

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 5th August 2016 (single Member decision)	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2887
TITLE:	Reduce the lower age limit at Westfield Primary School	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Statutory proposal for lowering the age range at Westfield Primary School		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 It is proposed to reduce the lower age limit at Westfield Primary School from 4 to 2 in order to deliver the Early Years Entitlement offer and childcare in the premises already provided on the school site

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the proposal to reduce the lower age limit at Westfield Primary School from 4 to 2

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The school will receive funding through the Early Years Entitlement funding and parental fees in order deliver the early learning and childcare provision. This funding forms part of the Dedicated Schools Grant and therefore has no impact on non-school budgets.
- 3.2 The property has already been built using a combination of Department for Education capital grant and capital funding provided by the school and previously run by a private nursery provider to deliver the exact same service.
- 3.3 The school has taken full advice from Human Resources on any staffing implications including TUPE legislation.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient Early Years and Childcare places for its area (Childcare Act 2006), Children, Equalities, Social Inclusion, Property, Impact on staff, sustainability.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Westfield Nursery was built at Westfield Primary School in 2009 and opened in October that year. Both the local Children's Centre and school were investors and stakeholders in the project from development to opening. The provision has been run by a private childcare provider since it opened and either been rated Good or Outstanding when inspected by the statutory regulator, Ofsted.
- 5.2 The close working relationship between the nursery and the school along with the fact that the premises are joined to the school means that the school is ideally placed to run the provision as the current provider has decided to no longer deliver this Early Years and Childcare provision at this location.
- 5.3 In order to run the provision the school has to follow the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance for lowering their age designation from age 4 to 2. The Council has to publish the proposal and decide on the proposal as this is a Community School.
- 5.4 Once decided the school will then change their age designation on the DfE database called Edubase and will then be subject to inspection by Ofsted for both the nursery and the school in a single inspection.
- 5.5 Bath and North East Somerset Council has a requirement for provision to continue at this location in order to meet the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient Early Years and Childcare places in this area.
- 5.6 School admission regulations state that there is no automatic right to a place in a school's reception class for children who have attended school run nursery provision.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 Westfield Primary School already delivers Ofsted rated Good Early Years provision in the Reception year. By running the nursery as well their expertise, lead by a Qualified Teacher, will enable the children attending to get the best opportunity for school readiness and help Bath and North East Somerset Council to meet the objective of narrowing the gap in attainment between children in the Early Years and beyond.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A statutory proposal was published and available in line with the DfE guidance (see background papers) between 24th June 2016 and 22nd July 2016. It was available on the Council website, by notice in a local paper and shared by the school with its relevant stakeholders.

8.2 There were no replies presented either by email or in writing as required by the proposal process

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Philip Frankland 01225 294330
Background papers	DfE Guidance "Making prescribed alterations to a local authority maintained school" https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514548/16-04-06_FINAL_SO_Guidance_PA_Regs.pdf
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	