

Proposal to establish Early Years SEN provision at Birchen Coppice Primary School

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Introduction

Worcestershire County Council is proposing to make a significant change at Birchen Coppice Primary School under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) regulations 2013. This document contains all the relevant information to allow interested parties to decide whether to support the proposed change.

School Details

Address:	Birchen Coppice Primary School Woodbury Road, Kidderminster, DY11 7JJ
Status:	Community Maintained

Provider Details

Address:	Batchley First School Cherry Tree Walk, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6PD
Status:	Community Maintained

Description of Proposed Alteration

It is proposed to establish SEN provision at Birchen Coppice Primary School, reserved for pre-school age children, with specific speech, language and communication difficulties and disorders who require specialist input. Batchley First School will deliver this specialist education provision at Birchen Coppice Primary School in Kidderminster.

Objectives

The objective of this proposal is to provide an Early Years Specialist Language provision (EYSLp) / base in the district of Wyre Forest, to provide specialist speech, language and communication provision for pre-school age children referred through Pre-School Forum.

It is expected that children will be referred for a place to EYSLp based on a recommendation from the Speech and Language Therapy Service. The basis of the referral should be that the child has or may have significant Speech, Language and / or Communication needs and that they need additional specialist support or provision to meet their special educational needs. Children offered a place at the EYSLp will be offered 2 or 3 sessions a week free of charge as part of their Nursery Education Funding entitlement hours. The provider will offer small group and individual specialist teaching and support. It is recommended that children attending the EYSLp will also attend a mainstream early years setting.

Linked proposals

This proposal is linked to another proposal 'to establish SEN provision at Charford First School' published on Monday 9th January 2017.

Educational Standards and Diversity of Provision

Batchley First School (the provider) is graded as a [Good school](#) by Ofsted.

The service provided by Batchley First School at Birchen Coppice Primary School will be subject to review and monitoring by Worcestershire County Council against agreed outcomes including delivery of:

- high quality specialist provision;
- provision to meet children's individual Speech, Language and Communication Needs;
- effective outreach and / or in-reach to support mainstream providers attended by the children, and parents / carers of the children; and
- children are safeguarded within the specialist provision.

In March 2014, Cabinet agreed to commission one specialist Early Years base in each Worcestershire district with a focus primarily on Speech and Language to ensure availability locally for the children that require specialist support. Currently the Council commissions two mainstream state-funded schools to provide Early Years Specialist Language provision in two districts of Worcestershire; Redditch and Worcester.

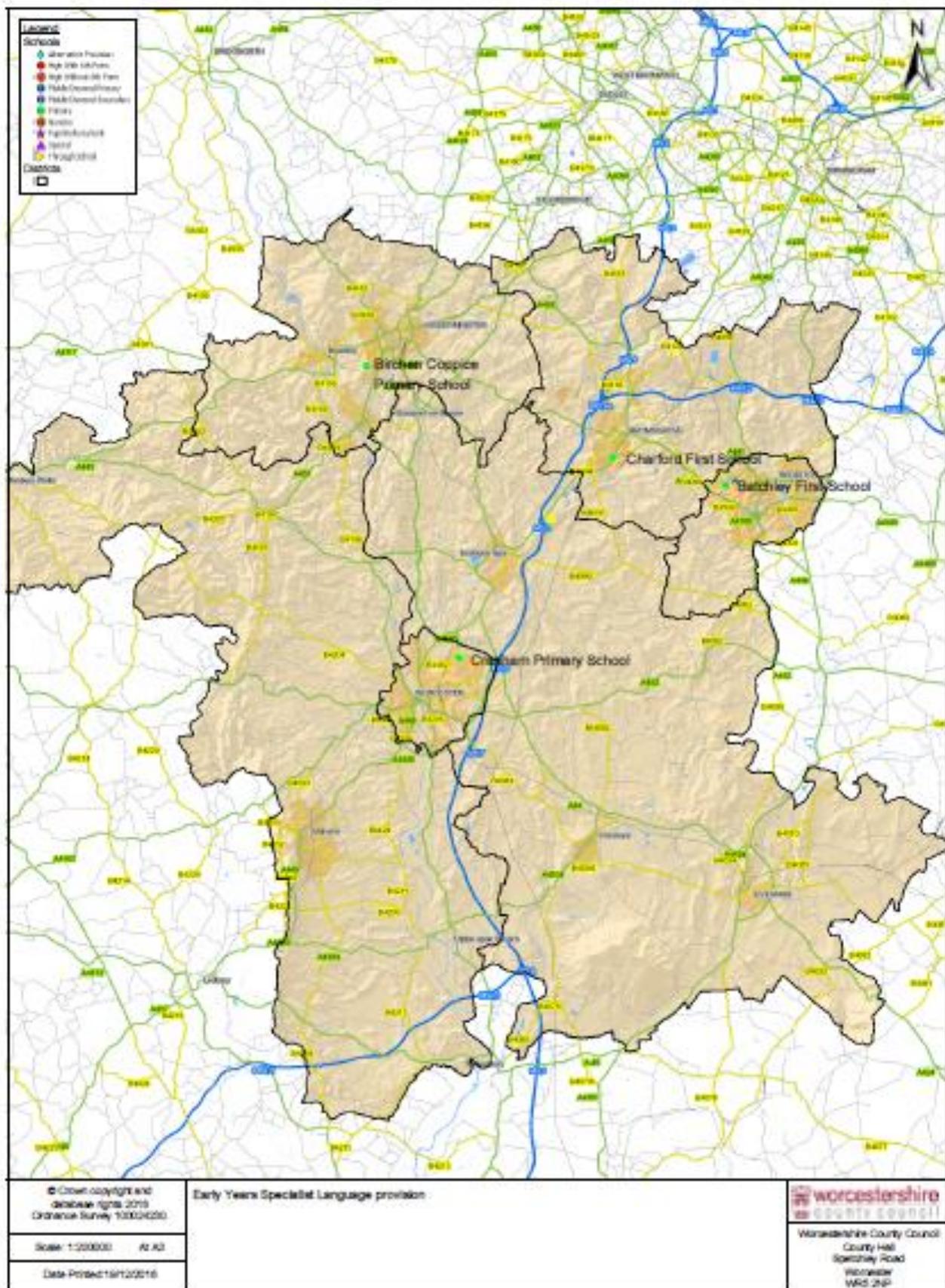
In February 2016, the Council invited bids from organisations to deliver this provision in each district. The existing providers at the time, Sutton Park Primary School (Wyre Forest) and Matchborough First School Academy (Redditch) notified the Council of their intention to stop delivering the service from September 2016. As a result of the bids, Batchley First School was appointed as preferred provider for Redditch and Cranham Primary School was appointed as preferred provider for Worcester from September 2016. They were both appointed for a period of 3 years up to August 2019.

The council then entered into negotiated procedure to attempt to identify preferred providers for the districts of Bromsgrove, Malvern, Wychavon and Wyre Forest. Batchley First School submitted a proposal to extend their service delivery to Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest. The Council assessed their proposal to meet the requirements set out in the service specification.

The Wyre Forest district has a range of specialist provision, reserved for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The table below shows the schools in Wyre Forest with SEND provision and the current number of full-time equivalent places commissioned at each school:

School	Type of SEND provision	Number of full time places (Sept 2016- Aug 2017)
Sutton Park Primary	Primary Language base	10
Burlish Park Primary	Primary Language base	10
King Charles I Secondary	Mainstream Autism base and Secondary Language base	29
Wyre Forest School	Special School including Nursery provision	218

The following map shows the distribution of the Early Years Specialist Language provision across Worcestershire, the existing providers are Cranham Primary School and Batchley First School. The two proposed new bases are at Birchen Coppice Primary School and Charford First School.



Worcestershire County Council (WCC) expects special educational provision to be made Ordinarily Available to all children within Early Years Settings, through a graduated response of support and intervention. It will assist settings in developing a consistent approach in their provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It will also help parents and carers to understand the support that their child will receive during their early years. All children with special educational needs and disabilities have a minimum entitlement to Ordinarily Available provision, regardless of which setting they attend.

Inclusion funding is available to Early Years Settings, for children who are accessing the Nursery Education funding entitlement sessions. The funding, known as the Inclusion Supplement is the Local Authority's contribution towards the additional costs associated with providing educational support for children with SEN and Disabilities, a duty detailed in the Equality Act 2010.

The Ordinarily Available offer is available in all 500 (source: WCC, Business Systems and Processes Team June 2016) Private, Voluntary and Independent and school based Early Years providers. In Worcestershire, there are also three Nursery Assessment / Special School Nurseries that offer Specialist Education for children with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This Early Years Specialist Language provision will contribute to the range of specialist education provision available in Worcestershire for pre-school age children.

Evidence of Demand

In March 2014, following public consultation on principles of the service Cabinet agreed:

- To countywide district provision to ensure that specialist Early Years bases are available locally for the children that require them;
- To commission one specialist Early Years base in each Worcestershire district (excluding Special School Nurseries and Nursery Assessment centres) with a focus primarily on Speech & Language and to be commissioned in line with the work of the Council for High Needs provision from September 2015 (these are referred to as Early Years Specialist Language providers);
- For providers to adhere to an agreed Service Specification, to align each base to the same quality assurance measures.

