

Sandhill View School

Sandhill View Community Learning Centre

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Dr Helen Patterson
Director of Childrens Services
Sunderland City Council
Civic Centre
PO Box 101
Sunderland
SR2 7DN

7 October 2009

Dear Helen Patterson
Houghton Kepier 6th form proposal

I am writing to express my objections to the Houghton Kepier 6th form proposal.

My objections are:

1. The feasibility study fails to take account of the existing and planned provision for students in the coalfields area, ie the Headways Sixth Form, currently housed at Bede, but planned to be re-housed in the coalfields area, and the access to City of Sunderland College vocational provision.
2. The quality and range of courses that Houghton Kepier 6th form could provide would be significantly poorer than the quality and range of courses currently on offer. In particular the school would not be in a position to offer a full range of diplomas and it would not be able to offer an adequate range of courses for pupils at level 1 or level 2.
3. The existence of an 11-18 school within the coalfields area would give Houghton Kepier an unfair advantage over competing schools at the age of 11 without contributing anything to the range and diversity of sixth form opportunities.
4. Sunderland has been successful in improving opportunities for students of all abilities across the city by schools working in partnership. This proposal has the potential to de-stabilise existing partnerships.

I would appeal to the governors of Houghton Kepier School to re-consider the proposal and to look again at the benefits of working with Hetton School, Seaham School and City of Sunderland College to develop the exciting initiative at Headways College. This has the potential to benefit students at Houghton as well as students across the coalfields area.

Yours sincerely

Richard Bain
Head

CHIEF SOLICITOR

16 OCT 2009

J Collinson



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



