

Report subject	Establishment of Winchelsea Satellite at Somerford Primary School Site
Meeting date	10 February 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The number of children and young people assessed as requiring a place at a specialist education provision in the BCP area has increased in recent years. Local provision to meet these needs is of high quality, but capacity has not been expanded sufficiently to meet this additional demand. As a result, increased use has had to be made of local Independent and Non-Maintained special schools which are comparatively expensive and often located outside of the BCP area. The result of this has been significant pressure on the school Transport budgets. In partnership with the BCP community of schools, a range of proposals has been developed to increase capacity and create new provision to meet the needs of these pupils and these were reported to Cabinet in the paper 'Capital Investment to Increase Special Educational Needs Capacity' on 22 April 2020.</p> <p>The process for making changes to maintained schools is prescribed by the Department for Education. This report provides details of the process undertaken in relation to adding places at Winchelsea School through establishment of a new satellite at Somerford Primary School. The request to implement the proposal is being made with the support of Winchelsea School and Somerford Primary School.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The proposal to establish a new satellite of Winchelsea School at the Somerford Primary School site is agreed.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To increase local capacity in BCP maintained schools to meet the assessed educational needs of children and young people with SEND and to reduce pressure on the High Needs Budget.</p> <p>The Council is the authority for approving this significant change to a maintained school.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding, Corporate Director for Children's Services

Report Authors	Neil Goddard - Director, Quality and Commissioning, Children's Services
Wards	Alderney & Bourne Valley; Burton & Grange; Winton East;
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. In line with the SEND capital report received at Cabinet on 22.04.20 as referenced with the Background Papers section of this report, BCP council have identified there is a lack of sufficiency of Special Educational Needs places in the area. To enable to proposals to be implemented, the council must undertake the statutory significant change process outlined below.
2. Adding local SEND places is intended to address sufficiency across the age range 0 to 25 years, based on an assessment of need. The places are primarily for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan. Nationally, the proportion of pupils in schools with an EHCP has increased from 2.8% in 2016/17 to 3.3% in 2019/20, which represents a 20% increase as a proportion of the school population.

Making changes to maintained schools to enable SEND proposals to be implemented

3. Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient places for primary and secondary education in their areas. The DfE expects LAs to manage the school estate efficiently and to reduce or find alternative uses for surplus capacity.
4. To make changes to an open maintained school BCP Council must follow the statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools. There are 4 parts to this process: publication, representation, decision and implementation.
5. Consultation on the proposal to establish a new satellite of Winchelsea School at Somerford Primary School, has taken place, see Appendix 1 for information.

Summary of proposed changes and consultation responses

6. It is proposed that the number of places provided by Winchelsea School will increase during the academic year 2021/22.
7. The school will increase through the addition of a satellite provision. This provision will add up to 60 KS1/2 places at a new site at Somerford Primary School, Draper Road, Christchurch BH23 3AS. These places will be able to meet the needs of children placed at Winchelsea School, which are:
 - VI - Visual Impairment,
 - HI - Hearing Impairment,
 - SLCN - Speech, language and Communication,
 - ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder,
 - SEMH - Social, Emotional and Mental Health,
 - MSI - Multi-Sensory Impairment,
 - MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty
 - SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty

8. The Council received 19 responses to the public consultation on establishing a new Winchelsea satellite at Somerford Primary School. A large proportion of the responses concern one of the wider consequences of the proposal to establish the new Winchelsea satellite. The proposal is one project of the programme of projects that have been carried out and those still planned to add local SEND places in BCP. The aims of the programme are to meet needs and to manage the High Needs Budget. Somerford Primary School currently hosts the 24 place Woodford satellite campus of Linwood School; currently 14 pupils are placed at the Woodford satellite. The proposal to establish a new Winchelsea satellite at Somerford would necessitate relocation of Woodford. The net impact would be an increase of up to 36 places. Winchelsea placements have a lower annual cost than Linwood costs, therefore are more cost effective than Linwood places on an ongoing basis. Many of the responses to the consultation concern the impact that would follow from relocation of the Woodford satellite; relocation of Woodford would involve a consultation of its own. Work has been ongoing to identify a suitable alternative site for Woodford in the Christchurch area.
9. Of the 19 responses received, the levels of support and objection from different stakeholder groups are set out in the table below. Full responses are shown in Appendix 1.

Stakeholder group	Number of respondents	Supports proposal	Does not support proposal	Support or otherwise not expressed
Winchelsea parent	3	3	0	
Linwood Woodford parent	6	1	4	1
Linwood / Woodford staff	4		1	3
Somerford parent	2	1		1
Parent at another school	1	1		
Ward Cllr.	2	2		
Not stated	1		1	

Somerford Primary School

10. Somerford Primary School is a maintained school in Christchurch providing education for pupils in reception to year 7. In line with the national picture the rate of births in Christchurch has been falling so that pupil numbers in Christchurch schools started to reduce from September 2017. Forecasts for pupil numbers for September 2021 and 2022 remain at the lower level. Cabinet has already made the decision to reduce the admission number for Somerford Primary School from 60 to 30 places from September 2021 onwards and to repurpose the accommodation for an increase in SEND provision on the site in September 2021.

Winchelsea School

11. Winchelsea School is a maintained special school in Poole for children with special educational needs, for which an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is usually required. The school has a number of satellite sites across BCP.
12. To meet forecast need for additional special school places for pupils with various special educational needs, including:
 - VI - Visual Impairment,
 - HI - Hearing Impairment,
 - SLCN - Speech, language and Communication,
 - ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder,
 - SEMH - Social, Emotional and Mental Health,
 - MSI - Multi-Sensory Impairment,
 - MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty and
 - SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty

it is proposed to:

13. Increase the size of Winchelsea School by establishing a new satellite of up to 60 places at Somerford Primary School.
14. Expand the age range of the school to include ages 17 to 19 (Year 12 to Year 14) and add up to 14 age 16-19 (post-16) places.
15. A consultation was held from Friday 9 October 2020 until 23:59 Thursday 19 November 2020. A notice was published in the Bournemouth Echo and electronic links to consultation documents were sent to all school admission authorities in BCP Council, Children's Centres, local Members of Parliament and relevant schools located in Dorset Council and Hampshire County Council.

