

**SEN Review Consultation Meeting with Staff – 6 November 2008
at Beacon Hill School at 4.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Herbert, County Education Psychologist
Dave Stewart, Headteacher Beacon Hill School
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 staff of Beacon Hill School. 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. There are children with syndromes in our school, is there another plan for these children?

A. The proposal reads as though we are looking at 3 key areas only but at a County level we are aware that provision needs reviewing. We could not have separate provision for syndrome children as these are high cost and high need groups.

The 3 groups identified, attract an urgent need for local provision, some of the provision is successful but they dislocate children from the community.

Q. You say that you asked students what they would like. Did they say what opportunities they are missing out on?

A. The opportunity to grow up and be in the community they belong to.

Q. Which students provided feedback? It would be good to know which schools have been consulted to know that it is a cross-section of schools and what they feel they are missing out on.

A. Feedback was from students' right across the County.

Q. Reducing the amount of travel time, are you talking about Beacon Hill pupils as our children do travel to get to our school. Are you considering diminishing our role?

A. We are talking about students out of county in terms of additional provision and for example children with dyslexia having to travel across county to access provision.

A. The catchment area has grown for Beacon Hill, it was meant to be SA provision. The school has skills and knowledge that are unique, having a smaller role will dissipate that experience/knowledge.

Q. On the slide you give the impression that schools are being refurbished with other mainstream schools, concerned about Beacon Hill not being updated before then.

A. The school will still need to be developed for staff and pupils in the next 4-6 years. In order to access Building Schools for the Future money the school has to be located on a High School mainstream site, which of course it is.

Q. Will we still control our own budget?

A. Yes, for example, Thomas Wolsey and Thurleston will control their own budgets even though they are on the same site.

Q. Am I going to be teaching in Beacon Hill or a mix?

A. Children need the Beacon Hill curriculum. There is a need to talk about curriculum opportunities.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm