

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND**

**NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF  
SUNDERLAND'S PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVISION**

**Local Authority Proposals and Contact Details**

The reorganisation of Sunderland City Council's Pupil Referral Unit provision entails three related statutory proposals as set out below.

**1. DISCONTINUANCE**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN to discontinue (close) the following schools:

- **Key Stage 1 Pupil Referral Unit, Tudor Grove Centre, Portland Road, Sunderland, SR3 1SS** with effect from 31 August 2019.
- **Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit, Pallion Centre, Waverley Terrace, Sunderland, SR4 6TA** with effect from 31 August 2019.

**2. ALTERATION OF THE LOWER AND UPPER AGE LIMIT**

Related to the first proposal, notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN intends to make a prescribed alteration by permanently altering the age range of the following school:

**Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit, Tudor Grove Centre, Portland Road, Sunderland, SR3 1SS** with effect from 1 September 2019. The current age range for this provision is 7 – 14 years old. The proposed age range for this provision will be 4 – 16.

**\_\_\_ 3. ENLARGEMENT / INCREASE IN CAPACITY**

Related to the first and second proposals, notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN to make a prescribed alteration to the **Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit, Tudor Grove Centre, Portland Road, Sunderland, SR3 1SS** by increasing the number of available places from 78 places to 172 places with effect from 1 September 2019.

The Key Stage 1 Pupil Referral Unit, Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit and Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit are all community schools maintained by Sunderland City Council.

For the purposes of this proposal document, the proposal to discontinue (close) the Key Stage 1 Pupil Referral Unit and the Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit and the proposal to change the age range and enlarge/increase the capacity of the Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit shall be referred to as 'the amalgamation of the City's Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision'.

For the purposes of providing further information, subject to the determination of the above proposals, the Council also intends to relocate the provision currently identified as the Key Stage 1 Pupil Referral Unit and the Key Stage 2/ 3 Pupil Referral Unit from the current delivery location at the Tudor Grove Centre to the refurbished Springwell Dene School, Swindon Road, Springwell, SR3 4EE. The decision to relocate the provision is not subject to a statutory proposal process (a statutory proposal is only required for transfers to a new site where the new site is more than two miles from the existing site). The provision currently identified as the Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit will not move location.

The closure of the Key Stage 1 PRU and the Key Stage 4 PRU will lead to the displacement of the pupils on roll and any surplus capacity within those schools. From 1 September 2019 it is proposed that the displaced provision is delivered from the Key Stage 2/3 PRU. To maintain the capacity currently in place across Key Stage 1- 4 would entail increasing the capacity of the Key Stage 2/3 PRU from 78 places to 142 places. However, given increased demand for PRU places, with the total provision currently oversubscribed, it is proposed that this capacity is increased further to a total of 172 places from 1 September 2019. This represents a 94-place increase from the current Key Stage 2/3 capacity and a 30 place capacity increase in the current combined capacity of the Key Stage 1, 2/3 and 4 Pupil referral Units.

#### **Implementation.**

- The Key Stage 1 Pupil Referral Unit is proposed to close with effect from 31 August 2019.
- The Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit is proposed to close with effect from 31 August 2019.
- The Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit is proposed to implement a change to its age range with effect from 1 September 2019.
- The Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit is proposed to implement a change to its capacity with effect from 1 September 2019

#### **Reason for Closure (Key Stage 1 and 4 PRU) and Objectives of Altering Age Range and Enlarging / Increasing Capacity (Key Stage 2/3 PRU)**

The closure of the Key Stage 1 and 4 Pupil Referral Units and the change to the lower and upper age limits and the enlargement / increase in capacity of the remaining Pupil Referral Unit are proposed to allow for the amalgamation of the PRU provision across Key Stages 1 to 4, which will be managed by a single Management Committee.

The proposal will result in the following benefits:

- Formalise management arrangements already informally operated across Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 provisions (both Key Stage 2/3 and Key Stage 4 PRUs report to a single Management Committee);
- Facilitate increased sharing of resources, management efficiencies and shared practice between Key Stage 1 provision and Key Stage 2,3 and 4 provisions;
- Facilitate the strengthening of existing Management Committee arrangements, with representation and expertise to be offered across all key stages;
- Facilitate the establishment of a new PRU management structure, offering consistent leadership across all key stages;
- Facilitate greater cross key stage working with increased interaction, where appropriate, between children attending PRU provisions from within the separate key stages;
- Lead to greater facilitation of transition between key stages for the minority of pupils who remain in PRU provision for extended periods of time;
- Provide consistency between PRU delivery and proposed accommodation strategy, given the existing requirement to establish a new permanent delivery site for Key Stage 1 full and part time PRU provision; and
- Ensure the long-term sustainability, through shared commissioning and resources, of all elements of the City's PRU provision.

### **Effect on other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions in the Area**

The proposal to amalgamate the City's PRU provision is anticipated to have positive implications for other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area.