Options Appraisal

16. The decision options available to Cabinet are as follow:
 - a. Support in full the significant change proposal
 - b. Not to support the proposal.
17. Option a will support the proposal for additional SEND places, for which capital funding has already been agreed, to take place.
18. Option b would provide too few places to address SEND sufficiency concerns and would require alternative expansion projects to be explored. It could result in significant growth in the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, as it would be challenging to identify alternative options for expanding specialist provision in existing mainstream sites. Alternatives are likely to be less cost efficient and unlikely to provide the sufficiency of additional places the LA requires.

Summary of financial implications

19. The intention is for the additional SEND places that would be delivered to achieve cost avoidance savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant High needs budget through avoiding placements in more expensive often out of area Independent provision placements. Cost avoidance through this approach may save approximately £25,000 annually per placement, which for 60 placements is approximately £1.5m.
20. SEND capital feasibility funding has already been committed to this project in order to inform the scope of works to facilitate the proposed significant change.

Summary of legal implications

21. The Council has powers under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, section 19(1), to consult on making significant changes to maintained schools in its area. The council has powers under the 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools, Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers', October 2018, to determine whether proposed changes should be agreed and implemented.
22. No legal advice has been taken in relation to the significant change that is the subject of this report.
23. The Council has a duty to commission sufficient suitable school places for school age children resident in BCP, including SEND provision. School organisation officers have advised that the risks associated with the reduction of mainstream places that will result from adding SEND places in mainstream schools, may potentially arise in several years' time. Current pupil forecasts indicate no additional Primary phase school places will be required until at least 2023/24 for Reception and 2026/27 for Year 3 Junior school entry. However, localised pressure on Primary places may remain in schools that experience strong parental preference. Secondary numbers are forecast to increase by up to a fifth, with around 3,300 additional pupils by 2025/26. Pupil numbers after this point will begin to drop back and remain at a lower level until 2028/29 at least. Additional Secondary places are forecast to be required to accommodate the bulge numbers.
24. For children with an EHCP, Local Authorities are under an obligation to comply with the wishes of a parent in expressing a preference for a particular school, unless it would prejudice the provision of education or the efficient use of resources. Therefore, parents have a right to express a preference for the school they want their child to attend, but do not have a right for their child to attend that particular school.
25. Children with Statements of SEN/EHCPs are not admitted through the admissions arrangements and are placed in schools through the statement/EHCP process. Under [section 43 Children and Families Act 2014](#), the school named in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must admit the child. When an EHC plan is maintained for a child or young person the local authority must secure the special educational provision specified in the plan

Summary of human resources implications

26. There are human resources implications that will need to be progressed by the schools that are involved in the proposed changes. Additional staff will be required for the Winchelsea School Somerford satellite, which the governing body of the school will need to recruit to.
27. Redundancies are not expected as part of this significant change. However, should there be any, the costs of any teaching staff redundancies at Winchelsea School would normally fall to the school's budget.
28. There are no human resource implications expected outside of those required of schools. SEND case officers will still be required to work with schools and families to place the children that will attend his provision, since they would likely have attended another provision otherwise.

Summary of sustainability impact.

29. Through ensuring additional appropriate provision is available to meet needs closer to where children and young people live there will be an overall reduction in the distances travelled to get to school and an increase in the numbers being educated within their own communities. In addition, the proposed changes will

contribute to making use of existing school buildings. The schools will be required to update their Travel Plans to determine how home to school pupil travel can be organised to cause the minimum impact on traffic volumes and the environment.

Summary of public health implications

30. The proposed change will contribute to the implementation of the High Needs Block Recovery Strategy. The addition of extra SEND places in local BCP schools will enable a greater number of children who require a specialist place to attend suitable provision in their own community.

Summary of equality implications.

31. The proposed project will contribute to the availability of appropriate local provision to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Summary of risk assessment

32. The Council has a duty to commission sufficient suitable school places for school age children resident in BCP. This duty includes ensuring children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan are able to access a suitable school place.

Background papers

33. 11. Report to BCP Cabinet on 22.04.2020 – published works:

7. Capital Investment to Increase Special Educational Needs Capacity

- <https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/g3729/Public%20reports%20pack%2022nd-Apr-2020%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Appendices

1. The consultation process

A consultation was carried out from Thursday 9 October until 23:59 Thursday 19 November 2020.

Consultation Documents and Response Forms were made widely available through electronic links to:

- Families of all pupils of Winchelsea School
- Families of all pupils of Somerford Primary School
- The Governing Body of Winchelsea School and Somerford Primary School
- School staff at Winchelsea School and Somerford Primary School
- Head Teachers across the BCP Council area including those of Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools
- Head Teachers of Schools outside of the BCP council area at which the LA places children in neighbouring authorities
- Local Members of Parliament
- Trade Union representatives
- Local Children's Centres

Consultation response forms were also available on the BCP Council website with a link from the school's website. A notice in the Bournemouth Echo on Thursday 9th October 2020 advised how the consultation form and response form could be obtained.

