people.

***Q. 25 years ago there was an all through school and residential provision. All the education principles are that children are better educated in separate primary and secondary provision. The way the document is worded and the impression given is that children will be put together in one school.***

A. One institution and configuration is to be determined. We have no intention of putting young children together with older children. This is a once in a generation opportunity to improve provision for special schools.

***Q. Belstead fully agrees with the policies of the LA and has developed a vision for KS3/4 position. We need to hold on to this vision and welcome the opportunity to bring Heathside along to access funding. It is about getting the message across to the whole community and accessing an inclusive curriculum.***

***Would it be helpful if Belstead governors work with Heathside governors in our response? We want to work together for a model of learning that is about looking forward.***

A. The parent groups at Heathside and Belstead could also be combined to work on the vision.

***Q. As a governing body we need to also work with Westbourne and Whitehouse. Governing body agreed to consult over the Foundation status to work alongside others in the SWISS trust and this does not rule out other trust models in the future. It is more about the way we get there and that processes do not drive us down paths that compromise inclusive learning.***

A. This can be done once go ahead is given.

***Q. BSF development on Westbourne site, this would go forward as a proposal to their Governing Body, one bid ????***

A. Westbourne High School would have to bid for site application. Any school could bid for the site. From the special school point of view it has to be one school.

***Q. Could the proposals be affected by LGR?***

A. The core principles remain the same. If Suffolk was split into two the joint local education partnership would both be signed up to this.