Previously Sutton Park Primary School delivered the Early Years Specialist Language provision alongside the school-age Language provision for Primary school children in the Wyre Forest district. The following table details the number of children who attended the Early Years Specialist Language provision in Wyre Forest in the last 7 years:

Academic Year	Wyre Forest EY Language base
2009-10	20
2010-11	20
2011-12	24
2012-13	24
2013-14	17
2014-15	11
2015-16	22
Average	20

Some of these children have travelled from outside the district of Wyre Forest to take up this specialist service, for example from Bromsgrove or Malvern where currently this specialist provision does not exist.

Since September 2016, this provision has not been available in Wyre Forest. The NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service have provided additional support to the pre-school age children who had

been referred and attended the EYSLp at Sutton Park Primary School and who needed ongoing support to enable them to be school ready.

The following table details the indicative number of pre-school age children who are forecast to need this specialist provision in 2017 and 2018 by district:

District	2017	2018
Bromsgrove	20	19
Malvern Hills	13	12
Redditch	21	20
Worcester City	23	25
Wychavon	23	23
Wyre Forest	22	22
Total	122	121

Proposed Admission Arrangements

Admission's to the Early Years Specialist Language provision (EYSLp) is separate from admission to a reception class in a school. Consequently there is no guarantee that if the EYSLp is based at a school, a child will have a place in the reception class of the same school, especially as the EYSLp serves areas that extend beyond the catchment area of the main school.

Children will be referred to the Specialist provision via Pre-School Forum (PSF). The Pre-School Forum is a meeting of multi-agency professionals that discuss the individual needs of children who have special educational needs and co-ordinate the support that is offered to them. Health and education professionals and specialist support agencies are responsible for referring children to Pre-School Forum. Referrals are always made with parental consent and in liaison with early year's settings if appropriate. Referrals will be made against the agreed Entry criteria for Early Years Specialist Language provision.

Children referred with generally be aged 3 or 4, need additional specialist support, have identified Speech, Language, Communication Needs (SLCN), and reside in the local district of the EYSLp. If the parent / carer requests EYSLp in an alternative district (e.g. due to work commitments or transport issues) and there are places available this request will be considered. Families in areas such as Droitwich may request Worcester, Bromsgrove, or Redditch.

Equal Opportunity Issues

An Equality Impact Screening was carried out on this proposal. No issues were identified.

Travel and Accessibility

As with any school change there are concerns about the impact of additional children on traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day. The school is proactive in encouraging parents and pupils to use sustainable methods of travel to school. Increased traffic would be minimal as all referred children will attend on a part time basis, starting at different times to the rest of the school. All children resident in the catchment area are within 2 miles walking distance of the school.

Transport to Early Years specialist provision funded by the County Council will be provided free of charge for low income families, if the walking distance is in excess of 2 miles, and if the placement is supported by SEN Services.

The full transport and travel policy is available from http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/download/267/children_s_services_transport_and_travel_policy . If transport is provided by the County Council this would only be available to access the nearest EYSLp.

The EYSLp will be in an accessible area on a main bus route and near the centre of Kidderminster. In the event that County Transport is not available, staff will accept staggered times of entry for parents who take siblings to different school(s).

Project Costs and Capital Funding

Funding will be provided to Batchley First School to deliver the EYSLp, the funding provided will cover the costs of staffing, resources and the full delivery of the service.

School Premises

The school plans to make structural changes to an area of the Children's Centre building to accommodate the EYSLp. This will include a small outdoor space as well as access to the Nursery provision. These changes are not structural in nature and will be of value to the school in the future. Outdoor provision and a school hall is also available for use by the EYSLp.

Implementation

If no objections are received to this proposal, the Director of Children's Services will be responsible for the final decision whether to implement this proposal. This proposal will be implemented by the County Council working in partnership with Batchley First School and Birchen Coppice Primary School. If no objections to this proposal are received, Early Years Specialist Language provision at Birchen Coppice Primary School will open on 27th February 2017. If there are objections to the proposal then these will be considered on behalf of the County Council by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families before a final decision is made on whether to proceed with the proposal.

Procedure for responses

This full proposal has been published as part of the Statutory process to make prescribed alterations to schools. The representation stage must last for at least 4 weeks. This proposal was published on **Monday 9th January 2017**.

Anyone wishing to make a response to this proposal must write to:

Provision Planning Team

Ref: Birchen Coppice SEN Proposals

Children, Families and Communities

PO Box 73

Worcester

WR5 2YA

Or e-mail to rkiernan@worcestershire.gov.uk

Responses must be received by **5pm on Monday 6th February**.