2. Consultation responses

Stakeholder group	Support the proposal Y/N	Text of consultation responses (as submitted)
Parent of Winchelsea pupil	y	Have I seen the impressive satellite units at other sites and they provide a setting I believe the BCP have been missing.
Parent of Winchelsea pupil	Y	The existing satellite classes have been great
Not stated	Y	To make education more inclusive a d diverse....
Ward councillor	Y	I like the fact there will be extra provision in Christchurch and that we are utilising existing assets to do this.
Parent of Somerford pupil	Not stated	I am happy to support children who need additional support. I think somerford is a fantastic school and trust the head completely
Parent of Longspee & Somerford pupils	Y	I have a sen child myself and I know how hard it was getting him a placement so I do agree more needs to be done to help support our children that need it so they can be in the right setting for them
Parent of pre-school age child/children	N	1)disruption to the children 2)I don't think it right to replace one special educational school for another specail educational school 3)we dont even know where the new place is going to be
Ward councillor	Y	The number of children and young people assessed as requiring specialist provision in BCP has increased. This proposal will increase the size of Winchelsea School by up to 60 places and these places will be added to Somerford Primary School. It will enable Winchelsea School to better meet the needs of their pupils and ensure Somerford Primary is sustainable.

Linwood staff	Not stated	Woodford school should not be closed. There is currently no provision for Woodford children to transition to ks3 at the proposed Winchelsea site. Woodford has been set up with public funds and this money will be wasted to close the school. Woodford/Linwood School have existing relationships developed with Somerford School and should be able to keep its children at this location and provide further classes for these children and others as they move up the school. Linwood school should be able to keep its satellite classrooms and extend these into ks3. There is a greater need for SEN secondary placements. Great upheaval and emotional distress for moving the current Woodford children to another site. Where will Woodford children go? No thought has been given to these children. It does not make financial sense to provide all these facilities for Winchelsea School when there is another school already onsite able to offer everything in the proposed consultation and to extend this offer with secondary provision. No alternative provision has been offered to Woodford School. They should not be asked to move until such provision is in place and this provision meets or even exceeds their needs. This provision should include the opportunity for the children to progress to secondary school aged within this new site. If these children are asked to move sites, how will they travel there if the families can not drive. Will transport be provided?
Parent of Linwood pupil	N	My child goes to Woodford and I strongly dont agree with uprooting them for another special needs school taking their place . It doesn't make sence .why put Woodford school at Somerford only to move them so Winchelsea can take over. Alot of child cant take the changes it was difficult for them moving in the first place they are all very settled there
Parent of Linwood pupil	Y	There is definitely a greater need for more SEN schools or satellite classes in order to accommodate and educate the rising number of children who identify as having greater learning difficulties.
Parent of Linwood pupil	N	I do not support the proposal for these reasons : these children can not adapt to change very easily and can be unsettled in new surroundings which will effect there learning especially after the battle and disruptions in mainstream school and thinking we have finally got him settled and happy but could find ourselves in another battle if this goes ahead cannot see any good reason why they would remove a specialised school prevision that has grown over the 2years it's been open and replace it with another specialised school
Parent of pupil at another school	Y	

Parent of Linwood pupil	N	<p>Hi All</p> <p>We have so far sent 2 emails which highlight a number of concerns that we have with the proposals that BCP council have put forward for the Woodford Campus, the process you have followed and the lack of communication from you to the parents of children that are currently attending the Woodford Campus. It is therefore incredibly disappointing that 2 weeks on the lack of communication seems to be continuing as we are yet to receive a response.</p> <p>Please could I request a full response to all of the points that we have raised in the 2 emails by the end of this week. If you do not see this to be achievable then please provide us with the contact information for the Ombudsman so I can make a formal complaint</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>[Name removed]</p> <p>NB, please note a response was sent to this respondent.</p> <p>Hi all</p> <p>I am forwarding the below mail that was sent earlier this week as I received a failed delivery notice in my spam folder.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>[Name removed]</p> <p>----- Forwarded message ----- From: [Respondent's email address removed] Date: Mon, 19 Oct 2020, 13:44 Subject: Concerns for Proposals at Somerford School and the Impact to the Woodford Campus of Linwood</p>
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To: <conor.burns.mp@parliament.uk>, <chopec@parliament.uk>
Cc: <[\[nameremoved\]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk)>, <[\[nameremoved\]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)>, <[\[nameremoved\]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk)>, <[\[nameremoved\]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)>, <ppp.consultation@bcpcouncil.gov.uk>

Hi Conor & Sir Christopher

We received emails from both of your offices requesting additional information. Please see the below original content that was sent yesterday and additionally the information you requested. On a separate email thread the Local Authority has requested that we include ppp.consultation@bcpcouncil.gov.uk so w have added them to cc so all parties have full visibility of the communications we have sent

[Respondent's address and phone number removed]

Conor - We have included you in the communication as your constituency covers both our home address and the Main Campus for Linwood School & Sir Christopher - We have included you as the current Woodford Campus resides within your constituency. The proposal document that has been published by the local authority paints a picture that makes it impossible for any local MP not to throw their full support behind the programme. Disappointingly this published proposal appears rather unbalanced as it fails to mention any of the events that have occurred over the last 10 months or the significant impacts that the suggested project will have on numerous vulnerable children, their families and Linwood School.

December 2019 - The local authority notified us that a new Linwood campus would be opening at Somerford Primary School and we were lucky enough to have secured a place for our son to start in January

January 2020 - The new Campus is opened with 1 class of 9 pupils

April 2020 - School closes due to Covid - In line with all Schools in England

September 2020 - Woodford Campus re-opens with the addition of a second class

October 2020 - Notification served that additional SEN places will be available at Somerford from September 2021. The Campus is to be operated by Winchelsea with the Woodford Campus their current Pupils & Linwood School being displaced with no confirmed alternative premises

What kind of a strategy is this from the Local Authority? How do you decide to open and then close a brand new school in the space of 10 months? How do you expand the school in September then create such uncertainty to a child's future before the first half term holidays have arrived. The role of the Local Authority should be to provide these vulnerable children with the facilities, resources and most importantly the stability and consistency that they so badly need. How can the same Local Authority pretend to understand the needs of SEN children when they are placing them in a new school only to displace them a few months and in some cases a few weeks later. What consideration has been taken to the long term impacts that these decisions will have on their health and education. It is simply unacceptable to treat any Child in this way let alone children with complex disabilities.

