

## Appendix B1

### Minutes of Public Meeting to consult on proposals to reorganise early years provision at Hillbourne School & Nursery

Held at 9.30am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Hillbourne School & Nursery.

#### **Present:**

14 members of the public including:

- Andy Hatchard, Assistant Head at Hillbourne School & Nursery
- Cathy Ashford, Business Manager at Hillbourne School & Nursery
- Karen Hartshorn, Chair of Governors at Hillbourne School & Nursery
- Jane Auger, Twin Oaks Pre-School Manager

#### **Borough of Poole officers present:**

- Vicky Wales, Head of Children, Young People and Learning (VW)
- Nicola Keynes, Principal Asset Planning and Development Manager (NK)
- Ian Johns, Asset Management and Sustainability Officer
- Mandy Gridley, Sufficiency and Childcare Manager
- Rachel Folley, Place Planning and School Organisation Officer (RF)
- Leanne Parker, Childcare Officer
- Freya Ells, Business Support Officer

Vicky Wales (VW) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from the School and Borough of Poole.

VW explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consult parents and other interested parties on the proposal to close Hillbourne Nursery, which will involve changing the age range of the school from 3 -11 to 4 – 11, and to move Twin Oaks Pre-School into the early years building. This would enable the school and pre-school to work together more closely. She then gave a presentation to explain the proposal and the thinking behind it.

Ian Johns (IJ) clarified that the slide showing a plan of the school is of the current layout. He explained that feasibility work is currently taking place to consider options for changes to the building. The changes will need to meet current requirements to have separate facilities for the school Reception classes and the Pre-School.

VW explained that the reason for the proposal is that the Nursery has very low numbers of children attending and there are not enough children for both the Nursery and the Pre-School to be viable. The proposal would mean that a consistent offer of service to local families can be maintained. Currently Twin Oaks Pre-School offers 30 places and the proposal will allow them to expand the number of places offered, including development of provision for 2 year olds; Jane Auger (JA) confirmed that this is the case.

VW said that this is something all parties feel they can make work and that it is important to work with local families to provide a service that gives them flexibility. This proposal will enhance the facilities and allow the Pre-School to expand and offer more hours. This comes at a time when we are looking to bring 2 year olds into education.

A representative from the Pre-School said that they already have some 2 year olds attending. VW explained that there is a current Government initiative to increase the number of 2 year olds in education and there is known to be a need for this locally.

VW said that this proposal creates an opportunity to build on the transition links from Pre-School to School.

VW invited questions.

**Question 1:** I think it is a good idea, but my concern is that the fantastic amount of space for Reception will be lost. If you bring Twin Oaks in what is going to be lost from reception?

**Answer 1 (IJ):** Feasibility options are still being worked on but we are working with the School and an area of unused open space has been identified.

**(VW):** It is good that you have raised this issue as we now know that maintaining the standard of Reception is a priority of parents.

**(Mandy Gridley, MG):** We will not do this to the detriment of the Reception.

**Question 2:** Will Reception and early years be in the same block?

**Answer 2 (IJ):** That is our understanding.

**(VW):** The proposal is not about causing detriment to the school, it is about enhancing services.

**Question 3:** What are the current hours available at Twin Oaks?

**Answer 3 (JA):** 5 mornings, 5 lunchtime clubs and 2 days until 3pm. The intention is to mirror the school's opening hours as the full days that are available at the moment fill up quickly.

**Question 4:** Do many children from the Pre-School go on to Hillbourne.

**Answer 4 (Twin Oaks):** The majority do, yes.

**Question 5:** Who will fund any improvements or changes needed?

**Answer 5 (VW):** The details of the costs are not known yet; we will work with the school. It will be a joint plan between the School and the Borough of Poole. We have alerted Councillors to the proposal and it will need to go through the Council process.

**(NK):** There are separate works taking place to improve the toilets. It is likely that there will be a joint funding project, the School will pay for the toilets and the Council will pay for the early years provision.

VW thanked people for attending and their contributions. The feedback suggests there is broad support for the proposal and for moving forwards.

The meeting closed at 10.00am.