- Pupils on roll at mainstream schools who take up placements within the PRU provision will have access to resources and provision that is consistent with their substantive mainstream placements while out of school.
- Greater resource for PRU attendees will lead to a higher quality and more varied educational delivery which may facilitate more efficient transition for pupils who are to be re-integrated into their substantive mainstream school places post placement.
- Key Stage 4 pupils will have the opportunity to access the increased academic resources at either the Pallion Centre or Springwell Dene School site (depending on educational requirements).
- Schools, academies and the Council will no longer deal with multiple bodies when commissioning places. Primary Schools currently commission from two separate bodies with differing educational delivery and management practices for children aged 5-7 and 8 – 11.
- The sustainability of the Key Stage 1 PRU will be safeguarded. This ensures that this resource will be available in future years to support schools seeking to commission from this service.

### **Project Costs**

While not part of this statutory process, the proposal to amalgamate the City's PRU provision is linked to the intention to refurbish the former Springwell Dene School site as a single delivery site for the City's key stage 1, 2 and 3 PRU provision. It is proposed that the development of and move to the former Springwell Dene School site is completed at a date consistent with the statutory proposals contained within this consultation document.

The £1.4m refurbishment of the former Springwell Dene School will include rehabilitation of all classrooms and teaching support areas, rehabilitation and development of external teaching and social areas, rehabilitation of on-site sports pitches and the delivery of a new ICT infrastructure and associated equipment.

## Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Given the nature of PRU provision the number of pupils on roll is subject to fluctuation across the academic year. The numbers below are as of 11/03/19.

### Key Stage 1

Number	22
Age Range	4-7 years
Boys	19
Girls	3
SEN	21 School support plus 1 EHCP

### Key Stage 2/3

Number	21	41
Age Range	7 - 11 years	11 – 13
Boys	19	30
Girls	2	11
Pupil Premium	11	27
SEN	21	22

### Key Stage 4

Number	89
Age Range	14 - 16
Boys	75
Girls	14
Pupil Premium	54
SEN	57

## Displaced Pupils

As set out above, the two Pupil Referral Unit closures are part of an amalgamation of the City's PRU provision. The amalgamation, together with the refurbishment of the Springwell Dene site, will have the result that:

- Pupils who have remained in commissioned Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2/3 provision or who are anticipated to remain in commissioned provision but who will transition from Key Stage 1 provision to Key Stage 2/3 provision will continue to access provision under the amalgamated 4-16 Pupil Referral Unit (the current Key Stage 2/3 school registration). Provision will be delivered from the former Springwell Dene School site from September 2019.
- Pupils who have remained in commissioned Key Stage 4 provision or who are anticipated to remain in commissioned provision but who will transition from Key Stage 3 provision to Key Stage 4 provision will continue to access provision under the amalgamated 4-16 Pupil Referral Unit (the current Key Stage 2/3 school

registration). Provision will continue to be delivered from the Link School, Pallion Centre.

### **Impact on the Community**

The move to amalgamate the City's PRU provision will not impact on the community. The PRU is a citywide resource. Therefore, amalgamating and moving part of the provision will not result in mainstream places being removed from a community.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

There would be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the City's PRU provision does not have a religious character.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

Sunderland's PRU provision does not fall within the categorisation of a rural primary as set out in Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Furthermore, the school is not listed on the DfE's List of Designated Rural Primary Schools 2018.

### **Maintained Nursery Schools**

Not applicable - There is no nursery implication within this proposal.

### **Sixth Form Provision**

Not applicable - There is no provision for students aged 16 to 19.

### **Special Educational Provision**

Given this proposal relates to Alternative Provision (AP), provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) is in place and will continue to be provided within the City's amalgamated PRU provision.

### **Travel**

There would be no anticipated significant increase in car use as a result of these proposals. For information (as the change in site is not part of these statutory proposals) the Springwell Dene site is 0.7 miles from the Tudor Grove Centre where the Key Stage 1 and 2/3 provision is currently based.

### **Consultation**

An informal (pre-publication) consultation upon the proposals took place during the following dates:

- 25th January 2019 to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation

Document that was made widely available on the Council's website and PRU websites. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, local schools and academies, early-years providers, the local Councillors, staff representatives (unions) and the local parent carer forum.

### **Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposals**

A copy of this proposal can be viewed on the Sunderland City Council website at

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13038/School-organisation-consultations>

It can also be requested via:

E-mail: [alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0191 5611372

Post: Retained Education Functions Lead, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Within four weeks of the Publication Date below, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations:

*By e-mail to :-*

[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Or by post to :-*

*Alan Rowan*

*Retained Education Functions Lead*

*Civic Centre*

*Burdon Road*

*Sunderland*

*SR2 7DN*

Signed : Patrick Melia,  
Chief Executive,  
Sunderland City Council.

Publication Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019