Furthermore, what due process are the Local Authority following? If you put together a proposal that dishonestly states that local schools will only see minimal impact and you silence the people most likely to object by not consulting them or making them aware of the impacts it is easy to see how this would get passed and implemented. The integrity of the Local Authority and the process they are following must be questioned.

We cannot see how a consultation period can even begin until the Local Authority can tell us where our Children will be attending school in September & an honest proposal disclosing all impacts and facts must be presented to interested parties before they are encouraged to complete consultation response forms.

For the record Linwood School have been superb in making the Woodford Site an amazing success. I have never seen my child with such a big smile on his face when we drop him off and pick him up from school and the progress that he has made despite the unavoidable closure due to Covid has been remarkable and you should be proud to have them operating within your constituencies. The Local Authority should be rewarding the school for their achievements and supporting an expansion of the Woodford campus in Somerford not throwing away all their effort and hardwork by making them start from scratch again

We have no objection to additional SEN places being made available at Somerford but feel that Linwood and their Woodford pupils should benefit from those places and an alternative site should be sought to expand Winchelsea school. We are hopeful that when presented with a more rounded version of the proposal that you

divert your full support to Linwood School and help us to ensure that their wonderful Woodford Campus stays where it belongs.

Many Thanks

[Names removed]

Original Email below - sent to [\[nameremoved\]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk), [\[nameremoved\]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@bcpcouncil.gov.uk), [\[nameremoved\]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk), [\[nameremoved\]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:[nameremoved]@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk), conor.burns.mp@parliament.uk, chopec@parliament.uk on 18 Oct at 23.09

Hi [Names of BCP officers removed]

We are the parents of a wonderful [child's age removed] year old little boy called [child's name removed] who has complex learning disabilities. Signs of the additional challenges he would face were apparent from an early age and with the support of his Nursery & the Early Years SEN Development Officer we were fortunate to secure an EHCP in time for him to start mainstream school. Whilst [child's name removed] settled really well, was extremely happy & made lots of friends, as the years passed the gap between his educational ability & that of his peers continued to increase. During this period it was also apparent that [child's name removed] required more assistance to support his developmental needs (specifically speech and language therapy) & we experienced first hand the funding challenges faced by the Local Authority to provide appropriate resources that would enable [child's name removed] to reach his full potential in later life. With the assistance of SENDIAS the Local Authority thankfully agreed to include provisions for a SALT programme & whilst [child's name removed] continued to make significant progress we couldn't ignore the fact that we were reaching the point where mainstream was becoming increasingly difficult for him and [child's name removed] would potentially benefit more from a tailored approach that a specialist school could provide.

We think only parents who have experienced a child transitioning from mainstream schooling to a Specialist school would understand the sleepless nights we went through constantly questioning if it was the right decision to move our child from a school that he was extremely happy attending to such an unfamiliar environment. Initial visits and interactions with other Special schools in the local area only led to more uncertainty that we were in fact making the right decision. When we went to visit Linwood we were taken back by the enthusiasm that [name removed] displayed for the school and specifically for the children and for the first time we saw an environment that we felt [child's name removed] would be able thrive in. Having notified the Local Authority of

our desire for [child's name removed] to attend Linwood we declined a place at Winchelsea as Linwood was the only school we felt comfortable sending [child's name removed] to. A couple of weeks before Christmas we were notified that the Woodford Campus would be opening after Christmas and that we were lucky enough to have secured a place for [child's name removed] to attend. This gave us the hardest decision we have ever had to make. On the one hand we were confident [name removed] and [name removed] would replicate the same environment we had witnessed and been so impressed with at their Almer Road Campus - we were concerned on 3 fronts. 1. With the school facilities not being open and not even finished there would not be the normal transition period available to slowly ease [child's name removed] into a change of school and get him used to his new environment, 2. The location of the school is nearly 9 miles from where we live which gives us the logistical challenge of covering approx 35 miles per day doing the school run & 3. We wanted [child's name removed] to have the consistency of the same school all the way through to senior school as we did not want the upheaval of him having to change school again. The local authority provided us with assurances that [child's name removed] would be guaranteed a place within the Linwood umbrella through senior school & [name removed] & [name removed] provided us with the reassurance that whilst the transition period would not be ideal they would have the relevant support in place to ensure a smooth transition. This gave us the confidence to accept the place as the benefits for [child's name removed] would outweigh the challenges we would undertake in getting him to and from a school in Somerford.

As a parent of a child with special educational needs it has been incredibly stressful having to continually fight the Local Authority for EHCP's to be written and updated, additional resources so desperately needed to be granted and places at your chosen specialist school to be made available and we had really hoped that we had turned a corner now we had secured a place at the Woodford Campus of Linwood. Since starting there in January we feel that [name removed], [name removed] and the rest of the staff at the Woodford campus have stuck to and exceeded in the promises that they made in providing a wonderful learning environment that would assist our son in reaching his full potential but having received an email from the school today I feel they as a school and us as a parent are being badly let down by a shambles of a local authority.

After less than 15 weeks of attendance at his new school we are now notified that from September [child's name removed] will no longer be attending Woodford at the Somerford campus. I'm sure you will agree that when a decision is being made that will have profound impacts for the children that attend the current Woodford campus it is fairly disgusting that the local authority have still not bothered to consult the parents of these children. If I could refer you to Appendix 1 of your Proposal - you state that Consultation Response Forms have been made widely available to families of pupils at Winchelsea & Somerford, The Governing Body of Winchelsea & Somerford, School staff at Winchelsea and Somerford, Head teachers across BCP council, Local Member of

Parliament, Trade Unions and Local Children Centres. I can't help thinking that your list may not be as complete as you may have hoped. You may disagree but I feel parents of children that now don't know where their children will be attending school in September should possibly be number 1 on your list of impacted people and should certainly be afforded the same opportunity as the Trade Unions to have a Consultation Response Form made widely available to us.

Can I also draw your attention to the paragraph Impact on other Educational Institutions within the area - In case you are unfamiliar with it please see the below

There is expected to be minimal impact on other schools in the area. There is opportunity for the mainstream schools where satellites are located to benefit from the mutual learning and interaction opportunities through their partnerships. Costs will be shared appropriately between the schools through a financial arrangement to be agreed.

Have you forgotten that the Woodford Campus exists or are we going to have to agree to disagree that a school losing their buildings might be considered more than a minimal impact. You will also have to excuse me but I am struggling to place confidence in the same people that decided to open the Woodford Campus and then close it a few months later to be capable of finding suitable replacement premises by September. 10 months to go so no pressure. If you had any understanding of the vulnerability of children with special educational needs and the difficulty they will experience in having to again transition to another new environment just a matter of months after you placed them you wouldn't be so insensitive to claim that you are only inflicting minimal impact on other schools in the area

This all seems so unnecessary as the Local Authority have already assured us that provisions would be in place for Linwood to provide senior schooling for [child's name removed] so having already opened a campus in Somerford is it not more logical for the expansion at the Somerford site to be for the Linwood Woodford Campus & for the Local Authority to find an alternative site for Winchelsea who by the way are based in Poole? It is 11.2 miles from Winchelsea main campus to the Woodford campus and only 6.2 miles between Linwood and the Woodford Campus.

We would really appreciate an urgent response to all of our concerns and really hope we have seriously misunderstood the proposals that have been brought to our attention (sadly not by the local authority as they should have been)

Regards

[Name removed]

Separate correspondence submitted by the same respondent:

Hi Sir Christopher

Thankyou for taking the time to speak to Helen Frampton with regards to our concerns on the future of the Woodford Campus. We are afraid the information provided that the Woodford Campus will be relocated provides little comfort as it fails to address the key concerns raised.

Children with learning disabilities are some of the most vulnerable members of our society, they often find significant changes to their surroundings or routines to be very unsettling and will struggle to adapt as easily as many other children of their age. I think you would struggle to find a health or education professional with experience of working with SEND children that would agree that the education of the current Woodford pupils won't be adversely affected by the proposed arrangements (which incidentally are still yet to be confirmed)

Can I also draw your attention to the below paragraphs on the Government website that list some intentions of the review into supporting children with special educational needs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-review-into-support-for-children-with-special-educational-needs>

"Our reforms in 2014 gave vital support to more children, but we know there have been problems in delivering the changes that we all want to see. So it's the right time to take stock of our system and make sure the excellence we want to see as a result of our changes is the norm for every child and their families.

Ensuring that public money is spent in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner, placing a premium

on securing high quality outcomes for those children and young people who need additional support the most."

If the government has serious intentions of providing high quality outcomes for children and young people who need additional support the most & ensuring public money is spent in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner then surely the Government have a responsibility to raise questions to the BCP Local Authority

When sitting down to plan the best possible outcome for 17 children with learning disabilities that require structure and consistency to their routines and surroundings it should never incorporate the idea of Opening a school in January 2020, expanding it in September 2020 and forcing a relocation in September 2021 thus enforcing the children to adapt to another unnecessary change.

COVID 19 has put the country into the most challenging financial predicament since the second World War so I welcome the Government's commitment to ensure the limited public money we have is spent in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner. When sitting down to allocate the limited funds available to providing Children with SEND the best possible opportunities I wouldn't regard a significant financial outlay to open a school campus in January 2020, expand it in September 2020 and then unnecessarily force a re-location in Sept 2021 to be an efficient, effective or sustainable way of spending public money.

The local authority proposals simply make no sense. They are proposing an increase at the Somerford site to 60 pupils and the proposals are being driven through the need to reduce pupil travel costs & the desire for children to be educated in their own communities. This could be achieved by expanding the Somerford Site for Linwood School. Two thirds of the children that currently attend the school live locally so if the campus is moved outside of walking distance it is likely to result in 100% of pupils requiring travel assistance instead of just a third of the children. The main Winchelsea campus is also twice the distance from Somerford as Linwood is so likely to incur many more costs in staff moving between the sites. The Local Authority has committed to provide the children of Woodford campus with a permanent place for secondary education through Linwood so there will need to be an expansion of the Woodford campus to accommodate this. One of the current pupils moves into secondary education this coming September and a number more the following September so there is limited time to implement the necessary expansion. With that in mind and the planned increase in SEND capacity for the Somerford Site it naturally seems sensible for the already established school to remain. We fully support the expansion needed for Winchelsea but they should occupy the alternative site instead of displacing the Woodford

campus. Every goal of the local authority can be achieved without the need to unsettle 17 existing pupils and throw away the resources already invested in the Woodford Campus.

We would also suggest that the government have an obligation to hold the local authority accountable for the process that they follow in implementing significant proposals. We would question (as should representatives of the government) the legality of a consultation process that failed to consult the people most affected by the proposal & inaccurately stated the impact to local schools. As mentioned in the original communication to you which the Local Authority were copied into and the email we sent directly to them they still have not communicated the proposals to any of the parents of pupils at Linwood / Woodford school & two weeks on they have failed to acknowledge or respond to the mails that I have sent.

We are adding [name removed] and [name removed] from Linwood School & the Local Authority back into the email thread as this mail provides further clarity to the concerns that we have previously raised and are still pending a Local Authority response

If there are other factors impacting the Local Authorities decision then they need to be transparent in this because I'm afraid at the moment from the information I have seen there is no justification for unsettling 17 vulnerable children with learning disabilities when no visible additional advantages are being gained.

We would really welcome your full support in ensuring the Local Authority follow the principles that your Government published & I have highlighted above

We look forward to hearing from you & the Local Authority

Kind Regards

[Name removed]

On Tue, 3 Nov 2020 at 13:00, CHOPE, Christopher <CHOPEC@parliament.uk> wrote:

Dear [Name removed]

		<p>Further to our correspondence, I have now heard from Helen Frampton that “the Woodford Campus is going to be relocated to a very close school although I do not know which. The Local Authority are making this proposal”.</p> <p>It appears from this that your son’s education will not be adversely affected by the new arrangements but please let me know if you hear otherwise.</p> <p>With best wishes,</p> <p>Chris Chope</p> <p>Sir Christopher Chope OBE MP</p> <p>House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA</p> <p>01425 541XXX</p>
Parent of Linwood pupil	N	<p>don't think it right to replace one special educational school for another one</p> <p>my son has just started this September at Woodford campus it has took him a little while to settle at his new setting it would be unfair to up and move him again to another setting</p> <p>my son has settle really well at Woodford campus</p> <p>if I know back in February about this I would of thought harder about my decision to accept this place if I know it was going to change settings again the year later I would of thought more about it I've would of waited until a place came available at Linwood school because 2022 [child’s name removed] would be in year [year group removed] and would more likely being going to Linwood campus</p>
Linwood staff	N	<p>Dear all,</p> <p>Thank you all for your input at the meeting on Friday; I hope you would all agree that it was productive, solution focused and clearly prioritised securing future provision for Woodford pupils.</p>

Please see attached. I made a decision to transcribe the conversation as opposed to condensing the content into concise minutes. My aim was to ensure content was accurate; this was an easier way to achieve this. I hope you agree that this accurately reflects our discussion.

We did all agree that the meeting was to prioritise key points which we quite rightly focused upon. However, there are still other outstanding areas that I wish to raise with BCP and seek to resolve.

Firstly, I would like BCP to consider whether the Winchelsea Somerford Statutory Proposal accurately and truthfully represents the facts. BCP are asking the public to comment on a proposal by 19th November where they have stated that there is **minimal impact upon other schools in the area**. If the public knew that, in fact, there will be a significant negative impact upon another school as BCP are closing or relocating one specialist provision already successfully established at Somerford which shares similar objectives stated on this consultation document, in order to replace it for another without consultation or agreement from Linwood or families, I think there is a possibility that they may respond differently. Surely it would be fair to openly share this key piece of information within the consultation in order that the public are able to make an informed response; they may wish to consider the impact upon these children and their families as a result, not to mention the significant unnecessary costs this proposal will have incurred as a result of either closing or relocating Woodford, particularly as Woodford was only established in January 2020. I am requesting that you consider this point as you explained to us on Friday that responses are taken into consideration by the Council when finalising their decision; I am questioning the validity of these responses as they will be made without full knowledge of facts.

Secondly, to clarify; from the start, Linwood explained that Woodford would be an extension of Linwood Campus to support with the high demand for places. At no point did we state that these pupils would likely move into mainstream at KS3 or back into Linwood Main Campus. Returning to mainstream would only ever happen if deemed appropriate through the Annual Review process and agreed by School and parents. Our experience is that pupils are rarely placed back in Mainstream Education at KS3. Lewis, I imagine, will have a more detailed understanding of this. We are always inundated with referrals to Year 7 and we have communicated this to yourselves for several years. Please can you explain, Jack/Rachel, from your perspective, how you have come to the decision that opening a KS2 satellite provision without subsequent KS3 satellite provision helps with this high demand of places? Surely, if you have children with Special Educational Needs at KS2 then the majority will still need provision at KS3.

I look forward to your responses.

Kind regards

[name removed]

[name removed]

Assistant Headteacher / Learning Leader

Further submission from the same respondent:

To the School Organisational Team at BCP Council,

This email articulates my views on the significant changes proposed to Winchelsea School and the impact this will have on the education of pupils with SEND at Woodford Campus, currently situated at Somerford School.

I would like BCP to consider whether the Winchelsea Somerford Statutory Proposal accurately and truthfully represents the facts. BCP are asking the public to comment on a proposal where they have stated that there is **minimal impact upon other schools in the area**. If the public knew that, in fact, there will be a significant negative impact upon another school as BCP are closing or relocating one specialist provision already successfully established at Somerford which shares similar objectives stated on this consultation document, in order to replace it for another without consultation or agreement from Linwood or families, I think there is a possibility that they may respond differently. Surely it would be fair to openly share this key piece of information within the consultation in order that the public are able to make an informed response; they may wish to consider the impact upon these children and their families as a result, not to mention the significant unnecessary costs this proposal will have incurred as a result of either closing or relocating Woodford, particularly as Woodford was only established in January 2020. I am questioning the validity of these responses as they will be made without full knowledge of facts.

Disappointingly, BCP has prioritised the Somerford / Winchelsea significant change consultation ahead of ensuring security of placement for the 14 pupils currently at Woodford Campus. Had the future provision for these children been secured prior to the consultation for the Somerford / Winchelsea significant change, this would have provided ourselves and our families with the reassurance of stability of provision. These children

deserve their education to be prioritised and secured; they have had one significant recent change from mainstream, followed by, for some, the absence of in-school provision as a result of the pandemic; now you are prepared to let them face another enormous change. I question how this be in their best interests with **minimal impact** as you have put it.

From conversations between ourselves and BCP, it has transpired that BCP has assumed these pupils could be reintegrated back into Linwood Main Campus in September 2021. Had we been made aware of BCP plans to close Woodford and been consulted prior to BCP decision making, we would have been able to tell you that this was not viable; in September 2021, we have only 5 KS2 places currently available at Linwood Main Campus.

As you will be aware, since finding out about BCP plans in June, [name removed] and myself have endeavoured to encourage BCP to find a solution to this situation and to secure provision for these children before proceeding with the Winchelsea expansion in our current premises. It is now November and sadly, headway regarding the Winchelsea satellite has been progressed through the consultation yet suitable premises for Woodford has not, as yet, been secured. I wish to understand why you would not feel it necessary to hold the Woodford consultation in advance of the Somerford / Winchelsea consultation.

I understand that you are in the discussion stage with another host school who may be willing to allow Woodford to relocate there; I am concerned about your timeframe for council approval of the new Woodford site. If this is to be approved in February 2021, this gives ourselves or families no security at this point; this is very stressful for families as it does not provide them the assurance they need now as to the new site for their children. As you said yourselves, we cannot give reassurance as this still may not be suitable or agreed by the host school. I know from experience how long a provision takes to set up; this is an unrealistic timeframe. Myself and colleagues spent months establishing the Woodford provision; I'm assuming you expect us to repeat this. Had we had any idea that closing Woodford down after a matter of months was your intention, we would probably not have agreed to developing Woodford campus. BCP has caused myself and colleagues an enormous amount of wasted time when we could have been prioritising other aspects of our roles, not to mention a significant waste of public spending.

We were happy to fill additional spaces at Woodford but unfortunately your decision to date has meant we have not been able to offer these much-needed places as there is no security beyond this academic year. We have been unable to take any more pupils on roll as we may then be placed in a position where we need to secure

alternative provision for them ready for September 21. Not being able to increase numbers at Woodford has impacted on our financial position at Woodford and Linwood.

I would like to reflect my frustration regarding your decision not to establish the KS3 Linwood satellite provision. From the start, we explained that Woodford would be an extension of Linwood Campus to support with the high demand for places. At no point did we state that these pupils would likely move into mainstream at KS3 or back into Linwood Main Campus. Our experience is that pupils are rarely placed back in Mainstream Education at KS3. We are always inundated with referrals to Year 7 and we have communicated this to yourselves for several years. I would like to know how BCP has come to the decision that opening a KS2 satellite provision without subsequent KS3 satellite provision helps with this high demand of places. Surely, if you have children with Special Educational Needs at KS2 then the majority will still need provision at KS3.

Without consultation with ourselves, BCP made the decision that Woodford pupils will be integrated back into Linwood Campus at KS3 if specialist provision is still deemed necessary; it was also suggested that, if this is not possible, they could potentially into the KS3 Winchelsea satellite. This is not what ourselves at Linwood were advised and not what you asked us to communicate with parents at the time when placement was offered. We were assured us that a KS3 provision through a Linwood satellite would be provided and were told that "BCP is committed to this provision." A few parents were reluctant to accept the Woodford place as they were anxious about KS3; BCP gave reassurance on several occasions as to the securing of KS3 provision which enabled parents to feel confident to accept the place for their child at KS2. You must appreciate that parents and ourselves have been misinformed by yourselves.

We did request some time ago that BCP would make parents aware of the consultation and the potential impact on Woodford and not Linwood as these decisions are yours and not ours. We were assured that this would be the case. Disappointingly, to date, this still not been done; we have been informed that the intention was to make parents of pupils at Woodford aware prior to the Woodford consultation which is scheduled for a later date. How BCP cannot not see these two consultations as linked and share the same information with Somerford, Winchelsea and Woodford is something we have not been able to understand. At the moment parents are, quite rightly, seeking some kind of communication and response from yourselves and, to date, have received absolutely none. The only communication has been from myself or [name removed] at Linwood; I have spent an enormous amount of time supporting very anxious families as a result of a decision I was not party to making and was not made aware of apart of through the Somerford parent grapevine.

I would like BCP to be aware of the considerable stress which has been placed upon the new staff team at Woodford who are extremely anxious about the future of their jobs. We are hopeful you will secure provision for us to move to however, as you have already informed us, there is no guarantee. What a pity we weren't made aware of your plans prior to recruiting for a second class team for September 2020. Staff all live locally to Somerford and all gave up permanent teaching or teaching assistant roles to join Linwood.

I appreciate the strategic decision made by BCP and overall am hugely supportive of increasing SEND provision across BCP, however I hope you will prioritise continuity of provision for Woodford pupils. If you decide to proceed with the Winchelsea expansion, I am hopeful that this will only progress once provision is secured either in alternative premises or by continuing in our current location at Somerford until suitable premises is found.

I would like to close by saying I have been extremely disappointed with the communication from BCP and the inability to consider and talk to the people who this decision will impact most. I am certain you would have had more support and built our confidence in yourselves if you could have communicated with us and our Woodford families when making decisions. It would also have been helpful if you could have ensured stability of provision for these wonderful children ahead of progressing the Winchelsea consultation. More recently we have been involved with more helpful conversations with yourselves and I can see that Jack and Rachel are furthering communications with a new host school.

Linwood are committed to securing outstanding education for pupils with SEND; we care deeply about these children and their families. My email and embedded views stem from a passion to see the placement for these children secured so that they can continue to thrive without unnecessary disruption.

I look forward to your response to my views and concerns.

Kind regards

[name removed]

[name removed]

Assistant Headteacher / Learning Leader

Linwood staff	N	<p>Comment on the proposed Winchelsea Special School satellite provision at the Somerford Primary School site.</p> <p>As a teaching assistant at Linwood School, I have decided to make my thoughts and views known on this subject, as I feel the whole affair has been terribly mismanaged and that the level of communication has been appalling.</p> <p>My sentiments lie whole heartily with the Woodford Campus children, parents and carers which this proposal directly affects.</p> <p>It is important that children and young people have a say in their education; that their opinions, thoughts and ideas are valued; they are essential contributors to every aspect of decisions that affect them. But this contribution seems to have been deemed insignificant by BCP, with little or no communication with pupils or their families.</p> <p>Woodford Campus has worked hard to establish effective relationships with pupils, parents and carers to create a happy healthy environment where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential not only academically, but also emotionally.</p> <p>BCP needs to focus on these Woodford children, their education, their future, their well-being and their emotional health. Communication must be open and effective; a provision needs to be made, not just for the short term but for the long term.</p> <p>The Woodford Campus must be valued, protected and developed as an important contributor to the local SEN provision, to be able to continue to provide opportunities for children to be safe, healthy, contribute and achieve the very best outcomes.</p> <p>These children matter Every Child Matters, DfES, 2003</p> <p>[Name removed]</p>
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		Linwood Teaching Assistant
Linwood staff	N	<p>Please see the attached word document outlining my concerns. Which are as follows:</p> <p>I would like to strongly express my great sadness and disappointment over the suggested plans to create a Winchelsea School satellite at Somerford Primary School. I am a class teacher at [Location redacted] Linwood School at the [Location redacted] and I fear for the education of the children I teach.</p> <p>I have several points I would like to be made known in my objection to the proposal:</p> <p>Where are the current 14 children at Woodford School going to be taught in September? These children have all come from mainstream settings. They have had to deal with the stress and significant disruption of moving from mainstream to a specialist setting and now are being asked to move location again. This will be detrimental to their education and to their mental wellbeing. Covid has acted upon these children significantly and now they are being asked to move sites, but to where? This threat is causing significant upset to parents and will in turn cause anxiety to the children, no matter how hard we work to limit this. For the education and emotional wellbeing of the children currently at Woodford, I strongly urge you to keep these children at the current Woodford site. Many children at Woodford live in the locality of Somerford or on the Somerford estate. They would find it very difficult to get to another location. Again, where will this location be and will transport be provided? These children should not be told to move sites or schools unless a suitable alternative provision has been offered. They have not been offered any alternative provision. This is disgraceful.</p> <p>Where will the current children at Woodford school transition to at age 11? What will happen to children who need to move onto a secondary school aged provision in September 2021 It would be of enormous benefit to the Woodford children and to many, many children in the Christchurch area if Linwood School could provide additional classes at the Somerford base for older children. Christchurch is in desperate need for more SEN provision but not just for primary aged children but also secondary aged children. Linwood School currently provides excellent primary provision in the form of Woodford School and with their expertise they would be the perfect solution to extend this provision and provide key stage 3 classes at the Somerford base. I would strongly propose the best solution for the children of Woodford, the children of the Christchurch area and the staff and parents of Woodford school, would be for Linwood school to extend their provision to provide secondary school placements at the Somerford School site rather than Winchelsea. Linwood are currently at this base and it makes all logical sense to extend the current 2 classes at this base. If not, I reiterate my initial point, where are</p>

		<p>the Woodford children and children in the local area approaching secondary school age going to be taught? There is not enough specialist provision for children in Christchurch for older pupils.</p> <p>Finally, myself and the staff who work at Woodford School are dedicated to their roles as class teachers and teaching assistants. I chose this position partly on the basis of location. For many of us with family commitments or travel limitations, it would not be possible for us to teach and work in a site that is not in the local Christchurch area. I feel that the way in which BCP council has handled this consultation, their treatment of Woodford parents and the proposed closing of the Woodford site, has been despicable and totally unprofessional. To create a Woodford base for just over a year and then abandon it in favour of another school when Linwood is fully equipped and ready to extend its existing provision is not only a disgusting waste of public funds but morally wrong.</p> <p>[Name removed], Class teacher, Linwood School.</p>
Parent of Linwood pupil	N	<p>Good evening</p> <p>Thank you for taking time to read my email. I just wanted to outline some of my feelings in regards to the proposal we have been informed about. As a parent of a child with significant additional needs that attends Woodford Campus, I was both shocked and surprised to see the email regarding the changes at Somerford School. My son is has been at Woodford since it's opening in January 2020. In that time he has undergone approximately 4.5 months of schooling due to the COVID 19 outbreak and national lockdowns. Prior to this, he had a very difficult time in mainstream education, which I'm very aware is the case for a lot of the Woodford children. Woodford came along and offered 16 children a safe, secure setting so they could start learning those basic skills they had missed out on for so long in failing mainstream placements.</p> <p>Our children need routine, structure, continuity and they need Woodford. The proposals to bring another special needs unit into the space that has already been established for our children is quite frankly ludicrous. How can this possibly be beneficial to our children? What makes the children you are proposing to put into this already established setting any different to ours?</p> <p>I need the people who are proposing this move to really think very long and hard about the implications this is going to have on the children that need this campus so very much. The absolute upheaval and massive effect this move will have on our children is unimaginable. They have just settled. They are all happy and they all feel</p>

		<p>safe in their new setting after so long of not having that. How can moving them now possibly be of any benefit to them?</p> <p>This decision has to be addressed urgently. I ask you from the bottom of my heart not to do this to our children. They need Woodford. They need the security and the thought of another move, quite frankly is just utterly unfair and unnecessary.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>[Name removed]</p>
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